

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

and also gives the gist of the proceedings of the Council of delegates which took place in the United Nations building from September 2 to 10, 1963, and which was attended by many representatives of National Societies, the ICRC and the League. Also included are the 25 resolutions adopted by the Council of Delegates and which cover a wide range of humanitarian subjects. This publication of 120 full-size pages is available in English and French.

It will be recalled that the Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland has issued several publications, each of which has been mentioned in the *Review* ¹.

THE RED CROSS AND FIRST-AIDERS

It is common knowledge that first-aid is one of the basic activities of the Red Cross Societies and it was for this reason that an International Meeting of first-aiders was held on August 19, 1963, at Macolin, Switzerland, as one of the Red Cross Centenary events. It was attended by 150 participants from 37 National Societies and the main part of its programme consisted of a comparison and discussion of first-aid techniques and training.

The results are dealt with in a report by the Centenary Commission of the International Red Cross ². It includes illustrations of the transport and care of casualties and also gives a description of artificial respiration and heart massage techniques. It was noticeable, at Macolin, that almost all basic principles of first-aid are the same for every National Society, the differences which exist being concerned more particularly with details of the manner of application and, moreover, that it is desirable to draw up and disseminate on a world scale a series of conventional signs repre-

¹ The titles of these publications are :

- a) *International Red Cross Meeting of First-Aiders.*
- b) *World Conference of Educators.*

Both were published in Geneva in French, English and Spanish.

² Published in Geneva under the title *International Red Cross Meeting of First-Aiders* ; it is No. 25 in the League's series on medico-social work and has been published in French, English and Spanish.

sentative of various injuries. Such signs would enable rescue workers in the event of international disaster to avoid language difficulties.

We would also mention a booklet in this same field which has just been published by the French Red Cross as a supplement to its review *Vie et Bonté*. It outlines the many activities of the National Red Cross Society first-aiders under the following headings: Training in First-Aid for Mountain Rescue—Instruction in First-Aid at Sea—Instruction in Aeronautical First-Aid—First-Aid on the Highway—First-Aid, Civil Defence and Fire Fighting—First-Aid and Blood Transfusion—First-Aid for the Disabled—Social Work.

From these two publications it is clear that first-aid involves both a *technique*, since it is an acquired skill perfected by constant practice, and an *outlook* engendered by an ambition to serve either as an individual or, better still, as a member of a team.