

variety of issues. All of them bear one common mark—they are aimed at the relief of those in need, at the alleviation of those in suffering, at the improvement of standards of health and hygiene. No one of these is more important than any other. Disaster Relief, Health Education, Youth, the Problems of National and International Conflicts, all touch and deal with the most basic fields of humanity and brotherhood. I am in complete accord with the theme adopted by the League of Red Cross Societies for World Red Cross Day 1966, namely “No Frontiers for Red Cross”. If this could be communicated to and adopted by all of the world’s peoples, suffering and distress would be diminished. If we are to be true to the Principles for which Red Cross has stood over many decades and to the humanitarian spirit of its founder, Henry Dunant, we can spare no efforts to alleviate human suffering in the world today.”

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## Japan

*Mrs. Sachiko Hashimoto, Director of the Japanese Junior Red Cross has sent the Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League a parable written by a member of the Japanese Junior Red Cross. It was submitted by the author, a commercial high school student, to the 1964 Japanese Red Cross national seminar.*

*It is well known that the dissemination of knowledge on the Geneva Conventions is a subject to which International Conferences of the Red Cross have repeatedly drawn attention. In view of the importance of promoting this dissemination among youth by simple and effective means, we believe that, with the agreement of the League, which passed it on to us, it will be of interest to publish this narrative entitled “A Dialogue between the Old Man and Children”.*

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

In the outskirts of K city lived an old man named Koichi Yamamoto. He had moved to this city about ten years ago. He did not make friends with his neighbours and led a lonely life. But there was one thing which he could enjoy, that was, watching the children who visited his garden to play war-games.

One day, looking at the children bullying a child, seemingly a war prisoner, the old man murmured to himself. " Ah ! Even such small children . . ." That night lying in bed, he thought of an idea : " Oh, yes. Why don't I teach them the Geneva Conventions ? It is much better for them to learn about them now than later when they grow older." This idea came to him because he had once worked as a Red Cross man in a battlefield.

**First Geneva Convention.**—The next day's war-game was a little different from the usual. A little girl of 6 or 7 years of age was participating in the war-game with a Red Cross flag in her hand. She must have learned about it from her mother.

She walked around among the boys, the wounded soldiers, taking good care of them. The boys, however, paid no attention to the flag or the little girl and continued attacking. The old man took advantage of this moment : " Boys, you should not bomb or shoot any place where you see a Red Cross flag."

The children looked puzzled, but they no longer attacked the girl with the Red Cross flag. The old man was relieved to see that. However, after a while, a strange thing happened. Five or six boys covered with the Red Cross flag were moving toward the enemy, but nobody tried to attack them. Perplexed, the old man said again : " Now boys, you should not carry a weapon hidden under the Red Cross flag ". Then Akio, the boy who was the captain of one troop, said, " But you told us before not to attack any place or anyone with the Red Cross flag. That is why we covered ourselves with the flag to prevent the enemy from attacking us ".

Then the old man asked for attention from all the children and began to talk. " You should never misuse the Red Cross flag. It is not for the soldiers who can fight, but for the sick and wounded on the battlefield. You see, you are not allowed to attack any hospital with Red Cross flag or emblem, because the wounded soldiers are kept there. Nurses and hospital staff should be fair and equal to

both friends and foes. Yoko, you were taking care of the soldiers of Kenji's troop only. That's not good. Once injured, people are the same to the Red Cross. As a Red Cross nurse, you should look after Akio's soldiers as well."

**Second Geneva Convention.**—It must have rained the night before. There were several puddles in the old man's garden. After a while some children came to the garden. That day no one carried tools for the war-play, but little boats. The old man imagined that they came for a ship-play. However, look! They again started a war-play. This time, it was a naval battle. Small boats were floated on the puddles. They threw stones to sink them. A few minutes later the old man added a small boat with a tiny Red Cross flag. The children didn't pay any attention to this little flag. They kept throwing stones at the boats. At last the old man's boat sank just like other boats.

The old man opened his mouth, "Didn't I tell you that you shouldn't attack anything anywhere with the Red Cross emblem?" "Do you find the Red Cross on the sea?" asked Akio. "Sure, anywhere. It makes no difference, sea or land. Wherever they are we should take care of the wounded and sick," the old man explained.

Right then it started pouring again. The children ran back home at full speed. The old man was left alone on the porch: "The Geneva Conventions might be too difficult for the children. Yet it may not be so, for there seems to be some who understand them". The old man closed the window.

**Third Geneva Convention.**—It was Sunday. It was raining from the morning. The old man sat on the porch looking ruefully at the rain. There, the children came in making noise. Akio spoke in a loud voice: "Please tell us some war stories." Kenji added, "The story you told us last time was very interesting." As the old man had nothing to do, he was willing to accept their request. As the story developed, the old man became excited and came to talk about the Geneva Conventions.

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

“ You know that always in the war some happen to be captured. Among you boys, there are usually some who start crying when caught. What would you do if you capture an enemy soldier ? ” Akio immediately replied, “ I’d put him in a prison and keep him without a bite of food, and would punish him hard.” The old man asked, “ Akio, you don’t like to be treated like that when you are captured, do you ? You know, others feel just as you do. So, you should treat them kindly and allow them to write letters to their homes if they want. If any parcels are sent from their homes, be sure to see they are received by the prisoners. Don’t keep them for yourself.”

Then Kenji spoke up, “ In a movie I once saw with my mother, I remember a war prisoner who succeeded in escaping. I would do the same thing if I became a war prisoner. But what would happen to me if they would find me ? They would kill me, wouldn’t they ? ” “ No, they wouldn’t, answered the old man. “ As I have told you before, the Red Cross have made them promise not to kill or hurt people without a good reason ”.

“ You see, you are not allowed either to let prisoners work in a battlefield full of dangers. What is more, wounded soldiers should be sent back to their home country.” Yoko murmured, “ I don’t quite understand.”

Akio said, “ But I do. You mean that we should treat the prisoners of war as kindly as possible, because they are human beings just as we are, right ? ” “ Yes, that’s right. Akio, you understand very well. The best thing to do is not to fight a war,” the old man went on telling a story :

**Fourth Geneva Convention.**—“ You must listen carefully, Akio and Kenji, as both of you are the Commanders in chief of the troops. I remember that you have attacked some children who were not in either of your troops but merely playing with the sand. You caught them and treated them badly. Remember ? It was very naughty of you to have done so. Do you know why ? There is a promise to protect those who are not engaged in the war. Sometimes their houses are destroyed, or they have nothing to eat or wear. Then, they are expected to be protected under the Red Cross promise ”. “ It sounds very difficult ”, responded the children.

“ Even for fighting there are many rules we have to follow, aren't there ? ” Akio, Kenji, and Yoko went home with something to sleep on.

Four or five days later, Akio came back and talked to the old man. “ We won't play war-games any more. If the war begins, the Red Cross people must help wounded soldiers, take care of the prisoners of war, and prepare many promises. The best thing is, however, not to fight any more. Right ? We have decided to stop playing war games. We will never forget the story you told us about the Red Cross and will study more about it as we grow up.”

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## Zambia

*The information services of the Republic of Zambia in Lusaka have recently published in their bulletin an interesting article by Mrs. Jane Knudtzon on the work which has already been accomplished by their country's Red Cross. At a time when this has been recognized by the ICRC, as we had pleasure in mentioning in our January issue, we think it appropriate to reproduce a few extracts of this article.*

*The author points out in conclusion, that there are already a large number of juniors and that an annual meeting is held at which their instructors are present. After attending a two-week course on the Red Cross, they return home and become excellent publicists for our movement. The National Society can therefore play an important rôle in the Health Service of the country, especially in remote areas where there is a shortage of medical personnel.*

On April 22, 1966 the Zambia Red Cross Society officially came into being. Since 1950, the Red Cross in Zambia had been an overseas branch of the British Red Cross Society, with headquarters in London.

In his speech to the National Assembly, presenting the Red Cross Bill, the Minister of Health, Mr. Peter Matoka, said : “ We in this