

everything necessary for medical or surgical treatment, including a blood transfusion unit and up-to-date equipment for treatment by oxygen and resuscitation. If required, an oxygen-bottle can be left with the sick person.

The Milan Committee possesses six ambulances of this type which are posted in different parts of the town. They have radio-telephonic links with each other and can furthermore transport sick persons throughout Italy and even abroad. The service is free for members of the Red Cross.

The inestimable benefits of such a service in a large town can be readily imagined and the Milan Committee of the Italian Red Cross is to be congratulated for its enterprise.

We have recently received figures indicating, for each type of illness, the number of requests made to the emergency medical service to visit people in their homes between June and December, 1960. That these calls totalled 539 during that period conclusively proves the usefulness and effectiveness of this new activity.

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## **Pakistan**

From Karachi the ICRC has received news concerning the joint annual General Meeting of the Pakistan Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Association, which was held some time ago, attended by a large audience. The meeting was presided over by Field Marshal Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan, who is also the President of these two institutions. After welcoming the delegates, the President reminded his listeners of the threat, which now hangs over the world, of a war, and expressed his hope in the Red Cross, whose humanitarian work represents such an important and calming element for the maintenance of peace.

The President then went on to speak of the work carried out by the Pakistan Red Cross, the St. John Ambulance Association

and the St. John Ambulance Brigade, which is a perfect example of harmonious mutual aid ; these three organisations have, indeed, contributed to a great extent towards implementing the medico-social programmes of the Public Health authorities.

The President reminded his listeners that a Pakistani nurse had been awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal, and in this connection, he went on to speak of the difficulties with which the institution has to contend, due to the shortage of nurses. Recognizing that this is a problem which nowadays faces nearly all countries, he urged the educated girls of Pakistan to join those who had already taken up nursing as a profession, which is one of such capital importance for the country.

The speaker then commented on the work carried out by the National Red Cross in the areas of Eastern Pakistan which had been devastated by the cyclone in 1959. In response to an appeal from the authorities, the Society sent clothing, medicaments and vitamins of a total value of 1,500,000 rupees to the victims ; the shipment of these relief supplies from Western Pakistan was the first to reach the scene of the disaster at Chittagong. However, even so, the shortage of personnel made itself felt : " It is reassuring that the instructional work of the St. John Ambulance Association (Pakistan) "—continued the President,—“ marked an increase during 1959. The need for trained first-aid workers is felt even in the western countries, which are far more advanced and have a larger number of doctors.”

Field Marshal Ayub Khan also expressed his satisfaction at the results obtained by the Junior Red Cross, which plays an important rôle by teaching school-children the elementary principles of hygiene and health, thus enabling them to acquire the habit of cleanliness. The Juniors also contribute towards fostering international friendship among the younger generation of different countries.

In conclusion, it should be mentioned that the St. John Ambulance Association held training courses in first-aid and home nursing, which were attended by 88,765 men and women ; about 66,000 trained workers have rendered valuable service in these fields throughout the country. As regards the St. John Ambulance Brigade, it has 54 Ambulance Divisions, three Ambulance Corps

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and one Cadet Nursing Division—which represents an increase of two Ambulance Divisions in one year. The membership of this institution has now reached 2,310, including 129 women.

Together with other humanitarian institutions, the Pakistan Red Cross Society continues to make every effort in order to achieve its aid programme as efficiently as possible on behalf of the Pakistani population.

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