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THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE NORWEGIAN RED CROSS

1948—1952



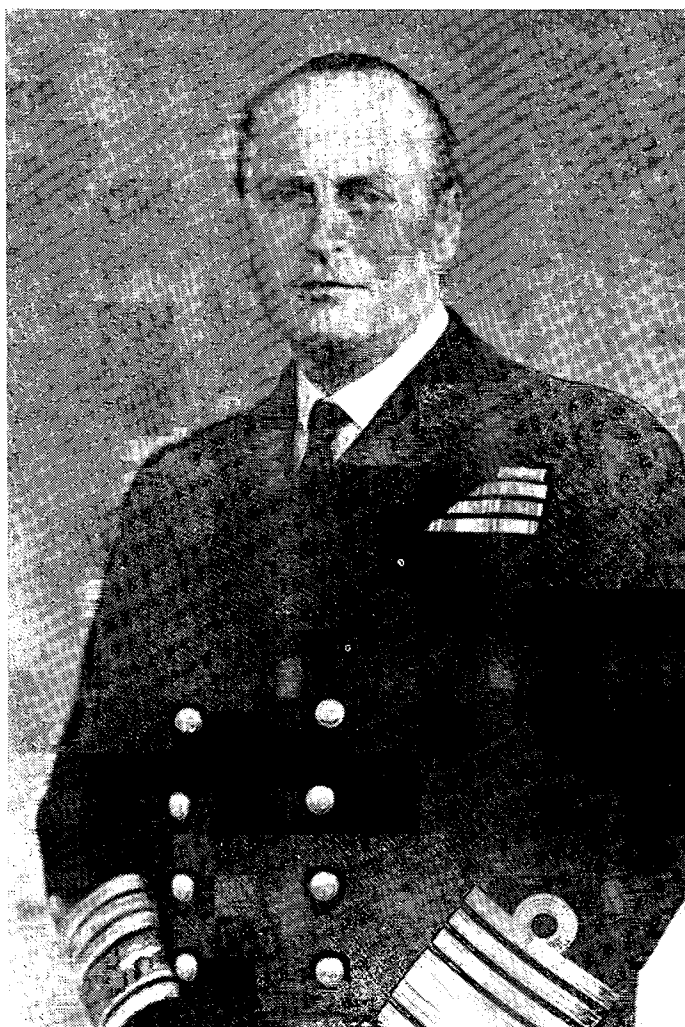
REPORT TO THE XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL
RED CROSS CONFERENCE, TORONTO 1952

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THE ACTIVITIES OF
THE NORWEGIAN RED CROSS



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High Protector of the Norwegian Red Cross



H. R. H. CROWN PRINCE OLAV OF NORWAY

Honorary President of the Norwegian Red Cross

The Central Committee of the Norwegian Red Cross



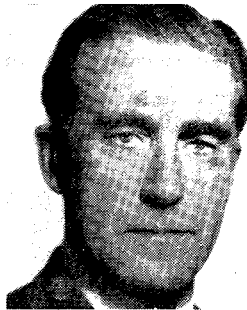
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Vice-President.



Mr. Erling Steen.
President.



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Deputy Member.

THE NORWEGIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY'S REPORT 1948—1952, PRESENTED AT THE XVIIIth INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS CONFERENCE IN TORONTO JULY 26th — AUGUST 7th 1952.

Since the Stockholm Conference in 1948 the organization of the Norwegian Red Cross has continued to expand and has strengthened its position. The Society has shown keen initiative and activity in many fields, both national and international.

It may be said that the Norwegian Red Cross has outgrown the statutes which were laid down some years ago, and that a revision of these became necessary.

At the General Assembly of the Norwegian Red Cross in Narvik in August 1951, new statutes were adopted after they had been reviewed and amended by a special Committee, the Central Committee and the Board of Representatives.

The new statutes introduce a *centralization* of the administration (a small Central Committee which can be assembled at short notice) and a *decentralization* of the work (a strengthening of the districts).

The Norwegian Red cross is a national society which is organized in districts (counties) and local branches.

The National Society is organized as follows:

- 1) The Central Committee (President, two vice-presidents and two other members with two deputies).
- 2) The Board of Representatives (The Central Committee, the District Chairmen and one representative for each of the recognized special sections and one representative for the Red Cross nurses).
- 3) The General Assembly (called every three years and consists of members of the Board of Representatives and delegates of the local branches and special sections).

Today the Norwegian Red Cross has:

380 local branches	with 145 000 members
266 First Aid Units	» 15 000 »
153 Junior Red Cross Sections	» 13 000 »
25 Child Relief Sections	» 2 000 »

totalling 824 Red Cross branches with 175 000 members, that is to say 5.29 per cent of the population of the country. The Norwegian Red Cross is making energetic efforts to improve this percentage.

In order to maintain interest among the Red Cross branches, the Society has engaged permanent travelling secretaries who are carrying out very useful information work and who have established new branches and First Aid Units.

A satisfactory addition was the formation of the Red Cross branch at Longyearbyen, Spitzbergen, in 1951. This is the world's most northerly Red Cross branch.

On the 4th November 1950 the Norwegian Red Cross celebrated its 85th anniversary.

PREPARATIONS FOR MEDICAL SERVICES IN WAR TIME

GENERAL

THE DEFENCE COUNCIL FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES — COUNTY DEFENCE COMMITTEES

Naturally enough, the main item on the programme of the Norwegian Red Cross during the last four years has been defence preparations.

In order to coordinate defence preparations throughout the country a Defence Council for the national health services has been established in Oslo with the Director of Health as President, and which numbers representatives of the Military Medical Services, the Civil Defence, and various humanitarian organizations. County Defence Committees have been set up in the country and also local Defence Committees.



From a winter and mountain rescue course for the First Aid Units.

a) PERSONNEL

Nurses — First Aid Personnel.

The Red Cross nurses and the First Aid Units play, of course, an important part in the defence programme. (We shall return to the training of nurses on page 11.)

Courses are held to train instructors of First Aid and nursing, and also to train auxilliary nursing personnel.

First Aid Units.

Since 1948 the First Aid Units have continued their rapid development. The Norwegian Red Cross First Aid Units have chiefly aimed at the following:

- 1) To enlarge the existing units to enable them to perform the tasks which the Norwegian Red Cross has undertaken.
- 2) To prepare the First Aid Units for their part in the defence programme.

- 3) To procure as much equipment as possible, such as medical supplies, ambulances, and other requirements for winter and summer service.
- 4) To extend co-operation with existing contacts and to establish contact with further organizations.

Important sections of this work are the Mountain Rescue Service and the Air Rescue Service.

Further, the officers of the First Aid Units give instruction to the medical services of the Civil Defence and the National Guard.

Since the last report in 1948, the First Aid Units have increased by about 90 units.

The Norwegian Red Cross has held regular theoretical and practical courses for the First Aid Units. Great emphasis is laid on the winter and mountain rescue courses which have been held in various parts of the country, and which have been very successful. In recent years the Norwegian Red Cross has led the safety and rescue services in the mountains in co-operation with a number of institutions and organizations.

Increasing numbers of First Aid Units have procured their own ambulances and today about 70 units have their own vehicles, and along our weatherbeaten coast the Red Cross are using ambulance motorboats which they have specially procured. The Norwegian Red Cross First Aid Section has established depots in central parts of the country to be in readiness in case of major accidents or disasters.

The Norwegian Red Cross First Aid Units are in close contact with the various military services as for example the Medical Corps and its sub-sections in the Army, the Navy and Air Defence Forces.

The War Office have also agreed to allow the First Aid Units to buy «Walkie-Talkie» sets and to use the military frequencies. These sets will be of invaluable assistance to the Units in their work of searching for missing persons and in other rescue services.

The First Aid Units have taken out a collective accident insurance for their members and some of the Units have also taken out third-party insurance for their members.

The reports which have been received from the First Aid Units reveal outstanding work and show that many of the First Aid Units have performed rescue actions which in scope and displays of courage have indeed been worthy of admiration.

Motor Corps.

Following the example of the American Red Cross, the Norwegian Red Cross has started to form Motor Corps. At their meeting in November 1950, the Board of Representatives agreed to the proposed plan through which private car owners, men and women, place themselves and their vehicles at the disposal of the Red Cross in cases of major accidents. It is also intended that these Motor Corps should assist the Red Cross in connection with, for example, the work of the «Patients' Friends» («Gray Ladies»), driving convalescents and the transportation of children, etc.

The Motor Corps are under the charge of the Head of the First Aid Units.

Motor Corps have been established in several towns and new units are being formed. Members of the Motor Corps wear a special Red Cross armlet and may display the Red Cross emblem on their cars when they are in service. They undertake to serve up to 30 hours a year without remuneration, including time spent in training.

b) EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

Hospital Units.

On the request of Headquarters, the local branches have procured hospital units (one unit equals 24 beds with full equipment) or fractions of units. Here the Norwegian Red Cross is working in close contact with the Military Medical Services and has prepared lists showing the equipment which

one hospital unit should contain, the cost, and directives for packing.

c) MISCELLANEOUS

Blood Donor Service.

The Norwegian Red Cross has continued its work on this important question. The Norwegian Red Cross' Central Committee for Blood Donor Service has prepared directives for the establishment of blood donor centres and these have been sent to interested Red Cross branches and First Aid Units. In co-operation with the Oslo Association of Blood Donors, the Central Committee publish a periodical «Blodgiveren» (The Blood Donor) four times a year as a national publication, which is good propaganda for the question. NRC has contributed towards the courses which the State Institute for Public



A Red Cross Blood Donor Recruiting Campaign in Bergen.
(«One of eighty inhabitants is a Blood Donor.»)



N.R.C. train about 200 nurses annually.

Health has held for the training of «blood transfusion doctors» from different hospitals in the country. These courses have been very successful.

Red Cross Blood Donor Centres have been established in the larger towns and Red Cross branches and First Aid Units are in close contact with hospitals and transfusion doctors in the country districts.

In 1951 NRC's Special Advisory Committee on Blood Donation was formed consisting of medical experts and NRC representatives.

The Central Committee have requested the Defence Council for Public Health Services to draw up general directives for the development of defence work in this sphere.

The NRC is a member of the International Blood Transfusion Association.

The Training of Nurses.

The training of nurses is still one of NRC's primary functions. The ten nursing schools run by the Norwegian Red Cross train about 200 Red Cross nurses annually. By the 1st

January 1952 NRC had trained a total 3,122 nurses of whom 1,268 are in active service. The training lasts three years.

Since 1922 NRC nurses have been obliged to contribute to the State Pension Scheme. On reaching 60 years of age the nurses receive an annual pension of kr. 2,904. For those holding key positions the age limit is 65 years, and the annual pension kr. 3,432, plus the prevailing cost-of-living bonus.

In 1949 two of our nurses were admitted to the American Red Cross for further training in the USA.

Following a request by the League of Red Cross Societies for help to refugees in the Near East, the Norwegian Red Cross, in 1949, placed two nurses at disposal, for a period of six months, and they gave devoted service in Transjordan and Libanon.

During the past period NRC has had the honour of seeing four Norwegian nurses decorated with the Florence Nightingale medal, namely: Bergljot Larsson, Bertha Helgestad, Ingeborg Kolrud and Agnes Rimstad.

NRC has made great efforts to meet the demand for nurses and to help remedy the shortage.



Miss Agnes Rimstad, Oslo, receiving the Florence Nightingale Medal from the President, Mr. Erling Steen.



Miss Ingeborg Kolrud, Bergen, receiving the Florence Nightingale Medal from the former Vice-President, Mrs. Siren Hognestad.

Hospitals, clinics and old peoples' homes.

As mentioned in our last report, the hospitals in the war ravaged areas of northern Norway, Finnmark and North Troms, were rebuilt immediately after the liberation in temporary barracks. These emergency buildings are now showing such signs of wear and tear that NRC is doing what it can to replace these with solid, permanent buildings, and has granted considerable sums of money for this purpose. New permanent hospitals have been built and more are being planned. In all, NRC has 13 hospitals in northern Norway. The hospitals are run by the local Red Cross branches, and have room for 6—20 patients. The Norwegian Red Cross has also established hospitals in areas further south. In addition, the local branches of NRC have built clinics, tuberculosis sanatoriums, maternity homes and homes for old people. Major Red Cross clinics will be found in Oslo, Bergen and Trondheim.

Social Relief Work.

One of the main activities of the social work carried out by the Norwegian Red Cross is *Child Relief*.

As mentioned in the last report, one of the larger tasks which NRC has undertaken here is *assistance to mentally deficient children*.

It is satisfying to see the progress this work has made during the last four years.

NRC's practical training school and home for mentally deficient children «Bakkebø» was officially opened on the 6th September 1948 and caters for 40 children. Today the institution has been expanded to house 200 children and young folk and also 60 staff. «Bakkebø» is pleasantly situated in the neighbourhood of the town of Egersund on the south-west coast. The institution consists at present of 20 houses and new ones are being planned. «Bakkebø» has been planned to house 400 patients. The buildings at «Bakkebø» have cost altogether 2,8 million kroner.

In addition to «Bakkebø» there are two other Red Cross



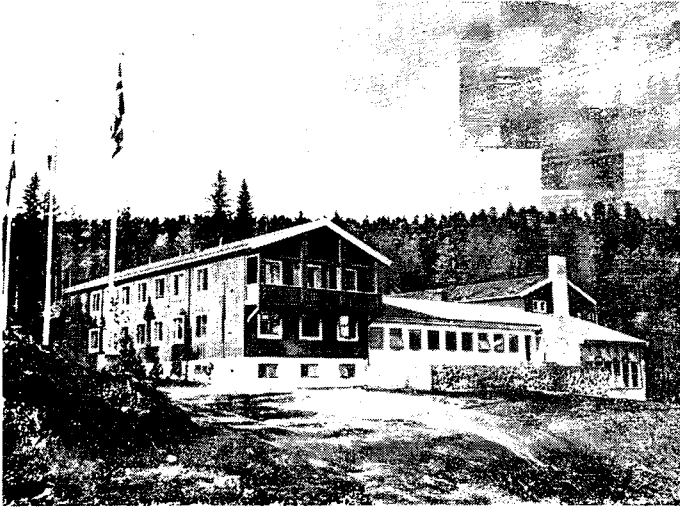
Mentally deficient children making baskets at «Bakkebø».

homes for mentally deficient children, namely «Bjerka» for 14 children in the neighbourhood of Oslo and «Grime» for 42 children in Søndre Land (County of Oppland).

Following an Act of the 28th July 1949, the State pays for the treatment of patients at authorized homes for mentally deficient.

Thousands of Norwegian homes and also the State authorities have greeted this Red Cross enterprise with pleasure and gratitude.

The Norwegian Red Cross were however quite aware of the fact that they could not assume full responsibility for the mentally deficient in the country. In co-operation with the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Norwegian Red Cross in 1950 initiated the formation of a National Committee composed of the main humanitarian organizations, whose main function is to plan the establishment of central institutions for mentally deficient in various parts of the country.



The Red Cross Sanatorium for Danish asthmatic children.

NRC has apportioned kr. 100 000 for the work of this National Committee.

Home for Danish Asthmatic Children.

In our last report we mentioned that NRC, by way of thanks for the help which Norway received from Denmark during the Second World War, had planned to build a home (sanatorium) for 60 Danish asthmatic children in the neighbourhood of Kongsberg in southern Norway.

This home was officially inaugurated on the 5th September 1950, the ceremony being attended by the Honorary President of the Norwegian Red Cross, H. R. H. Crown Prince Olav. The house has a delightful situation, 1,500 feet above sea level, in a thick forest of spruce trees and with a view over the snow-covered Skrim mountains.

This home cost nearly 1 million kroner, of which one-half was raised by public contributions in Norway. The home is owned by the Danish Red Cross who is also responsible for its management and maintenance. Children from the ages of

6 to 12 spend a period of three months at the home. The stay there and the treatment have shown very good results.

The Treatment of Poliomyelitis.

In return for the help given by the Norwegian Red Cross to Danish asthmatic children, the Danish Red Cross Sanatorium in Hald, Jutland, is continuing to receive Norwegian poliomyelitis patients who need convalescent treatment. Since the first Norwegian patient came to Hald in May 1948, a total of 225 patients have received treatment there. The last three transports have been made by Norwegian Air Force ambulance-planes.

Ambulance Flying.

NRC has continued its previous work on air ambulance service and formed in 1949 a National Committee for Ambulance Flying to relieve the acute situation of the winter 1949—50, and has prepared a general air ambulance service plan for the entire country. NRC has allocated considerable sums to private airway companies to carry out ambulance flying.

This answer to the acute situation during the winter 1949—50 was only to be regarded as a temporary solution. The formation of a long-term plan has been taken up by a committee which has been formed by the Ministry of Social Affairs and in which NRC is represented.

The national plan which was prepared by the NRC Committee has been used as a working basis for the Public Committee.

Sanatorium for Epileptic Children.

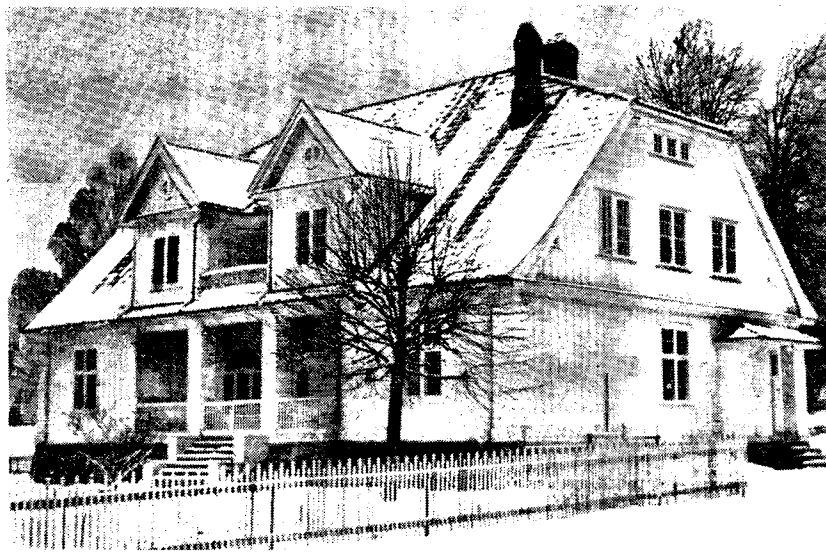
The Norwegian Red Cross is still energetically engaged on the plan for building a sanatorium for epileptic children. Kr. 975,000 are at disposal for this purpose. It now appears that this budget will be sufficient for two buildings, each to house 18 children and one building for nursing personnel. The State has given NRC a free site on their property «Solberg»

in the neighbourhood of Oslo. The plans have been drawn and it is hoped that building operations can be started this autumn.

«Children's Houses» and Convalescent Homes for Children.

The six «Children's Houses», which were a gift from the Swedish Red Cross during the war, and which were mentioned in our last report, are still just as popular. They are used as day homes for children. Each «Children's House» is visited daily by about 30 to 60 children.

We must also mention «Tomtebo», by Vikersund (Modum) the beautiful convalescent home for children which can house 50 youngsters from the ages of 2½ to 7 years. The home is filled to capacity and there is a long waiting list. A new Red Cross convalescent home for children which was opened in January this year was therefore greeted with much pleasure. It has been named «Ervjebakken» and is delightfully situated in the forest village of Nord-Odal in the country of Hedmark. This home can take 20 children. The Hedmark District of NRC established this home and is also running it.



«Ervjebakken» — The new Red Cross convalescent home for children.

Patients' Friends.

Following the example of the American Red Cross, NRC in the Autumn of 1948 started courses for the training of «Patients' Friends» (Gray Ladies) whose function it is to visit and give encouragement to patients in hospitals and to those who have retired to old people's homes. A special committee was formed to work on this question.

This undertaking has proved very successful and «Patients' Friends» have now been formed in Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim, Stavanger, Sandefjord, Gjøvik, Askim and Moss. Fresh courses are being planned. The courses include lectures in hospital ethics and etiquette, psychiatry, psychology, social insurance, hospital librarianship and the organization of the Norwegian Red Cross. When they are on duty they wear a white coat with a special Red Cross brooch. «Patients' Friends» undertake to serve for an average of once a week.

The Anti-Cancer Campaign.

The National Association for the Fight against Cancer was formed in 1948 and consists, inter alia, of representatives from the major humanitarian organizations. The Norwegian Red Cross is represented in the Committee and our local branches take active part in the publicity and fund-raising campaign which is held every autumn.

Modum Bad.

NRC's sanatorium, Modum Baths, is still being filled to capacity every summer, reaching, in season, a max. of 180 patients. The Baths have a staff of about 80. Extensions and other measures have been planned which will enable the Baths to be kept open throughout the year, but these plans have been shelved for the time being for economical reasons and also because of technical aspects of the actual building operations.

During off-season periods the beautiful property at Modum Bad has been used for various rallies and exercises by a number of bodies including the Child Relief and First Aid Units.

Search for Missing Persons. (Tracing Service.)

The Red Cross Information Office was nominally closed in December 1948 following a decision of the Central Committee. Nevertheless enquiries are continually being received after Germans who had been in Norway, other aliens who were in forced labour camps in Norway during the war, Norwegians in America or Germany with whom contact has not been established since the war. Furthermore, requests are constantly being received for photographs of German graves in Norway.

Besides investigations of the above mentioned nature, a great deal of work has been done trying to trace Norwegians who are assumed to be held as prisoners in Soviet Russia.

Norwegian Red Cross Finances.

During the period 1 1 1948—31 12 1951 the Norwegian Red Cross Head Quarters has had a salaried staff of about 30. The annual budgets have been in the neighbourhood of Norwegian kr. 700,000. Added to this come payments of deposits put aside for special purposes. Taking the period as a whole these payments have amounted to kr. 3,261,316.62. From funds separately raised, amounts have been paid out to various purposes to a total figure of kr. 1,351,164.29.

Capital as at 31 12 1951	kr. 1,831,562.88
Deposits set aside for 8 specific purposes »	1,248,201.68
10 legacies with interest	» 702,237.64

Fund-Raising.

The Norwegian Red Cross has now carried out four fund-raising campaigns and, judging from the results, it must be said that it was a very fortunate decision which was taken in 1948 that we should follow the methods of the American Red Cross of having one nation-wide fund-raising campaign per year.

The campaign is made every year in September and lasts from one week to 14 days according to local conditions. Head Office appoints a working committee who prepare publicity material and propaganda for the press and the Broadcasting Corporation. The material which is to be used is procured and distributed to all local branches and sub-sections, and each campaign has its special slogan, its special poster and pamphlet. In addition certain objects are sold such as balloons, car badges, lapel flags, paper stick-on seals, paper serviettes, etc., in fact we try to make use of all fields which can spread publicity for the organization. A committee numbering representatives from all parts of the country is formed as patrons of the campaign, and in 1951 our Minister for Foreign Affairs was the chairman of this committee which signed appeals in the press and letters calling for contributions, etc. The main studio of the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation has in recent years been placed at our disposal for a one hour opening programme.



*Their Royal Highnesses Princess Ragnhild and Princess Astrid
are interested spectators at a Red Cross bazaar.*

The proceeds have increased every year as will be seen from the following figures showing net income:

1948	N.kr. 1,000,000
1949	» 1,200,000
1950	» 1,600,000
1951	» 1,700,000

Some of this progress can doubtless be attributed to increased participation in the campaign on the part of our branches and sections, but most of it is doubtless due to the great training and experience we have now had with regard to the arranging of the campaigns. Reports show clearly that the best results are obtained when we make use of enterprises which give the public the impression that they get something in return for the money which they give to the Red Cross.

Red Cross Periodical.

The monthly periodical of the Norwegian Red Cross is published in 11 issues throughout the year totalling 364 pages. It has about 9,000 subscribers. During the last three years the periodical has been issued in close co-operation with a major publishing house and has thus benefitted by a better technical service and a more impressive appearance. The number of subscribers has increased considerably during the last few years.

Press Service.

A press service is installed at all major events and reaches all of the newspapers in the country.

This press service concentrates especially on the Red Cross Week. Special illustrated articles about the Red Cross are published in the popular magazines around the time for the Week. Several hundred special and trade magazines have an illustrated appeal sent to them. Advance notices on the Week are sent to the daily press and also appeals and special illustrated articles for each day of the Week. The press have given very considerable space to these articles.

Collection for missing sealhunters' next-of-kin.

Shortly before Easter this year, the alarming news was published that 5 fishing vessels, with 78 Norwegian sealhunters, were missing in Vesterisen (Denmark Strait), between Iceland and Greenland, following a terrible storm. A large scale search by ships and planes was organised but, in spite of persistent efforts, not one single survivor was found.

On the 7th May, the Norwegian Red Cross, through the medium of the press, started a nation-wide campaign to collect funds for the missing sealhunters' next-of-kin. At the same time, the President of NRC and the Minister of Fisheries appealed through the Broadcasting Corporation.

The response was spontaneous and, by the 4th June, the official closing date, the fund had reached the impressive figure of *kr. 1 500 000*.— Contributions are however still pouring in.



Junior Red Cross members preparing giftboxes for refugee children.

The local authorities are now assessing the-degree of hardship in each individual case and will submit their reports to the Norwegian Red Cross. As soon as these have been received, arrangements will be made to distribute the money.

Junior Red Cross.

The Junior Red Cross has since 1948 become increasingly popular especially in the schools. The organization has about 13,000 members divided among 153 branches as at 1st January 1952. In 1951 the Junior Red Cross acquired their own travelling secretary who visits schools in the various districts with very good results.

Interest in inter-school correspondence has increased considerably, and many schools which have not yet joined the JRC are working on albums or drawings which are exchanged with schools in other countries. Many local branches have started first aid courses in the schools.

Every year on the 8th May, Henry Dunant's birthday, the JRC, with the authorization and recommendation of the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs and Education, has distributed a lecture to every primary school in Norway (about 2,000 schools). The lecture, which has been inspired by the work of Henri Dunant, has been very well received in the schools.

For two years now, through the medium of JRC, school children have been sending drawings and Christmas greetings to Norwegian seamen in foreign ports. Since 1951 JRC has sent a couple of thousand gift-parcels (in special cartons) to refugee children in Germany, Austria, Italy and India. Furthermore, toys and clothes for children and families in the flood devastated districts of Northern Italy and Kansas in the U.S.A. have been collected.

Study Tours Abroad.

On the invitation of the American Red Cross, six teachers (three in 1948 and three in 1949) visited the U.S.A. to spend three months studying the Junior Red Cross in the schools. They all found their visit most instructive. In 1948 and 1949 the Junior Red Cross enjoyed holiday exchanges with Scotland, and juniors have on several occasions visited JRC camps in Sweden and Denmark. In the summer of 1951 JRC sent delegates to the International Study Centres in Woudchoten, Holland, and Barnett Hill, England. One of the delegates subsequently made a study tour to the League together with representatives from a number of other countries.

General Meetings.

Two General Meetings have been held during the last four year period (in 1949 and 1951). These meetings are attended by representatives from all parts of the country.

In connection with the General Meeting in 1951, a three days camp for JRC leaders was held outside Trondheim and was attended by 60 members. This was the first camp for leaders in Norway. Everyone agreed that the camp was very successful.

Visit from America.

In the summer of 1950, 20 members of the American Junior Red Cross were invited to visit a number of European countries which had received many and large gifts from the American Red Cross since the war. One group led by Miss Hazel Bentson spent eight days in Norway as the guests of the Junior Red Cross.

Exhibitions.

Various examples of needlework, handicraft and drawings etc. have been sent to exhibitions in 12 countries. In 1951 the Junior Red Cross had an international exhibition in Trondheim in connection with the General Meeting. 19 countries took part and the exhibition was very successful.

Several local exhibitions have been held at schools for teachers who have expressed interest.



A Junior Red Cross exhibition.

Gifts from Abroad.

25,000 American gift-boxes and 1,000 soft toys have been distributed to children at hospitals and children's homes. This distribution has been carried out by local Junior Red Cross branches. In addition a very considerable amount of school supplies (harmoniums, atlases, lanterns, globes and blackboards, etc.) haven been received from the American Red Cross. In consultation with the Ministry of Ecclesiastical Affairs and Education, all this material was distributed to the war devastated schools in Northern Norway.

In this sparsely populated country of ours, many of our local branches are isolated. Nevertheless the children work energetically on their small and large tasks. In their home districts the children visit the aged, the sick and the lonely. They entertain with singing and music and take with them flowers which they have picked themselves. They also look after the children's homes in their villages, and when they visit these homes they take with them small gifts which they themselves have made. Many schools have adopted kindergartens, or sanatoriums, and have decorated them themselves with paint brush and artist's brush. Dull wooden fences have been made to look like flower gardens. School children have also drawn some amusing sketches which make the children's wards of the sanatoriums more cheerful looking.

The JRC branches hold tombolas, lotteries, and other arrangements to raise money for those in need. One of the small branches managed to raise sufficient funds to buy an invalid chair for an old man who was crippled with rheumatism. The larger branches take large tasks upon themselves. In Trondheim the JRC is now to build a home for mentally deficient children with funds which they have raised themselves. In other cases the JRC sections co-operate with the local branches on major local enterprises.

One of the most difficult problems facing the JRC is that of finding sufficient leaders. Were there but sufficient of

these, the JRC would double its membership in the course of a short time.

INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKINGS

«Relief to Europe» Organization.

As mentioned in our last report, the Norwegian Relief to Europe Organization was formed in the spring of 1946 on the initiative of NRC in co-operation with the «Norwegian People's Health and Relief Organization». The Relief to Europe Organization is managed by a committee consisting of the major humanitarian organizations. The Chairman is Director Erling Steen, President of the Norwegian Red Cross.

During the past 4 years the Relief to Europe Organization has continued its wide-scale relief work in war ravaged countries, primarily Germany and Austria, where libraries and reading-rooms, hostles for apprentices and trainees, children's homes, old people's homes, etc., for refugees have been set up. Material aid has also been sent to Greece, Jugoslavia, Jordan and Korea.

In the spring of 1949 the Tuberculosis Committee of the Relief to Europe Organization opened a children's colony at Holmestrand in Southern Norway for 200 refugee children who were in danger of contracting tuberculosis. The children spent a period of 8 months recreation there. This colony has now been closed after a good 2 years service. In all, the colony looked after 600 children. (Now it is being used as a home for Norwegian children who are mentally deficient.)

The anti-tuberculosis campaign which the Norwegian Relief to Europe Organization started in 1947 in conjunction with the Danish and the Swedish Red Cross, ended in 1951. In all, 23 countries have been involved, 26 million children and young persons have been tuberculin tested and 17 million children and young persons have been given a BCG inoculation.

In the winter of 1949 the Relief to Europe Organization formed a Refugee Committee whose work consisted, inter alia, of receiving refugees into Norway and helping them to find

suitable work. Hitherto 1 100 refugees have been received. The work of the Relief to Europe Organization is being continued.

In all, the Relief to Europe Organization has despatched about 6,500 tons of goods to 11 countries to a value of about 15 million kroner. In addition goods have been purchased for 8,5 million kroner. Goods and money have been sent to Germany, Austria and Greece to a total value of 5,7 million. 6,7 million have been used to help children and refugees.

Korea.

The Norwegian Red Cross has been doing what it can to help victims of the war in Korea. In the autumn of 1950 NRC sent about 12 tons of miscellaneous hospital equipment to be distributed by the American Red Cross and in February 1951 NRC, acting on a request from UNO and the League of Red Cross Societies, sent a medical welfare team consisting of one doctor, one sanitary engineer and one welfare officer, to help the civilian population in Korea.

This welfare team, who had originally bound themselves for six months service, continued their work for the Norwegian Red Cross up to the 1st January 1952, with the exception of the doctor who, on account of his being required back in Oslo, had to return in August 1951. The team has now been absorbed into the service of UNKRA.

In May 1951 a party of 80 persons consisting of Norwegian doctors, nurses, and other assistant personnel, flew to Korea to work at a Norwegian Field Hospital (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) which the Norwegian Red Cross was to establish in conjunction with the medical services of the United Nations' troops. The State allocated the necessary finances, and suggested that the Field Hospital should be organized and managed by the Norwegian Red Cross.

In November 1951 a large part of the Field Hospital personnel were relieved. It was then decided that the administration of the Hospital should, with effect from that date, be under



One of the many thousand operations performed at the Norwegian Field Hospital in Korea.

the jurisdiction of the Norwegian War Office whilst NRC should continue to assist in the daily administration here at home.

Since the Hospital opened in July 1951 it has had a large number of patients. By 1st April 1952, 6,000 wounded had been treated. In addition a very large number of out-patients have received treatment. Among these were a great number of civilian North Koreans and South Koreans.

A second relief of the Hospital personnel, which now numbers 105, took place in May 1952.

The Norwegian Red Cross has been much pleased to receive the appreciative remarks of UNO and the League of Red Cross Societies on the work which has been carried out by the welfare team and the Field Hospital.



The N.R.C. representative arriving at Milano with relief goods for the victims of the floods.

The «Relief to Italy» Campaign.

Following the wide scale flood disasters in Italy in 1951, the Norwegian Red Cross and the Norwegian People's Health and Relief Organization decided to inaugurate a joint relief campaign. This was known as the «Relief to Italy» campaign and a National Committee was formed with representatives from the two organizations.

The National Committee appealed through the press and the radio to the Norwegian public to support the collections by giving food, clothes, footwear and bed clothes or by sending money contributions to the «Relief to Italy» post office account. The response on the part of the Norwegian public was powerful and spontaneous. Foodstuffs, clothing and footwear came pouring in to the many collection centres which the organizations had set up jointly. Contributions, large and small, came

streaming in to the post office account every day. Storting (Parliament) allocated 100,000 kroner.

The «Relief to Italy» campaign resulted in 1,200,000 kroner being collected (plus 100,000 kroner) and about 500 tons of food, clothing and medicines to a value of about 3 million kroner.

It is a pleasure to report that the clothing and the footwear which was collected was of good strong quality. The goods were sorted as they came in and clearly labeled in Italian and sent to Italy.

The Norwegian «Relief to Italy» Organization was represented at the conference in Geneva on the 11th February this year. The representatives of the Italian authorities expressed at the conference that they needed help in the form of children's homes, hospitals and dwellings for the distressed families.

The Norwegian «Relief to Italy» Organization has decided to use the money which has been collected to send enough material to build Norwegian wooden houses for 100 families in the Po delta. The Italian authorities will meet the cost of the foundations, the sanitary fittings and furnishings.

Aid to Foreign Children.

In 1949, 1950 and 1951 some of the French children who had previously been in Norway through the mediation of the Norwegian Red Cross, were invited to return to their Norwegian foster parents. The French Red Cross undertook to assemble the children in transports, and arrange for them to be accompanied to Oslo.

On the 29th May 1951, 40 refugee children between the ages of 1 to 7 years came to Oslo to be adopted by Norwegian families. This was organized in co-operation with M. Herrera Uslar, the Minister of Venezuela for the Scandinavian countries, who has formed a special committee for refugee children to be adopted in Venezuela. The children came from transit homes in Munich and Salzburg where, at the Minister's expense, they had stayed for a time and been given a thorough medical



Refugees with their children arriving in Oslo are received by the President of the N.R.C., director Erling Steen (left).

examination. The Minister paid for the children's journey to Norway.

It has not been difficult to find permanent foster parents for these children.

In the summer of 1952 the Norwegian Red Cross is to receive about 100 refugee children who are to spend a 4 months summer holiday with Norwegian foster parents.

The Geneva Conventions.

Norway ratified the Geneva Conventions of the 12th August 1949 on the 3rd August 1951 and the Norwegian Red Cross is now engaged in making these Conventions known to the public. The Norwegian text of the Conventions has been distributed to the Red Cross branches throughout the country and to other bodies.

Furthermore, Mr. Carl Kruse-Jensen, Supreme Court Judge, who was a member of the Norwegian Government Delegation to the Diplomatic Conference in Geneva has, on the request of NRC, prepared comprehensive notes on the Conventions.

These have been published in book-form by one of our largest publishing houses with the financial support of NRC and the War Office, (Ministry of Defence).

Finally NRC has prepared and printed a short summary of the most important articles of the Conventions to assist, among others, our local branches.

The pamphlet which the International Red Cross Committee has produced for nurses has been translated into Norwegian and distributed to Norwegian nurses.

International Red Cross Day.

The Norwegian Red Cross has followed the invitation of the League to commemorate Henri Dunant's birthday, the 8th May, as an international Red Cross day. On this day the world-wide activities of the Red Cross are reviewed in the press and radio.

Scandinavian Red Cross Co-operation.

The Presidents and the Secretaries-General of the Red Cross Societies in the four Scandinavian countries and Iceland have met every year since 1947 to discuss questions of importance pertaining to Scandinavian Red Cross activities.



The Presidents of the Red Cross Societies in Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland at a meeting in Oslo.

«THE RED CROSS IDEALS REPRESENT, POLITICALLY AND NON-POLITICALLY, ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE ENTERPRISES OF JOINT INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE WHICH OUR CIVILIZATION HAS YET ACHIEVED.»

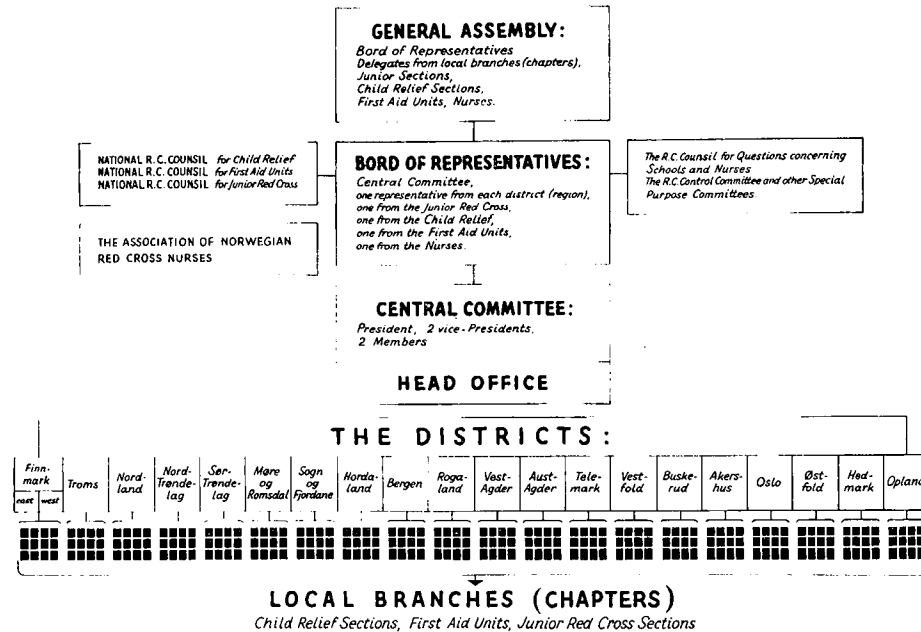
These words were spoken by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Halvard Lange, at the formal opening of the Red Cross Week in Oslo in September 1951. The Minister concluded his speech by saying:

«We are now at the threshold of a further period of international co-operation, a period in which the Red Cross Societies of each country must not only prepare for the large and difficult tasks to be carried out in the event of another war, but must also be ready to take a greater part in joint external activities. In many cases the private individual may find it more satisfying to make his contribution as a member of the Red Cross than in any other capacity, and here I would like to draw attention to the almost unlimited possibilities which the International Red Cross offers to anyone wishing to render some service to the welfare of mankind, irrespective of political opinions.»



The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Halvard Lange speaking at the opening of the Red Cross Week 1951.

THE NORWEGIAN RED CROSS



The organization of the Norwegian Red Cross.



A new little hospital was opened at Birtavarre (the county of Troms) in August 1951.



Red Cross nurse giving instruction in first aid.