JUN 1 9 1969

MAY

NINTH YEAR — No. 98

International Review of the Red Cross

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

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FRENCH EDITION OF THE REVIEW

The French edition of this Review is issued every month under the title of *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*. It is, in principle, identical with the English edition and may be obtained under the same conditions.

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SUPPLEMENTS TO THE REVIEW

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SPANISH

La Cruz Roja en América Latina (Pierre Jequier — José Gómez Ruiz) — Vigésima segunda adjudicación de la Medalla Florence Nightingale.

GERMAN

Das Rote Kreuz in Lateinamerika (Pierre Jequier — José Gómez Ruiz) — Zweiundzwanzigste Verleihung der Florence-Nightingale-Medaille.

THE

INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

is published each month by the International Committee of the Red Cross

7, avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva I, Switzerland
Postal Cheque No. 12.1767

Annual subscription: Sw. fr. 25.— ($6)
Single copies Sw. fr. 2.50 ($0.60)

Editor : J.-G. LOSSIER

The International Committee of the Red Cross assumes responsibility only for material over its own signature.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS AT WORK[1]

by Jacques Freymond

In 1919 Bela Kun, the Hungarian revolutionary who, for a few months, was the head of the Soviet Republic of Hungary, declared to the delegate of the ICRC that he fully understood the position and the role of that institution. That private association of Swiss citizens, who, free from any governmental ties, were giving aid and comfort to the victims of war, wherever these might be found and without any distinction of nationality, religion or ideology, appeared to him to be truly representative of the Swiss people. In his view, the ICRC, because it was independent, because it was addressing itself direct to governments, reminding them of their moral duties towards prisoners, towards the soldiers of the other side, belonged to the revolutionary camp.

Bela Kun's judgment was a sensible one. Paradoxical as it may seem, the bourgeois of Geneva who constituted the Committee were no conformists. Although, no doubt, they belonged to the " establishment ", they did not share all its prejudices, they did not accept all its rules. They did not oppose war directly, as the pacifists do, but showed by their behaviour and by their work that they did not accept it, and that, over and above their intervention to limit its dangers, its excesses and its evils, they were aiming at peace. Their recognition of the governments, whose co-operation was necessary, did not mean that they were playing the game of international politics and that they would yield under presure and remain silent when faced with abuses and violence. Quite the con-

[1] Lecture given in London on 19 March 1969.

trary. The fact that the ICRC refrained from publicity and still does, preferring to convey its report and its opinions to the governments in a discreet manner, did not mean that it could not be outspoken, even blunt. When the principles of the Red Cross are jeopardized, the ICRC has a moral duty to remind governments of their commitments and to speak clearly and firmly.

To obtain respect for the principles of the Red Cross, without being in a position to impose it, is the ICRC's first mission. A difficult mission which has required—and still requires—relentless efforts. The history of the institution shows how long it took to achieve not only the recognition of those principles by governments, but their application. It shows the long road that leads from one international conference to another, through the experience acquired in one war after another, to the framing of the successive Geneva Conventions, to the development of humanitarian law. This development has been and still is the main duty of the ICRC. And if you think of the terrific increase in the means of destruction, in atomic weapons; if you take into account the impact which the creation of new states has had upon the international system; if you study the various problems raised by guerrilla warfare and political unrest in our chaotic world—then you will not be surprised to hear that the ICRC still has pioneer work to do. Pioneer work as far as the development or, rather, the adaptation and refinement of humanitarian law is concerned.

How, for instance, are we to ensure respect for the civilian population and for the fighters in guerrilla fighting? We know that it is difficult, if not impossible, in such a war, to make a distinction between the " soldier " and the civilian. The use of the terrorist method spreads the war over the whole country, involving the entire population, and makes the application of the Geneva Conventions more complex every day. Is it possible to get a government, or the population, to regard a terrorist who has thrown a grenade into the middle of a peaceful crowd, and has been seized and detained, as a prisoner of war entitled to the protection of the Geneva Conventions? Is it possible to speak of " prisoners of war " when the governments involved do not even recognize that they are at war? In Vietnam there is international civil war: the forces of the National Liberation Front are not always in uniform; they are

nationals of the country; should one make a distinction between men captured in uniform and others? And what is the effect of the non-declaration of war by the U.S.A.?

To take another example, is it possible to help the victims, to protect the wounded, the prisoners, and the civilian population, if the belligerents are using atomic or bacteriological weapons, that is to say, weapons of mass and indiscriminate destruction? Does this not show that the passage from peace to war has become impossible to detect, that both in the state of bellicose peace in which we live and in the case of total war the application of the Geneva Conventions is seriously questioned? These obstacles, impressive as they are to all people who are not prepared to indulge in self-delusion, have to be overcome, and the ICRC has been busy trying to find some solutions.

In the case of guerrilla warfare and internal disturbances, ranging from violations by governments of human rights to guerrilla wars involving an entire country, a more extensive interpretation and application of Article 3 of the four Conventions has been sought. The ICRC has organized meetings of specialists who were asked to give their opinion on the subject and who, in general, encouraged the Committee to refer more and more to this Article 3 and extend its interpretation—a recommendation which it has adopted and put into practice more or less successfully.

On indiscriminate warfare, the ICRC, at the Delhi Conference of 1957, made an attempt to obtain recognition by the governments of a set of rules forbidding the use of weapons of mass destruction. This project met with rather strong opposition from the Great Powers—an opposition which was quite understandable in the political climate of that period and with the prospect at that time of atomic weapons being used.

The conviction that, should a war occur (a global war), nobody could prevent the belligerents from using nuclear weapons, led some people to think that the ICRC should shift its work to secure respect for humanitarian law from wartime to peacetime. Since no protection could be assured to anybody, civilian or soldier, in a global war, there was no other choice left than to work for the prevention of war. This is the meaning of many proposals which have been put forward by representatives of Red Cross societies, mainly from

Socialist countries, for a number of years. It is also the meaning of the Tenth Resolution adopted in 1965 by the International Conference of the Red Cross in Vienna, inviting the ICRC to act when it thought it could help to prevent the outbreak of a war.

You will readily understand that this encouragement, formulated in general and cautious terms, was not accepted with enthusiasm by the ICRC. Indeed, all its members were fully aware of the danger of the " politicization " of the Red Cross, which was implicit in every action orientated not towards the protection of victims of war, but towards the maintenance of peace.

Despite strong reservations, the ICRC would not be able to refuse in principle this development of its mission, if it becomes evident that its intervention is required because no other existing international institution is in a position to act effectively and if the necessary conditions for a reasonable chance of success are fulfilled.

Already in 1962, during the Cuba crisis, the ICRC had been approached by the UN General Secretariat. Supported by the Governments of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., U Thant had thought that the supervision of an agreement on the elimination of nuclear missiles from Cuba should and could be entrusted to a neutral institution. As you may remember, the ICRC answered that it was ready in principle to render this type of service, but on certain conditions: agreement of all the parties involved, complete freedom of action, and assurance that the necessary logistic support would be given.

More recently, the ICRC was approached by the Organization of African Unity with the request that it organize and supervise the evacuation of the white mercenaries and the Katangese gendarmes who held Bukavu. Here again the ICRC felt that, since no other international organization was in a position to intervene, and since an emergency was being faced—a local crisis which might deteriorate into an international one—it could not reject the request. But the evacuation of nearly 2000 persons (if the wives and children were counted) implied long and careful preparation: the full support of the Kinshasa Government, the partial withdrawal of the Congolese troops who were encircling Bukavu, the protection of the whole group, and agreement with Rwanda and some African and European States to ensure the transit and reception of the

mercenaries and Katangese. This took a few weeks, during which the military situation was radically altered. The Congolese army decided to attack Bukavu and forced Colonel Schramm and his soldiers to retreat to Rwanda, where they laid down their arms.

One might have imagined that, in these circumstances, the ICRC ought to have given up the enterprise. However, in agreeing to sponsor and to organize the evacuation, it had committed more than its prestige, its moral authority was involved. Whatever one's opinion of the mercenaries and the Katangese rebels, they were, now that they were disarmed, under its protection. The International Committee is not, in fact, a tool which governments can use and discard at will. Now that it had been asked to intervene, its duty was to pursue its action according to its own judgment and principles. That is what it decided to do and it was right, for, after a few months, it was enabled with the help of the OAU Special Commission which was following this matter, to organize the mercenaries' repatriation and evacuation.

Beyond the discussion about the fate of the mercenaries, governments had been reminded that they cannot, when it is convenient, forget their own commitments; that, to quote Albert Sorel, " if history is not morality in action, neither is it action without morality ". In the chaotic world in which we live, it is incumbent on an international institution like the ICRC, through action and not only by declarations or even energetic denunciations, to ensure respect for some of the elementary principles as expressed in the Conventions and which are the bases of humanitarian law.

*

The presence of the ICRC is assured by its actions more than by its declaration of principles. And these actions are executed by its delegates. Although the policy of the institution is defined in Geneva by a " collège " which meets once a month, and a small council, which holds weekly meetings, the delegate plays a decisive role. He is the one who knows, because he is on the battlefield, what the situation is. He is the one who will have to discuss with governments, and with generals, all the problems related to the application of the Geneva Conventions. On his behaviour, on his ability, on

his personal authority, on his capacity to take risks, depends the success or the failure of the mission. His task is a very difficult one. When governments are involved in a war, or in a military or political crisis, they do not like to open their doors to foreigners, inasmuch as these doors give on to their back-yards. The more explosive the crisis, the less inclined are they to deal with what they regard as mere side effects of the war. Generals and colonels are, quite naturally, more interested in the protection of their soldiers than in the well-being of the prisoners. The ICRC delegate is always the advocate of the other side, and he has to remind governments that they cannot adapt their conduct to the behaviour of their enemy, that they have to apply the Conventions because they have signed them and hope that there will be some reciprocity, which is not always the case.

Thus the delegates of the Committee will be exposed to rebuffs. But some of them have been most successful.

To mention only recent actions, I should like to stress the success of the ICRC's work in the southern part of the Arabian peninsula.

Thanks to the ICRC, the Royalist Yemeni who were politically isolated, received medical supplies and treatment. Moreover, the Red Cross flag flew in the country, wherever a delegate did not hesitate to cross the battle lines. In Aden the ICRC delegate succeeded in convincing all the parties in conflict that he had no political bias. This established the authority of the Committee in such a secure way that it was called upon to fill the gap in the continuity of the medical service created by the departure of British doctors.

In Nigeria our delegates work on both sides. The blockade established by the Federal Government raised a difficult problem for the ICRC, especially as it was not equipped to deal rapidly with the expansion of the relief operation. But the Committee has not given up its efforts, and here too it can count on the devotion of its delegates in continuing its action on the Federal and on the secessionist side, as well, it should be stressed, as on the considerable support afforded it by the National Red Cross, many voluntary agencies and UNICEF.

In Vietnam, it has so far only had limited success. In fact, in spite of repeated representations it has not been able to obtain the

agreement of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to the installation of a delegation in Hanoi nor even to the visiting of prisoners of war.

The Hanoi authorities have, it is true, assured the ICRC that these prisoners are treated humanely by them. The Committee has therefore had to content itself with sending medicines, medical equipment and, more recently, two field hospitals to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

On the other hand, the ICRC is represented in Saigon and the delegates are able to visit all prisoner of war camps. They also regularly receive nominal rolls of these prisoners.

In the Dominican crisis, Red Cross delegates negotiated a cease-fire, making possible the tending of the wounded and the collection of the dead. This cease-fire subsequently led to an armistice.

During the Kashmir crisis, India and Pakistan decided to apply the Geneva Conventions.

The International Committee, it can be seen, has a record consisting of both successes and setbacks. Will it have better chances in the future, at the risk even of displeasing some governments? I feel that in the period in which we live this risk should be taken. Moral duty goes before prestige.

Jacques FREYMOND
Vice-President of the ICRC

The Red Cross in Latin America

The international institutions of the Red Cross have always been in close touch with National Societies in Latin America, some of which are amongst the oldest members of our movement. We have asked Mr. P. Jequier, now retired from his office as ICRC Delegate-General for that part of the world, to give an account of his own experience in some events and to describe some of the International Committee's actions during internal disturbances.

To make this general survey more complete, we also asked a representative of the League of Red Cross Societies to outline some of the missions carried out today in Latin America under our joint emblem. Mr. Jequier's contribution is followed by an article for which we are indebted to Mr. J. Gómez Ruiz, Head of the Latin American and Caribbean Service of the League Secretariat, and which is an interesting addition to his previous one on the same subject which was published by the International Review. *(Ed.)* [1].

The Red Cross is represented in every Latin American country. At the beginning of the century, forty years after the foundation of the institution in Geneva, men and women of goodwill founded National Societies. Consequently, the International Committee of the Red Cross found in this continent constant support which enabled it to take action in situations which were sometimes dramatic.

During the First World War the presence of the Red Cross in Latin America was manifested through assistance programmes for the benefit of countries at war. Nearer to our own time, the Spanish

[1] See International Review of the Red Cross, April 1965.

Civil War (1936-1939) also gave rise to a movement of Latin American National Societies' solidarity. For instance, either directly or through the ICRC, most of them sent large consignments of clothing, foodstuffs and medical supplies or donated cash for the benefit of civilian populations on both sides of the front. This continued for some time after the war, when hundreds of thousands of Spaniards were interned in France.

From 1939 and throughout the whole of the Second World War, National Societies took an even more active part in the work in favour of war victims, such as collections for dispatch of relief, assistance to refugees and internees, tracing services in relation with the Central Prisoners of War Agency (since renamed Central Tracing Agency), distribution and forwarding of civilian messages, etc.

But it is the period after 1945 with which we are more particularly concerned here. The most striking feature is the unequal development of the National Societies. Whilst some of them have only made slight progress, others have learnt the lesson to be drawn from past events, improving and extending their work in many fields.

The National Society is the organization on which to call in crisis arising from natural disaster, in conflict or even personal tragedy, when it goes into action to trace missing persons, reunite families or provide legal aid. Some Red Cross Societies, under the impetus of dynamic committees, continually widen their scope, setting up and managing permanent social services for the poorer sections of the population.

Let us consider the material resources of these Red Cross Societies for their work in such varied fields. A number of them are subsidized by the State, sometimes to no small degree, in order to relieve them of having to depend on private individuals. Others decline official support which might render them vulnerable to State influence, and they prefer to seek public support through annual or occasional fund raising drives.

Over the last twenty years, I observed that several Latin American Red Cross Societies had, by dint of sacrifice and dedication, managed to build their own premises where they have the best conditions for their work. Others are planning new buildings or, for example, are continuing to run hospitals and blood transfusion services.

In the course of my missions in Latin America I was interested in the activities of the Red Cross not only in capital cities but also in towns and villages, many of which have no social institutions or relief organizations in case of emergency. Conditions differ considerably from one country to another. In fact, the Red Cross does not have a foothold in every region where it could usefully work and no doubt find fresh recruits. Like everywhere else in the world, there are innumerable prospects for humanitarian and social initiative.

Inter-American Red Cross Conferences have always been an occasion for the ICRC to keep National Societies in Latin America up to date on its duties and functions. In 1940, at Santiago de Chile, during the IVth of these Conferences, Mr. E. Chapuisat, Vice-Chairman, draw attention to the difficulties then facing the Red Cross and those to be expected in the future. At that period the reminder was timely, as the International Committee, as a consequence of the Second World War, and as a neutral intermediary, was engaged in a vast relief action for the benefit of prisoners of war and internees throughout the world. Mr. Chapuisat then went to Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro and he thanked the Governments and National Red Cross Societies of all Latin American countries for their valuable assistance.

At Caracas in 1947, during the Vth Conference, Mr. G. Dunand, then Director-Delegate, reported on the immense work accomplished in the course of the Second World War.

At the VIth Conference in 1951 in Mexico, the ICRC was represented by Mr. R. Olgiati, a Member of the Committee, and by Mr. Jean Pictet, then Director of the Legal Section. Important reports were laid before the delegates, dealing mainly with:

— the protection afforded by the sign of the Red Cross;
— hospital and safety zones;
— the 1949 Geneva Conventions; their ratification and dissemination.

Mr. P. Ruegger, then President of the ICRC, visited Uruguay, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama in 1952. With the government authorities and Steering Committees of National

Societies, he had discussions on various problems, particularly those related to the application of the Geneva Conventions which today have been ratified by the vast majority of States.

More recently, ICRC missions have made a number of visits to Latin America. In 1965, Mr. S. A. Gonard, then President of the Institution, went to Mexico and other countries in Central America.

The ICRC Delegate-General in this part of the world attended two inter-American Red Cross Conferences: the VIIth at San Juan, Porto Rico, in 1962, and the VIIIth in Bogota, Colombia, in 1966. These periodical meetings—held in principle every four years—promote Red Cross development and better co-ordination of National Societies' activities.

Delegates from Geneva have always been extended a warm welcome by government authorities and National Societies, despite the fact that the full scope of the ICRC's mission has not always been fully understood. In addition, it sometimes happens in certain countries that the State considers the National Society as one of many administrative services, forgetting the principle of neutrality underlying its action.

Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which entitles the ICRC to act when internal disturbances occur, has been put into effect in practice in Latin America in recent years. In Guatemala, in July 1954, a revolution broke out and the Guatemalan government authorized an International Committee Delegate to carry out his humanitarian mission. In the company of two of the National Red Cross leaders, he visited the capital's prisons in which were interned one thousand two hundred men. He also went to the provinces, particularly Chiquimula, where the revolutionary army had its headquarters and where he visited several hundred prisoners. With help from Guatemala Red Cross doctors and first-aiders, we set up a dispensary in the main prison of the capital where an epidemic had broken out .This was checked thanks to appropriate disinfection and medical treatment.

In Cuba in July 1958, a few months after the start of the revolution, the " rebels " had dug in in the Sierra Maestra in the south of the island. Their chief, Fidel Castro, cabled an appeal to the ICRC in Geneva, stating that he had a large number of wounded prisoners, members of the regular Cuban army. He was unable to give them

the necessary medical treatment due to the severe measures taken by the government to prevent supplies reaching the territory occupied by the " rebels ".

After informing the Cuban Red Cross of this appeal, the International Committee decided to send delegates immediately to Cuba. On 23 and 24 July 1958, after a few days discussion with the Cuban government and the leader of the " rebels " in the Sierra Maestra, 253 prisoners of war, 57 of whom were seriously wounded stretcher cases, were handed over to the ICRC delegates.

These actions by the International Committee provided National Societies with essential support in difficult circumstances when they would for well-known reasons have been unable to act themselves. But these were missions to meet the needs of the moment and it must be hoped that the ICRC will one day be able to assist political internees so long as they are in detention.

In the last few years the ICRC has twice ensured practical application of the article of the Ist 1949 Geneva Convention providing for truce to enable victims to be removed from the field of battle and for the dead to be buried. This occurred at Peñas Blancas on the border between Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 1955 where the National Societies of these two countries met in order to seek and bury combatants killed during the revolution. The area where fighting took place, in the Nicaragua border region, was about 200 miles from the capital and roads were impassable. The probable presence of snipers made the region unsafe and the authorities deemed it preferable for a representative of the International Committee to go there.

After passing the final military posts, the delegation, consisting of a leader and first-aiders of the Nicaracua Red Cross and the ICRC delegate went into Costa Rican territory. The meeting of Red Cross representatives from the two countries, in the presence of the delegate from Geneva, was moving. The twelve men of the Costa Rican team had, under extremely dangerous conditions, discharged a highly humanitarian duty by exhuming and taking away in zinc coffins the bodies which had been abandoned there for about a fortnight. They greatly appreciated the demonstration of fellowship by the Red Cross of the neighbouring country. The presence among them of an ICRC delegate was, in a manner of speaking, a guarantee of the

absolute neutrality of the Red Cross work in a place where fighting was still going on.

In 1965, during the serious events in Santo Domingo, both parties to the conflict agreed to the truce proposed by the President of the Dominican Red Cross and the ICRC delegate, whose efforts were backed up by representatives from the United Nations and the Organization of American States. This success, of undisputed humanitarian interest, may be held up as an example of what is possible when enemies recognize the Geneva Conventions and permit the assistance they lay down to reach the victims.

Pierre JEQUIER.

* * *

With accession to independence by a great number of countries in the course of the last few years, new National Societies have been founded. However this was not the case in America where the Red Cross has been well established for many years. That is why I consider it a privilege to have been able to attend, if not the birth, at least the first steps in the life of a new National Society: the Red Cross of Guyana, recognized by the International Committee in August 1968 and admitted to League membership in September of the same year.

This new Society, heir to the former Guiana Branch of the British Red Cross, is led by a team of men and women whose dedication and competence is remarkable not only on the national but also on the regional and provincial levels. Its activities are many. It is difficult to say which of them is the best or the most important, for all fulfil a need. Nevertheless, I do not think there are many young National Societies whose programme includes simultaneously the feeding of destitute children, the founding of a convalescent home for children, a school for disabled children, the organization of voluntary workers in hospitals (recreational therapy, library services, etc.). These activities are carried on in the capital, Georgetown, and also in various other parts of the country.

Such are the functions of the Guyana Red Cross. Its achievements are deserving of praise but it will need assistance for further development. The manner in which it has assumed and discharges its tasks today augurs well for its future.

After visiting the Guyana Red Cross, I went to Panama. I was fortunate in arriving at a moment when two juniors of the American Red Cross had just begun their work under the " Central America Friendship Scheme ". This was begun in 1968 jointly by the American, Nicaraguan, Salvador, Costa Rican and Panamanian Red Cross Societies. The aim is to strength the bonds of friendship between National Societies of neighbouring countries and to contribute to the spread of the teaching of first aid, mother and child welfare and sea-rescue services.

A similar plan had in previous years been carried out in Mexico and I saw for myself the fine results. After seeing the young people at work on their practical tasks, I could readily understand why they were successful. Their full knowledge of the Spanish language, their proficiency in the subjects they were required to teach and their enthusiasm were enough to convince the most sceptical.

One example which I had was the following. The Panamanian Red Cross had organized a small reception for the young Americans, to enable them to meet the National Society's leaders. A number of Junior Red Cross members were also present. The reception was no sooner over, than the American Junior Red Cross instructors were already explaining to the local Red Cross Juniors the techniques of first aid!

The activities of the Panamanian Red Cross are becoming wider in scope and extending to the remotest regions. Wide and generous participation by youth and keenness to serve are the more gratifying because they are a guaarntee for the future of the Red Cross in this country.

My last call in America was to Colombia, whose National Red Cross Society needs no further praise. The country's development is in full swing and the National Society is proceeding apace. The Colombian Red Cross Society's local committees within the country increase day by day, as do the tasks they assume in many fields. I was in Bogota the day before the International Eucharist Congress began. The authorities assigned all first aid services on the occasion

of that important meeting to the Red Cross. This demonstrates Red Cross prestige in this country and the government confidence which it enjoys.

Yet more important is this Society's new undertaking which was to be started in August of 1968, namely the " Centro Familiar Ciudad Kennedy ". " Ciudad Kennedy " is a Bogota satellite town with many families. Medical services and public health have been unable to keep abreast of the city's rapid development and the Colombian Red Cross, effectively discharging its duty as an auxiliary to the public authorities, has constructed a Family Centre to help inhabitants to solve the daily problems which beset them, and to contribute to the welfare of the families. It is of course an experiment and as yet too young to admit an appraisal of its full worth. But if these efforts are successful this National Society will probably be quoted as an example to others.

Red Cross is a daily reality and well-rooted in America. It is no exaggeration to say that, as in its early days, its spirit is still that of the pioneers, constantly seeking new ways to adapt to the present day and always to remain in the van to relieve misery and suffering.

José GÓMEZ RUIZ

Twenty-second award of the Florence Nightingale Medal

GENEVA, MAY 12, 1969

Circular No. 475

To the Central Committees of National Red Cross, Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun Societies

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In its Circular No. 472 of August 23, 1968, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to invite the Central Committees of National Societies to send in the names of nurses and voluntary aids whom they judged qualified to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This invitation, which quoted Article 1 of the Regulations, was accompanied by questionnaires bearing various headings for the candidatures.

The first object of this Medal is to honour nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their devotion to sick or wounded in the difficult and perilous situations which often prevail in times of war or public disasters. The Regulations also provide that a maximum number of 36 medals shall be awarded every two years and that the candidates' names must reach the International Committee of the Red Cross before March 1 of the year in which the distribution takes place.

In accordance with these Regulations, the International Committee, after a careful study of the 38 files submitted by 25 National Societies, has the pleasure of announcing that for the Twenty-second Distribution the Medal has been awarded to the following nurses and voluntary aids [1]:

AUSTRALIA:

1. *Colonel Edna Nell Doig,* Graduate Nurse, Midwife, Infant Welfare Certificate, Diploma of Nursing Administration. Matron-in-Chief and Director of Army Nursing Service.
2. *Mrs. Jean Elsie Ferguson,* Graduate Nurse, Midwife. Former Matron, Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood—responsible to the Medical Superintendent for the administration of the hospital nursing services.
3. *Sister Kathleen Tweedy,* Graduate Nurse, Midwife. Senior Sister, Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service, Papua and New Guinea.

CHILE:

4. *Señora Elisa Ripamonti de Bulnes,* enfermera voluntaria de la Cruz Roja Chilena. Presidenta de la Asociación Cruz Roja Providencia-Las Condes.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA:

5. *Madame Helena Mišurdová,* auxiliaire volontaire de la Croix-Rouge. Fonctionnaire active de la Croix-Rouge tchécoslovaque.

DENMARK:

6. *Miss Elisabeth H. Larsen,* State Registered Nurse, Executive Director, Institute of Post-Basic Nursing Education, Aarhus University, Aarhus.

[1] Since the designation, qualifications and duties of nursing personnel do not always have an exact equivalent in the various languages, it seemed to be preferable to leave them as in the original text.

FINLAND:

7. *Miss Irja Pohjala,* Graduate Nurse. Former Principal of the College of Nursing, Helsinki.

FRANCE:

8. *Mademoiselle Jeanne Euverte,* Infirmière diplômée. Ancienne infirmière militaire retraitée, continuant à donner des soins dans un dispensaire.
9. *Mademoiselle Lucile Cantan,* Infirmière diplômée. Directrice de l'Ecole des Elèves Infirmières de la Croix-Rouge française à Nîmes.

GERMANY (FEDERAL REPUBLIC):

10. *Frau Generaloberin Johanna Held,* Diplomierte Krankenschwester. Oberin der Schwesternschaft München vom Bayerischen Roten Kreuz.

GREAT BRITAIN:

11. *Miss Eva G. Lancaster, M.B.E.,* State Registered Nurse, Midwife. Nursing post in residential Home for Elderly People. Member of the Sussex Branch of the British Red Cross Society.

HUNGARY:

12. *Mademoiselle Sarolta Deme,* infirmière diplômée. Chef et directrice du Bureau des Cours sanitaires professionnels du Ministère de la Santé.
13. *Madame Smidéliusz Ernöné, née Laborczi Ilona,* infirmière diplômée et assistante sociale. Infirmière visiteuse de quartier. Secrétaire en travail social volontaire d'une organisation locale de la Croix-Rouge hongroise, membre du Comité permanent de la Santé publique du district.

INDONESIA:

14. *Mrs. R. Murtasiah Soepomo,* State Diplomas in General Nursing and Midwifery.

ITALY:

15. *Mademoiselle Anna Maria Platter,* Diplôme d'infirmière professionnelle d'Etat de l'Ecole d'Infirmières professionnelles de la Croix-Rouge italienne de Rome, Certificat d'habilitation aux Fonctions Dirigeantes de l'Ecole sus-mentionnée. Chargée de la supervision et de la coordination des Ecoles pour Infirmières professionnelles gérées par la Croix-Rouge italienne de Matera, Catanzaro et Potenza.

JAPAN:

16. *Mrs. Shizu Koyama,* Graduate Nurse. Head Nurse of the Japanese Red Cross Shizuoka Prefectural Chapter.
17. *Miss Sei Tozawa,* Graduate Nurse. Director, Nursing Department Japanese Red Cross Wakayama Hospital.
18. *Miss Sato Takahashi,* Graduate Nurse. Former General Head Nurse of Yagoto National Sanatorium.

KOREA (REPUBLIC):

19. *Mrs. Kim, Kwon Sok-Hei,* Graduate Nurse, Midwife. Head of Nursing Department of Kyung-Puk Medical College.
20. *Miss New, Soon-Han,* Graduate Nurse. Director of Nursing Service and advisor of nursing school at the National Medical Centre in Korea.

LEBANON:

21. *Madame Nabila Saab Drooby,* Infirmière diplômée. Membre du Comité Central, Vice-Présidente de la Croix-Rouge libanaise de la Jeunesse, Membre du Comité de l'Enseignement.

MONGOLIA (PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC):

22. *Mrs. Danzangin Therma,* Professional nurse. Senior nurse at the Surgical Department of the Central Army Hospital of the Mongolian People's Republic.

NETHERLANDS:

23. *Miss Lidwina M. Ch. W. Verlinden,* Graduate Nurse.

NEW ZEALAND:

24. *Sister Moya Clare McTamney,* Graduate Nurse, Midwife. Nursing Member of the New Zealand Red Cross Society's Welfare Team in South Vietnam.

PAKISTAN:

25. *Mrs. Mumtaz Painda Khan,* Graduate Nurse and Midwife. Nursing Superintendent, Nursing administration of the Nursing Staff in the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, Lahore, and the Nurses' Training School.

PHILIPPINES:

26. *Mrs. Elisa R. Ochoa,* Graduate Nurse. President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Butuan Puericulture Centre. Vice Chairman, Agusan Red Cross Chapter.
27. *Miss Felipa T. Javalera,* Graduate Nurse. Former Administrative Assistant—Nursing Department, National Headquarters, Philippine National Red Cross.

POLAND:

28. *Madame Zofia Muszka,* Infirmière diplômée. Inspecteur supérieur d'infirmières au Comité Central du Service de la Santé du Ministère des Transports.
29. *Madame Maria Hadera,* Infirmière diplômée. Ancienne monitrice dans le service municipal de santé à Katowice.
30. *Madame Florentyna Wrońska Kaczmarska,* Infirmière diplômée. Directrice d'une crèche.

SOUTH AFRICA:

31. *Professor Doctor Charlotte Searle,* Graduate Nurse, Midwife, Sister Tutor, Diploma of Hospital Administration. Directress of the Division of Professional Development of the South African Nursing Association.
32. *Miss Agnes Wilson Simpson,* Graduate Nurse, Sister Tutor, Diploma in Hospital Administration and Allied Services. Matron-in-Chief, Baragwanath Hospital, Johannesburg.

U.S.A.:

33. *Dean Frances Reiter,* Graduate registered nurse. Teachers College, Columbia University B.S., Nursing Ed. and M.A. Teaching Biological Sciences. Dean and Professor of Nursing, Graduate School of Nursing, New York Medical College.

The medals and diplomas, accompanied in each case by a photogravure reproduction of the portrait of Florence Nightingale, will be sent as quickly as possible to the Central Committees. The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to receive acknowledgments of their receipt in due course.

The Committee would be grateful if the Medals could be presented in the course of this year and requests the Central Committees to give the ceremony a character of solemnity as the founders of this distinction desired. It would be pleased to publish in the *International Review of the Red Cross* an account—if possible with photographs—of the ceremony organized in this connection. It requests National Societies to send it the necessary material for such publication not later than the end of February 1970.

The International Committee wishes also to call to mind that, in order to be able to assess the merits of candidates, it can only base itself upon reports submitted to it by the National Societies. These reports must therefore be as explicit as possible.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Marcel A. NAVILLE, *President*

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Nigeria

The relief action undertaken in Nigeria and the secessionist province (Biafra) by the ICRC continues and the *International Review* gives below information available at the end of April 1969.

Nigeria.—On territory overrun more than six months ago by federal troops, the urgency of relief action is diminishing; the incidence of under-nourishment is declining.

But there are still two major causes of concern: the annual period of scarcity and the need to help populations in hiding in the bush.

The ICRC medico-social teams, whilst continuing to provide treatment and foodstuffs, are doing everything they can to assist the agricultural population to put farming back on its feet. Corn, yam and bean seeds to a value of Sw. fr. 750,000 have been distributed.

In addition, the re-opening of more than thirty schools permits displaced persons to re-assemble bit by bit and resume work on the land.

Some imported products such as flour, " bulgur " (a cereal) and CSM (corn, soya, milk) not being the normal diet, the population is being taught how to use them to the best advantage. Bread baking is being taught in almost every village and in camps supplied by the Red Cross.

ICRC assistance must therefore continue, even if only for the many refugees who have not yet been able to return to their homes and are still completely dependent.

All these measures require even greater care as the rainy season, from May to the beginning of July, produces no harvest.

Distribution of food to about a million people a week continues. In the first weeks of April, 782 tons of food were distributed and 32,000 people received medical attention. During the same period

no new smallpox cases were reported, but there was a slight increase in measles and whooping cough cases.

The number of persons whose work in Nigeria is co-ordinated by the ICRC is about a thousand Nigerians and 255 foreigners.

Secessionist territory (Biafra).—Due to military events, the ICRC delegation's headquarters was moved in the last few days of April from Umuahia, the Biafran administrative capital, to Umuowa in the eastern part of the province. This move brings it nearer to the centre of its relief operations, the Uli airstrip, stores, transport depot and medical supervision centre.

According to the present head of the ICRC delegation in Biafra when he was last in Geneva, some 3.5 million meals a week were distributed to about a million children, expectant mothers and persons suffering from deficiency ailments and starvation.

This is based on the capacity of the airlifts. As soon as the relief supplies are discharged from the aircraft, they are forwarded to the eleven main distribution centres run by ICRC teams comprising a physician in charge, an administrator, a specialist in transport and another in nutrition, helped by local voluntary workers.

From 25 to 75 feeding centres depend on each of these main distribution centres. They employ local personnel under the responsibility of the ICRC teams at the main centres. The area covered by each team is worked out in agreement with other charitable organisations, taking into account facilities of access and rational relief distribution throughout the country.

The medico-social teams plan distribution according to the needs of the people. It is essential that the best use be made of the supplies which are completely dependent on the two airlifts. In spite of the efforts of the Biafran authorities to improve the quality of the soil, protein and carbo-hydrate requirements are far from being met.

From the Uli landing strip the supplies are sent to eleven main depots, from where they are distributed to the 500 feeding centres operated by the ICRC throughout the country. Co-operation by locally recruited staff is important. The relief action has brought about a reduction in under-nourishment.

The measles and smallpox vaccination campaign which began towards the end of 1968 is continuing, thanks to the close co-opera-

tion of the ICRC, the Churches, USAID, UNICEF, OXFAM and other organizations. The Ministry of Health is also very co-operative. By 19 April 551,838 children had been inoculated against measles and 1,403,000 had been vaccinated against smallpox.

The ICRC will shortly delegate a team of three experts in agriculture and economics. On completion of their mission they will report to Mr. August Lindt, ICRC Commissioner General for West Africa.

We would add that on 24 April, Mr. Lindt made the following statement on the food situation in the regions affected by the Nigeria-Biafra war;

" In territory under federal control the danger of famine has now been eliminated. In Biafra, on the other hand, in spite of the improvement in the regions where the ICRC and the Churches are at work, there are still large groups of the population which cannot be reached and there is great hardship. The food situation in Biafra is becoming more and more critical and will deteriorate even further in the months preceding the harvest in September. There are signs of general mal-nutrition and a disturbing increase in tuberculosis."

It would not be possible, without " Operation INALWA " (International Airlift West Africa) to supply even part of the population's needs. The airlifts only operate by night and under difficult conditions. In spite of negotiations with a view to arranging transport overland or by waterway, the belligerents have reached no agreement on this subject.

The ICRC's fleet of aircraft continues flying from Santa Isabel (Equatorial Guinea Republic) and from Cotonou (Dahomey). Of the four DC-7's based on Santa Isabel which were provided by the Swedish Red Cross, only three are authorized to fly. At Cotonou there are six planes. A " Transall " which has returned to Europe for overhaul has been replaced by an Icelandic DC-6 chartered by the ICRC.

An average of 15 to 18 flights each night land 170-200 tons in Biafra. To mention but one example, a DC-7B, which the Swedish Red Cross made available to the International Committee completed five return flights between Santa Isabel and Uli on the night of 17 April. This record performance was made possible by the

perfection of flying technique and co-ordination of work on the ground to ensure fast turn-round. Flying time alone is 50-60 minutes each way.

In all, twenty flights to Biafra were made on the night of 17/18 April by the aircraft on the ICRC airlifts — eight from Cotonou and twelve from Santa Isabel — with a total payload of 216 tons of relief supplies.

From 1-28 April, 412 flights (228 in March) were carried out, bringing the total of flights since the operation began to 1,573.

Rhodesia

Mr. Paul Züger, delegate of the International Committee, Dr. François Vulliet and Mr. G. C. Senn, adviser to the ICRC in central and southern Africa, have begun a new tour of detention centres in Rhodesia, an activity traditionally undertaken by the ICRC for the benefit of detainees.

For several years, with the full agreement of the Rhodesian authorities, Mr. Senn has been visiting political detainees in prisons and internment camps.

Bolivia

Following the negotiations undertaken by Miss M. Duvillard, member of the ICRC, when she recently visited the Bolivian Red Cross, the military authorities permitted a visit to six political detainees imprisoned at Camiri.

Accompanied by Dr. Celso Rossell Santa Cruz, President of the National Red Cross, Miss Duvillard talked in private with these detainees, among whom was the French writer and journalist Régis Debray, sentenced by a military court at Camiri to 30 years imprisonment.

Middle East

Families Re-united. — Another family reunion operation took place on 27 March 1969 in the Israeli occupied Syrian territory of

the Golan Plateau East of Lake Tiberias. Eighty-seven persons displaced by the June 1967 conflict were repatriated. Seventy-five of them came from near Damascus and twelve from the Lebanon.

This was the fourth such operation, in March, for the re-uniting of families under ICRC auspices with permission from the Israeli authorities. During the month a total of 250 people returned to their own villages.

A further operation of this nature took place on 29 April at El Qantara, in the programme of family integrations organized and supervised by the ICRC delegations in Egypt and Israel.

Visits to Hospitals. — The ICRC has recently sent to the Jordanian and Israeli authorities copies of the reports issued by its delegates on their visits to ten government and thirteen private hospitals on the West bank of the Jordan.

Aden

A new Surgical Team. — Mr. André Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation in the Arabian peninsula, was received on 10 April by the Ministers of Health and of the Interior in Aden.

He then went to Mukallah, capital of the Hadhramaut, in order to make arrangements for the settling in of the ICRC surgical team which arrived in Aden on 16 April and was accompanied by the ICRC delegate to where it was to work. This new team comprises Professor Walter Hess, surgeon, and Miss Gabrielle Péclat, anaesthetist.

Further visits to detainees. — During his recent talks with the authorities, Mr. Rochat obtained permission to undertake a further visit to political detainees in Aden.

Yemen

Medical Supplies to Sanaa. — The Rumanian Red Cross has just contributed a large donation of medical supplies and clothing to the ICRC's action in Sanaa.

Mr. Gallopin, ICRC member and Director General, is received by the Japanese Prime Minister. Mr. Sato. (*Centre*, Mrs. Gallopin; *left* Mr. Kimura, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary).

Japan

Mr. Gallopin presented with the Japanese Red Cross Gold Order of Merit by Princess Hitachi. (*In background*, the National Society President, Mr. Azuma, and Mrs. Azuma; *Left*, Mr. Tokugawa, Attaché, Foreign Relations Dept. of the Red Cross).

Cambodia: With other leading members of the Cambodian Red Cross, Princess Monique Sihanouk, President, receives Mr. and Mrs. Gallopin (*centre right*, Princess Sihanouk; *with back to camera*, Mr. Durand, ICRC delegate general for Asia).

Laos: Distribution by the Lao Red Cross of blankets and mosquito netting in a refugee centre.

It should be recalled that in December 1968, the ICRC received from the Bulgarian Red Cross medical supplies which were immediately forwarded by air, in view of the severely felt need in Sanaa. The German Red Cross in the Democratic Republic of Germany, for its part, sent at the beginning of the year 56 cases of medicines and clothing.

These various donations have made it possible to cover the lack of medical supplies which the ICRC had brought to the attention of a number of National Societies.

Medical Mission in North Yemen. — ICRC medical action in North Yemen continues, practical arrangements having been changed to suit circumstances.

The settling in of a medical team was planned at Uqhd; it will instead go to Bir-Khadra, mid-way between Najran and Uqhd. Dr. Willy Rieben left Geneva on 29 March for Najran, to head the team.

Laos

As we mentioned in a previous number, the Lao Red Cross, in close co-operation with the delegate of the ICRC in Vientiane, regularly continued to distribute relief to displaced persons, who, having fled the fighting areas, had taken refuge in the Mekong basin, mainly in the northern provinces.[1]

On the Laotian New Year's Day (9 April) the Womens' Association of the Lao Red Cross, presided over by Dr. Maniso Abhay, distributed parcels to the civilian and military wounded and sick in four hospitals and an infirmary at Vientiane. Donations were also made to four orphanages. This action, which was attended by Dr. Jürg Baer, ICRC delegate in Laos, was made possible by locally collected contributions.

On 11 April Dr. Baer delivered a quantity of blood plasma to the hospital at Luang-Prabang, the royal capital. He then went to

[1] *Plate.*—Distribution by the Lao Red Cross of blankets and mosquito nets in the refugee centres.

Houei-Sai at the confines of Burma, Laos and Thailand, in order to participate in the Lao Red Cross distribution to refugees from fighting areas. He delivered blood plasma, medicaments and multivitamins to the province's two hospitals on which civilian and military wounded and sick, mostly of the Yao, Meo and Kha tribes, converge every day.

A mission in the Far East

Mr. Roger Gallopin, member and Director-General of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has returned from a month in the Far East. He had been invited to visit *Japan* as the guest of the Japanese Red Cross and he saw for himself that Society's considerable development in various actions on a national scale, such as relief operations in natural disaster, administration of many hospitals throughout the country, nursing schools, etc.

He was received in audience by the Emperor and Empress, who displayed the active interest which the Japanese sovereign has always shown in Red Cross work in general. It is 35 years since the Empress Shôken gave her name to a relief foundation for the subsidizing of developing National Societies, and which was financed by successive donations from the Imperial Family. In the course of discussions with Prime Minister Sato [1] and several members of the Japanese government, as well as with the National Society's President, Mr. Azuma, and other leading members, Mr. Gallopin reviewed various subjects connected with Red Cross action at the international level, the preparation and programme for the forthcoming Istanbul conference and the more specific matter of Koreans residing in Japan who wish to return to their own country. He was presented by Princess Hitachi with the Japanese Red Cross Society's Golden Order of Merit.[2]

From Japan Mr. Gallopin went to *Cambodia*, where he was received by Mrs. Tip Mâm, the Minister of Health, Social Welfare and Labour, on behalf of the Head of State, and by Princess Monique

[1] *Plate.*—Mr. Gallopin received by the Japanese Prime Minister.

[2] *Plate.*—He is presented with a Japanese Red Cross decoration.

Sihanouk, President of the Cambodian Red Cross. [1] This Society's work has been considerably increased recently as a result of the war in Vietnam which gives rise to a flow of refugees into Cambodia and to civilian victims of air warfare operations over border regions.

When in Phnom-Penh, Mr. Gallopin convened a meeting of ICRC delegates in South-East Asia in order to enquire personally into ICRC operations, particularly in Vietnam and Laos. His planned visit to the Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam at Hanoi, from Cambodia, had to be called off as he was unable to obtain an entry visa in time.

Before returning to Europe, Mr. Gallopin went to *Indonesia* where, in Djakarta, he was welcomed by Mrs. Hutasoit, First Vice-President of the Indonesian Red Cross. This Society, with a territory equal in size to Europe, assists the victims of natural disasters, such as floods, volcano eruptions and earthquakes, which occur almost daily in one region of the country or another. He was received by Dr. Tambunan, Minister of Social Welfare, Mr. Adam Malik, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and other members of the government. With Mr. Malik he discussed the plight of persons arrested as dangers to State security. Whilst the Minister stressed that the government considered this to be an internal affair of the State, he informed Mr. Gallopin that he would supply the ICRC with details on this subject.

IN GENEVA

New Participation in the Geneva Conventions

In its number of December 1968, the *International Review* stated that 122 States were parties to the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949.

The International Committee of the Red Cross has now received from the Federal Political Department in Berne a communication

[1] *Plate.*—Cambodia: Mr. and Mrs. Gallopin are received by Princess Sihanouk.

informing it that the Republic of Uruguay had given notification on March 5, 1969 of that State's ratification of these Conventions.

This ratification brings the number of States bound by the said Conventions to 123.

Information Meeting

Several non-governmental institutions meet periodically to exchange information. A meeting took place on 16 April 1969 at ICRC headquarters under the chairmanship of Mr. Duncan Wood, Director of the Friends International Center (Quakers) in Geneva. Some fifteen organizations were represented there, including the League of Red Cross Societies.

Representatives of the ICRC gave accounts of the state of work regarding the reaffirmation and development of the laws and customs applicable in armed conflicts, a subject, as we know, which was studied by a Commission of Experts convened by the ICRC at the end of February 1969,[1] which figures prominently on the agenda of the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross.

A discussion followed these accounts and much useful information was given by those taking part.

In the afternoon, members of the delegations of the USSR, Great Britain and Sweden at the Commission of Eighteen Nations for Disarmament presented reports on the present state of work on disarmament. They insisted in particular on the question of nuclear arms, as well as on bacteriologic and chemical weapons. They then replied to the many questions raised by the representatives of non-governmental organizations on these problems which interest the whole of mankind and to which the Red Cross has given its close attention for many years past.

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[1] See *International Review*, March 1969.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

During the first fortnight of April 1919, at Cannes (France), was held a conference which had been convened by the National Red Cross Societies of the United States, France, Great Britain, Italy and Japan. It was attended by outstanding members of the medical profession, experts in hygiene and assistance and several leaders of the Red Cross. The instigator was Henry P. Davison, who was Chairman of the American Red Cross War Council during the First World War.[1]

The Conference concluded with an appeal for constructive work as can be seen from the following extract:

" We have carefully considered the general purpose of the Committee of Red Cross Societies, whereby it is proposed to utilize a central organization which shall stimulate and co-ordinate the voluntary efforts of the peoples of the world through their respective Red Cross Societies; which shall assist in promoting the development of sound measures for public health and sanitation, the welfare of children and mothers, the education and training of nurses, the control of tuberculosis, veneral diseases, malaria, and other infectious and preventable diseases; and which shall endeavor to spread the light of science and the warmth of human sympathy into every corner of the world and shall invoke on behalf of the broadest humanity not alone the results of science but the daily efforts of men and women of every country, every religion, and every race.

" We believe that the plans now being developed should at the earliest practicable moment be put into effect and placed at the disposal of the world. In no way can this be done so effectively as through the agency

[1] *Plate.* — Participants in the Cannes Conference.

of the Red Cross, hitherto largely representing a movement for ameliorating the conditions of war but now surrounded by a new sentiment and the wide support and confidence of the peoples of the world equipping it to promote effective measures for human betterment under conditions of peace.

" We are confident that this movement, assured as it is at the outset of the moral support of civilization, has in it great possibilities of adding immeasurably to the happiness and welfare of mankind ".

Following the Cannes Conference and based on its conclusions, National Societies set up in Paris, on 5 May 1919, a " League of Red Cross Societies " which, for Henry P. Davison who was its Chairman, appeared as an instrument for the continuation and co-ordination of the immense efforts exerted, during four years of war, by the Red Cross Societies with the support of millions of voluntary workers in many countries.

*

So, this year, the League is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. The official ceremony at its Geneva headquarters on 24 April 1969 was the beginning of the commemorative events which will culminate in September at Istanbul with the XXIst International Conference [1]*. The ceremony, with music, began at 10.30 a.m. when the Chairman of the League Board of Governors, Mr. José Barroso, welcomed all present, which included, apart from representatives of the Swiss Federal and Genevese authorities, leaders and delegates of many National Societies of the Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun from all continents, and of other international organizations as well as several heads of foreign diplomatic missions in Geneva. He greeted particularly the official delegations of the five founder Societies and the ICRC represented by its new president, Mr. Marcel A. Naville, and its honorary Vice-President, Mr. Jacques Chenevière, a member of the ICRC since 1919.*

The grandson and great-grandson of Henry P. Davison had come from the USA to attend the ceremony, the festive air of which was heightened by the flowers which the city of Cannes had offered to the five hundred people present.

[1] *Plate.* — Addresses delivered by Mr. Barroso and Mr. Naville.

Mr. Barroso paid tribute to " these men who were our predecessors, who had faith, and who enabled us to make our federation what it is today ".

After drawing a parallel between the past and the present, he then gave the floor to speakers who had the pleasant task of conveying congratulations and good wishes to the institution of fifty years standing. We cannot quote them in full, but give extracts below. The full text of Mr. Marcel A. Naville's address is given, from which readers will perceive the warmth of the tribute from the sister institution which is at one with the League and rejoices in this jubilee anniversary so worthily celebrated.

*

Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies: ...It is our responsibility to make a maximum contribution to building a strong and active Red Cross Society in each country, for this is the best guarantee that the fight against suffering will be carried on. We should not lose sight of the fact that a large number of countries have only recently gained their independence and that we have the moral obligation to help the young Societies of these new nations to become the equals of their elder sister Societies. We have the duty to leave to those coming after us well organised Societies in all countries of the world.

But we have another more important duty, namely to promote peace. If the work of the League, and specially that of the ICRC, has already made a considerable contribution in this respect, ever more must be done in the years to come. We are witnessing a marked increase of internal disturbances, agitation and revolt. The Red Cross also has a role to play in these circumstances where it must work with its most strict neutrality, but without allowing any impediment to its efforts. We can be proud of what some Societies have achieved in the past. But in this new phase, the Red Cross should be ever better understood and helped so that nothing can jeopardize its work of giving relief without discrimination... ... While there is still time, let us reflect and make a solemn promise to fight not only for peace but against war. Let us remember the unforgettable words spoken by the founder of the Red Cross on the battlefield of Solferino and fight with all our strength so that those coming after us, those who will celebrate the first century of the

League's existence, will be able to do so with faith, joy and the feeling and profound conviction that truly " All are brothers ".

Mr. Willy Spühler, Federal Counsellor, Head of the Federal Political Department: The anniversary celebrated today by the League of Red Cross Societies and which affords me this welcome opportunity of bringing you the good wishes of the Federal Council, marks a further milestone in the history of the world movement born more than a century ago of the thinking of Henry Dunant. This anniversary, which brings to mind the hopes arising on the morrow of the First World War also reminds us more specifically of the great desire felt at that time by the national Red Cross Societies: that of having the possibility to work in a peaceful world.

...If, on the one hand, your organisation's transfer to Switzerland took place under difficult circumstances: the unleashing of a new and tragic conflict and the giving up of a vast programme for further development; on the other hand it allowed the consolidation of the very essential unity of the Red Cross. On the occasion of the Centenary which was celebrated in 1963 the Swiss authorities had attached great importance to the furthering of a project intended to underline this unity by offering the Red Cross a meeting place where each of its institutions and each of its members could feel at home and quite close to the very sources of the Red Cross. I am referring to the Henry Dunant Institute, placed under the overall auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies, and the Swiss Red Cross. Today this Institute is self-sustaining and active in that spirit of mutual respect, of rendering services to one's neighbours, and of universal friendship which gives its full meaning to the Red Cross. But it has not yet found a definitive seat. The Federal Authorities hope that, thanks also to the generosity and understanding of the Genevese authorities, a satisfactory solution to this question will soon be found, and will gladden all those who love the Red Cross. We know that, today, millions of people of all the continents belong to the latter category and that youth, which is our hope for the future, is widely represented in that total. It is here, in this bright building in which we are gathered and which for ten years already has been sheltering the General Secretariat of the League that, from all over the world, the news flows together which gives the measure of the growth of your Federation and of the Societies, the humanitarian activities of which are so fruitful...

Cannes, April 1919: Participants in the International Medical Conference as a result of which the League of Red Cross Societies was created (*facing front in centre:* Henry P. Davison).

Mr. J. Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the League...

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES

Photos Jean Zbinden

.. and Mr. M. A. Naville, President of the ICRC, delivering their addresses.

Mr. V. W. Guiccardi, Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization: After expressing his own good wishes to the League, Mr. Guiccardi conveyed a message from U. Thant, U.N. Secretary-General, which concluded as follows:

...As a non-governmental organization, the League of Red Cross Societies is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council and with many United Nations Specialized Agencies. The close working relationship between the two institutions makes it possible for effective action to be taken at a moment's notice to provide emergency relief in time of natural disaster...

...The United Nations and the Red Cross have worked together on many joint programmes. Since 1966, for example, the League has helped to re-settle refugees in the Central African Republic in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner and some of the Specialized Agencies. Last year, it provided emergency relief for the victims of a severe cyclone in Burma in collaboration with the World Food Programme, the FAO, WHO and UNICEF, and later assisted the WHO in combating the threat of an epidemic.

In addition to such emergency measures, and there have been many, the League has shared the work of the United Nations in the developing countries, in the promotion of human rights, in the education of youth in co-operation with UNESCO, and in innumerable other activities.

This co-operation is based on common goals and aspirations — to promote world peace and international understanding, and to alleviate human suffering. May the next 50 years bring even closer co-operation and progress towards the fulfilment of these goals.

Mrs. Lise Girardin, Mayor of the City of Geneva: ...Henry Davison well understood the necessity of increasing the power of intervention and effectiveness of National Societies by co-ordinating their action.

If the League today commemorates the 50th anniversary of its foundation and if the Town of Cannes can congratulate itself on being its birthplace, Geneva has pleasure in celebrating the 30th anniversary of the League's installation within its walls and of conveying to it, with sincere gratitude for its past activities, best wishes for the future. The Cantonal and Municipal Authorities extend their thanks for having been associated with this twofold anniversary.

For over a half a century we have grown accustomed to seeing National Societies intervene whenever and wherever there was relief to be given, a service to be rendered following a natural disaster or a conflict; Samaritan instruction to be imparted, nursing to be done, refugees to be sheltered and pilgrims to be comforted; the spontaneous generosity of youth to be encouraged and directed.

And because it has become a habit it is perhaps less easy to note the daily devotion, the persevering goodwill, the courage, the constant attention to others which are all at the basis of the effectiveness of the action of the League.

It is a good thing that occasions such as this enable the public and also the private authorities to evoke the dozens of actions conducted in aid of some hundred countries which under the sign of the red cross on a white ground, have mitigated physical suffering or moral distress and given to the whole world remedies, comfort, support, and hope.

It is therefore appropriate to say to the League quite simply: Thank you.

Mr Henrik Beer, Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies: ...The history of the League does not at all follow the traces of a normal development. It starts with a great " heroic " period. The League of Nations asked it to cope with a calamity which seemed more terrible than war itself: the ravages caused by hunger and misery in several countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In response to the League's appeal, medical commissions journeyed through the countries to lay the foundations of a public health programme.

Within the Secretariat, Bureaux were set up to fight against epidemics, give popular instruction in hygiene, nursing and relief. The Junior Red Cross was also launched.

In co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross, also associated with the League's foundation, actions were undertaken following earthquakes and famine.

When the first years of this rapid development were over it was realised that it would unfortunately not be possible to continue at this speed. Davison had died already in 1922, and the financial needs showed that it was dangerous to depend in the main on a single Society. That is why this first phase was followed by a period of consolidation.

The problem of the risk of internal conflicts within the International Red Cross was to be solved at the International Conference held in 1928 when, thanks in particular to the efforts of the unforgettable Professor Max Huber, the present structure of the International Red Cross, consisting of the International Committee of the Red Cross the League and National Societies, was officially laid down. The organic Principles which still govern our activities were also defined.

Then came the Second World War, which the League faced with some sixty members. Naturally the conflict changed the character of the work. Geneva again became its general headquarters after Paris. In 1940 the Joint Relief Commission was set up with the ICRC to ensure the distribution and transport of some 165,000 tons of goods valued at more than 300 million francs. During this period National Societies again made magnificent efforts on behalf of the war victims. The value of the funds they donated reached the figure of one thousand million Swiss francs.

1945—end of the war. It was again necessary for the League to strengthen the bonds between Societies. An important Conference at Oxford in 1946 launched modern activities such as the extension of mutual assistance, the humanisation of war, the relations between the League and the United Nations as well as between Societies and Governments. New services were created, in close liaison with the WHO, for the rehabilitation of invalids, and the mobilisation of the general public in the fight against tuberculosis—all this directed at other parts of the world than Europe. A new period started for the League. It was not as dramatic as the first, but more firmly based on National Societies...

...Relief activities remain of daily concern. Statistics show that in the last ten years an international appeal was launched by the League every three weeks.

There is also a category of disasters, which has political causes. Here also the League is called upon to intervene. Refugee movements have resulted in large-scale operations where the League has played a role in liaison with the ICRC, but also in a spirit of excellent co-operation as the operational partner of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

These actions involve a new orientation in and a new definition of our work of emergency relief.

It should not be forgotten that the Red Cross is also being renewed in developed countries. The activities involved cover a

wide range of fields such as blood transfusion, first aid, Health in the Home courses, health education and ever increasing specialisation in welfare service for the elderly, the handicapped and the isolated in densely populated urban areas—and a constant adaptation to modern life. Here the League serves as a liaison and information agency.

With regard to the future, it is no longer possible to make a division in Red Cross prospects, between the ICRC, National Societies and the League. The International Red Cross is indivisible. It might be believed that the present time with its conflicts, brutality and disrespect for humanitarian values would be an unfavourable period for an unarmed organisation based only on humanity. However, it is just such conditions which require the Red Cross to make a special effort, often doomed to failure, but which must be repeated again until at last success is obtained. More than ever the difficult, chaotic and varying conditions of our world call for the co-operation of an organisation such as the Red Cross at the side of the United Nations. In this respect the Red Cross will in the future have still greater responsibility than in the past. It is preparing for this. We are awaiting with the keenest interest the XXIst International Conference of the Red Cross in Istanbul, in which all Governments parties to the Geneva Conventions will participate alongside Red Cross organisations.

But in the medical and social fields modern means of communication have in recent years also brought to light the reality of often terrible and difficult problems. From this it has emerged that there is a need for duly trained leaders who, though integrated within a national system, would retain complete freedom of action. The revolution in social and economic life involves consequences which should not only be followed but moulded in a humanitarian spirit. This is an enormous challenge for the Red Cross. Young National Societies in particular here have a very wide field of action...

The Red Cross has the obligation to keep young in spirit. Fifty per cent of the population of the world is under 21. It is among the elite of this youth that we want to find the leaders of the Red Cross of tomorrow and with them new solutions to the problems of our world. It is under the sign of the need for renewal that we have launched the theme of this year's World Red Cross Day: " In a changing world, Red Cross stands for tomorrow ". Let us hope that these words do not merely remain a slogan but become a living reality.

Dr. M. G. Candau, Director General, World Health Organization: ...I am well aware that the public is impressed above all by the role played by the League of Red Cross Societies in catastrophes, for the response of the League to hundreds of appeals has in some cases been on a scale which will long remain in human memory. However, apart from this, the League has complied from the outset, in a perhaps less dramatic way, with the wishes of its founders by taking an effective part in positive health work. In the very same spirit as that which was to be summed up in the integral definition of health given by the WHO Constitution — health regarded as a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing — the League has carried on unremitting medico-social activities. In every country the Red Cross is endeavouring to show what should be done to promote the maintenance and development of health and it fills the gaps existing in national health services by placing qualified volunteers at their disposal. Often the League and the national societies have acted as pioneers initiating pilot activities subsequently taken over by government or private bodies: I need mention only, by way of example, the part played by the Red Cross Societies in the creation of blood banks.

In all these activities, the League of Red Cross Societies and the World Health Organization, whose nearness also facilitates the necessary contacts, are co-operating so closely and so constantly that thiss ilent collaboration is sometimes little known. The Jubilee of the League gives me a welcome opportunity of stressing the cordial and effective nature of that collaboration and at the same time of expressing my earnest wish that the part played by the League will continue to grow both in scope and in strength.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees: ...It has often been said that there is nothing new under the sun. To judge by the afflictions and the suffering which the League even today still endeavours to mitigate, one must admit that the circumstances and the reasons which led to the creation of this humanitarian institution, whose influence extends today throughout the entire world, do not, unfortunately, prove an exception to this rule.

One of these, as we all know, is the existence of hundreds of thousands of uprooted human beings who are refugees. As a by-product of the afflictions and wars which unfortunately continue to break out in numerous parts of the world, the refugees are there as

the symbols of a period of history fertile in changes. Some of these, to be sure, open into new and promising horizons, but others are accompanied by suffering which is, as it were, the ransom which humanity must pay for its slow march towards progress.

The close co-operation which exists today between the League and the High Commissioner's Office, both of which are oriented towards purely humanitarian goals, dates from the foundation of our Office...

...This constant and faithful co-operation which occupies such an important place in the humanitarian activities of my Office, is not, I would like to emphasize, solely due to the fact that the League in itself has 111 members. The numerous national societies are for us often irreplaceable partners on the spot and to them, as to the League itself, we express our keen and deep gratitude.

In a world where so many traditional concepts and values have been suddenly put into question one must, I believe, pay tribute to the League for having constantly maintained, without faltering, the ideals which 50 years ago inspired its creation and which are expressed in the motto " Per humanitatem ad pacem ". It is because the League has preserved its vocation and has never waivered from its purely humanitarian mission; it is because it has as its ultimate objective peace among men, that the League of Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies could, and can today, often under the most difficult circumstances, pursue its work so usefully. And it is the reason also why we in the High Commissioner's Office feel such a close kinship with it, and why I today address to it my warmest and most sincere anniversary wishes.

Mr. André Vouillon, Mayor of Cannes: ...What do we find at the origin of this powerful organisation of today? The emotions of pity and indignation, which from time to time move almost everybody and which more often than not give place to a comfortable return to indifference.

It however happens that one day a man who is more deeply and tragically affected by the spectacle of suffering than the others ceases to accept it passively. This is what Henri Dunant chose to do.

Awakening other consciences around him and approaching the cumbersome official organisations with a sufficiently tenacious conviction to be heard by them, he very quickly obtained — quicker even than he had dared to hope—the holding of the Geneva Conference which has remained famous in view of the importance and lasting character of the decisions taken.

For more than 100 years there have been ever more men and women in all latitudes prepared to pursue ever more effectively the the work he started. The qualities and virtues underlying the choice of the task which they have decided to undertake always arouse respect and often admiration.

There is no doubt that they are guarantees for a continued certain progress towards ever happier tomorrows.

For my part, I express my sincere and warm gratitude to Mr. Barroso, Chairman of the League of Red Cross Societies, for his thoughtfulness and kindness in inviting me to take part in today's ceremony.

Thus for the second time a Mayor of Cannes will have been an attentive and enthusiastic witness of a memorable event in the splendid history of the Red Cross.

M. Marcel A. Naville, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross: The International Committee, the founder of the universal movement of the Red Cross throughout the world, today takes great pleasure in commemorating the 50th anniversary of the League. Founded by courageous and inspired men, who knew how to go in for " prospective " even before the science existed, the League of Red Cross Societies has affirmed its position in the course of this period as one of the most effective international relief organisations. This admirable result is due to the noble ideal and humanitarian feelings of its Governors, officers and staff. However, it is also in large part due to the personality of its Secretary General, Mr. Henrik Beer, who, always on duty, omnipresent, and well informed both on major world events and the smallest administrative details, gives a shining example of tireless, far-reaching activity which fills those who have the pleasure of coming into contact with him with admiration. Without doubt the man is in keeping with the Institution he directs: the League, through all the National Societies federated within it, is omnipresent, attentive to events, alive to the diversity of requests and needs and aware of the infinity of human suffering.

As is generally known, each National Society works primarily within the framework of its own country. From the outset it was certainly considered that, whilst maintaining their full independence and freedom to make decisions, National Societies should show their solidarity towards each other and, thus, through mutual assistance, contribute to development in general. This solidarity

did not, however, become effective until the foundation of the League facilitated and promoted its demonstration in a practical way. This mutual assistance has taken on considerable and ever growing importance. In recent years there have been many examples of the support given by sister Societies, as they are often called.

Solidarity does not stop there. The International Committee of the Red Cross, whose main mission is to intervene on behalf of victims of armed conflicts, has been able to cope with certain large-scale actions — during the last world war and in more recent circumstances — only by establishing close co-operation with the League. In 1951 an Agreement laid down the ways and means of this co-operation. In accord with National Societies, our two Institutions are now preparing for the signature of a new Agreement adapted to present circumstances which, by respecting the structure and spheres of competence of each of the two parties, confirms and consolidates the fundamental unity of the Red Cross movement in the world.

The world needs this unity. Faced with the inflamed nature of contemporary political problems, the intervention of supra-national organisations or mediating nations is not always possible and does not necessarily tend to be of direct benefit to conflict victims.

Non-governmental institutions should therefore be ready, when necessary, to take the initiative of relief actions by accepting in advance the responsibilities and obligations which such tasks involve.

The fury of armed confrontation, the irreconcilable attitude of adversaries, the ravages caused by violence and repression, the blood which flows and the misery which gains ground no longer permit the Red Cross to confine itself to its traditional activities.

We must realize that the world requires of us a new type of commitment. Our basic principles remain: for the International Committee of the Red Cross, the neutrality of its actions (and here it must be understood that the ICRC does not select the victims it assists on the basis of a certain order of preference); for the League, the universality of its influence and the solidarity of its members. However, these principles should today have a wider field of application. Perhaps it will be necessary to overcome certain hesitations, force certain doors, give proof of an inventive spirit and abandon certain aspects of conformity. I know that the League is prepared to make this effort. I hope it will succeed. If it does it will be assured of the gratitude of mankind.

Angela, Countess of Limerick, Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross: ...Our goal in the League is clear. It is to create the maximum unity in the world through our policy of mutual aid in times of disaster or conflict, respecting the sovereignty of each nation and accepting that each National Society has a different contribution to make. This, in itself, must help in bringing about a better understanding between the peoples of the world for the results of common action are, in themselves, a force for Peace. We must never harp on the differences which divide us, but concentrate, rather, on the fundamental purposes and the traditions which unite us.

Tradition is a good guide, but a bad master, and we must always bear in mind that the progress of today will become the tradition of tomorrow. So a great responsibility rests on us to adapt old Services to meet new needs.

It's a challenge — but as that great Red Cross leader Max Huber said, many years ago: " If the Red Cross faltered before the abyss which yawns between what it would like to do and what it can do, it would already have capitulated on the Battlefield of Solferino ".

The world today needs vision — a reminder that man can achieve great things if he sets his target high and has the courage and perseverance to stick to it despite the temptations of expediency.

And so, in this Jubilee Year, may we, in the League, concentrate on the fact that it is not in the past that the true benefits of the Red Cross lie, but in the possibilities it has created for the future, in the new avenues it is prepared to open up in the fulfilment of its threefold charter — the promotion of health, the prevention of disease and the relief of suffering throughout the world.

The Red Cross is an investment in the future — an investment in human lives, in health, and in happiness in which we may well feel proud to have a share.

STANDING COMMISSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS

Meeting on 21 April 1969 in Geneva, the Standing Commission made plans for the 21st International Conference of the Red Cross, which will take place in Istanbul from 6 to 13 September 1969 and which will be preceded by a meeting of the Board of Governors of the League. Representatives of the Turkish Red Crescent Society were also present.

On the Conference agenda is the study of problems in the fields of international humanitarian law, relief to the civilian populations in armed conflicts and the extension and development of Red Cross activities in time of peace.

The Conference is the highest deliberative authority of the International Red Cross. It brings together representatives of the ICRC, the League, the 111 internationally recognised Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies, and the States parties to the Geneva Conventions. Observers from a large number of international and national governmental and non-governmental organisations also attend.

The Standing Commission has as Chairman Angela, Countess of Limerick (Great Britain), and is composed as follows: Vice-Chairman Dr. Hans von Lauda (Austria); General James F. Collins (USA); Prof. Dr. G. A. Miterev (USSR); Sir Geoffrey Newman-Morris (Australia); Mr. Jacques Freymond, ICRC Vice-President; Mr. Jean Pictet, ICRC Member and Director-General, and two representatives of the League, Mr. José Barroso, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Mrs. A. F. Issa-el-Khoury (Lebanon).

MISCELLANEOUS

AN INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION RESOLUTION

The Inter-Parliamentary Union had included on the agenda of the meetings it convened in Vienna for the 7-13 April 1969, the item: " Protection of the Essential Rights of the Human Being in Armed Conflicts ".

The International Committee of the Red Cross had been invited to give an introductory address; this was delivered by Mr. Claude Pilloud, Director, to the Parliamentary and Juridical Committee. After a cogent debate, the drawing up of a resolution was confided to one of the participants. This was adopted on 11 April by the Inter-Parliamentary Council, viz:

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Noting *the deliberations of the Parliamentary and Juridical Committee on the " Protection of the Essential Rights of the Human Being in Armed Conflicts ",*

Aware *of the increasing gravity of the problems which have arisen in this connection and of the growing concern they are causing,*

Noting further *Resolution XXIII on respect for human rights during an armed conflict, adopted in Teheran on May 12, 1968, by the International Conference on Human Rights, and Resolution 2444, adopted on the subject by the United Nations General Assembly,*

Calls upon *all Parliaments:*

1. *To exercise their influence to ensure full application of and strict respect for all international conventions and rules of a humanitarian nature;*

2. *To encourage and support the action undertaken by the ICRC and the United Nations to secure the reinforcement of humanitarian principles and the development of their juridical and practical consequences.*

As can be seen, this resolution is important for the ICRC. It is an encouragement in the Committee's present work and supports its efforts to bring about a more widespread and stricter application of the Geneva Conventions and a reform of the law of war.

IN MEMORY OF ALLIED AIR CREWS WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY

A moving ceremony took place in London on 22 March 1969 in memory of allied air crews who died in captivity during the Second World War. Dr. Maurice Rossel, ICRC delegate who visited more than a hundred prisoner of war camps during his missions in Germany represented the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The date chosen for this ceremony in London, at the Church of St. Clement Danes, which was seriously damaged by bombs and has been reconstructed and is now the " temple " of the Royal Air Force, almost coincided with the 25th anniversary of the large-scale escape of allied air crews from " Stalag Luft III ", at Sagan, on 25 April 1944. Fifty of them, on recapture, were executed.

At a meeting after the religious service, Mr. Y. du Guerny, of the ICRC Information Service, handed relatives copies of capture cards concerning these victims and which are included in the records of the Central Tracing Agency in Geneva.

Psychosomatics, by M. Balint and B. Luban-Plozza, *Médecine et Hygiène,* Geneva, 1969, No 857.

. . . Scientific evolution, far from having solved all the problems raised by disease, has cast doubt, according to Duregard, on the very concept of disease, by bringing to light the whole field of multifactorial etiologies, psychosomatics, the complexity of doctor-patient relations, the therapeutic results of the use of placebos, etc. However, the use of the most advanced methods should not result in the de-personalization of medicine. Quite the contrary; a major trend in modern medicine tends to bring out the extreme individuality of each case, verging on a biochemical or molecular definition of every single human being.

Diagnosis by machine will very probably alter the whole doctor-patient relationship. This has already been affected by progress in methods of measuring health in figures, in that the patient's condition is told him by a machine.

It is vital that the modern doctor, " surrounded by machines and swamped with figures ", should not lose contact with his patient as a human being.

As the physiologist Bechterev said: " If the patient doesn't feel better after seeing his doctor, it means the doctor is no good ". Patients want a confident, someone who will listen to them. They often use their bodies as a means of communicating with the doctor. Their illness becomes a way of making contact, of being able to talk to someone.

General practitioners are becoming increasingly aware of the fact that psychological tensions, caused by family or professional worries, are behind many illnesses, but fear they would have to spend too much time and energy on such background problems.

In 94 % of general cases, treatment of psychical disturbances is medicinal. (Hoff, Leiter). Luck, intuition and the legendary " healing touch " are far from axiomatic in the art of medicine. Braun writes that: " What I do (for a functionally sick patient) is often not at all what I have learned ". In spite of the efforts of recent years, we are still stumbling on the threshold of the proper treatment for psychosomatic complaints.

How can this situation be remedied and the perpetual lack of time made up? How can the student's training and the practitioner's experience increase their knowledge and effectiveness in psychosomatic medicine? If doctor-patient relations can be learned, can they be taught?

M. Balint's reply is that the medical practitioner—that is every doctor—should learn how to use his own personality and emotional make-up as weapons of diagnosis and therapy. The doctor must consider the patient's condition not only as a sign of somatic suffering, but

possibly as the physical expression of an inner conflict or difficulty to adapt.

Balint's research and training methods, his small discussion groups, are proving to be a practical means of developing the vocational personality and of teaching the relationship between the doctor and his patients...

Bruxelles-Médical, Bruxelles, 1969, No. 2.

Our century will no doubt be marked by the discovery of nuclear energy, the development of the computer, the conquest of space and the first heart transplant. But apart from these sensational discoveries, it will also be marked by the advent of a new phenomenon, namely the collective awareness of certain threats weighing on the future of humanity.

For the first time in his history man realises that his future on earth is seriously threatened; threatened by destruction by thermo-nuclear warfare, threatened by asphyxia through the pollution of water and air, threatened by famine owing to a population explosion. And for the first time, humanity is beginning to realise that over and above the races, ideologies and religious, it must unite in order to take energetic and collective precautions. If humanity is to survive, that is to say not only to survive but to advance, it must succeed in controlling nuclear armaments, air and water pollution as well as fertility.

I feel I am in a position to state that from a purely technical point of view, we now have at our disposal an arsenal of contraceptive methods which should enable us to face up to the demographic problems. But it is not enough to be in possession of efficient methods for checking the threat of overpopulation of our planet; what is needed is to be able to use them on a large scale, which implies an education of the masses, something which is still far from being attained, and it is in that direction that our efforts ought at present to be directed. *(J. Schwers)*

The Conflict of Generations in Nursing, by Yrjo Lethi, *International Nursing Review*, Basel, 1969, Vol. 16, No. 2.

This seemingly unavoidable conflict can be eased by certain practical measures associated with the meeting situation itself. Evidently the situation ought to be prepared very carefully and with long-range aims. It would hardly cause very great trouble if the older workers were informed about the affair beforehand, and surely it would be still better if they were allowed in some way to participate in choosing the new employee, for instance by expressing their opinions. Similarly, one should explain to the new worker what is awaiting her. Experience seems to

indicate that a detailed and realistic description in advance makes for constant working relationships.

When a new worker comes to work for the first time, a positive atmosphere must exist to create possibilities for lasting co-operation and trust. Many places have experimented with special orientation programmes, and they have certainly been justified.

The usual field of work includes an innumerable amount of interlinked details, and it will take many weeks before the new worker is able to handle everything unassisted, even if the person were able to adapt herself in a flexible way. The orientation programme may be carried out by an older person, ready to advise the newcomer and to give her an account of the customs and views prevailing in this particular place of work. The most general mistake made about orientation programmes is to consider them a kind of account of the demands of the place of employment — which is hardly building bridges for mutual co-operation. The expectations, wishes and demands of the newcomer ought also to be brought out, in order to plan opportunities for realizing them. It might be more advantageous to move from a short interview, made right in the beginning, to a more profound interview after the orientation programme. During this second interview the results of the orientation could be controlled.

If seen from outside the orientation programme is a waste of time. It is probable, however, that it produces a lasting foundation for contentment and success in work. Opportunities are given to all participants to take part of their own free will and make a positive contribution. At the same time conditions have been created for the social maturing of each individual worker.

In pratice the conflict between old and young worker is a hard, everyday reality. It poses not only the question of the difficulties of social behaviour, but of the difficulty of existence in the modern environment.

EXTRACT FROM THE STATUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

(AGREED AND AMENDED ON SEPTEMBER 25, 1952)

ART. 1. — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) founded in Geneva in 1863 and formally recognized in the Geneva Conventions and by International Conferences of the Red Cross, shall be an independent organization having its own Statutes.

It shall be a constituent part of the International Red Cross.[1]

ART. 2. — As an association governed by Articles 60 and following of the Swiss Civil Code, the ICRC shall have legal personality.

ART. 3. — The headquarters of the ICRC shall be in Geneva.

Its emblem shall be a red cross on a white ground. Its motto shall be " Inter arma caritas ".

ART. 4. — The special rôle of the ICRC shall be:

(a) to maintain the fundamental and permanent principles of the Red Cross, namely: impartiality, action independent of any racial, political, religious or economic considerations, the universality of the Red Cross and the equality of the National Red Cross Societies;

(b) to recognize any newly established or reconstituted National Red Cross Society which fulfils the conditions for recognition in force, and to notify other National Societies of such recognition;

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[1] The International Red Cross comprises the National Red Cross Societies, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The term " National Red Cross Societies " includes the Red Crescent Societies and the Red Lion and Sun Society.

(c) to undertake the tasks incumbent on it under the Geneva Conventions, to work for the faithful application of these Conventions and to take cognizance of any complaints regarding alleged breaches of the humanitarian Conventions;

(d) to take action in its capacity as a neutral institution, especially in case of war, civil war or internal strife; to endeavour to ensure at all times that the military and civilian victims of such conflicts and of their direct results receive protection and assistance, and to serve, in humanitarian matters, as an intermediary between the parties;

(e) to contribute, in view of such conflicts, to the preparation and development of medical personnel and medical equipment, in co-operation with the Red Cross organizations, the medical services of the armed forces, and other competent authorities;

(f) to work for the continual improvement of humanitarian international law and for the better understanding and diffusion of the Geneva Conventions and to prepare for their possible extension;

(g) to accept the mandates entrusted to it by the International Conferences of the Red Cross.

The ICRC may also take any humanitarian initiative which comes within its rôle as a specifically neutral and independent institution and consider any questions requiring examination by such an institution.

ART. 6 (first paragraph). — The ICRC shall co-opt its members from among Swiss citizens. The number of members may not exceed twenty-five.

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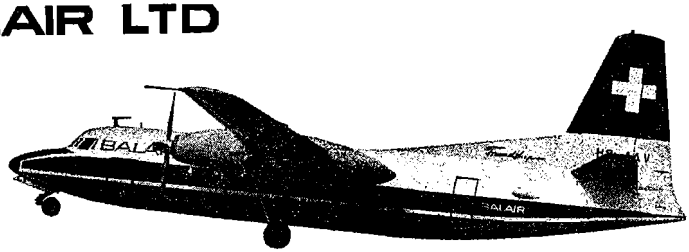

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