

Activities of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

In this column the Review intends to publish, as regularly as possible, information and reports on National Societies' programmes of activities which on account of their originality, diversity and effects may serve as examples to other National Societies.

In any case, these articles will aim to show interested readers the range of humanitarian activities undertaken by National Societies faced with various communities' new needs in a society that is constantly changing.

THE SPANISH RED CROSS AND THE PROBLEM OF SOCIAL DROPOUTS

In this issue, the *Review* turns its attention to a very serious social problem which is the concern of numerous National Societies—the issue of social dropouts. For this purpose, the *Review* consulted a report entitled “Deprived Areas—the Fourth World”, which was compiled by the Spanish Red Cross and published in the September 1986 issue of its publication “Cruz Roja”. With the authorization of the Spanish Red Cross, the *Review* publishes below extensive extracts from the “Cruz Roja” editorial which places the problem of dropouts in its social and humanitarian context:

THE DROPOUT PHENOMENON: A PROBLEM OF OUR TIME?

“Obviously not. Through the ages, there have been people who have rejected the rules and structure of conventional society. What is new is that nowadays the dropout phenomenon has changed into something more than a social, cultural and economic reality: it has become a form of consciousness. Perhaps this is the very first time that the rejection of conventional society, as a sociological fact, has actually aroused concern and stimulated efforts to solve the problem, and has ceased to appear as a “natural”, inevitable and insoluble phenomenon.

”This newly emerged awareness and guilty conscience with regard to the dropout phenomenon must clearly lead to the discovery of collective responses to the problem. The