

When one reads this review, one has the impression of a well-balanced and efficient activity which bears witness to the vitality of the Red Cross in South America.

Germany

A DRIVING SCHOOL FOR THE DISABLED

During the ten years since its re-constitution, the "Landesverband Berlin" of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic has always felt itself bound to take on, apart from the usual Red Cross duties, various other activities called for by our time which also correspond to the humanitarian spirit of our movement. One of these activities is the driving-school for the disabled run by the German Red Cross in Berlin. This school was set up in 1947 by a private individual who was later obliged for financial reasons to give up this very special undertaking. Convinced that the school responded to a real need, the Red Cross in Berlin took it over in December 1953.

Between that date and Spring 1960, 1,700 learners enrolled, of whom 80 % had suffered leg amputations or were paralyzed (amputation at the knee or upper thigh, amputation of both legs, transverse myelitis, infantile paralysis). Those with both hands amputated (nearly all of whom succeeded in learning to drive after the so-called Krukenberg operation), deserve particular mention. In addition to war-disabled, therefore, we also see paralytics and persons crippled by accidents learning to drive.

The driving-school for the disabled of the German Red Cross now has 3 different types of cars, all equipped with special devices¹. The learners are thus taught to drive whatever their disablement may be. These devices are later installed in the students' own cars, in such a way that the car can also be driven by able-bodied persons.

The great advantage of this driving-school is the fact that it has different types of cars so that while they are learning to drive, the

¹ *Plate.*

disabled can decide which model is best suited to their individual needs. Another important point is the fact that the teachers themselves have in most cases suffered disablement and learners have less difficulty therefore in overcoming any psychological drawbacks. In addition, their personal experience makes these teachers better suited to give advice.

The working capacity of most of the students is reduced by 50 %-80 %. They come from all professional circles ; nevertheless, employees, persons engaged in a trade and those of independent means are in the majority. Many who were unable to work before have been able to find regular employment as a result of their training. In view of the satisfactory results obtained, professional associations and public welfare authorities have in many cases taken over part or all of the cost of the course.

The Red Cross driving-school receives numerous applications from firms wishing to employ disabled lorry drivers on a permanent basis, because they have the reputation of being particularly careful and obliging. Moreover, their working capacity is in no way below that of their able-bodied colleagues. In accordance with regulations, however, contacts between employers and the disabled are made exclusively through official employment agencies.

The Red Cross driving-school in Berlin has already made a name for itself far beyond Berlin ; a number of disabled have come from abroad and obtained their driving licences in the city.

Iraq

The Iraqi Red Crescent Society recently issued its third annual report, giving an account of this National Society's activities in 1960. A copy of this report having been sent to the ICRC, a translation has been made of the most important passages. We think it all the more appropriate to give these essential points since Miss A. Pfitzer, delegate of the ICRC, when in Baghdad in February last, had the opportunity of seeing the efficient work in many fields accomplished by this National Society, and the general interest taken in that country in the Geneva