

Rumania

It is interesting to know the main activities of National Societies and their original work in some fields which may inspire sister societies by example. The internal organization of a Red Cross is also an important item in its effectiveness and speed. For these reasons we quote below some passages of a report submitted by the Rumanian Red Cross at our movement's recent International Conference in Istanbul and which relate to that National Society's members and the organization of their activities.

Any citizen of the Socialist Republic of Rumania may become a member of the National Red Cross Society and take part in its activities.

The ranks of the Red Cross participating regularly and effectively in its activities are:

- members of Red Cross district and Bucarest Commissions;
- members of collectives working with those commissions;
- members of Red Cross Commissions for medical districts;
- members of medical groups (teams and reserves);
- members of urban, rural and school first aid teams;
- other voluntary workers for the Red Cross.

More than 500 000 adults and juniors are members of the Red Cross in the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

The Red Cross members participate in the activities of medical districts which are divided by streets or groups of houses and organized to deal with such problems as hygiene and health, mother and child welfare, blood donation, etc.), or they are formed into volunteer health teams. These are:

a) the *health contingents* comprising 18 members organized in 3 teams of 5 members and a leader. One member acts as deputy leader and another is responsible for equipment. The teams follow courses.

b) *first aid posts* are organized in enterprises, institutions, agricultural co-operatives, districts, stations, mining and forestry undertakings, etc. These first aid posts are manned by from 3 to 5 persons trained in hygiene and first aid.

These posts have the necessary first aid equipment and both the health contingents and the first aid posts provide emergency care, attend to minor injuries and alert the medical units in the event of serious accidents. They also see to the application and respect of rules decided by the health bodies and enterprise managements for the prevention of occupational accidents.

c) the *home help collectives*, organized in the medical districts, provide care for the sick living alone, particularly the elderly and the disabled.

These collectives trained in courses and in practical work in hospital, administer the care prescribed by the doctor; obtain the pharmaceutical products required and maintain contact between the patient and the doctor.

These collectives do not give treatment requiring special technique (injections, dressings) which fall strictly within the scope of medical personnel.

Training of these voluntary Red Cross workers and technical supervision of their activity are carried out by medical personnel.

The Red Cross enlists, helps, organizes and trains these voluntary workers and provides them with scope for practical activities.

Apart from the general instruction, when the collective is called upon to give assistance in a certain question of a medical order, it is first instructed in the respective problem then sent to work on it.

In addition, the local doctor periodically gives instruction to the voluntary collective which he employs.

As can be seen, the main work of the Red Cross members concerns health. The problems in which the Red Cross assists the State medical bodies include first aid—as already mentioned—blood transfusion and donation, health education for youth and for the population as a whole.