

Last November at a national general session organized by the Belgian Red Cross in tribute to those who work for it and to its blood donors, the President of the Society, H.R.H. Prince Albert presented to Mrs. Bungart, Mrs. Nicole Vroonen's mother, the Medal and Diploma awarded for having made the supreme sacrifice in the accomplishment of a mission.

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## **Korea**

### DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

A large selection of photographs which the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent to the ICRC gives a vivid picture of the effective activities carried on by that National Society. The wide variety of these activities and the initiative they reveal are striking. They range from delicate eye and brain surgery in the hospitals at Pyongyang and the treatment of infantile paralysis under our common emblem to the example of goodwill by the members of the Junior Red Cross who do useful work such as amongst other things, caring for the lawns in front of the Grand Theatre or in the residential districts of the capital.<sup>1</sup>

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## **Lebanon**

Last November, the Lebanese Red Cross held its seventh Annual Congress, the theme being "The Red Cross and national and international emergency relief". Four hundred persons took part in the meetings which were held simultaneously in Arabic and French. After an address of welcome by the Society President, Mrs. A. Issa-el-Khoury, several papers were presented by members

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.* The Junior Red Cross makes itself useful to society in Pyongyang.

of the Central Committee, dealing with first-aid, training of medical personnel and the rôle of voluntary workers.

On the second day of the Congress an exercise was held which simulated Red Cross emergency action in a disaster involving destruction of houses and many victims. The setting had been carefully prepared by the civil defence service and nurses and first-aid workers went into action in perfect synchrony with the rescue teams<sup>1</sup>. This dramatic display was warmly admired by the spectators and the Congress itself was the subject of comment in the press as well as on radio and television.

Great importance is attached nowadays by most National Societies to the training of medical personnel. Mrs. Marcelle Gaston Hochar, Adviser to the Lebanese Red Cross Central Committee gave a talk on this subject which we believe worthwhile summarizing here, as it contains useful information on the training of Red Cross workers who may be called upon to give emergency relief in the Lebanon.

### **Training of Medical Personnel**

The by-laws of National Societies define the close co-operation with the army medical services ; hence the obligation to prepare qualified nursing personnel. Every member is issued with an armband and a card, each bearing the seal of the military authorities. These are recognized as valid in time of war by belligerent governments of States parties to the Geneva Conventions... Developments in treatment techniques require ever greater specialization. Apart from caring for the sick, this personnel also forms the nucleus of the training corps, a task to which it is dedicated. It helps in preparing nursing auxiliaries, of whom there is a shortage everywhere. Team work is necessary even for specialists ; surgeons operate wherever called upon to do so, but preferably assisted by their teams, thus ensuring that synchronization and smooth functioning which make for the safety and welfare of the patient.

We shall now consider on whom the Red Cross can rely in medical personnel training.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate* : Beyrouth : Red Cross first-aiders in action during disaster relief rehearsals.

*Nurses.*—Their basic training is adapted to meet the demands of modern therapy. To improve their preparation and perfect their training, they must continually attend refresher courses. Apart from their essential scientific knowledge, they must always retain their humane consideration for those in suffering.

The Lebanese Red Cross nursing school is officially recognized. Its syllabus conforms to the recommended standards of the ICRC, the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Council of Nurses. It includes thirty months of study over a period of three years; 1,200 hours are spent in theoretical courses and 3,600 hours in practical training in various departments. A theory and practical examination is held every year. The students who successfully pass the three yearly examinations may sit for the State Diploma before an examination board comprising the Director of the Ministry of Health, and representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Defence and the Council of Teachers. Successful graduates are awarded the State Diploma, which was granted official recognition by Presidential Decree in 1947.

*Voluntary auxiliaries.*—These volunteers, who might be considered the cadet nurses, submit to a system of rank and essential discipline. Whilst they are aware of their own limits, they are inspired by the Red Cross spirit, ready to respond to appeals and giving freely and discreetly of their time and knowledge in the service of those who suffer.

Their training lasts nine months; it includes 100 hours of theory and 400 hours practical work in hospitals, dispensaries, infant nurseries, and ambulances. When their training is completed they can be a great help in various departments.

*Nursing assistants.*—There is an urgent need for nursing assistants, who bridge the gap between the ward workers with no training and the State registered nurse. Proper allocation of duties ensures better care for the patients.

Their training lasts for twelve months, with 300 hours of theory and 1,200 hours of practical work among patients. Teaching and training are given by professional nurses, followed by a theo-

## BELGIUM



The Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded posthumously to Mrs. Nicole Vroonen. H.R.H. Prince Albert, President of the Belgian Red Cross, is here seen presenting the Medal and Diploma to Mrs. Vroonen's mother.





**Pyongyang.** — The junior members of the Red Cross in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea help in maintaining the city's flower-beds.

**Beyrouth.** — First-aid training for disaster relief by the Lebanese Red Cross



retical and practical examination, with the award of a certificate to the successful candidates.

*Air Hostesses.*—They acquire knowledge of geography, history and art. They must also know languages, be familiar with foreign currency and always ready to be of service. Their three-month study course includes theory and practice.

*First-Aiders.*—They are becoming essential in factory, at school, in the mountains, on the highway, at the beach. By simple processes in which they achieve proficiency through long practice, they may save human life. In their training they first learn what not to do, for over-eagerness or impetuous action might have serious consequences, and later they learn what to do and what immediate action particular cases require.

After training the first-aiders are assigned to teams, always ready to go into action when called upon by the person in charge. At monthly meetings each first-aider gives his colleagues an account of his own experiences. Field exercises and training camps enable the teams to practise at every altitude and in all circumstances.

Their study courses include thirty hours theory and practical work. The students learn life saving and the elements of anatomy and hygiene.

*Home Nursing.*—Although the number of hospitals is constantly increasing, there are not enough beds for all the disabled, the chronically sick and the aged. These people must therefore be cared for in their own homes. This need gave rise to "home nursing" and to courses for those prepared to give assistance in the patients' homes. These courses include six two-hour lessons, with demonstrations and active participation by the students.

These are the various possibilities offered by the Lebanese Red Cross to anyone wishing to serve others. In time of war and peace, those it has trained respond to the call of men suffering in mind or body. This is fellowship.