

6. To serve as a medium for relationship to other non-governmental bodies, and to governmental and intergovernmental organizations, for the fields covered in point 1.
7. To hold such meetings and take such other steps as may be necessary to realize the functions outlined above.

CHILD WELFARE PROBLEMS IN AFRICA

The Centre International de l'Enfance organized a colloquium which was held in Dakar in December 1964, the proceedings of which are summarized in a recent publication.¹ The following two problems were studied: why is the lot of children in towns, where personnel and material resources are greater, no better than that of children living in rural areas? With what specific problems does life in towns beset children at different stages of their development?

The papers submitted dealt with various subjects. Particular attention was given to maternity and child welfare, for instance in Algeria and Senegal. Mr. F. J. Bennett and Mr. D. B. Jelliffe presented a study on "Urban maternity and child welfare services in Uganda" which contained practical remarks on health education. This subject, as we are all aware, is one which is of particular importance for our movement as it is one of the aspects of the long-term working programme of the Junior Red Cross in various places. We therefore give below extracts from the study by these two authors on health education in Uganda; they are, incidentally, valid for other developing countries.

In Kampala there are several bodies responsible for health education, including the paediatric service of the Makerere Medical

¹ *Living Conditions of the Child in Urban Environment in Africa*, Centre International de l'Enfance, Paris, 1966, 276 p.

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School, which has been granted credits for the recruitment of a Paediatric Mass Media Officer. In co-operation with the Ministry of Health, this officer co-ordinates and prepares health education articles with a paediatric orientation for publication in local language newspapers or for broadcasting by radio and television.

Articles are also published in government newspapers, daily in Luganda, weekly in Rutoro and Luo and monthly in Atesot. These articles are also published in the Catholic vernacular press which has even wider circulation. Subjects dealt with are breast-feeding, tuberculosis, infant feeding, weaning, accidents, pre-natal care, road accidents, ankylostomiasis, whooping cough, scabies, kwashiorka, diarrhoea, personal cleanliness, hygienic nutrition, burns, normal physical development of children, and dental hygiene. It is intended to publish all these articles in a booklet for use in the illiteracy eradication campaign.

A weekly television programme has been produced in Luganda with the title "Emiti Emito" (from the proverb "It is the small trees which make the forest dense"). For technical reasons most of these broadcasts have to be direct and for lack of personnel the broadcasts will have to be less frequent. Subjects similar to those published in the press have been dealt with, such as vaccination, the organization of child health protection, the control of insect vectors, malaria, poliomyelitis, diet for expectant mothers, first-aid, and elementary anatomy and physiology.

Public television viewing is in bars in Kampala and often in community centres in the neighbouring rural areas ; it is therefore difficult to estimate the audience but according to one conservative judgment some 1000 inhabitants of Kampala watch the "Emiti Emito" programme. Most television sets in Kampala belong to the cultured minority which probably requires instruction on these particular problems less than the uneducated population.

A monthly radio programme entitled "The child doctor replies to questions" is broadcast ; it deals with the care of new-born children, the prevention of accidents at home, scabies, infant nutrition, pre-natal care. Public response to this programme has been displayed by an encouraging flood of questions. It must be admitted, however, that peak listening time is during the news items and the announcements which follow. Most families economize

on their batteries by listening only to these two important broadcasts and it is now planned to include health slogans between them.

Yet a further undertaking was the production of films for showing on television and in clubs. They have the advantage that accompanying comments can be in any of the vernacular languages. Two such films have been produced so far : one on maternity wards in Kampala and the other, in co-operation with the Ministry of Education, on nutrition for children of school age. The latter was made in a typical home in Ganda and in a local primary school ; it shows a day in the life of a schoolboy with special emphasis on the cooking, preparation and eating of school lunches.

Research into the efficacy of these mass media is at present going on.
