

“ Even for fighting there are many rules we have to follow, aren't there ? ” Akio, Kenji, and Yoko went home with something to sleep on.

Four or five days later, Akio came back and talked to the old man. “ We won't play war-games any more. If the war begins, the Red Cross people must help wounded soldiers, take care of the prisoners of war, and prepare many promises. The best thing is, however, not to fight any more. Right ? We have decided to stop playing war games. We will never forget the story you told us about the Red Cross and will study more about it as we grow up.”

Zambia

The information services of the Republic of Zambia in Lusaka have recently published in their bulletin an interesting article by Mrs. Jane Knudtzon on the work which has already been accomplished by their country's Red Cross. At a time when this has been recognized by the ICRC, as we had pleasure in mentioning in our January issue, we think it appropriate to reproduce a few extracts of this article.

The author points out in conclusion, that there are already a large number of juniors and that an annual meeting is held at which their instructors are present. After attending a two-week course on the Red Cross, they return home and become excellent publicists for our movement. The National Society can therefore play an important rôle in the Health Service of the country, especially in remote areas where there is a shortage of medical personnel.

On April 22, 1966 the Zambia Red Cross Society officially came into being. Since 1950, the Red Cross in Zambia had been an overseas branch of the British Red Cross Society, with headquarters in London.

In his speech to the National Assembly, presenting the Red Cross Bill, the Minister of Health, Mr. Peter Matoka, said : “ We in this

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country have had occasion a number of times to benefit from its generous and humanitarian activities. It is one of the great forces for good in this world, and is uninfluenced in all that it does by race, colour, nationality, political belief or creed "

. . . The first and most important task facing the new Zambia Red Cross Society is expansion to cover the whole of the country. For this purpose it is extremely fortunate that the Society has a full-time training officer, Mr. Tembo, who has worked with the Red Cross since 1950, as well as half a dozen full-time First Aid Instructors who were specially trained last year by a Field Officer of the British Red Cross.

These Instructors, young Zambians selected from many applicants, are now attached to the Society's main branches in the country, where they hold courses in first aid for all sections of the community. This greatly helps the branches who previously had to rely on doctors, nurses, and other recognised instructors who are only free to lecture in their spare time.

Zambia Red Cross instructors are greatly in demand. They are currently holding courses for staff of large business concerns and for the Ministry of Transport's school for road foremen. They will shortly be giving instruction to firemen of the Civil Aviation Department who are in charge of the safety of Zambia's airports.

The Red Cross will shortly be running special first aid courses for drivers of public service vehicles, in conjunction with the National Road Safety Association and as an incentive the Ministry of Transport is offering £5 for those who pass the examination. This will be a country-wide campaign to teach these drivers how to save life and to make them more aware of road safety.

A special course in first aid and diseases prevalent in Zambia is now being started for University students in Lusaka, and an overwhelming number of students, lecturers and professors have enrolled for further courses. All this encouraging interest will help spread the knowledge of the Red Cross to the farthest corners of Zambia.

At present there are four central branches of the Zambia Red Cross in the major towns, Lusaka, Ndola, Kitwe and Broken Hill ; and divisions in many other towns. The Council for Mining First Aid, with their very high standard of first aid specially adapted for accidents in mines, is also a branch of the Zambia Red Cross.

In some areas there are members' groups, people who work faithfully in raising funds to send towards the general expenses of the headquarters, as well as towards gifts and comforts for nearby hospitals and leprosaria at Christmas. There are several detachments well-trained in first aid and home nursing, ready to turn out in emergencies or at public functions.

Perhaps the most ambitious venture of the Zambia Red Cross is the part it hopes to play in connection with the "flying doctor" service based in Ndola. It is intended that one of the full-time instructors will fly to the remote areas with the "Flying-doctor" and train groups of people in each village in basic first aid, as well as to be stretcher-bearers.

A special "bush ambulance" has been designed and made by one of the mining companies in Ndola. It is a stretcher on four wheels, capable of carrying two to three persons, and it can transport sick people along the narrow tracks from remote villages to the nearest of a network of landing strips or rural clinics.

This service will offer the Red Cross a great opportunity of penetrating into the remotest areas, to teach some ideas of healthy living, hygiene and nutrition, thereby helping the health authorities promote the national health.

In Lusaka, National Headquarters and the local Red Cross branch share the fine Red Cross House, built in 1958 with the help of a loan from the British Red Cross. Several years later the Lotteries provided funds to add a large Blood Donor Wing.

The Red Cross in Lusaka, as well as in all the branches and divisions, undertakes the supply of blood for Government hospitals. In some centres volunteer doctors hold sessions, whereas in smaller divisions Red Cross volunteers recruit blood donors, provide refreshments, keep the records and issue badges and medals.

The principal activity carried out by the Lusaka branch is a scheme whereby handicapped children, most of whom have suffered from polio, are collected in a special bus from a different suburb of the city every morning, and taken to the Hospital for treatment and therapy. Red Cross volunteers help the children to exercise their bodies in specially heated pools. They are fitted out with boots and calipers and after each treatment are given milk. This is a most worthwhile service, and now entirely run by the Red Cross.

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One afternoon each week the “ polio bus ” collects elderly ladies from old people’s home, and takes them shopping in Lusaka.

Hardly a week goes by without one or two requests from other Red Cross Societies, asking for help in tracing some long lost relative. Up to now these requests have come through the British Red Cross in London, but in future they will be channeled through International Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva. A large number of immigrants came to work in the mines during and after the second world war, in particular Polish expatriates, and many families were split up. It is a most rewarding service to be able to re-unite people who have perhaps not heard from each other for 20 years or more . . .
