

Such are the premises we must start from in order to define the new concrete tasks which, naturally, in the decades to come will be different from those of past decades. However, the substance of humanitarianism and the pressing need to create suitable conditions for the transformation of interhuman relations remain and probably will remain the same as when, after the battle of Solferino, the women of Lombardy uttered these simple but unforgettable words: " Tutti fratelli ". It was in this spirit that the ceremonies marking the fiftieth anniversary of the Czechoslovak Red Cross also took place, so that the conclusions of such an experience, given shape precisely by the specific and complex development of the Czechoslovak Red Cross, have, indubitably, been of general value.

Lebanon

In March 1970, the Lebanese Red Cross celebrated its 25th anniversary. This extract from the Beirut press rapidly runs through the magnificent history of this National Society, with which the ICRC has maintained excellent relations since its foundation.

Between 1945 and the end of 1969, over 2,342,000 patients have been treated and nearly 885,000 medicines distributed. A number of sections have been created to carry out these tasks. The school for nurses began with 7 pupils. Since then, 303 diplomas have been awarded. Another school for nurses has been created in Tripoli. For the year 1969-70, there are 61 pupils in Beirut and 25 in Tripoli.

The school for assistant nurses at Saida (Sidon), set up in 1968, has already awarded 15 diplomas and has 8 pupils at present.

The section for first-aiders, set up in 1947, had awarded 1,963 diplomas by the end of 1969. The teams of first-aiders began functioning only in 1965, although courses had been taking place since 1947. After 3 months of practical and theoretical training, the teams are assigned to sectors under their team leaders. Over them is a monitor. This year, 896 first-aiders took part in 213 operations. They treated 1,087 cases over 19,506 hours of voluntary labour.

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

70 people have received diplomas from the section for voluntary aides, which was founded in 1956.

The section for air-hostesses and stewards was created in 1951. The airlines send their candidates to the Red Cross to obtain diplomas and to follow the practical courses in aircraft. 707 students have received diplomas and this year there were 48 studying to be air hostesses and 15 studying to be stewards.

The home welfare work section, organized in 1959, is manned by over 2,000 persons from all social levels and has given assistance to 138,326 persons.

The Red Cross social service was created in 1955. Before that date the organization provided social services but had no bureau. This branch looks after hospitalizations, premature births, visits to hospitals and to homes, institutions for the handicapped, specialized centres, etc. . . . This year, 1,400 babies under one year of age have been provided milk. The Red Cross takes under its wing all those twins and triplets whose parents are needy. It cares for polio sufferers and obtains apparatus for them.

The mobile clinic was organized in 1947 and at present serves 143 centres. This year it dealt with 5,517 patients. It goes only to those villages in which there is no doctor, nurse or pharmacist. The inhabitants of neighbouring villages also come to the mobile clinic.

The Junior Red Cross, founded in 1951, is divided into 57 sections in 37 private and State schools in Beirut, Tripoli, Jounieh, Zahlé, Tyr (Tyre), Saida (Sidon), Jall el Dib, Deir el Ahmar etc. In the capital itself, there are over 2,000 juniors and 30 voluntary monitors.

The Blood Bank has been in existence since 31 May 1965. The number of voluntary blood donors rose to 2,335 in 1969, providing 157 litres of blood. 940 litres of blood were delivered to hospitals and 15 litres to homes and 154 units. 1,500 persons and 70 hospitals benefited from these operations.

The Blood Bank has had 22 blood-collecting campaigns outside of the centre.

The needlework centre, founded in 1945, every year makes in Beirut 3,500 sets of baby garments, blouses and bed sheets. Smaller needlework centres have been organized by all the regional committees.