

Belgium

On the initiative of its Junior Section, the Belgian Red Cross has organized a competition amongst the young of drawings relating to the Geneva Conventions.

This idea met with the greatest success, as can be seen when one looks through the excellent review *Jeunesse Servir*, which gives a selection of some of these drawings. This is a most effective method of teaching. It is in fact certain that young people, having been given the opportunity of thinking about the Geneva Conventions, first of all in their choice of subject, then in their drawings in relation to the texts, will retain in their minds the humanitarian principles thus illustrated.

Furthermore, the Belgian Ministry of Education and Culture has decided to organize a mobile exhibition of 126 drawings selected from the best entries submitted to the competition. This exhibition will certainly contribute to awaken interest in the Geneva Conventions in Belgium. The Red Cross world should be appreciative of this most enterprising undertaking.

Great Britain

The periodical News Review of the British Red Cross Society has published a special number dedicated to the Centenary of our movement. It gives a good outline of the numerous activities of this National Society and we will quote some passages from its introductory article.

To the ordinary man in the street the image of the Red Cross is unreservedly associated with the relief of suffering in wartime. This is understandable, for the movement was born out of war to operate primarily in time of war. But a century of history has extended its work to helping those in need whenever and wherever they are.

During the Second World War, Red Cross services to prisoners of war—and especially its parcels service—gained so firm and extensive a hold on the public mind that they seemed likely to obliterate the original duty of the Red Cross. The Prisoner of War Convention of 1929 was new and untried when the war broke out. There was very little reference to the Red Cross in it and few prisoners could be expected to envisage quite where the Convention was likely to benefit them, or precisely how the Red Cross was to improvise to meet new situations not covered by the written texts and to carry through projects which had never been thought of before . . .

In adopting an aim for Centenary Year, the Society decided upon one of its activities that has greatly developed since the war : aid to the disabled and handicapped. Here is something in which adult and junior members equally have taken a hand. The Junior Recrodis Club highlights one aspect ; rather different from any other of its kind, the Club was the outcome of one of the camping holidays for handicapped children which have become a feature of Junior Red Cross work throughout the country during the summer months, and which are increasing in number year by year. Much of the spirit of these holiday camps has infiltrated the Junior Recrodis Club : the same carefree enjoyment is displayed by the disabled children who come to these fortnightly gatherings and, for the Junior Red Cross members who run them, the same opportunities of practical service, of developing a sense of responsibility, patience, sympathy and powers of leadership, the importance of which cannot be too strongly emphasized since the future of the Society rests with its Junior members.

From the young we pass to the aged, whose welfare has been a growing concern for a number of years and was brought into prominence in 1947, at the time that the Society was establishing the first of its old people's homes. A recent study established the value of old people's homes created and administrated by private enterprise . . .

Underlying the whole of the Society's publicity campaign throughout Centenary Year is the plea for more recruits, embodied in the slogan " We need you to help others ". In time of need the Red Cross has never lacked public support ; people will respond if only they are asked and told how and where they can help . . .

We have endeavoured in this commemorative issue to cover broadly some of the Society's major achievements at home and overseas. These would be incomplete without some reference to the work of our Overseas Branches, many of whom have by now become national societies, and to the Voluntary Aid Detachments: the basic structure of our membership, the corps d'élite of the British Red Cross Society, who have played such an important part in our history since their foundation of fifty years ago.

In passing, we would like to remind our readers of the place occupied in the Society's history by its magazine, which is now entering the forty-ninth year of its publication. It was at a meeting of the Executive Committee on 19th January, 1914, that the Chairman laid the first copy on the table.

Nineteen sixty-three is a year for reflection; a year for looking forward and a year for celebrating . . .

Liberia

Mr. Gerald C. Coron, Assistant Regional Director for the South-eastern Area Office of the American National Red Cross, recently spent eight months in Liberia as League of Red Cross Societies Delegate charged with helping the National Society to reorganize its structure and develop its activities. The result of his efforts is a perfect example of the League's technical assistance to a National Society. There is an interview in the Monthly News and Report (1963, No. 1) published by the League, which gives a very good idea of certain possibilities and difficulties in the task being undertaken today in Africa by the Red Cross and which we consider worth reproducing.

Mr. Coron, how did you approach your mission?

First I contacted Government authorities and made a quick tour of the whole country to study its characteristics, the needs of the population, and to find out what the Red Cross would be able to do for them. I talked with farmers, teachers, doctors,