

SPAIN

In a recent number, the journal issued by the Spanish Red Cross which, with numerous excellent illustrations, has a most attractive appearance, drew its readers' attention to one of the branches of the National Society's activities, into which the Red Cross is increasingly penetrating—life-saving on the beaches, at sea and on lakes, and first-aid on the roads and in the mountains. On several occasions we have given news of similar activities in various countries, but the following figures given by the Spanish Red Cross show how they have developed in Spain, owing, no doubt, to the considerable expansion of the tourist industry in the country.

The life-saving service is divided into 64 sections distributed along the coast where they are most needed and is equipped with 260 craft of various kinds. In 1975, its members went to the help of 21,600 persons. The service personnel included 306 navigators, 22 doctors, 47 medical assistants, 391 first-aiders and 315 members of the "Life-Saving Brigade",

Besides these water safety precautions, there are 360 first-aid posts on the roads and highways and 67 mobile stations in caravans which are on duty from dawn to dusk. In addition, the Red Cross has set up 32 first-aid posts in various mountain areas. With its 350 ambulances and 46 vehicles it uses for roving inspections, the Spanish Red Cross renders inestimable assistance; in 1975, it went to the aid of nearly 70,000 cases. These various tasks, which demand constant watchfulness on the part of those who undertake them, are performed by two sections of the National Society; one is called the "Red Cross of the Sea", while the other forms part of the "Life-Saving Brigade".
