

This new publication deserves acclaim, opening as it does with a tribute to that fine personality, Mrs. Maria Elvira Yoder, who regrettably died in Guyaquil in 1967. She had been a most active President of the National Society and whom the international institutions of the Red Cross remember with appreciation.

France

“Once again the French Red Cross has embarked upon a new venture: a need has arisen which it is endeavouring to satisfy.” It was thus, we learn from a past issue of *Vie et Bonté*, that Mr. François-Poncet, on June 9, 1967, in the presence of senior officials, inaugurated the Bois-Larris International Institute for masseur-kinesitherapists, which was founded by the National Red Cross Society of which he was President at the time. The foundation stone was laid in 1963 during the Red Cross Centenary celebration.

This International Institute, which was attended by its first pupils in January 1968, is the only one of its kind in France. It is open to students of all nationalities and the French Government and the World Health Organization are prepared to pay grants to certain candidates. Courses last for thirty-two weeks, leading to a State diploma.

The Institute is at Lamorlaye near Paris, on ground donated by the Foundation for the Treatment and Occupational Training of Young Motor-Nerve Patients. The Foundation is presided over by Baroness Mallet, a directress of the French Red Cross.

Vietnam

Democratic Republic

The Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in its well illustrated magazine which has just reached us in Geneva, describes the variety and effectiveness of its work.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

The Society was faced with an urgent problem in 1965, that of extending rapidly the Red Cross network in the country-side. Since then new Red Cross bases have been established in factories, building and forestry sites, public services and schools, resulting in a great increase in membership. In X district on Hanoi's outskirts there were only 14 Red Cross branches with 500 members by the end of 1965. In June 1967 there were 55 branches with about 5,000 members working in agricultural co-operatives, public services, factories, building sites, farms, community restaurants, schools, State shops, hairdressing rooms, etc.

26 of the district's 31 villages and its two townships already have Red Cross branches. One inhabitant out of every 18 is a member of the Red Cross. It is hoped to set up Red Cross branches in all villages.

In the country-side the tasks facing Red Cross workers are many and varied, such as advising the population on the sinking of wells, the digging of septic tanks, vaccinations, lectures on hygiene, clean-up drives in the hamlets and health check-ups in kindergartens. In Summer they lead the fly and mosquito eradication campaigns, instruct the population in protection against sunstroke and in wholesome feeding. Results have been well worthwhile and very encouraging.

For the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, World Red Cross Day, 8th May, was an occasion for the launching of a month's "emulation campaign" among its members to stimulate all Society activities. Junior members play a large rôle. For instance, to quote the example of just one village, they helped medical personnel to take care of people suffering from trachoma.
