

or who merely line the route to wave a friendly greeting to the passengers.

This is a salutary experience for our junior members. They see the suffering but they also see the joy and gratitude in faces worn by age or in the eyes of a boy or girl of their own age who is a prisoner of a wheel-chair. They see what can be accomplished with " their " motor coach. They realize then that their efforts have not been in vain, not become indistinguishable in the mass of Red Cross work; their efforts have taken form, tangible, visible and beneficent. They realize that their action is in keeping with the byword of the Junior Red Cross: Service.

Jean PASCALIS
Assistant Secretary-General
of the Swiss Red Cross

Turkey

The XXth International Conference of the Red Cross, as we know, gratefully accepted the invitation of the Turkish Red Crescent to hold the next International Conference in its country. This will take place in Istanbul in 1969. With this in view we therefore have pleasure in publishing this article kindly sent us by Mr. Nihat Asar. It will complete the information which the International Review recently published on the varied and most effective work carried out in Turkey by the National Society.¹

The Turkish Red Crescent has been in the service of humanity for over a century. Symbol of social assistance and humanitarian mutual aid, it has not ceased since its foundation to help, in time of peace and in war, the victims of disasters and all who suffer.

It was founded in 1868 under the name of " The Ottoman Society of Aid to the Wounded " by Dr. Abdullah Bey, Dr. Kirimli

¹ See *International Review*, April 1966.

Aziz Bey, Dr. Marko Pasha and the commander in chief of the Ottoman armies, Ömer Pasha. The Act of Foundation was signed on June 11, 1868, the ICRC in Geneva and sister societies being then duly apprised.

It changed its name on two occasions. On April 14, 1877 it became the " Society of the Ottoman Red Crescent ". Finally, in 1923 it was called, as it is today, the " Turkish Red Crescent Society ".

After the proclamation of the Constitution on July 23, 1908, the Society became considerably more active and on April 21, 1911, the first Women's Committee was created. Several years later, on September 13, 1925, its central committee was transferred from Istanbul to Ankara.

During the war in Tripolitania, the Red Crescent successfully directed the hospitals at Giryan, Humus and Bengazi. During the Balkan war, the First World War and the War of Turkish Independence, it rendered immense services to the wounded and generally speaking to the victims of conflict.

It is actively occupied in resolving the country's medical problems and has taken part in the campaign led by the government against contagious diseases.

Furthermore, it is always ready to aid the victims of disasters throughout the world and to intervene in the alleviation of their suffering.

The Society has 635 sections installed in various parts of the country and possesses seven blood transfusion centres, a nursing school, several youth camps,¹ first-aid posts, central warehouses and transit centres. It also interests itself in welfare and medico-social questions. With its first-aid courses, volunteers, home care services, infant health centres, it can count on a large number of people working under the sign of the red crescent.

Students in poor health and who are without resources are able to stay in summer camps beside the sea or in the mountains where they can rest and prepare their future membership of the Society.

In addition to the six blood transfusion centres in operation, a new centre has just been established in the Province of Zonguldak.

¹ *Plate.* Turkish Junior Red Crescent: games in camp at Çamkoru.

A laboratory has been set up for the manufacture of blood derivative products. The information given and recommendations made by specialists of the Swiss Red Cross were most useful in its establishment.

During the Indo-Pakistani conflict and also in Cyprus, the Society, in order to aid the victims, immediately sent doctors, nurses, medicines, food and surgical instruments to the spot. During the earthquake which took place in 1966 in the eastern Turkish provinces, the Society intervened successfully and was able to count on help from neighbouring countries and many Red Cross, Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun Societies.

We hope that all mankind will one day be able to live in peace thanks to the efforts of one hundred and six National Societies, several of whom have been in existence for a hundred years.

Nihat ASAR

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of the Turkish Red Crescent