

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

medical professions, the political parties, and the local Red Crescent. Participants asked many questions on the structure and present activities of the ICRC and the League, so that there was a very useful discussion between the representatives of the two Geneva institutions and those of the Algerian Red Crescent.

These two Round Table meetings demonstrated the keen interest of the National Society in the problems confronting the Red Cross in the changing world of today.

During his stay at Constantine, Mr. Gaillard visited a number of social institutions set up by the Red Cross of this town. They included: an orthopædic centre, two sewing classes, a kindergarten and a dispensary. In addition, the local committee is responsible for the training of first aiders.

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## Cameroon

World Red Cross Day was celebrated this year by the 26 Departmental Councils of the Cameroon Red Cross in the northern Sahel (Western Sahara) areas, as well as in the southern districts, surrounded by large tropical forests, and in the western part of the country.

Celebrations in the capital were numerous and varied. Dr. Tchoungui, *Prime Minister of East Cameroon and President of the National Society* since it was founded in 1960, broadcast an address over the radio. Later on, that same day, he led a long, cheerful procession through the streets of Yaoundé, lined with large crowds. The two Vice-Presidents and members of the Central Committee walked behind him and were followed by some 140 first aid instructors and first aiders, kits slung across their shoulders, and by a military band playing stirring marches. Next came members of youth organizations, boy scouts and thousands of schoolchildren, all dressed in brightly-coloured clothes.

At the end of the morning, Dr. Tchoungui, after having briefly spoken of the universality of the Red Cross and its ideals of peace,

harmony and disinterested devotion to fellowmen, presented diplomas at Red Cross headquarters to about sixty girls and young men, who had become first aid instructors and first aiders.

In the afternoon, football and handball matches were played concurrently on two different sports grounds, watched by large crowds and members of the Red Cross Central Committee.

Finally, to bring this splendid day to a fitting close, a theatre show was put on in the evening. Many leading figures, including the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Works and several members of the diplomatic corps, were present. Following a programme of songs and dances, a local company put on a play produced by the author.

The new ICRC Regional Delegate for West and Central Africa, Mr. Tschiffeli, who had just arrived at Yaoundé, and who had been invited to these various celebrations, was also present.

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## Czechoslovakia

*Last December, the International Review reported the fiftieth anniversary of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the celebrations that took place in Prague. Since then we have received an article from Dr. Zdenek Gazdik, Secretary General of the National Society, entitled: "Half a century of work well done". We are pleased to be able to give you the conclusions he draws. The author first traces the constant growth of the Czechoslovak Red Cross and its constant need to adapt itself to modern development, and from the history of half a century draws a lesson for the future:*

The Czechoslovak Red Cross has become a vast organization, of which almost one citizen in ten is a member. It has had many ups and downs, but is one of the rare national organizations that has managed to ensure its continuity in present-day Czechoslovakia. And it can look back on its activities over the past years with satisfaction. It has been able to maintain its honourable position in today's socialist society in Czechoslovakia. Its work is very much