

disabled can decide which model is best suited to their individual needs. Another important point is the fact that the teachers themselves have in most cases suffered disablement and learners have less difficulty therefore in overcoming any psychological drawbacks. In addition, their personal experience makes these teachers better suited to give advice.

The working capacity of most of the students is reduced by 50 %-80 %. They come from all professional circles ; nevertheless, employees, persons engaged in a trade and those of independent means are in the majority. Many who were unable to work before have been able to find regular employment as a result of their training. In view of the satisfactory results obtained, professional associations and public welfare authorities have in many cases taken over part or all of the cost of the course.

The Red Cross driving-school receives numerous applications from firms wishing to employ disabled lorry drivers on a permanent basis, because they have the reputation of being particularly careful and obliging. Moreover, their working capacity is in no way below that of their able-bodied colleagues. In accordance with regulations, however, contacts between employers and the disabled are made exclusively through official employment agencies.

The Red Cross driving-school in Berlin has already made a name for itself far beyond Berlin ; a number of disabled have come from abroad and obtained their driving licences in the city.

Iraq

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society recently issued its third annual report, giving an account of this National Society's activities in 1960. A copy of this report having been sent to the ICRC, a translation has been made of the most important passages. We think it all the more appropriate to give these essential points since Miss A. Pfirter, delegate of the ICRC, when in Baghdad in February last, had the opportunity of seeing the efficient work in many fields accomplished by this National Society, and the general interest taken in that country in the Geneva

Conventions and the basic principles of our humanitarian movement. Our delegate met several leading figures¹, gave a talk to members of the Red Crescent, nurses and first-aid workers and spoke on television.

The Prime Minister, H.E. Abdel-Karim Kassem was present at the ceremony held in Baghdad in commemoration of July 14, when the first stone was laid of the Nursing School and an artificial limb workshop which are being built in Baghdad. These two establishments will be built and equipped by the Iraqi Red Crescent in conjunction with the Iraqi Ministry of Health.

In his speech, the Prime Minister expressed his satisfaction and admiration to see all that had been done by the National Society to alleviate suffering in Iraq.

Mrs. Samia El-Rawi, Secretary of the Women's Section welcomed the Prime Minister² and gave a summary of the history of the Society and its activities since its foundation until the present day. Before leaving, the Prime Minister thanked the members of the Committee and the Women's Section for their welcome and said a few encouraging words on behalf of all who work for the Iraqi Red Crescent. Furthermore, the Government had duly recognised the Iraqi Red Crescent as a voluntary aid society whose work extends to numerous fields. This official recognition will strengthen the Society's position and enable it to accomplish, more effectively, its humanitarian work throughout the country.

Administration and Finance. — Meetings of the General Assembly and the Council were held at the Society's headquarters in March 1960. The members of the Committee for 1960 were elected. The General Assembly took note of the annual reports and financial statements and approved the figures of the general budget, i.e. Income 41,519 dinars ; Expenditure 32,751 dinars.

The main resources of the Society over the past years consisted of the income from rents, the share of the proceeds of the National Lottery allocated to the Society (5,429,866 dinars in 1960), investments, contributions from members of the Society and donations.

Relief Work. — In addition to its permanent activities, the Society assists, so far as its means allow, the victims of disasters

¹ *Plate*

² *Id.*

inside and outside the country. The relief actions undertaken during the past year were as follows :

1. Gift of 5,000 dinars, through the Algerian Red Crescent in Tunis, on behalf of Algerian refugees in Tunisia and Morocco.

2. Gift of 5,000 dinars on behalf of the Agadir victims, placed at the disposal of the League in Geneva, in charge of the organisation of relief for these victims.

3. Gift of 1,000 dinars through the Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran, for the victims of the Laars disaster.

4. Distribution of 400 blankets and 600 dinars to Iraqi flood victims in the Arbil area.

5. Gift of 1,000 dinars to the inhabitants of the El-Ratba district suffering from the effects of bad weather and drought.

6. Gift of 1,000 dinars on behalf of monsoon victims in East Pakistan (sent through the Pakistan Red Cross).

7. Gift of 1,000 dinars to the Women's Section of the Iraqi Red Crescent, Baghdad, plus 150 dinars towards this Section's participation in the ceremony for the commemoration of July 14.

8. Gift of artificial legs to cripples, students and the disabled of the armed forces. The cost of these artificial limbs, imported from abroad, was 500 dinars.

Last summer, several countries took part in the meetings of the International Study Centre, near Geneva. In response to an invitation from the League, the Iraqi Red Crescent sent its Medical Adviser, Dr. Abd-el-Latif El-Badri who attended most of the meetings of the Centre and afterwards went to Yugoslavia to attend the World Health Education Conference held in Oubatia.

In response to an invitation from the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR, the Iraqi Red Crescent sent Mr. Mohammed Salim El-Radhi, Secretary-General, and Dr. Aziz Mahmoud Choukri, Member of the Council, who visited Moscow, Leningrad and Baku during their ten days' stay in the Soviet Union.

The Society appointed one of its members, Dr. Farhan Bakir, Professor at the Medical School, to represent it at the International Conference on Blood Transfusion held in Tokyo (September 1960).

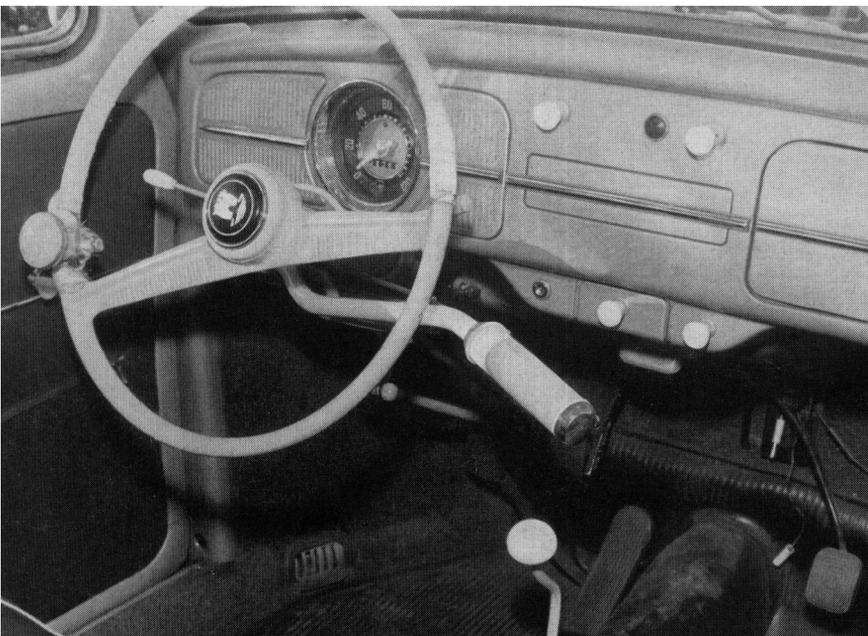
Junior Red Crescent. — The Society is at present considering the creation of a Junior Red Crescent Section, with a view to encouraging the spirit of mutual aid among young people. It has



One of the cars of the driving-school for the disabled...

BERLIN

... showing the special devices.





Mrs. Samia El-Rawi of the Iraqi Red Crescent, welcomes the Prime Minister, Mr. Kassem.

IRAQI

Miss A. Pfirter, delegate of the ICRC and the Iraqi Minister of Health Mr. Chawaf. (February 1961.)



set up a special Committee entrusted with the drafting of the statutes. This Section will be attached to the Society's headquarters.

Future programmes. — The Nursing School and artificial limb workshop will be built on ground belonging to the Society and will be of the most modern description.

In addition, the Society has finished its study of the plans for a building (12 stories) which it wishes to erect on its own ground. The Council of the Society has approved the budget submitted for this purpose.

Publications. — The Society received 3,000 copies of the three last issues of the League's publication in Arabic which have been distributed to members of the Iraqi Red Crescent, medical institutions and universities. It has also had printed in Arabic 4,000 copies of the Handbook on Nursing for the use of the Society's nurses and in hospital establishments.

Children's Clinic. — The Society spent the sum of 25,000 dinars for the enlargement of this centre's premises.

Sections. — The Society has sections for men and women in the following regional districts; Mosul, Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk, Arbil and Sulaimaniya. Special aid is afforded to these Sections by the Central Committee to enable them to carry on their work. The medical, social and relief activities of the Sections are the following:

Women's Section, Baghdad. — The number of members of this section—one of the most progressive—now exceeds 1,800. Its resources are drawn from members' subscriptions, funds resulting from displays and shows, fancy fairs and a shop where clothing and articles made by the members of the Section are sold.

Besides the occasional financial assistance given from headquarters, the Section receives an annual grant of 1,200 dinars from the Ministry of Finance.

The Section's main activities consist of help to poor people (so far as means allow), distributions of clothing and bedding for infants, the improvement of health conditions in poor districts, distributions of gifts to children in schools and others on some feast-days, etc. It also organises special courses on first-aid and health, given by specialists appointed by the Society, lectures and study courses.

For this purpose, it calls upon student-nurses who have taken the courses and obtained diplomas in social service and public health work. These courses were instituted in 1956 in behalf of student-nurses with a view to improving medical care in Iraq, increasing the number of nurses (of whom the country is in need) and training them for duties in first-aid centres in times of emergency. This year, fifty-four nurses obtained their certificate and four hundred and fifty were admitted to the various courses.

The Section participates in the winter relief campaign organised by the Government, and it also helps in organising Arab Children's Days in conjunction with several women's and social organisations. On these occasions it distributes gifts and prizes to mothers, etc. Members of this Section also assist voluntary aids of the Iraqi Red Crescent in giving courses in child welfare at the Iraqi Red Crescent Hospital.

Women's Section, Bastra — This Section was again opened in 1960 and is busily engaged in the dispensaries under its direction where supplies of milk and children's clothing are distributed to mothers of families. It also distributes clothing and gifts to poor school-children, to hospital patients and infants. It took part in the Arab Children's Day held in Basra.

Kirkuk Sections. — There are two sections, one for men and one for women. A grant of 500 dinars from the headquarters was made to the Women's Section which has now overcome certain difficulties.

Children's Centre. — As part of its medico-social work, the Iraqi Red Crescent is in charge of a children's centre in Sâadoune. It gives elementary courses on health and the prevention of disease to mothers, to whom it distributes milk, vitamins and clothing. Sixteen thousand children have been cleaned, weighed and given treatment ; 800 litres of milk, 50 kgs. of cod-liver-oil, clothing, soap, etc. have been distributed.

The Iraqi Red Crescent closes its report for 1960 by saying that it will continue its relief work and health instruction on behalf of all who are in need.