

Red Cross Society in 1965 at the Training Centre at Barnett Hill used the theme of World Red Cross Day. A seminar broadcast from Amman wound up the 8th May activities for the Jordan Red Crescent Society after delegates had visited Branches throughout the country.

*The commemoration of World Red Cross Day therefore achieved great success last year. It is to be hoped that the 1966 event will succeed as well, if not better.*

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## Thailand

*The Thai Red Cross has sent us a most interesting communication on health centres which we have pleasure in publishing below.*

One of the main tasks of the Thai Red Cross Society during the early twenties was to provide medical services to those people who inhabited the remote parts of the country where disease was rife and communications and transportation facilities left much to be desired. Not only government hospitals and health stations were then non-existent but local doctors and nurses as well. Thus sick people were in a sad plight, and great concern had been aroused by their suffering.

The Thai Red Cross then saw the need for providing them with suitable health services, and the first Red Cross Health Centre was opened in 1925 followed by eight more centres during the next decade in different parts of the country where the need for them appeared<sup>1</sup>.

Since then the government health authorities have set up hospitals and health stations in all provinces in order to render invaluable medical services to the rural population. In consequence, it is likely that the Thai Red Cross may close down some of its health centres in certain areas where health services are now readily obtainable at the government hospitals or health stations.

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.* Red Cross Health Centre, Bangkok.

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

However, it will continue to operate the existing health centres if they still serve a useful purpose, and open new ones if and when they are required.

Generally speaking, the work of a Red Cross Health Centre is directed primarily towards the betterment of the health and welfare of the people. It renders them health services and helps teach them how to take care of their health. It makes efforts to raise their health standards and promotes their health education for the prevention of disease.

Each Health Centre is staffed by a head nurse aided by three or four nurses and assistants. Its main activities are health advice, first aid, medical examination, immunizations, inoculation, home nursing, visits to homes, family hygiene, ante-and post natal advice, infant and mother welfare, disaster relief. The Centre pays special attention to the members of the Junior Red Cross who are taught first aid, personal hygiene, home nursing and health care. By arrangement with the local private enterprises and government offices the Centre carries out regular medical examination of workers and officials as well as their families.

In all 200,000 persons received medical advice and treatment at the nine Red Cross Health Centres during the year 1964.

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### U.S.S.R.

*The Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has published a brief account of its activity from 1957 to 1965 entitled The Soviet Red Cross (Moscow, 1965). This report, submitted to the XXth International Conference, comprises the following headings: 1) Structure of the Alliance, 2) Medico-Social work, 3) Juniors, 4) International activities, 5) Aid to other peoples and 6) Information, extracts of which we have thought it to be of interest to reproduce<sup>1</sup>.*

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.* Thanks to the Missing Persons Tracing Bureau of the Alliance, a young girl hugs her mother, after having been separated from her family for several years. (Photograph of the Soviet Red Cross, from material prepared by the League of Red Cross Societies for "World Red Cross Day" on May 8, 1966).