

## IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

3. The voluntary staff should include people of all ages, particular importance being attached to the Junior Red Cross.
  4. Undoubtedly the constant neutrality of the Red Cross enabled it to carry out its task in accordance with Henry Dunant's wishes.
  5. National Societies should strengthen the ties between them through regional, inter-American and world conferences.
  6. Red Cross activities must always be free of the trammels of political considerations, not only in war-time but also in time of peace.
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### Youth's Viewpoint...

" Red Cross Youth ; tomorrow's strength today " : this was the theme of an essay competition organized by the Canadian Junior Red Cross on the occasion of World Red Cross Day for 1965 which, as is well known, was dedicated to youth. This competition was open to all Canadian Juniors ; the winner of the first prize for French-speaking competitors was *Miss Pauline Lajoie*, of Edmundston, whilst the winning English language competitor was *Miss Sherry Hilton* of Calgary, Alberta. Thus these two young girls who are both only 16 years of age, were able to spend part of their summer holidays in Europe ; this was the prize offered to the winning competitors.

As can be seen from the extracts which we believe will be of interest to our readers, these winning entries which have been kindly communicated to us by the Junior Red Cross Bureau of the League, display the competitors' earnest desire to serve their neighbours in a spirit of solidarity and humanity. And this is the true spirit of the Junior Red Cross, a spirit which, as Mr. Verniers wrote in his foreword to the book on the World Conference of Educators at Lausanne, " is to make young people aware of the

existence of others, make them ready and qualified to serve their neighbour by their acts”.

Miss Lajoie wrote :

*Let us consider the reality of youth with its warm heart and burning desire to offer its services to an exciting mankind.*

*... it will depend entirely on our strength of soul and desire to make tomorrow a world where peace reigns and it is a pleasure to live. However, if this is our desire, there must be a means of making it come true. We have a magnificent opportunity to put our vital strength to good use in serving the Red Cross which is a guarantee for the future, as through this movement we can improve both today and tomorrow.*

*“ We must be aware of present-day world reality.” This statement is one which is profound and one which is meant for all youth. It means that no opportunity, however small, should be neglected. We must at any price avoid inactivity ; we must accomplish something for the furtherance of our Red Cross movement. It is often an easy matter to begin a task, to draw up a project ; but does not the real difficulty lie in successful accomplishment ? I do not share the opinion of those who say : “ The first step is what counts, the remainder will follow on automatically.” No. The first step has already been taken, and we must carry on and prove that in the Red Cross movement the work to be tackled is vast and that on our whole-hearted efforts depends its accomplishment ...*

*... I think that we young people of Canada especially have a good opportunity to give proof of our skill and strength by helping in a friendly way our brothers in developing countries. The Red Cross offers us this opportunity ... Service to one's neighbour has done, does, and will continue to do so much good in the world. That is why action is urgently needed now ...*

*... There is no denying the fact that when little is demanded of young people they finish by giving nothing ... We must realize that youth is not given us for pleasure but for dedication. Youth proves this by taking part in the Red Cross ...*

*... Young people ... need work not only to earn their living but above all to develop and find fulfilment. Looked at in this light our Society meets the requirements of youth by offering it a task within the Red Cross where so much good can be done ...*

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Miss Hilton wrote :

*... The present generation has taken halting steps in the direction of better international understanding, but what remains for the next generation—the youth of today—are the bold strides that will make it a reality in the hearts of man that we are all brothers and dependent upon each other.*

*Part of the answer is to educate the youth of today to the concept that all men are brothers. ... Perhaps the most important way of achieving the education of our youth is through the medium of Junior Red Cross ...*

*... Through direct contact, Junior Red Cross communication with other nations by exchange of information on the physical, personal and cultural level, an appreciation and understanding of each other's problems is achieved. If this can be done at the public and high school level, and it is being done, is it not reasonable to assume that these feelings of brotherhood and understanding will carry over into adult life ?*

*It is my firm belief that it is not so much the difference in our ideologies that is the barrier to world peace, but rather the lack of personal knowledge of each other's problems and the reluctance of those of us among the more affluent nations to assist the others in their struggle for a higher standard of living.*

*If universal peace is ever to be achieved it will be because all nations have accepted the concept of international brotherhood. There are many avenues that peaceful nations must explore to achieve this end. I submit that one avenue, and a very important one, is the fostering of the Junior Red Cross movement throughout the world.*

*Training the youth of today in international understanding and involving them in projects designed toward that end, provides a pool of informed and interested volunteers who will be willing and ready to take their place in the Senior Red Cross Society.*

*By building bridges of international friendship through Junior Red Cross training, the youth of today can be the hope of the world of tomorrow.*