

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The Nepal Red Cross is in constant touch with the National Publicity and Public Relations Committee for disseminating news on its activities through the press and radio. The text and illustrations of this booklet testify to the importance of the Junior Red Cross in Nepal. The leaders have their sights aimed at the future and one of their essential concerns is to prepare those who will one day take their places and who are an assurance for the continued work and development of the Society.

Upper Volta

“ It is our humble desire to acquaint you with the Upper Volta Red Cross, through its first-aiders and their daily life. May this album bring home to you the necessity of helping our teams the better to serve ”.

These are the opening words to the album of photographs which Mr. Ilboudo, First Assistant Secretary General of the Upper Volta Red Cross, presented to the ICRC recently in the course of a visit to its headquarters in Geneva. These photographs were received with particular interest, for they give a fascinating insight into the first-aid work of a young National Society. They are also an appeal to those who, having already acquired wide experience, can give support to these worthy efforts.

A graphic representation of the Upper Volta Red Cross first-aid teaching development shows that the training of youths in this field began in 1956. In 1959, the number of participants was fifty ; by 1965, there were 700 first-aiders.

Everything having to be started from the beginning, the organizers made contact with other National Societies. As the first step, the national director went to France to familiarize himself with first-aid there. Then the Upper Volta Red Cross delegated representatives to the International Meeting of First-Aiders at Macolin (Switzerland) in 1963, on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary.

These photographs show youths engaged in a number of activities ranging from first-aid training to a demonstration of

fire-fighting in the village. Each one of them, under the supervision of their seniors, seems conscious of the importance of the task they are carrying out with a genuine spirit of fellowship.

It can be seen that the Society is encouraged in this work by the government's interest. For example, the inauguration of a highway first-aid post, and delivery of the equipment, is attended by officials, whilst at a ball organized by the Red Cross, the guard of honour for the arrival of the President of the Republic and his wife is composed of first-aiders. On World Red Cross Day, or in the country's national celebrations, first-aiders are also seen on parade, together with the juniors.

It gives us pleasure to encourage the Upper Volta Red Cross by this brief article and to reproduce the comment with which the album is concluded : " Our aim is to do our best to alleviate human suffering as quickly as possible. We are not doctors, we are not nurses, we are first-aiders aware of our essential task : to be prepared, prompt and efficient " .
