

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

fields. Activities include first aid, training, hospital welfare, assistance to handicapped children and the running of pre-natal clinics in the area around Blantyre. We visited one of these and it was most encouraging to see that as a result of this activity, village women are forming member groups to come and assist the Red Cross staff at these clinics. This young Society is also giving training in first-aid and midwifery to the Air Malawi Hostesses and Mr. Dabney presented certificates to the first six of these girls who had just completed their course.

Another service which the Red Cross gives, this time to the Young Pioneers movement, is first aid training in each of the pioneer camps. This service was started by a delegate of the British Red Cross and the Malawi Red Cross man whom he trained is now in charge of these courses.

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Kenya

In a recent issue of its "Newsletter" the Kenya Red Cross published an interesting article on the model village of Kirathimo. We give below some extracts which supplement the information given by Mr. N. Phillips in his article on a previous page.

A model village has been built consisting of five round mud huts, thatched with mukuti, and whitewashed inside and out, with gaily painted doors and windows, each hut having its own distinctive colour for all the woodwork and the furniture. The fireplaces have been built to the new improved pattern tried-out so successfully in Uganda, where the fire is made on top of a raised plinth three feet off the ground. This is to try to combat the dreadful burns children suffer from fire and boiling water. The huts are simply furnished with two beds complete with mattresses, plastic

covers, sheets, blankets and pillows, a round table, two chairs, a food safe and a simple cupboard. Each hut has its own supply of crockery and cutlery, all marked in the distinctive colour. Lighting is by hurricane lamp, and water is collected in a debe from the tap. There are also three latrines, a washing slab and central tap, two wash-houses, and a covered area where the washing can be dried in wet weather, and there is a table there, for the ironing. In the centre of the village there is a small grass lawn where trees have been planted, to make a play area for the children. Behind each hut is a small wood-pile, chicken run, and vegetable garden. Lastly there is a stone store with shelves from ground to ceiling, flour bins and a kerosine-run refrigerator where all goods used in the village will be stored . . .

. . . Every day the resident Housemother issues the mothers with rations and cleaning materials, and then each mother returns to her own hut and prepares the meals for her own children under the housemother's supervision. She also does the family washing, cleans out the hut and works in the vegetable garden.

In the afternoons the mothers congregate in the training room of the Divisional H.Q., and whilst they sew small garments, they are given simple lectures on mother and baby care, as well as talks upon the Kenya Red Cross and very simple first-aid for burns and asphyxia. On the Sunday the husbands are invited to visit the Model Village and see what their wives have been taught.

At the end of each course, the mothers are given a copy of 'Simple Mother and Baby Care' to take home with them and they will also be presented with a Certificate of Attendance. Once they have returned to their own homes, the local Health Visitor will visit them and follow-up their progress. The knowledge gained at Kirathimo Model Village will slowly be disseminated over a wider field.

It is felt that two weeks is the maximum time for such a course. However, it is envisaged that sometime it might be possible to hold a one-day reunion for all the women who hold Certificates of Attendance, to see if they have any further problems, and to give them some revision and refresher talks and to encourage them to persevere.