

marks of the Red Cross. This management committee comprises senior officials of the Italian Red Cross, members of the Castiglione municipal authority and representatives of the Henry Dunant Institute, the League and the ICRC. It held its first meeting at Castiglione on 20 March 1970.

Its collections will be enriched, temporary exhibitions are being prepared. In addition the Palazzo Longhi will become a centre of meetings and seminars for which it is well suited.

Let us hope that the Red Cross will respond to so much good will by a keener interest. Solferino, San Martino, Castiglione, present a really extraordinary cohesive effect, a source to which a pilgrimage is well worthwhile.

P. B.

Ceylon

The report submitted by the Ceylon Red Cross to the XX1st International Conference at Istanbul gives interesting details on that Society's important role in establishing and organizing a practical plan for nation-wide relief in case of disaster.

Disaster Relief.—A comprehensive National Disaster Relief Plan has been prepared by the Water Resources Board of the Government of Ceylon in consultation with the Ministry of Social Services which is the Agency responsible for initiating and coordinating all programmes of disaster relief caused by floods, cyclones, fire, drought, etc. The implementation and operational details have been worked out by the Ministry of Social Services. The Ceylon Red Cross Society is represented on the Committees at all levels. Further, the Director of Social Services of the Government of Ceylon is a member of the Council of the Ceylon Red Cross Society.

The responsibilities of the National Society in this plan are:—

- a) The establishment of First Aid Posts in the affected areas.

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- b) Provision of immediate relief in the form of food, clothing and other household requisites to the affected families.
- c) Actively assisting the medical and para-medical personnel in public health operations including supply of emergency drugs held in stock by the National Society for this purpose.

In order to further effectivise the services of the National Society, a phased Three Year Programme of Development for the expansion of the Red Cross Movement was implemented in 1968 with special emphasis on areas prone to frequent disasters in rural Ceylon.

Activities as auxiliaries of the public authorities.—All the activities of the National Society are geared to function as auxiliaries of the respective programmes of the public authorities. These cover First Aid Services, Training, Blood Transfusion, Programmes for children and youth. Welfare Services, etc.

Other Assistance.—In the case of internal disorders, the National Society renders all assistance in the form of relief services, food distribution and medical care and functions as liaison between those in refugee camps and their friends and relations outside.

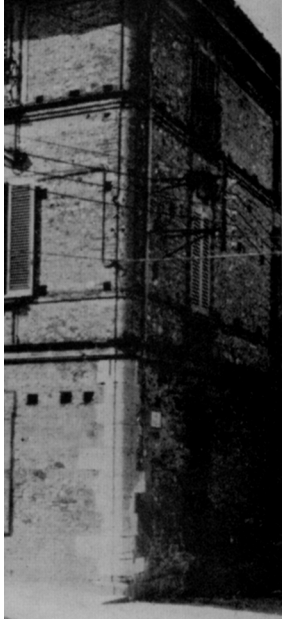
Activities in the field of Health.—*First Aid Practice and Accident Prevention.*

The main activities are:

- (a) The establishment of First Aid Posts where large crowds congregate for national, social, cultural and religious festivals.
- (b) Conducting training in First Aid, Artificial Respiration and Home Nursing for members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments and large industrial organisations which request such services, and
- (c) The organisation of training classes for Instructors who are required in increasing numbers to conduct the training classes under the Society's Rural Extension Programme.

Blood Transfusion

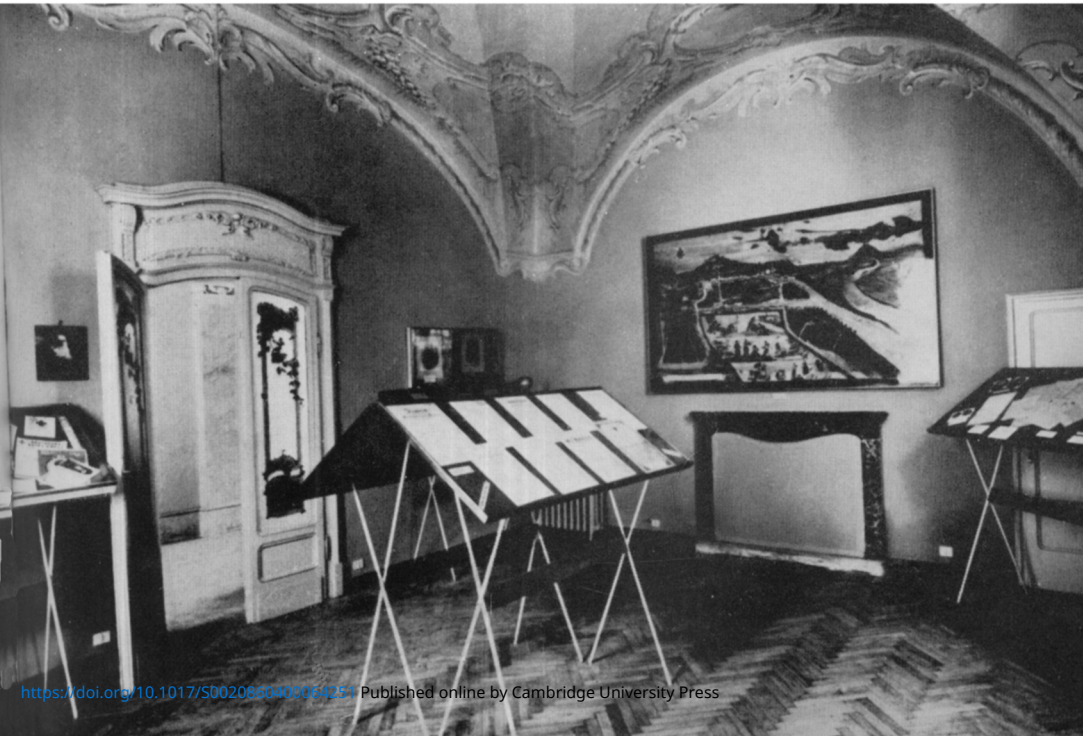
The Government maintains fully equipped Blood Banks at the large hospitals in Colombo and the out stations. The Society main-



The entrance...

Photos Allegrl, Brescia

... and one of the rooms in the International Red Cross Museum at Castiglione delle Stiviere.





The Indonesian Red Cross in action to help the Djakarta flood victims in February 1970.



tains a register of donors, classified according to Blood Groups. The services of these donors are availed of if and when the hospitals request us to supply a donor to meet a short supply. The Society also provides free transport for the donor.

Health Education.

The chief organisation through which health education is imparted is the J.R.C. Links and Bond Clubs have already been organised in rural schools, Community Centres, etc. under the Society's Development Programme.

Indonesia

The Indonesian Red Cross recently sent us the following information which we reproduce as a testimony of that National Society's rapid action in disaster relief situations.¹

On 7 February 1970, several lower parts of Djakarta, with its total population of 4.25 million, have been ravaged by severe floods due to torrential rains, afflicting some 93,305 people.

In some places the flooding waters reached a height of up to 2.5 m, causing considerable damage to houses and properties.

The Djakarta Chapter of the Indonesian Red Cross Society relieved the victims with medical treatment and first aid, besides her relief-distribution of:

3270 pcs. of sarongs,
6600 pcs. of underwear,
700 jars of infant foods,
530 kg of milk and biscuits.

Besides the Indonesian Red Cross, many other charitable bodies gave their aid in some way.

¹ *Plate* : Djakarta-Indonesian Red Cross helping flood victims.