

Switzerland a haven

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SWITZERLAND A HAVEN.

Switzerland, whose children mirror the healthy, prosperous condition of their country, has taken on heavy burdens in helping the children of her less fortunate neighbors.

Last Winter 1,000,000 children in seven countries received one meal a day from Don Suisse, an agency that has official and private financial support. This Winter, Don Suisse will pool much of its activity with the United Nations Children's Fund.

With a population of slightly more than 4,300,000 Switzerland in this activity alone, contributed to Europe's children more than 7/6d per head (total almost £2,000,000). The equivalent contributed in New Zealand would be over £650,000.

Even more characteristically, the Swiss contribution is in taking children directly into Swiss homes. Individual Swiss, at their own expense, have cared for more than 135,000 children for periods averaging three months during the war and post-war years. Since 1933 more than 5,000 refugee children have been received unconditionally into Switzerland. Four hundred children from the Buchenwald concentration camp are still here, awaiting permission to enter Palestine.

A more permanent rehabilitation job is being done in a child city named after the famous Swiss educator Pestalozzi. While only a few can be taken, those lucky enough to be chosen are educated, trained and allowed to stay in Switzerland or return to their homes when conditions warrant, as normal, healthy citizens. There also are two Pestalozzi villages in Greece and one in Poland. (The New York Times).

THE WORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
"THE RED CROSS,"
DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

CONCERNING A LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR AID TO THE WOUNDED.....(CHAPTER 11).

The Red Cross was born. It had two parts, separate but complementary, corresponding to Dunant's two suggestions: an international Convention, and Committees for aid to the wounded. The purpose assigned to the Committee of Five being thus achieved, was this organism to be dissolved, or at best to restrict its activity to that of a local committee for aid to wounded soldiers, that is to say, in a neutral country like Switzerland, to almost nothing? No; the 1863 Conference had considered it the originator of the idea, and now it was to remain its guardian.

A principle "embodied in a Convention and accepted as sacred," the Red Cross was international. On the other hand, the Aid Societies, which were later to become the Red Cross Societies, had been conceived and created on the national plane only. They were independent of each other; no treaty stipulation united them in a legally constituted body. That did not come about until after the first World War. Nevertheless, the similarity of their aims and principles made them into a kind of family.

This relationship gave rise to exchanges, for which the Geneva Committee was the natural medium. As early as the first International Red Cross Conference the Committee received a mandate, which was to be several times renewed, to maintain and develop the relations between the National Societies; and to the Committee were entrusted commissions arising from common interests and tendencies; the recognition of the National Societies, the publication of an international bulletin, the preparation of conferences, plans for international conventions, and many others. This rôle, assigned from the beginning