

children and youth during the summer months where holiday projects are carried out on a very large scale in our Republic.

To carry out those tasks, recreation rooms, rooms for first aid, specially equipped rooms for mothers with infants, kitchens, and at major stations, overnight accommodation are provided in all travellers centres.

Special services. Work has been done for years by the German Red Cross special services of water and mountain rescue service at holiday times and during week-ends.

In 1968, 27,400 life-saving swimmers served for more than one million watching hours and saved 1049 persons from death by drowning. In the same year mountain rescue men served for 80,600 hours and saved 146 persons from danger in the mountains.

Continuous work is done in the improvement and modernizing of the equipment of our organization's special services.

Liberia

This country's National Society has sent the ICRC details on its present activities which demonstrate the vitality in Liberia of our common ideal.

One expression of that vitality is the construction of a building in Monrovia as the society's central headquarters. A special effort is being made to prepare youth in a spirit of service. Young people may become members of the Junior Red Cross after a ceremony in which they promise to join with all those in the world who help the sick and distressed. The National Society organizes first-aid courses to provide them with training and exercises to prepare them as useful first-aid workers.

The Red Cross is active in a number of realms but the readers' attention is drawn especially to the National Society's work to disseminate in Liberian primary schools, with government support,

the school textbook *The Red Cross and My Country*. National Society officials visit schools, distribute the manual and with the assistance of the teachers give instruction on its content.¹ The pupils in this way learn the ideals of the Red Cross and the general principles of the Geneva Conventions.

Sweden

The importance of the drug problem to-day in many countries is common knowledge and the Red Cross movement, always on the look-out for new tasks, cannot be indifferent to it. *Panorama*² has published an article on the initiative taken by the Swedish Red Cross which is participating in a campaign launched, under government auspices, against the abuse of drugs by young people. It is no doubt one of the first National Societies to take an active interest in this problem and its contribution consists of a series of courses for Red Cross workers on drug-addiction. The League's publication gives the following interesting details:

“... Its eventual aim is to train one official in every Red Cross district in the country. He or she will serve as a “middleman” for drug problems, advising on what help is available and where it can be obtained.

The courses are being backed by a Sw. kr. 10,000 government grant and are organised by the Swedish Red Cross in co-operation with the national council against the misuse of medicaments.

Thirty-five officers from Red Cross branches across the country took part in the first course—a series of lectures and group sessions led by a former drug addict, a social worker, a hospital almoner, a police officer, a school counsellor and a writer specialising in drug

¹ *Plate*. — “The Red Cross and My Country” text-book is in use in primary schools where it is discussed by teachers and Red Cross workers.

² Published by the League of Red Cross Societies, Geneva, 1969, No. 7.