

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

helpers and Library staff at Red Cross Headquarters. In fact, during the 15 years this Library has been in existence, very few "books" have been mislaid.

The Australian Red Cross Society is proud of this achievement, just as it is honoured and privileged to provide this invaluable amenity to so many blinded ex-Servicemen.

Luxemburg

It is known that the Luxemburg Red Cross is particularly active in its work for children. The French Red Cross review Vie et Bonté (No. 165) which describes how six different countries are working under the same emblem has published the following account of this activity.

Since the end of the First World War, the Luxemburg Red Cross devoted part of its work to health and welfare problems of children. On the initiative of the Red Cross the first modern maternity home in the country was built in 1932 near the capital. It has since been taken over by the State whilst the Red Cross has extended its activity on behalf of children especially in the medico-social sphere.

Assistance to infants. — Thanks to courses in puericulture given by the Luxemburg Red Cross, future mothers are made familiar, before the birth of their children, with problems raised by the hygiene and health of infants. These courses which are organized in the remotest districts arouse considerable interest and render valuable service in filling a gap in the education of the young women of Luxemburg.

Whilst giving theoretical preparation to future mothers, the Red Cross also gives help to infants. For the latter it maintains no less than 37 dispensaries, a high figure considering the smallness of the country. About half the new-born babies in Luxemburg are registered in these dispensaries where the mothers, who regularly submit their infants to medical inspection, receive advice in feeding them and generally in all problems raised in rearing them. It should

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

however be mentioned that medical allowances are excluded from the services provided by the dispensaries of the Luxembourg Red Cross. Results obtained by the Red Cross in assistance to infants are encouraging. Mortality amongst infants registered at dispensaries does not reach one tenth of the rate recorded for other infants. To give an idea of the work undertaken by these dispensaries, we would quote the case of one of the visiting Red Cross nurses who in the Canton of Rédange is in charge of a mobile dispensary. Last year she had 126 infants in her care and paid 591 visits to the homes of young mothers.

In the same Canton a modern crèche has been in operation since 1961 which takes in babies whose mothers are unable to look after them for social or health reasons. Of the 30 beds in this institution an average of 80 per cent are occupied.

Infants who remain separated from their parents after they are two years old are taken in charge by the family placing service of the Red Cross. This Service looks for the most suitable foster-parents for the child, defrays its living expenses, makes clothing and school kits available and continues to supervise its development.

Aid to children at school. — Since 1949, the year in which a school medical service was introduced into the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, the Red Cross has constantly given its co-operation in the medical supervision of the school population. It places at the disposal of the Ministry of Health and of the communes, its 30 visiting nurses for medical examinations at schools, X-ray tests and for long-term surveillance of disabilities discovered on inspection, which all pupils of primary schools have to undergo from time to time. Many communes have available, in addition to a general practitioner, a school dentist and some also an oculist. These examinations have had the effect, as shown by statistics, of a distinct decrease in cases of scoliosis, to mention only one example.

Whilst the Red Cross is carrying out work on behalf of the school population as a whole, the Colnet d'Huart Foundation at Bertrange only takes in children of school age in need of a rest cure. This home, installed in a property on the outskirts of the capital gives medical and hygiene care as well as a healthy and balanced diet. Primary education is given in this home which also possesses a specialized

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

section for the treatment of poliomyelitis where children are cared for and who are suffering from the results of this illness and cannot be looked after by their families. This polio station ensures daily massage and places at their disposal, amongst other things, a rehabilitation room and radiotherapy appliances.

For the past few years, the Luxemburg Red Cross has also been running a school holiday-home, the Edmond Muller-Tesch Foundation at Berg-Betzdorf. Every year hundreds of schoolchildren from the industrial communes south of the capital spend a week there with their teachers to breathe pure country air and become acquainted with rural life.

Holiday-homes. — The Red Cross produces the "Revue de la Jeunesse", a periodical highly popular with the children. It is edited by teachers and professors, although young readers can contribute by submitting essays and drawings or by taking part in competitions arranged for them. The editorial team concentrates on giving children standards of hygiene and publishes for that purpose a sort of serial entitled "Your health".

The Junior Red Cross is also active amongst adolescents, in order to interest them in Henry Dunant's ideas. Each secondary school in the country has its Junior Red Cross section, whose members keenly train themselves in first-aid technique, exchange correspondence with children of their own age all over the world, take part in international camps of the Junior Red Cross during the holidays and act as voluntary helpers in holiday-homes for flag days or other Red Cross activities.

The Junior Red Cross is a nursery from which the organization recruits those whom it needs to ensure its permanence and to spread the Red Cross ideal.

To sum up, the Luxemburg Red Cross takes over from the community a certain number of serious obligations it has to the young. Thanks to its efficient organization of work it enjoys the support and sympathy of the whole population and the government.