

MARCH

1963 — THIRD YEAR — No. 24

International Review of the Red Cross



CENTENARY YEAR
OF THE RED CROSS

1963

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GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS
FOUNDED IN 1863

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF THE RED CROSS

THIRD YEAR — No. 24

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A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

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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

Léopold Boissier: Discurso con motivo del Centenario del Comité Internacional. — La asistencia humanitaria a las víctimas de los conflictos internos. Reunión de una Comisión de Expertos en Ginebra.

GERMAN

Léopold Boissier: Ansprache anlässlich der Hundertjahrfeier des Internationalen Komitees. — Humanitärer Beistand an die Opfer innerstaatlicher Konflikte. Versammlung eines Sachverständigenausschusses in Genf.

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ORDRE DU JOUR.

- 1° Admission de nouveaux membres.
- 2° De la publication d'une édition populaire des classiques français.
(Examen d'une idée émise par M. Jules SIMON.)
- 3° De l'adjonction aux armées belligérantes d'un corps d'infirmiers
volontaires. (Conclusion du Livre de M. HENRI DUNANT, inti-
tulé : Un Souvenir de Solferino.)
- 4° Communication relative à la fondation d'une colonie agricole pour
les enfants vicieux dans la Suisse romande.
- 5° Propositions individuelles.

Monsieur Ernest de Trey,
Beauregard.

A SALIENT DATE IN THE HISTORY OF THE RED CROSS

Gustave Moynier convenes the Public Welfare Society of Geneva, of which he is the President, to the session in the course of which will be created the Committee of five members that was to become the International Committee of the Red Cross.

CENTENARY

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

On February 17, 1863, the Committee of five members appointed some days previously by the Public Welfare Society of Geneva to study the conclusions of a recently published work, A Memory of Solferino, met in Geneva. The International Committee of the Red Cross, because the Committee was soon to take this name, was born.

The Public Welfare Society, in its meeting of February 9, 1863, had taken a decision whose historic consequences it could hardly have imagined.¹

To learn how this one of many questions discussed was presented to the members of the Society, one has only to turn to the Society's minutes which contained the following passage :

" Under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gustave Moynier at the Casino, Geneva.

Twenty-two members were present, amongst them Messrs. Appia, Bouvier, Bungener, De Lor, Dufour, Dunant, Lavit, Le Cointe, Lutscher, Maunoir, Moynier, Paris, Ramu, Rimond, etc.

¹ *Plate.*

The Chairman drew the assembly's attention to the idea of creating corps of voluntary nurses for the armies in the field, an idea suggested by Mr. H. Dunant in his recent book entitled: A Memory of Solferino. He would like the Society to consult the "International Welfare Congress" on the possibility of such institutions. This Congress was to meet in Berlin in a few months' time and he would also like this Congress to examine the advisability of a conference of governments for the same object.

General Dufour considered that this would be a great undertaking, the execution of which would be extremely difficult, and he greatly approved the proposal to consult the forthcoming conference which was to follow those of Brussels (1856), Frankfurt (1857) and London (1862), at which our Society was represented.

Mr. Ramu expressed the fear that an organization set up to nurse the wounded would detract from the enthusiasm of populations.

Dr. Maunoir recalled that the official ambulance service had always been insufficient and thought that it could be improved by the addition of voluntary aids.

Mr. Lutscher considered that the support of the Berlin Congress would be useful in helping towards the formation of relief societies.

Dr. Appia, who had had experience of war, did not doubt that voluntary nursing aids would be valuable, not only after great battles, but throughout a campaign.

The Chairman's proposal was put to the vote and adopted unanimously.

The task of carrying it out in so far as possible was entrusted to a committee of five members composed of General Dufour, Mr. Moynier, Mr. Dunant, Dr. Maunoir and Dr. Appia."

A witness who himself played a leading rôle, Gustave Moynier, has recounted the beginnings of the Committee of Five and the spirit in which the first discussions took place, in a small book entitled The First 10 Years of the Red Cross, which he had published in 1873. In it he recalled, with regard to the ICRC's foundation, that a committee had been appointed to study the practical means of carrying out the programme outlined and to find out what part could be played in it.

"The first steps of the Commission along this path, he wrote, were somewhat timid and hesitant. By its grandeur and its very beauty the

task incumbent upon it was truly arduous and, for success to be achieved, it required a great deal of work and perseverance. Despite the innumerable obstacles which it saw before it the Committee was not discouraged and succeeded in drafting a plan which did not seem to it too impossible to carry out. It went even further and announced for October 26 the meeting to which were invited men of all nations who would agree with its views and could help it with their advice."

On the occasion of the centenary of its foundation the International Committee organized a ceremony which took place on February 18, 1963 at 6.15 p.m. in the Aula of Geneva University and which was followed, at 7.30 p.m. by a reception in the Palais de l'Athénée. It was honoured by the presence of representatives of the Swiss Federal and Cantonal Authorities and of the international institutions, of members of the Diplomatic Corps, of personalities of the League and of delegates of National Red Cross Societies. Several descendants of the five founders were to be seen among the many people present. Most of the members of the ICRC were present and the Vice-Presidents of the institution took their place on the rostrum.

Mr. Léopold Boissier, the President, opened the ceremony with a speech which also appears in this number of the Review, after which a basket of flowers was handed to him to convey the congratulations and the best wishes of the staff of the ICRC to the International Committee on the occasion of this great anniversary¹. Mr. Pierre Boissier then described the first years of the Red Cross in a lecture which was a great success¹.

* * *

¹ *Plate.*

CENTENARY CELEBRATION
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

Speech by Mr. Léopold Boissier, President

The International Committee of the Red Cross wishes to thank the large number of persons who have responded to its appeal and have come here to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of its foundation.

Mr. Pierre Boissier will shortly be describing to you how this work began, reminding you how much the whole world owes to the five men of Geneva who created the Red Cross. Did they not accomplish, with astonishing courage and tenacity, the two great ideas of their colleague Henry Dunant: the declaration of legal principles leading, on the one hand, to the protection of the victims of war and, on the other hand, to the forming of National Societies whose task it was to assist the Army Medical Services in the theatre of hostilities? Furthermore, by constituting themselves as an International Committee, they foresaw that it could carry out the dual rôle of a neutral and impartial body which would propagate and develop humanitarian law and also send delegates to places in which fighting was taking place who would see to the application of this law. The principles and the action would thus be complementary.

Our century has given itself over with relentlessly weakening, sometimes even destroying, those noble ideas which had ripened in the previous hundred years, the inevitable arrival of democracy and the respect for the individual, universal brotherhood, the necessary sequel to scientific progress, a general peace assured by arbitration and by the rule of law.

But the basic ideas carried into effect by the Red Cross have been neither forgotten nor treated with contempt. On the contrary, they have survived every catastrophe, they have been affirmed in

the face of all obstacles, they have imposed themselves on governments and, above all, they have made it possible to meet countless appeals from suffering humanity. The impulse given to the movement by Dunant and his friends has never halted.

Protection was given first of all to combatants in the field by the Ist Geneva Convention signed in 1864, then in 1899 to combatants at sea, to prisoners of war by the IIIrd Convention in 1929, and finally, after revision in 1949, this was extended to civilian victims of all conflicts.

Modesty prevents me from calling it the Red Cross triumphant in the face of tasks constantly being renewed. Two world wars have multiplied these tasks beyond all expectation. Then, after the turmoil of great battles, the present disorder and instability have created new situations, generating revolutions, internal conflicts, encounters which have often degenerated into strife in which countless lives have been lost. Here again the International Committee has intervened, whether appeals have been made for its services, or whether it has acted by virtue of a right of initiative universally recognized.

In many cases, the Committee's mission consists in bringing aid to men who have rebelled against a government which regards itself as legitimate and considers that it is within its rights in repressing with severity attempts made at overthrowing the established order. However, these rebels, these insurgents, are not handed over to the mercy of the authorities. The International Committee sees to it that a minimum of guarantees is accorded to them, so that, in spite of the charges made against them, they may enjoy humane treatment. By interposing itself between a government and its nationals, the International Committee may thus penetrate the sovereignty of a State and open up hopeful perspectives to civilised conduct and to the rules of international law.

I can only mention here some of the countries on whose territory the Committee's delegates have taken action :

In Africa, Algeria, the Congo, Kenya ; in Asia, the Lebanon, the Yemen, India, during the division of the peninsula into two separate States, in North and South Viet Nam, Korea, Indonesia and in several States of Central America.

CENTENARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Its delegates have everywhere accomplished the most varied tasks: to care for the wounded and sick, to visit and give comfort to prisoners, to obtain the release of hostages, reunite dispersed families, assure medical treatment to stricken populations, lend their help to refugees to enable them to lead decent lives and, if possible, for them to return to their homes, in short, to do everything which is in line with their heavy duties.

For, so many principles affirmed, so many appeals made to the solidarity of peoples, so many approaches made to governments, finally lead to something which is very concrete, something which one can see, touch and hear, men, women and children who are suffering and to whom the envoy from Geneva brings healing and solace. The consequence of this is that those who should testify today, much more than I myself or my colleagues, are those countless beings who have seen the doors of their prisons half-opened, a hand offering them bread or milk, a look restoring some hope to them.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if the International Committee of the Red Cross has been able to do what it has done for the past hundred years, it is thanks to the support it has found throughout the world and which one should not forget.

Gentlemen, representatives of the Cantonal authorities, you should know what a debt the Committee owes to the Swiss people which has constantly given it such moral and material support, supplying it with devoted personnel and its delegates who have often sacrificed themselves as far as death itself, serving the two crosses at the same time, the white on red and the red on a white ground.

Gentlemen, diplomatic and consular representatives of foreign States, it was on your territories upon which the Committee was called upon to act. Your governments have understood that our institution was inspired by three fundamental principles without which it would remain without force and without authority, namely, independence, impartiality and neutrality. That is why the Geneva Conventions have nearly everywhere found their benevolent application. Did not the United Nations only recently, during the Cuban

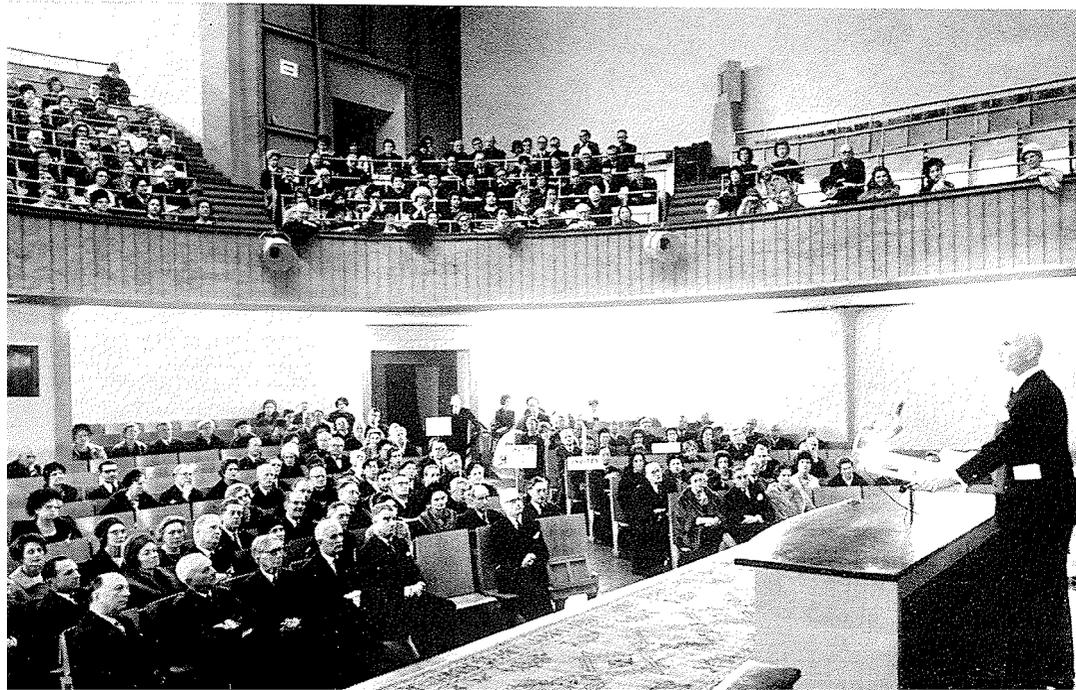


*Lecture by
M. P. Boissier.*

Ceremony, in Geneva, on the occasion of the Centenary of the International Committee
of the Red Cross.

Speech by Mr. L. Boissier, President.

Photos Jean Zbinden, Genève.





Silver-gilt Medal awarded to the National Societies by the ICRC, on the occasion of its Centenary.



crisis, ask the Committee to help them preserve the world from the horrors of an atomic war ?

Gentlemen, representatives of international institutions established in Geneva, I have pleasure in asserting that the International Committee has had sympathy and understanding from you, and when this was required, most fruitful co-operation. Your efforts to ensure a lasting peace and to build a better world fully accord with the United Nations Charter which is itself an act of vigilance and faith.

Finally, may I thank the National Red Cross Societies, recognized one after another by the Committee, and their federal body the League of Red Cross Societies, for the help they have given the Committee and the ever-expanding work which they are accomplishing.

I have said enough. We are celebrating today an anniversary which all peoples without exception can commemorate without ulterior motives. The work continues and history will inscribe the names of new victories on its banner which has remained untarnished.

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE RED CROSS

The Russians say that one must not go to Tula with a samovar, because it is there that samovars are made. The English avoid taking coals to Newcastle. In the same way, the Dutch would not go to Gouda with a clay pipe. To speak about the Red Cross before an assembly such as this, composed of loyal friends of the International Committee and distinguished servants of the institution, is rather like flying in the face of the wise counsel of so many nations. In such tricky circumstances, I have only one recourse and that is to take refuge in a past as distant as possible. Fortunately, the Centenary which we are celebrating today invites me to do just that. It was in fact a century and a day ago that five gentlemen, as unlike each other as it is possible to be, met together for the first time.

Let us name first of all the old General Guillaume Henri Dufour, the victor of the Sunderbund, a strategist admired throughout Europe. Experienced in the exact sciences, he allied precision of thought to the finest qualities of heart. He presided over this small meeting.

By his side was Henry Dunant, the youngest of the five. He spoke with passion and the others listened, fascinated because it was difficult to resist his charm. Perhaps, though, he was inclined to let his imagination run away with him.

Then there was Gustave Moynier, a philanthropist by profession. He was President of the Public Welfare Society of Geneva and of countless other charitable committees. He was interested in schools, prisons, alcoholism, urbanism and orphans. He always showed great lucidity of intelligence and a highly developed sense of organization.

Two doctors took part in the discussion: Dr. Louis Appia, whose passion was war surgery. In 1848, during the revolutionary movements he had already tended the wounded. In 1859, during

Napoleon IIIrd's war against Austria, he hurried to the military hospitals in the North of Italy. He had written a small work entitled "The Surgeon in the Ambulance". His friends spoke of him as wrapped in byronic gloom and it was said he was a ladies' man.

Dr. Théodore Maunoir, a remarkably fine surgeon, was outstanding for his finesse and his sprightliness. His numerous patients loved him as a friend.

These five pioneers lit a lamp which went one better than Aladdin's, since it gave birth to two giants.

The first is the Red Cross with its ninety National Societies, today grouping more than 157 million members.

The second giant from the lamp of the Committee of five is a paper giant. Its members are the Geneva Conventions, but it is as vigorous as its flesh and blood relative. It is impossible to say how many thousands and millions of men it has saved from death.

The ancestor, the first of these Conventions, is the "Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field", signed in Geneva on August 22, 1864.

It is to this Convention that I would particularly like to draw your attention. We are going to look closely at these provisions to find out what need they meet. We are going to interrogate this Convention as one would do a crystal ball, not to find out the future but to bring to life the events which preceded it. But, let us begin by reading it. This will not take long since it has only ten articles . . .

No, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am not going to read it to you. I cannot after all. I was wrong, it seems, to speak about a crystal ball, because the text is becoming blurred, forms are detaching themselves and pictures are coming into view. Ah ! There is a small carriage moving at top speed ; to the coachman's intense dismay, apparently, since he turns to his passenger and cries : " I am frightened, Mr. Dunant. Mr. Dunant, I am frightened ". " So, you are frightened, my friend, well then, give me the reins and the whip, because we are going to go faster still ". Look, here is a town, I can make out its name : " Castiglione ". What a strange place ! The streets and the squares are packed with wounded soldiers who are losing their blood. There are more men lying down in this town than standing up. Dunant stops, dumb struck. He asks questions and he learns that a big battle has just finished quite near there at Solferino, and he understands why he has been hearing the sound of gun-fire. He climbs the hill and approaches a church : the Chiesa

Maggiore. There were wounded everywhere there as well. A stream of blood flowed down the drain running along the road and did not stop for days and days. Night fell but the heat was still torrid, the air buzzed with thick swarms of flies which stuck to the open wounds in black clusters. The church was full to overflowing. Cries could be heard from all sides : " Water ! " " Doctor ! " " Nurse ! ". But unfortunately they were operating in another church at San Luigi and there were only six doctors to look after 9,000 wounded, which is as good as saying that they were never seen. Dunant was here, there and everywhere, fetching water and bathing wounds. He also listened to the last wishes of men in agony. Often he heard this phrase : " Oh ! Sir, we fought well and now we have been abandoned . . ." Dunant spent several days in this hell, then shaken in his senses as well as in his physical resistance, he returned to Switzerland and spent some time in the mountains to recover.

Once this had been achieved, he returned to Paris where business called, but the scenes which he had witnessed at Castiglione dogged him and obsessed him. After two years he could hold out no longer. He returned to Geneva, shut himself in his room, and with an inspired pen wrote an extraordinary book : " A Memory of Solferino " .

" It is finer ", the Goncourts said, " a thousand times finer than Homer, than the ' Retreat of the Ten Thousand,' than anything. One puts this book down cursing war " .

This is exactly what Dunant wanted first and foremost. That is why he dared to throw light on something that it was the custom to hide from view. He uncovered the reverse side of the coin, the horror of the battlefield, and, above all, the monstrous indifference shown to those who had given their blood and who in return did not even obtain a glass of water.

He then went on to relate that he was not alone in nursing the wounded of Castiglione. Chance had brought there other men who, with him, gave themselves without counting the cost : a young Swiss by the name of Suchard, a Belgian, an old French naval officer and some British and Americans. " But," cried Dunant, " how valuable it would have been in those Lombardy towns to have had a hundred experienced and qualified voluntary orderlies and nurses ! "

One sees here the dawning of Dunant's idea and some pages further on he adds : " Would it not be possible in time of peace and

quiet to form relief societies for the purpose of having care given to the wounded in war-time by zealous, devoted and thoroughly qualified volunteers ? ” The seed of the whole institution of the Red Cross is contained in these few lines.

Victorious on the battlefield, the French army collected and brought back to Castiglione the wounded Austrians who were there. How were they cared for ? Dunant makes a very clear reply to this question. He affirms that enemy wounded were cared for on a basis of equality with the French wounded. He lays great stress on this fact. Nine times he speaks of the Austrian wounded and always to say that they were treated like the French wounded, if not better. He observes however that they sometimes suffered more, but he takes care to say why. Because they did not understand the language of those who were looking after them, or because defeat had added to their depression and their sadness. Remember these observations. Already they show that the principal aim of the future Geneva Convention, contrary to what is normally believed, would not be to make it the duty of armies to care for the enemy wounded as their own.

Dunant then goes on to speak of the attitude of the civilian population, which was in no way the same as that of the army and he tells a rather revealing story on this subject. Some French soldiers were leading a detachment of Austrian prisoners on the outskirts of Castiglione. Immediately, the rumour went round that the Austrian army was returning in force. In a few minutes the French flags hanging from the windows were torn down everywhere and destroyed. The French wounded who had been taken in were thrown into the street. If the Austrians were going to occupy the town again, their favour had to be sought.

After a great deal of difficulty, Dunant ended by being helped by a small group of charitable women. He had to convince them to look after all the wounded without distinction and he won a victory over their minds when they began to repeat “ *tutti fratelli, tutti fratelli* ”.

One of Dunant's last observations deals with the Austrian surgeons. In its triumphant march, the French army had captured enemy ambulances. The surgeons attached to these ambulances were immediately considered as prisoners of war and placed in captivity. Thus, at the very time when the wounded of both armies, packed in Castiglione, were dying for lack of care, qualified men

were immobilized and incapable of bandaging the slightest wound. Dunant was most indignant about this and he asked for these Austrian surgeons to be taken from their camp immediately and enabled to look after their wounded compatriots.

And here we have Dunant's second conclusion. He hoped that a military congress would " formulate some international principle sanctioned by a convention inviolable in character, which, once agreed upon and ratified, might constitute the basis for societies for the relief of the wounded ". Dunant did not indicate the precise object of this agreement. His intuition, which was never lacking, was responsible for these lines. But something was still missing which might give to his thought a more concrete form.

*

A Memory of Solferino appeared in November 1862. Some weeks later, Dunant received a visit. The man to whom he opened the door was unknown to him. He was still young, but his dress was severe. He had a high forehead, a somewhat aquiline nose and was clean shaven except for a thick moustache, which stretched from one sideburn to the other, like a bolt. His look was piercing and he did not waste words. One could immediately sense the man of action who had not come for an inconsequential conversation. This visitor was Gustave Moynier. He had read Dunant's book, had been bowled over and struck also by the absurdity of leaving so many wounded to die through mere lack of organization and he felt that Dunant was right. Action must be taken, but how ? That is what he had come to ask Dunant. To his great surprise he did not get the details which he was expecting. Having written his book, Dunant did not seem to want to do anything more. He had exposed the evil and indicated the remedy. It was now up to the great powers to do something about it. This was an attitude totally foreign to Moynier and he hustled Dunant into action. He immediately suggested to him that the conclusions of *A Memory of Solferino* should be submitted to the Public Welfare Society.

To tell the truth, Moynier had some doubts over the success of the step he was taking. The Public Welfare Society was accustomed to act on a strictly local level and it had never extended its field of action beyond the frontiers of the Republic. He felt that he might

be risking the reply that such a subject was no concern of the society and he therefore took his precautions. In convening the Public Welfare Society for February 9, 1863, in the hall of the Casino, he took care to slip the question of "the attachment of a voluntary nursing corps to the belligerent armies" between two other and more familiar subjects: the publication of a popular edition of the French classics and the foundation of an agricultural colony for defective children.

On the day of the meeting, Moynier manœuvred with consummate tactical skill. He read some passages from *A Memory of Solferino*, showing the way in which the wounded had been abandoned and the necessity of coming to their aid, but in order not to frighten his colleagues, he added immediately that it was not for the Public Welfare Society to start out on this adventure. A large welfare congress was due to be held in Berlin in November. It could take the matter in hand. A detailed memorandum would have to be presented to this congress showing clearly the necessity for these relief societies and this is why Moynier suggested to his colleagues that they should appoint a small committee for this work. No sooner said than done. General Dufour, Mr. Moynier, Mr. Dunant, Dr. Appia and Dr. Maunoir were appointed. Without knowing it, the Public Welfare Society had just given birth to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

This Public Welfare Society is still in existence. Its President has done us the honour of attending this lecture and I am requested to say that the International Committee asks him to convey to his venerable company the friendly greetings of our institution.

On February 17, the five members of the Committee set up some days earlier, met for the first time. This is the meeting about which I spoke a short while ago and it marks the true beginning of the International Committee. It is this event, small in appearance, but vast in its far-reaching consequences, which we are celebrating today.

During this first meeting, Dunant recalled the wish which he had expressed in *A Memory of Solferino*, "that", as the minutes say, "the civilized Powers would subscribe to an inviolable international principle that would be guaranteed and consecrated in a kind of concordat between governments". It can be seen that Dunant was still rather vague on this point. Too vague, without any doubt, because it aroused no interest among his colleagues.

What did interest them was to find out the rôle which the future relief societies would play and they wished to give a precise picture of them to the Berlin congress. As General Dufour said, volunteer helpers were required who would place themselves at the disposal of the general staffs ; they did not want to take the place of the quartermaster's department or of the medical orderlies. He also added that a badge, uniform or armband might usefully be adopted, so that the bearers of such distinctive and universally adopted insignia would be given due recognition.

The following month, during the Committee's second meeting, the ideas took shape. Dr. Maunoir summarized them in three proposals :

- 1) The Committee and their delegates should be officially recognized and approved by the authorities.
- 2) The voluntary corps of male nurses should be subject to the jurisdiction of the military authorities, to whose discipline they would rigidly conform from the beginning of any campaign.
- 3) The corps should consist of helpers who would remain in the rear of the armies ; they would cause no embarrassment, create no hindrance, nor involve the least expense for the armies concerned. In short, the voluntary workers would cost nothing and would be engaged and dismissed whenever necessary.

At the third meeting, there was some unexpected news. It was learnt that the Berlin congress would not take place. However, the members of the Committee did not take refuge in regrets. Instead, Moynier launched a bold plan. The fact that the Berlin congress would not take place did not matter. " We will call a conference ", he said. " We will ask States to send delegates and experts in military problems to Geneva, and we will see if they consider that the voluntary relief societies can do a useful job of work and be accepted by the military authorities." Moynier and Dunant were instructed to draft a concordat and they were also made responsible, as the minutes go on to say, for its circulation throughout Europe.

During the same meeting, Dunant announced to his colleagues that he would be going to Berlin, where a statistical conference was

due to take place. One of the sections of this congress would be dealing with military questions and it would be composed of officers and doctors. Dunant was convinced that he could win them over to the ideas of the Committee and that several of them would come to the conference planned.

This idea of going to Berlin came to Dunant from a letter which a Dutch military doctor, Dr. Basting, had just sent him. Basting had read *A Memory of Solferino*. He was captivated by it and had immediately translated the work into Dutch. He was longing to meet the man who had had the wonderful idea of creating relief societies for the wounded. Why did they not go to Berlin together ?

This journey was to be of capital importance and we must now follow Dunant in this singular adventure. He found Basting in a small hotel in Berlin, bearing a name familiar to us all, "Hôtel Toepffer". The two men developed an immediate understanding. They had the same faith, the same enthusiasm. Their passionate discussions opened up completely new horizons for Dunant because Dr. Basting, much better than he, knew what war was and he taught him things which had never crossed his mind.

For the purposes of clarity, let us sketch the picture : two armies are locked in battle. Victory is in sight. One advances and the other withdraws. What will happen in the ranks of the latter ? What will become of the surgeons and male-nurses of this army compelled to retreat ? Dunant, who had found himself caught up by a victorious army, had no idea. Let us go further : There are three possibilities : The army command can order that the ambulances, lazarets and field hospitals be hastily withdrawn. In this way, the wounded and the medical personnel will not fall into enemy hands. This is the worst solution and the one least often adopted because for the most part the wounded cannot be transported. Numbers of them would die en route. Moreover, the necessary equipment is usually lacking.

The second solution consists in leaving the wounded on the spot together with medical personnel looking after them. This is not at all a good solution either, because as was the custom, surgeons and male-nurses will be imprisoned as soon as the victorious adversary arrives on the spot. The wounded will see them no more and the beaten army will have lost a number of male-nurses and surgeons which it will still need urgently during a forthcoming battle. That is why, and this is the third solution, the surgeons and male-nurses are generally ordered to abandon the wounded on the spot and to

fall back with the retreating army. From all points of view, this is the wisest move and it is this which is almost always adopted.

In a flash, the light dawned in Dunant's mind. The international and inviolable principle, the concordat of which he had been speaking in such vague terms, suddenly took on a new meaning. States must agree to give medical personnel a particular status. Surgeons and male-nurses must no longer be considered as combatants. When a victorious army captured them, they must no longer be imprisoned, they must be returned to the army to which they belonged. In this way they would be able to continue to serve and to save human lives. The solution was there for the asking.

Electrified, Dunant and Basting feverishly prepared their speech for the next day at the statistical conference. They would not confine themselves to proposing the creation of relief societies, they would also ask for a convention to be signed between the States of the world, which would give medical personnel this new status which they called *neutrality*. Thus, the army chiefs in retreat would no longer give their doctors the terrible order to abandon the wounded. On the contrary, they would say to them: "Remain at the bedside of the wounded! You will be seized by the enemy, but that is of no consequence because you will then be released and returned to your army and your work."

The next morning, after a night's work, the text was ready. Basting and Dunant jumped into a cab and went to the congress, shaking with nerves. On the way, Dunant was hurriedly re-reading his notes when a gust of wind blew away the precious pages just as the cab was crossing the river Spree. They were saved from falling into the water by a beggar who caught them and returned them to their owners. He received a generous tip. Perhaps he had saved the future Geneva Convention.

Dunant had great success at the congress. His two ideas aroused general approval and he left the congressional palace with tears of joy in his eyes. Dunant and Basting immediately set to work again. They drafted a supplement to the International Committee's convocation for the conference which was to be held in Geneva in October. They hurried to a printer and by next morning their circular had left for all the capitals.

Dunant stayed in Berlin for a few days more, and had some useful talks. He met the Minister of War, von Roon, who was the

first statesman to approve the idea of an international convention conferring a status of neutrality on medical personnel.

Continuing his journey, Dunant went to Dresden, where he was received by the King of Saxony, then to Vienna, where he saw the Archduke Rainer, and finally to Munich, where he confronted General Frankh, the Bavarian Minister of War. He was moved by such conviction that all his listeners were convinced and promised to send a representative to the forthcoming conference.

Dunant then returned to Geneva, not without some anxiety, because this circular which he had sent from Berlin in the name of the International Committee had been drafted by him without consulting his colleagues. He had forced their hand and had engaged them upon a completely new line of development. The process had been audacious, to say the least. How would he be welcomed? He was not long in finding out. "Well", he asked Moynier, "What did you think of my idea of asking for neutralization?" Moynier replied drily: "We thought you were asking the impossible".

Finally, the great day arrived. On the morning of October 26, 1863, the five members of the International Committee set out for the Palais de l'Athénée which Mrs. Eynard had placed at the disposal of the conference. Moynier was later to say what their state of mind had been. They had never before felt so small, so weak in the presence of the grandiose aim which they proposed to achieve and the obstacles which they saw before them seemed to them to grow by virtue of their proximity. They were also most perplexed as to the composition of the assembly with which they were going to deal. They had decided neither on the number nor the capacity of the persons who would be coming to take part and this uncertainty justified their apprehensions. Moynier added this characteristic comment: "Much as the Committee hoped for an influx of chosen men imbued with a practical spirit and possessing specialized knowledge, it feared the presence of a crowd which would skate over things, content to examine them superficially and waste time in humanitarian phraseology." But scarcely had they crossed the threshold of the Athénée than the members of the International Committee felt they had achieved a "resounding success". Thirty-one people had responded to their appeal, which fully met Moynier's hopes. There were delegates from sixteen States and from four philanthropic institutions. With them great work could be done.

General Dufour spoke first of all to recall the object of the conference. He then ceded the presidential chair to Moynier, who directed the discussion in a masterly fashion. This was not always easy. The Prussian delegate, Dr. Loeffler, followed by the Spanish delegate, Dr. Landa, approved of the creation of societies of voluntary relief workers. But the Englishman Rutherford was of the opposite opinion : welfare societies appeared to him to be a bad remedy for the evil which they were seeking to cure. Care of the wounded was the responsibility of governments and of governments alone. If the medical corps was insufficient, it must be reinforced, but there should be no question of calling on civilians. The French delegates, the Junior Intendant de Préval and Dr. Boudier then spoke. Even more vigorously they attacked the Committee's plans. They refused to admit that the affairs of the Quartermaster General's department should be meddled with. For a moment the International Committee seemed to be in a bad position. But Dr. Maunoir was to save the situation. With warmth, he took the part of the wounded and with humour he refuted the arguments of those who seemed to fear an annoying intrusion of doctors and voluntary male-nurses. The Conference concurred with the proposals put to it and unanimously passed a certain number of *resolutions*.

Each country shall have a Committee whose duty it shall be, in time of war and if the need arises, to assist the Army Medical Services by every means in its power. (. . .)

In time of war, the Committees of belligerent nations shall supply relief to their respective armies as far as their means permit ; in particular they shall organize voluntary personnel and place them on an active footing and, in agreement with the military authorities, shall have premises made available for the care of the wounded. (. . .)

Voluntary medical personnel shall wear in all countries, as a uniform, distinctive sign, a white armlet with a red cross.

These resolutions, the most important of which I have just read to you, constitute the fundamental charter of the Red Cross institution. It is on this corner-stone that the National Societies for relief to the wounded of the armed forces were to be built one after the other. This is why the Conference of October 1863 marks the foundation of the Red Cross, which will be celebrated this autumn in Geneva and throughout the entire world.

These resolutions having been secured, the International Committee, with the exception of Dunant, imagined that the Conference had reached its limit. But Dr. Basting, representing Holland, then got up and requested that they now move on and examine the point raised in the famous Berlin circular. He was more than astonished to hear Moynier reply that the Geneva Committee did not think that the question of neutralization of medical personnel would be discussed. Basting did not hide his indignation. He feared, he said, that the honourable Geneva Committee had not fully understood why the delegates to the Conference were there. The Netherlands Minister of War had told him that the point which interested him most was precisely the Berlin proposal. What could Moynier do except fall in with such an energetic summons and to his very great surprise the Conference took a new direction. Enthusiasm overcame the delegates and such was their approval of the neutralization of medical personnel that the Conference added three recommendations to the resolutions, the principal one of which is as follows :

That in time of war the belligerent nations should proclaim the neutrality of ambulances and military hospitals, and that neutrality should likewise be recognized, fully and absolutely, in respect of official medical personnel, voluntary medical personnel, inhabitants of the country who go to the relief of the wounded, and the wounded themselves.

The Conference ended with a twofold triumph. Basting addressed these words to the assembly : " I propose that the Conference declares that Mr. Henry Dunant, bringing about by his persevering efforts, the international study of the means to be applied for the effective assistance of the wounded on the battle-field, and the Public Welfare Society, by its support of the generous thought of which Mr. Dunant has been the mouthpiece, have done humanity a great service and have fully merited universal recognition ". The whole assembly stood and associated itself with this tribute and applauded long and loud. The moment had come to leave and the delegates now turned towards Moynier. " I remember ", he wrote later, " and I shall never forget the end of the 1863 Conference, after the last word had been spoken, when those taking part left their seats and pressed around the presidential chair which I was occupying, stretching out their arms, trying to seize my hand,

trying to clasp it with indescribable emotion. Each one, looking towards the future, believed in the effectiveness of the decisions which had just been taken and felt that the future held great things in store."

Twenty-eight years later, Moynier, still President of the International Committee, remembered the beginning of the Red Cross and he described it to his younger colleagues who had not been present at the time :

Mr. Dunant then deployed a remarkable zeal to make the planned meeting a success. He travelled, particularly in France and Germany, in order to obtain the assistance of governments and it was in large part due to the steps which he took that an élite of official delegates was present in Geneva in October of 1863.

It should be remembered that while in Berlin during September, Mr. Dunant had had printed there on his own authority, but "on behalf of the Geneva Committee", a supplement to the programme drawn up by his colleagues for the conference to be held in Geneva. Proposals of outstanding importance were contained in this supplement, because it was no less than the substance of the Geneva Convention.

At first, the Committee considered their nature such as to compromise the success of its enterprise and it would only have been confirmed in its opinion if it had known, as it learnt later, that various publicists had already called for a treaty of this type in vain. However, things turned out better than it dared to hope and it could only applaud the temerity of its Secretary when it saw the success of the conference.

Moynier did not always see eye to eye with Dunant, but loyalty was one of the traits of his character.

The Conference of October 1863 terminated with resolutions and recommendations. In almost every country of Europe small groups of enthusiastic men set about forming these committees for relief of the wounded, which were later to be called Red Cross Societies. But who was going to fulfil the recommendations made by the conference ? Who would act in such a way that the States bound by a treaty of international law would agree to give medical personnel this new status of neutrality ?

Once more the International Committee felt that it was up to it to act. I will not go into the negotiations of every sort and the ingenious means which the Committee used to achieve its ends. Suffice it to say that the Swiss Federal Council agreed to convene a new conference, which would be diplomatic this time, and which

would be held in Geneva in August 1864. Its assistance, however, would be confined to this : " You want a conference ", it told the International Committee " You can have it, but you take care of everything ". The only thing which the President of the Confederation did was to come to Geneva to order the menu for the official luncheon !

Left to its own devices, the Committee began by seeing to the organization of the conference. It obtained the use of a room in the Town Hall, which was later to be called the Alabama room. But that was not all. The plenipotentiaries coming to Geneva must also have an instrument of work.

Moynier and Dufour set to work. They drew up a draft convention with the greatest care. Everything was then ready.

The Diplomatic Conference opened on August 8, 1864 and General Dufour presided with his customary benevolent authority. Moynier was there as the representative of Switzerland. The text which they had prepared was so well thought out that the Conference followed it step by step almost without making any changes to it and fifteen days later, on August 22, the Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field was signed. The delegates of twelve States approached in turn the table on which the precious document lay. They signed and apposed their seal. Others hesitated, among them the delegate of Great Britain, who stated that he could not sign as he did not have the necessary seal. " You have not got a seal ? " replied General Dufour. " Well, here is one ! " and taking a knife from his pocket, he cut a button of the diplomat's tunic, saying : " Here is Her Gracious Majesty's coat of arms ! " There was nothing to do but affix the seal.

Shall we now try to read this Convention ? Yes, this time the text is clear, and I think you will probably find it more lucid than if I had read it earlier. Here are the first three articles :

ART. 1. — *Ambulances and military hospitals shall be recognized as neutral and, as such, protected and respected by the belligerents as long as they accommodate wounded and sick.*

(. . .)

ART. 2. — *Hospital and ambulance personnel, including the quartermaster's staff, the medical, administrative and transport services, and the chaplains, shall have the benefit of the same neutrality when on duty and while there remain any wounded to be brought in or assisted.*

ART. 3. — *The persons designated in the preceding article may, even after enemy occupation, continue to discharge their functions in the hospital or ambulance with which they serve, or may withdraw to rejoin the units to which they belong.*

(. . .)

This is the great thing ! Here is the provision which was to enable military surgeons and male-nurses to abandon their wounded no longer. This is the heart and soul of the Convention.

You will doubtless remember the incident which Dunant recounted. The population of Castiglione mistakenly thought that the Austrians had taken the offensive again and the French wounded were immediately thrown into the street, since prudence made it advisable to seek the favour of the new victor. Such a scene would never again occur. Article 5 of the Convention stipulates in fact that:

ART. 5. — *Inhabitants of the country who bring help to the wounded shall be respected and shall remain free.*

(. . .)

The presence of any wounded combatant receiving shelter and care in a house shall ensure its protection. An inhabitant who has given shelter to the wounded shall be exempted from billeting and from a portion of such war contributions as may be levied.

As we have seen, Dunant laid great stress on the fact that the Austrian wounded were cared for by the French army in equality with its own wounded. This was a rule always observed by the armies which were honour-bound to make no distinction between the wounded of either side. It was not without hesitation that the Conference decided to frame this custom in an article in the Convention. This is Article 6, which reads as follows :

ART. 6. — *Wounded or sick combatants, to whatever nation they may belong, shall be collected and cared for.*

(. . .)

In much of his writing, Moynier was to make the point with great force that this was a simple reminder of a long-established custom. Moreover, this article has not always been well received. Certain publicists have tried to see in it some sort of insult to the armed forces, and the first International Conference of the Red Cross, which was held in Paris in 1867, wondered very seriously if

this provision should not be deleted in a future revision of the Convention.

Article 7 of the Convention deals with the emblem and reads as follows :

ART. 7. — A distinctive and uniform flag shall be adopted for hospitals, ambulances and evacuation parties. It should in all circumstances be accompanied by the national flag.

An armlet may also be worn by personnel enjoying neutrality but its issue shall be left to the military authorities.

Both flag and armlet shall bear a red cross on a white ground.

Why must medical personnel of all armies wear the same sign ? For a very simple reason. So that every soldier knows who are the persons and which are the vehicles and installations covered by neutrality. Up till 1864, the various armies of Europe designated their ambulances by the most varied signs. France used a red flag, Austria a yellow. This great disparity was now to cease and enemy ambulances would be designated by the same sign as friendly ambulances. In any case, were they not all friends of man ?

Such, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the first Geneva Convention. But we must now ask ourselves : how will it undergo the terrible and brutal shock of war ? Well, you may reassure yourselves. History is on our side, it is working for us, and it is going to show forth the merits of the Geneva Convention and those also of the Red Cross.

The first conflict in which the Geneva Convention was to play a rôle was the war between Prussia and Austria. Let us now look at the state of preparedness of the two belligerents before hostilities opened on June 15, 1866.

First of all Prussia. In this country, a relief society had been set up, which developed very quickly in a remarkable manner. It already had 120 local sections and it was to put into action 1,000 doctors and male-nurses. It possessed abundant equipment and even hospital trains. This society had been recognized by the military authorities, which realized that it was a very valuable auxiliary. It was the job of a senior officer to ensure liaison between the army medical corps and the society. In this way, private charity could be given when and where it was needed.

Prussia had signed and ratified the Geneva Convention and already the surgeons and male-nurses of the army wore the Red Cross armlet ; the same colours flew over the ambulances.

The situation in Austria was entirely different. There was no relief society which met the needs of the 1863 resolutions. In spite of repeated efforts by the International Committee, Austria had not signed the Geneva Convention.

Thus, there was a complete contrast and you are now going to see a true demonstration. If you have doubts about the Red Cross, if you have doubts about the Convention, just listen to this :

In Prussia, the army medical corps had an admirably efficient organization at its side. Frequently the voluntary aids arrived first on the field of battle. The Prussian society increased its ambulances, controlled hospitals and looked after the transport of the wounded. It was everywhere and ready for anything. In Austria, the war had given rise to the creation of countless charitable committees, but they were badly prepared, without contact between each other and without links with the army. Their consignments got lost, arrived too late and frequently where they were not needed. There is the difference between a country where there is a relief society and a country where there is none.

But let us now turn to the Convention. Prussia applied it unilaterally, while Austria conducted itself as belligerents had done during previous wars. That was its right ; it was not obliged in any way to sign the Convention. It conformed strictly to established custom. What is the difference ? The answer is, there is an enormous difference. At Langensaltza as at Sadowa, Prussia triumphed and the Austrians fell back. What was the order given to the medical personnel of the retreating armies ? We know it already : surgeons and male nurses had to abandon their wounded and withdraw. In their forward march, the Prussians found lazarets, ambulances and bandaging posts where the wounded had been left. Of course, the Prussians took them in charge, but how long afterwards ? I will give you a particular instance. Five days after the battle at Sadowa, aids of the Prussian society were advancing in a forest. They reached a clearing where the Austrians had installed a bandaging post. 300 wounded were still living, but 800 others were dead, dead because they had been abandoned.

This is precisely what would not have happened if Austria had applied the Geneva Convention. Surgeons and male-nurses would have been left in the clearing and the wounded would not have lacked indispensable care for one single moment. The Austrian

army would have lost nothing by this, since its surgeons and its male-nurses would have been returned to it immediately and hundreds of human lives would have been saved. The facts speak so well for themselves that even before the end of this short war, Austria advised the Swiss Federal Council of its accession to the Geneva Convention.

The effectiveness of the Convention had been proved. But it had also been proved that it was possible to codify the rules of war. Yes, even in a clash of arms, law could still act for the well-being of humanity. This lesson was not lost. The Geneva Convention founded a family. In 1899, in 1906, in 1929 and finally in 1949, other conventions, ever more detailed, were drawn up to protect wounded and shipwrecked sailors, prisoners of war, civilians and even victims of internal conflicts.

In 1870, during the Franco-Prussian war, some French surgeons and male-nurses who had fallen into the hands of the Prussians were released and returned to their country. At the moment when they crossed the frontier and regained French soil, they cried : “ Long live the Geneva Convention and its authors ! ”. It is on this note, Ladies and Gentlemen, that I would like to end, because the whole history of the wars which have occurred since 1864 invites us to repeat :

“ Long live the Geneva Convention, long live its authors ! ”.

PIERRE BOISSIER

**CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES RECEIVED
BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE**

A large number of National Red Cross Societies and their federative body, the League, have associated themselves with the founder institution of the Red Cross in a tribute of recognition to the members of the Committee of Five, whose energy and powerful imagination brought about the birth, on February 17, 1863, of a movement which today is universally heard and respected.

Among the first messages received in Geneva, we are now publishing those from the National Societies¹. As announced in the last issue of the *International Review*, the ICRC has awarded them its silver-gilt medal as a token of its gratitude.

The following texts will show the unanimous approval of a great idea and this unanimity is itself evidence of the ever-present value of the principles of the Red Cross.

League of Red Cross Societies

A la veille du 17 février jour anniversaire de la fondation du CICR et date mémorable pour la Croix-Rouge internationale la Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge adresse ses meilleurs vœux au Comité international de la Croix-Rouge le félicitant pour son œuvre historique sans comparaison en faveur du bien-être de l'humanité toute entière et la Ligue fière d'être associée à l'œuvre du CICR est persuadée que le centenaire célébré cette année aidera tous les peuples à mieux com-

¹ Because of publication date-line, we can only print messages which reached Geneva by the end of February.

CENTENARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

prendre les principes de Croix-Rouge à encourager toujours davantage l'œuvre de la Croix-Rouge à créer ainsi meilleures possibilités pour une vraie compréhension et une étroite collaboration entre tous les peuples — MacAulay et Beer.

Polish Red Cross

Occasion centenaire Comité international secours militaires blessés devenu CICR envoyons au Comité et vous personnellement sincères félicitations vœux succès œuvre humanitaire visant soulagement souffrances entente entre hommes et paix mondiale, président croixrouge polonaise — Domanska.

Canadian Red Cross Society

Congratulations on your centenary and warmest wishes for next century of Red Cross service.

Swedish Red Cross

Occasion centenaire Comité international Croix-Rouge notre société désire exprimer félicitations très sincères stop Croix-Rouge suédoise a toujours eu avec Comité international rapports confiants et courtois stop nous rappelons au souvenir lumineux aide précieuse accordée par délégué comité occasion libération officiers suédois au Katanga et en présentant au Comité profondes appréciations grande œuvre humanitaire de cent ans passés nous vous souhaitons pour nouveau siècle tout le bien possible — Erland von Hofstein, président, Olof Stroh, secrétaire général.

German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany

Das Deutsche Rote Kreuz gedenkt mit Ihnen in herzlicher Verbundenheit der Gründung des Fünferkomitees am 17. Februar vor 100 Jahren und übermittelt im Namen der Mitglieder des DRK die besten Wünsche für ein weiteres erfolgreiches Wirken im Dienste der Rotkreuz-Idee und zum Wohle der Menschheit.

Spanish Red Cross

Asamblea Suprema Cruz Roja Española desea toda clase éxitos humanitaria gestión al Comité Internacional Cruz Roja y renueva inquebrantable adhesión en la fecha en que se cumple su primer siglo de existencia — Antonio María Oriol, Presidente.

Swiss Red Cross

Das Schweizerische Rote Kreuz entbietet dem Internationalen Komitee vom Roten Kreuz die besten Wünsche zu seiner Jahrhundertfeier. Wir wünschen Ihrer grossen und hochangesehenen Institution eine erfolgreiche Zukunft. Möge sie zu immer grösserer Bedeutung gelangen für die Förderung unseres gemeinsamen Zieles der Anerkennung und Erfüllung des Rotkreuzgedankens zum Wohle und zur Befreiung der leidenden Welt — Albertini, Präsident.

Norwegian Red Cross

C'est pour la Croix-Rouge de Norvège un grand plaisir de se joindre aujourd'hui à tous ceux qui s'empressent pour vous adresser ses plus vives et sincères félicitations à l'occasion du centenaire de la fondation du Comité international de la Croix-Rouge et ainsi la fondation d'un mouvement universel d'une importance toujours en croissance — Ulf Styren.

Hellenic Red Cross

Occasion centenaire fondation CICR Croix-Rouge hellénique lui adresse avec profonde émotion vœux chaleureux souhaitant que sous votre présidence et inspiré par haute conscience humanitaire du peuple suisse votre Comité puisse toujours suivre sa noble mission rayonnante de Genève berceau du fondateur les principes consacrés à amour paix solidarité parmi hommes — président Georgacopoulos.

Danish Red Cross

Veuillez recevoir nos sincères félicitations à l'occasion de la date historique du 17 février 1863 — Johannes Frandsen, président.

Lebanese Red Cross

Présidente Comité central Croix-Rouge libanaise adressent leurs vœux chaleureux au Comité international pour second centenaire.

Belgian Red Cross

Nous associons très sincèrement commémoration anniversaire Comité international et sommes heureux rappeler à cette occasion liens étroits et idéal commun — Albert de Belgique.

Chilean Red Cross

Señor Presidente :

Con motivo de cumplirse el próximo 9 de Febrero, cien años de la constitución del "Comité de los Cinco", encargado de redactar y proponer las disposiciones que permitieran la adición de cuerpos de enfermeros voluntarios a los ejércitos beligerantes, se complace nuestro Comité Central, en nombre de la Cruz Roja Chilena expresar a ese Comité Internacional sus más sinceras felicitaciones per tan grato y emotivo aniversario que llena de justo regocijo a la Cruz Roja toda.

Saludan con toda atención al Sr. Presidente.

Raul Magallanes

Secretario General

de la Cruz Roja Chilena

Dr Agustin Inostrosa P.

Presidente de la Cruz Roja Chilena

Honduran Red Cross

Señor Presidente :

En asamblea del Comité Nacional de la Cruz Roja Hondureña y por resolución de su Junta Directiva, se acordó consignar en el acta un voto de felicitación y un mensaje a ese Comité Internacional que usted tan dignamente preside, con ocasión de celebrarse el 17 de febrero de 1963 el cumplimiento de cien años de existencia en una obra tenaz, meritoria y eficiente.

Me complace consignar este voto y esta resolución y transmitirlo a usted y, por su digno medio, a los Miembros del Comité Internacional,

CENTENARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

con nuestro sincero reconocimiento y con los votos que formula la Cruz Roja Hondureña por la prosperidad y expansión de tan espléndida obra altruista.

Reitero a usted el homenaje de mi admiración y las expresiones de mi elevada estima.

*Jorge Fidel Duron,
Presidente*

Luxemburg Red Cross

Comité exécutif de la Croix-Rouge luxembourgeoise me charge vous exprimer plus vives félicitations à l'occasion centenaire Comité international de la Croix-Rouge vous transmet meilleurs remerciements pour splendide médaille vermeil votre Comité stop vous exprime l'assurance de notre très haute considération — Pierre Knaff, directeur.

The South African Red Cross Society

Dear Mr. President,

The South African Red Cross Society has noted with interest and pleasure your 440th Circular dated 5th February, 1963, and sends to the International Committee of the Red Cross its congratulations on the one hundredth anniversary of its foundation on 17th February, as well as its very best wishes for the continuance of the work of the International Committee in the interests of the peace and happiness of mankind.

I am happy to acknowledge receipt of the Centenary Medal with which we have been honoured, and which is greatly admired.

Yours sincerely,

*(s) J. H. Whiteford,
National Secretary.*

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN ALGERIA

Mr. S. Gonard, former Colonel commanding an Army Corps, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, returned on February 25 from a short mission to Algiers, where, accompanied by Mr. Roger Vust, resident delegate, and Mr. Jacques de Heller, assistant-delegate, he had a series of talks with Mr. Ben Bella, President of the Algerian Government, and with several of his ministers. These talks dealt with the ways in which will be carried out the forthcoming tasks entrusted in Algeria to the ICRC, which will visit persons detained for acts committed in connection with the recent conflict and will attempt to discover the fate of those who have disappeared since the cease-fire.

After these discussions, Mr. Ben Bella and Mr. Gonard signed an agreement by which the Algerian Government undertook to give the ICRC every facility for the accomplishment of its task. The head of the government gave the assurance that the teams of the ICRC would be able to circulate freely on all Algerian territory. This ICRC mission follows recent Franco-Algerian talks as well as representations which the ICRC itself had been making since last autumn. It will start as soon as possible.

As a preliminary measure and with the special authorization of Mr. Ben Bella, Mr. Gonard was able to visit the Maison-Carrée prison near Algiers on February 21. He spoke freely there with large numbers of detainees.

The representatives of the ICRC also met Mr. Mustapha Kermia, President of the Algerian Red Crescent, with whom they reviewed the various problems facing the new National Society in the process of formation and examined methods of helping it in its development.

THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN THE YEMEN

A mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross has recently stayed in Sanaa. This is the first time that representatives of the ICRC have visited the capital of the Yemen, where they were given a warm and friendly welcome.

The delegates of the ICRC, Mr. Roger Du Pasquier and Mr. Joseph Gasser, were received by Marshal Abdallah Sallal, President of the Arab Republic of the Yemen, who undertook to have the principles of the Geneva Conventions respected. The Chief of State in principle agreed to transmit to Geneva lists of prisoners taken by his troops.

The delegates had lengthy discussions with other representatives of the Yemeni authorities, to whom they handed documentation on the Geneva Conventions. They visited the hospital of Sanaa in which treatment was given to a certain number of men wounded during the course of the military operations. They also had the opportunity of visiting several political detainees undergoing treatment at the hospital, amongst whom was a former Minister of the Royal Government.

The ICRC's mission in Sanaa also had as its object that of making contact with the Red Crescent Society of the Yemen, which has just been constituted¹. The delegates had a number of talks with Mr. Mohamed Abdel Wasaa Hamid, Director General of the Society, whom they documented on the universal movement of the Red Cross, its principles and organization, and he showed real enthusiasm for the humanitarian ideals of the institution. The President of the Society is Mr. Ali Mohamed Saïd, Minister of Health; local branches are in the process of formation at Taiz and Hodeida. A first collection of funds for the youthful Red Crescent has already given most encouraging results.

¹ *Plate.*

One of the mission's most important aims was to collect information on the urgent relief supplies, especially of a medical nature, which the Yemeni Republic hoped to receive by reason of the present events. In this connection the delegates observed that whilst there was an adequate number of doctors, there often existed an acute shortage of pharmaceutical products and medical equipment. They brought back with them to Geneva a list of medicaments and equipment which the Sanaa authorities hoped would be rapidly despatched, in order to be able to care for the more numerous victims of the fighting in the northern and eastern areas of the country.

During the course of their mission, the delegates stopped in Cairo, where they had cordial talks with Mr. Asfahany, Secretary-General, and with other leading members of the Red Crescent of the United Arab Republic. They also called at Aden, where they were welcomed by the local branch of the British Red Cross.

Meanwhile the ICRC has continued its contacts with the Royalist Yemeni authorities opposed to the Republican regime in Sanaa, with a view to bringing medical assistance to the wounded on the northern frontiers of the Yemen. After the first mission of the two representatives of the ICRC, Dr. Rubli and Dr. Pidermann, who had gone at the end of December to the Yemen¹—Saudi Arabian border to assess the amount of needs, a further mission proceeded to Saudi Arabia, where it made contact with Prince Abderrahman ben Yahya, a cousin of the Imam El Badr, with Mr. Ahmed El Shami, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and other representatives of the Royalist Government. The Yemeni personalities who conversed with the ICRC delegates, confirmed their intention to transmit to Geneva the customary information regarding prisoners captured in the fighting. This mission, which consisted of Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate, Dr. Bruno Beretta, doctor, and Mr. Ibrahim Zreikat, interpreter, studied the possibility of sending medical teams to the Royalist forces of the Yemen, which have hitherto been entirely devoid of medical services. The delegates for the ICRC also had talks with Mr. Omar Sakkaf, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia, who promised to grant all the necessary facilities to the Red Cross mission.

¹ See *International Review*, February 1963.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Dr. Beretta subsequently went to Najran, a village in Saudi Arabia, near the Yemen frontier, in which a hospital is located. He was accompanied by Dr. Mahmoud Amr, of the Jordan Red Crescent, a Society which is considering supplying a medical team.

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Following on these various missions, the ICRC has just sent out to several Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, an appeal on behalf of the victims of the present conflict in the Yemen. The appeal is aimed at obtaining the co-operation of a certain number of medical teams which might intervene on the Royalist side. It also asks for contributions, financial or in kind, in order to be able to have sorely needed medicaments and medical equipment reach the Republican side. The ICRC proposes to send a further mission to Sanaa in order to assure the distribution of this relief.

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This intervention by the ICRC in the Arabian peninsular marks an important date in the history of the Red Cross movement. In fact until now Saudi Arabia and the Yemen were amongst the very few countries of the world which had not acceded to the Geneva Conventions and did not possess a National Red Cross or Red Crescent Society. Now, not only does a Red Crescent exist henceforth in the Yemen, but during the course of the ICRC missions, both Marshal Sallal as well as the Imam El Badr have declared their willingness to respect the principles of the Conventions. Furthermore, the Emir Faisal, Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, also expressed to the representatives of the ICRC his intention to accede to the Geneva Conventions and to form a Red Crescent Society in his country. Thus, one blank which hitherto existed on the world Red Cross map is in the process of being filled in.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

Sino-Indian Conflict

The Indian Red Cross has recently sent the ICRC Central Tracing Agency a further list of Indian prisoners in Chinese hands with the information that 1,131 prisoners had been captured by Chinese troops up to November 16, 1962. 2,188 Indian soldiers were captured subsequent to this date and the Chinese Red Cross has begun sending the relevant lists. To these figures must be added 716 wounded and sick handed over to the Indian Red Cross, with the bodies of 13 other Indians. More than 3,000 Indian troops would still appear to be detained by China.

On February 7, 1963, the President of the ICRC sent a telegram to Marshal Tchen-Yi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, asking him to authorize the ICRC delegate to visit Indian prisoners in conformity with the Third Geneva Convention, to which China is party. On this occasion the President pointed out that the ICRC delegate had been authorized to visit Chinese detained on Indian territory and that relief had been sent to them by the International Committee.

The Chinese Minister for Foreign Affairs replied on February 19, giving the ICRC a various amount of information on the measures taken by China to ensure good treatment for Indian prisoners. While protesting against the internment of some Chinese nationals in India, the Chinese Government declares that all problems concerning Indian prisoners must be settled direct between the two countries.

It appears however that, although diplomatic relations have been maintained, representatives of the Indian Embassy in Peking have not yet been able to visit Indian prisoners of war. In the same way, Chinese diplomats accredited in India have not visited Chinese civilian internees.

The ICRC, while noting with satisfaction the information supplied by the Chinese authorities, has renewed its request for Indian prisoners to be visited.

The ICRC in Laos

From India, the delegate general of the ICRC in the Far East, Mr. André Durand, has travelled to Vientiane, capital of Laos, and

then to South Viet Nam. Mr. Jacques Ruff, delegate in Laos, visited the Jarres Plain during January and distributed relief to children gathered in a mission. He also sought information on missing persons.

Repatriation of Koreans in Japan

On January 28, the 102nd boat load of Koreans wishing to leave Japan for their country of origin, sailed from Niigata. There were 228 people on board. 78,504 people have now been repatriated under the auspices of the ICRC.

Congo

Mr. Georges Hoffmann, ICRC Delegate General in Equatorial and Southern Africa, who is stationed in Salisbury (Southern Rhodesia), has been to Elisabethville and Leopoldville. He was received by the authorities and contacted the directors of the local Congolese Red Cross and was thus able to make a useful examination of Red Cross methods of action in the Congo.

Mrs. Jeanne Egger, ICRC representative in Leopoldville, has received permission to visit N'Dolo prison near the Congolese capital, where, amongst others, several former members of the South Kasai Government are being held.

The ICRC delegate in Katanga, Mr. Geoffroy C. Senn, has received permission to visit prisoners captured by the Katangan forces during their recent withdrawal. Amongst other places he visited the prison at Kolwezi at the end of January, where he obtained the release of 15 military and 9 civilians detained for political reasons. Mr. Senn has also visited the prison of Kasapa.

Compensation for the victims of pseudo-medical experiments

A further mission of the International Committee of the Red Cross, consisting of Mr. Jean-Pierre Maunoir, delegate, and Dr. Jacques de Rougemont, doctor-delegate, went to Poland in January, to examine a new group of victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps under the Nazi regime. We would recall that the ICRC, at the request of the government of the German Federal Republic, accepted to act as intermediary in the transmission of financial assistance which that government wishes to have reach the victims of such experiments residing in countries with which it does not maintain diplomatic relations.

The new group of victims examined by the delegates had been previously selected by the Polish Red Cross. In close co-operation with that Society, Dr. de Rougemont examined each case in that group, namely about a hundred in all. He expressed his opinion upon the merits of the claims submitted and drew up a report for the neutral commission which will meet in Geneva in March to determine the amount of compensation in proportion to the extent of suffering caused by these experiments and of damage still being incurred as a result.

Mr. Maunoir then visited Prague, where he studied with the Czechoslovak Red Cross and the National Association of War Veterans the possibility of transmitting similar indemnities to Czech victims of pseudo-medical experiments.

The Centenary of the Red Cross in Switzerland

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross the Federal Authorities have decided to strike a coin which has just been put into circulation in Switzerland.

The Federal Mint in Berne has issued 400,000 five franc pieces and the Swiss Confederation has reserved part of the profits—1 million francs—for the Red Cross, to finance the celebrations scheduled for the Centenary of the institution. A second series of 200,000 coins is to be put into circulation.

Each coin bears a stylized allegory in effigy : the obverse of the coin represents a woman standing symbolizing the Red Cross, whilst a wounded man and a prisoner form the branches of a cross. Around this, can be read the dates 1863-1963. The Swiss sculptor, Max Weber is responsible for the conception and the creation of this coin, which is of unlimited duration and which is standard legal tender.

**NEW VESSEL ON LAKE LEMAN NAMED
“ HENRY DUNANT ”**

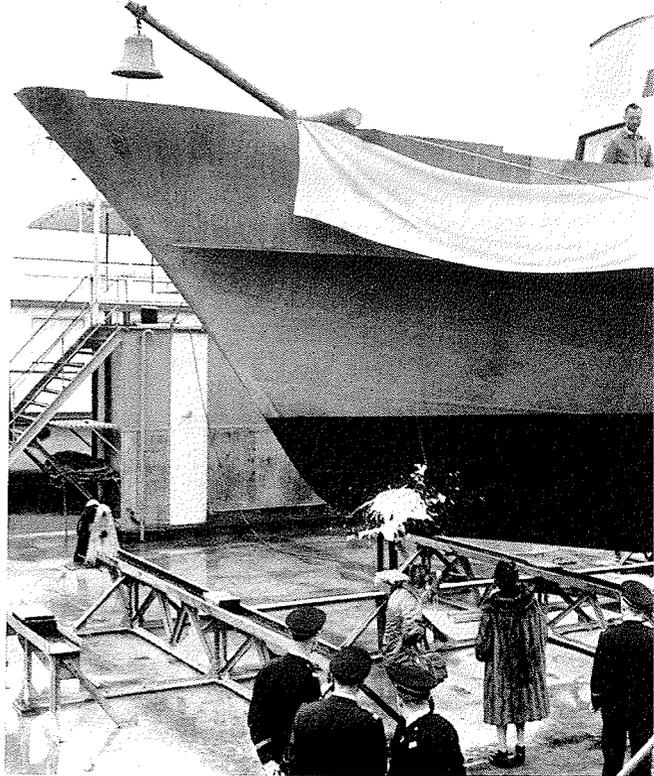
The General Navigation Company of Lake Léman in Lausanne has honoured the work of the Red Cross by naming its newest vessel after the author of *A Memory of Solferino*. The Company chose the date of the Centenary of the foundation of the ICRC for the naming of the boat, and a ceremony took place at Ouchy shipyard on February 17, 1963, before a large crowd.

After a musical interlude by a French naval band, a great grand-daughter of Henry Dunant, Miss Jacqueline Dunant, recited a poem written for the occasion by a member of the ICRC's staff, Miss Krayenbuhl. Mrs. Léopold Boissier, wife of the President of the ICRC, then named the vessel by breaking the ritual bottle of Champagne over the bows.¹ The vessel was then launched and a bell was tolled. This bell belonged to the first *Henry Dunant*, chartered by the ICRC during the Second World War.

The guests then assembled in a saloon of another boat and, in the absence of Mr. F. Siordet, Mr. Martin Bodmer, Chairman *ad interim* of the Commission of the Red Cross Centenary in Switzerland, spoke a few words. He described the circumstances in which the decision to give the new boat a name dear to the Red Cross had been taken and he stressed that the Administrative Board of the Company had accepted this suggestion with enthusiasm. He recalled the fine career of the first *Henry Dunant* which crossed the Atlantic on countless occasions, carrying foodstuffs and relief supplies under the Red Cross flag. At a time when the high seas had become so dangerous, the Red Cross flag protected it.

The second speaker, Mr. Jean Kratzer, Chairman of the Administrative Board of the Company, then gave various technical details and drew attention to the fine works of art destined to decorate the interior of the vessel and which are inspired by the Red Cross

¹ *Plate.*



*The Naming by Mrs. L. Boissier,
wife of the President of the ICRC.*

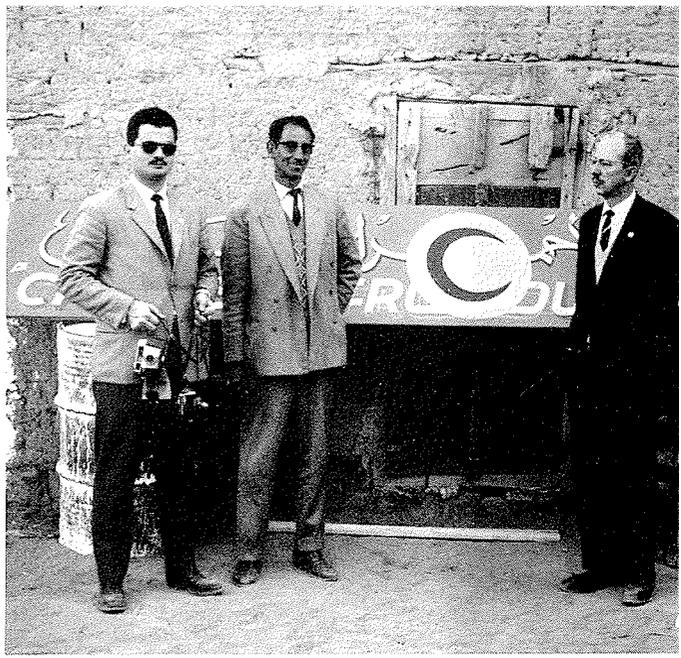
On Lake Léman: A boat called Henry-Dunant.



*The launching at Ouchy
on February 17, 1963.*

YEMEN:

At the headquarters of the Red Crescent, at Sanaa. (From left to right: Mr. Gasser, delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Abdel Wasaar, Director General of the Red Crescent, Mr. Du Pasquier, delegate of the ICRC.)



INDIA : *Refugee camp school in Assam, where a delegate of the ICRC, Mr. Schmid, is distributing biscuits to the children.*



idea. They are the work of the Swiss artist Robert Hérítier and they were made possible thanks to several patrons.

Finally, Mr. Léopold Boissier said a few words on behalf of the ICRC, of which he is President, thanking the General Navigation Company for having placed the new vessel under the patronage, in a way, of the Red Cross and of one of its founders :

“ If, as Frédéric Amiel said, a landscape is a state of mind, Dunant’s was not a calm, unruffled lake, but a rough lake swelled by high waves, in the image of the dreams which tormented him throughout his life. Of these dreams, so numerous and, sometimes, so fantastic, one has become reality and has spread into a shining movement called the Red Cross.

Henry Dunant had confidence in mankind. Despite his disappointments and the unhappy course which his life took, he believed in his destiny and he remained an optimist.”

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

A METHOD OF INSTRUCTION IN PREPARING THE HOSPITAL NURSE TO TREAT PATIENTS IN TIME OF WAR ¹

The "International Review of the Army, Navy and Air Force Medical Services" (1962, No. 3-4) published an article by Capt. M. Whitworth (Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps) whose subject and contents should be of interest to our readers. This we now reproduce below.

This system of training has been evolved in the Army for mass casualty conditions in order to free professional personnel from certain time consuming treatment procedures, and thus permit them to supervise the care of many more casualties. It has not been our intention to replace in any way the First Aid system already in existence, but we visualise situations in which there would be a great need for people trained to carry out a different role, and possessing the skills needed to sustain casualties over a period of several days.

The various nursing procedures necessary in such circumstances were discussed, and twenty-four were selected as essential. It was decided that they could be taught as a drill, so that they become automatic when ordered and could be carried out without further instruction.

In practice we have found that interest is easily aroused and maintained, and that the skills are quickly acquired even by the uninitiated. Questions may be asked, and can be answered as they arise, but there is no intention to give the background knowledge which is expected of a trained nurse, since these workers will always be under trained supervision.

We have given this training to Ghurka troops, that is to fighting soldiers, with no medical knowledge at all, and very little command

¹ Lecture delivered at the 23rd Session of the International Office of Documentation of Military Medicine, Athens, September 1961.

of English. It was found that very good results can be obtained with a minimum of verbal instruction.

In the training of Army Nurses, both men and women, we have introduced the Twenty-Four procedures into the period of preliminary training. It is found that the subjects of the syllabus can be integrated. For instance, a lesson on the anatomy of the alimentary canal can be followed by a demonstration of the passage of a gastric tube. We believe that the interest of students is much greater when they are encouraged to apply their knowledge to practical work, and when they are allowed to participate in the more advanced techniques hitherto reserved for the senior students. More detailed instruction is given later in the normal curriculum, but our aim is to have everyone on the staff of our medical units capable of giving reasonably skilled nursing care in an emergency.

We allow two weeks for the initial training period, and instructions is carried out on the following lines:

1. A brief revision, in question and answer form, of the anatomy and physiology of the part to which the procedure is applicable.
2. A demonstration of the equipment, each instrument being shown and named, and its method of sterilization explained.
3. The class divides into pairs, each pair prepares a tray, selecting the equipment from cupboards or tables.
4. The instructor demonstrates the procedure using a student as a model. The students identify the instruments as they are used, and check their own trays.
5. The class practices the procedure, watched and helped by the instructor. Wherever possible students carry out the procedure on each other.
6. After practising the students make notes, this has not been allowed earlier because it interferes with their attention to the demonstration.
7. Lastly the students check, clean and put away the equipment.

MISCELLANEOUS

A minimal amount of equipment is used, and the trays have been standardised as much as possible. Two or three trays may be required for any one procedure.

- 1) The sterile tray which always contains three sterile, covered dishes.
- 2) The unsterile tray for bottles and other unsterile items.
- 3) A tray for extra instruments required in the more elaborate procedures such as venesection and tracheotomy.

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The procedures taught are :

- A The preparation of accomodation.
 - B The use of medical instruments.
 - C Reception of patients.
 - D Basic observation of patients.
 - E Sterilization.
 - F General nursing care.
 - G Care of mouth and management of vomiting.
 - H Care of the unconscious patient.
 - K Bedpans and urine bottles.
 - L Injections (including intravenous).
 - M Continuous intravenous infusions.
 - N Oxygen administration.
 - O Passage of gastric tube.
 - P Taking blood pressure.
 - Q Giving fluids by mouth, by gastric tube and by rectal tube.
 - R Catheterisation.
 - S Care of patient on Stryker frame.
 - T Disinfection and disposal.
 - U Burns.
 - V Tracheotomy
 - W Aspiration of chest
 - X Lumbar puncture
 - Y Plaster of Paris technique.
- } Preparation of equipment, assistance to doctor and after care.

I think you will agree that although the initial training may be put over rapidly by this direct method of teaching, the course will have to be followed up by regular practice. In hospital we find it convenient to divide the staff into groups of about twelve, each group being in charge of a medical officer and a nursing officer, who are jointly responsible for arranging practice sessions. We include in these groups both senior and junior nurses, also clerks, laboratory technicians and workers from other departments, and the more experienced nurses help those whose work lies outside the wards.

We had hoped to have been able to bring to the conference a demonstration of this training in action, but since this has been impossible I hope that I have been able to give you some idea of the way in which it is carried out.

A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

The Red Cross World — *Geneva, 1962, No. 4.*

Entitled "Spotlight on 1962" this issue of the official organ of the League of Red Cross Societies presents, in word and picture form, an overall view of the relief actions which the League undertook or directed in 1962. The fullness and the gravity of many of the disasters which have occurred in the last few months (floods in Pakistan, earthquake in Iran) have led the League to establish an emergency relief programme on an international scale.

A certain number of measures have been taken in co-operation with the National Societies to prepare and organize the relief actions, because the day has gone when Red Cross intervention could be left to improvisation. Its field of action is increasingly touching on specialized spheres. "One of the most important aspects of this preparation is the training of personnel to staff a relief operation, with a knowledge beforehand of the problems which they may be called upon to tackle", says Mr. J.-P. Robert-Tissot, League Relief Director, on this subject, and he adds: "The effectiveness of future Red Cross action in the international relief field will depend on the degree of preparedness of National Societies and the League, on their promptness in meeting the needs of emergency situations and on the extent of the means available... In 1962, the League organized post-basic courses for such personnel, nominated by National Societies; others are planned for 1963."

The question of refugees is also one of the serious problems claiming the League's attention. Mr. Robert-Tissot says in this respect: "The Red Cross has therefore come to commit itself to long-term actions where the very nature of the problem implied a continuing emergency (Hungarian and Algerian refugees); it has temporarily supplemented deficient medical services by providing doctors and nurses (the Congo); and it has given its support to programmes reaching as far as the complete resettlement of disaster victims or refugees (Algeria, Togo, the Congo and Burundi). The best example of this development to date is the action undertaken by the League on behalf of the Watutsi refugees: it is not only giving them temporary medical assistance, but is also helping them to resettle in their new home by taking an active part in the building of houses and by giving them the means of cultivating the land allocated to them."

From this, it can be seen that the Red Cross is being increasingly called upon to go beyond the limits of temporary assistance. Moreover, the accession to independence of several African countries has led the

League to schedule a development programme in which it is intended to help the National Societies which so need, to organize and develop their different services and to promote the creation of new Societies. To this end, declares Mr. K. Seevaratnam, Assistant-Director of the League Development Programme, "Personnel, material and financial aid will be given by the League and National Societies", in order to bring about "the creation of an efficient Red Cross Society in every independent country; and the creation of a programme so dynamic and flexible as to permit its adaptation to local conditions... We are concerned with helping people everywhere to help themselves."

This issue also contains articles by Mr. C. A. Schussel , League Junior Red Cross Director, and by Mr. J. Gomez Ruiz, Assistant-Director of the same bureau, and by Dr. Z. S. Hantschef, League Medical Director. Mr. Schussel  gives some explanations on the World Conference of Educators to be held in Lausanne next August on the occasion of the Red Cross Centenary, and which will include Junior Red Cross teams, members of the teaching profession and representatives of various ministries of Education. Its aim will be "to encourage closer cooperation between Junior Red Cross and educators and to discuss and devise new programmes suited to today's needs."

Dr. Hantschef recalls the decisions which were taken at the Mexico Conference to develop the blood transfusion programme in Latin America. Thus, he writes: "Press reactions called the Red Cross insistence on free blood 'a bombshell' for a region where blood is still largely a saleable commodity: nevertheless interest had been aroused in this vital issue, which the League hopes to support by closer contacts with the Latin American National Societies, extensive documentation and by putting more experienced Societies 'in partnership' with those developing their blood programme. A beginning was made this year in another part of the world by the loan of two American Red Cross experts to the Societies of Ceylon and Indonesia. Further regional help for next year, still in the planning stage, is a blood transfusion Seminar in Turkey."

The Rio de Janeiro Meeting brought out growing Red Cross interest in the many different aspects of social service and paved the way for a definition of the Red Cross r le in this field. Delegates gave their support to a frequently-voiced suggestion to form an 'Expert Committee' which has been called to meet in February, under League auspices, to study the contribution which the Red Cross can make to social welfare, particularly in relation to Government services, and how best it can achieve its aim to introduce a human element into public services."

Some Mental Reactions of Disabled Civilians to Trade Training, by
Mr. F. H. McCluskey. — *The New Zealand Nursing Journal*,
Wellington, October 1961.

... Finally, I would like to say, from our experience we now know that handicapped persons can become self-sustained members of the community. We also know that residual skills can be trained and adapted to repetitive industrial processes. We know that handicapped persons who formerly might be classed as tax-consumers, can become tax-payers.

I feel, however, that it is not enough that we should be successful as a training and productive organisation, for I am of the opinion that we should use this organisation in the sense that it is also a laboratory of disabled working people where an analysis can be made of their experiences in medical, emotional and industrial reactions. To document these findings would help to expand knowledge of the disabled person; knowledge that would determine and measure the calculated risk in their employment in industry. If our disabled in New Zealand want the right and the opportunity to be the same, not different from the rest of us, then it is only by disseminating more knowledge and understanding that they will be made so.

Fighting World — *Red Cross Centenary, Paris, January 1963.*

... The World Veterans Federation has always associated itself with the work of an institution which endeavours to relieve the sufferings of humanity, particularly those of war victims, and to ensure the protection of populations by means of international agreements. At a time when the Red Cross is celebrating the advent of its second centenary, the WVF is displaying its interest. In a resolution adopted at its Bangkok meeting last March, the General Council of the WVF, expressing its satisfaction at the increasing co-operation in fields of mutual interest between the Red Cross and the WVF, recommended that, on the occasion of the Centenary "all the member associations of the WVF play an active rôle in their respective countries and in fields of mutual interest, to support all appropriate initiatives taken by the Red Cross, Red Crescent or other Societies of the Red Cross".

Thanks to the WVF campaign "Blood for Peace", Veterans Month in June 1963 will provide such an occasion.

Treatment of the mentally or physically handicapped by Dr J.-J. Hazemann, *Informations Sociales, Paris, 1962. No. 10.*

Man is a living being and endeavours in the first place to find his organic, mental and emotional equilibrium within himself: Overcome in his living works, in his organic equilibrium either at birth if he is born infirm, as a result of a microbial or chemical onslaught, or following a physical or mental traumatism, man, like any living being, reacts with a defence potential which is his own; as an organic being with every cellular and humoral defence potential; as a psychic being with his intelligence which endeavours to put everything into operation to fight against the onslaught, to compensate for amputations or functional deficiencies by creating (much better than an animal could do) adaptations, transfers of functions and even substitutional apparatus. This intelligence can be a factor in better adaptation for him by a clear representation of the situation, but it can also be a regressive factor if it results in a false representation of the situation or of its causes and of the means of palliating it; as a sensitive being, man suffers when he is affected in his physiological equilibrium and much more so when he discovers that he can only partially recover this equilibrium. This suffering can be a factor of progress and it can also be an inhibiting factor.

This marvellous faculty of adaptation which man finds in himself to continually adapt his physical and psychical entity to the external and internal attacks of his surroundings has its limits and even its irregularities. The handicapped individual is born of these limits and these insufficiencies.

Because he belongs to a society which has needs, ethics and important means of action, the handicapped person finds possibilities for adaptation or rehabilitation which can carry him beyond his individual capabilities.

Man in our time does not live alone, he has a family, a social function, he is part of a group, of a social universe and when the adaptational faculties inherent in man reach their limits or default, it is society, when it is civilised, and all the more so when it has reached a high degree of organisation, which is going to give the individual new adaptational possibilities.

As an organic being, the physically or mentally handicapped person is going to receive from society considerable help, ranging from simple nutritional aid, through medical and surgical treatment of the disabling complaint or its after-effects, to re-education with external aid or more or less complicated apparatus.

This aid is essential but man is not only a combination of organs:

—as an intelligent being, a rational understanding of his state and of his means of emerging from it, thanks to information and a permanent motivation coming from the place which looks after him and helps him,

A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

gives the handicapped person increased possibilities of adaptation, of transfer of function and of willingness to succeed. It fights against the negative motivation frequently found in the isolated subject overcome by a problem which he does not understand :

—as a sensitive being, the handicapped person, aided morally by the material and moral help which is given to him and his family, finds himself better equipped to fight organically and mentally. The more human the aid in its form, the bigger are its emotional repercussions and its effectiveness.

Civilised society does not content itself with helping the physically and mentally diminished to rehabilitate himself as well as possible to all his aspects as a man, it goes so far as to modify itself permanently to put itself within his reach. When the handicap is a big one, society creates social or economic circles in which the handicapped person finds a universe within his capacity in which he can reintegrate himself.

This artificial area, these substitutional living conditions, could not be conceived and could not be accepted by the handicapped person unless they gave him a human universe, a universe within his capacity as a man and unless they met the needs and the aspirations not only of his organic "id" but also of his intellectual and emotional "id".

If helping the physically or mentally diminished is a moral need for society, it nevertheless has its economic and financial necessities which it must take into account and which the handicapped person must take into account to orientate his action.

Of the harmonious and interacting efforts of the individual and society faced with the handicap, in their mutual interest, is born the social problem of the rehabilitation and valuable re-admission into society of the physically or mentally diminished.

The problem of effective treatment cannot be conceived outside this context.

The psychology of the hospitalised patient, *Actualités sociales, Paris, 1962, No. 10.*

During a refresher course organised in November 1961 for inspectors of public hospitalisation establishments by the Ministry of Public Health and Population, two talks were given by Dr. Koupernik and Professor Péquignot on the psychology of the hospitalised patient. They studied in complementary perspectives the psychology of the adult and that of the aged adult.

Dr. Koupernik analysed the relationship of the patient to his illness before considering that which links him with the family and society. Illness which strikes man constitutes a menace. Illusory or justified, it can be localised in an area which the patient considers vital—heart, head, respiratory system, kidneys—or result from a generalised and malignant process which poisons the patient bit by bit (cancer, leukemia). Other reactions are observed in patients: fear of suffering, fear of paralysis, fear of loss of sexuality, fear of losing one's reason, fear of rejection by society.

Generally speaking, illness "will profoundly modify its victim's relationship with the world". It risks putting him, vis-à-vis his family, in a state of dependence which will be more or less accepted and which will create material problems. "A check must be made to this menace which illness represents", writes Dr. Koupernik, "and this check will differ from person to person, according to his constitution but also according to the nature itself of his childhood experiences." Distinguishing the reactions and attitudes of infinite variety which illness arouses, Dr. Koupernik shows that it is most often a return to childhood conditions. It is in this field that he studied the relations which bind the patient, on the one hand to those who are looking after him, the doctors and the nurses and, on the other hand, to the other patients.

The speaker then gave a picture of the psychological condition of the patient, analysed his feelings when hospitalisation was announced and followed him from the day of his arrival in his new place of abode to the day of his departure. He came to the conclusion that it was necessary to re-think the hospital's function, in particular considering that the teaching of medical psychology, by means of meetings for example, would help hospital doctors and nurses in the psychological handling of the patient.

Professor Péquignot spoke of "another adult, the old person". It is important to keep hold of the fact, he stressed right from the beginning "that old people constitute a category which is only separated from other categories in an erroneous and abusive manner". He considers that the problem of old people has been badly put, because they have been separated from others. Difficulties have thus been created which are not the ones with which one is really faced.

A GLANCE THROUGH THE REVIEWS

What aspects strike this hospitalised adult? In the first place, dependence. "Old age", says Professor Péquignot, "means re-learning the dependent life, it is the contrary of autonomy, the fact that once again, one must obey, one must realise, that one needs help in all the acts of everyday life." Old people also undergo an immense feeling of uselessness. "They see it and it is explained to them." Professor Péquignot then attacked the accepted administrative selection which differentiates old people from other patients, and showed the falsity, on the scientific level, of the distinction made between "interesting" and "uninteresting" patients. He considers that the psychological problem which old people pose can only be resolved when the latter are treated as patients, "are nursed and are examined in the same conditions and in the same time as patients of any other age".

In the second part of his speech, the speaker defined the attitude of everybody to these patients, an attitude which, to be effective, must be stamped with respect and firmness. Geratology is the most difficult and the most delicate of all the medicines, underlined Professor Péquignot. It requires sufficient staff to give nursing of quality.

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 ;

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 cooperation 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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ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- AFGHANISTAN — Afghan Red Crescent, *Kabul*
- ALBANIA — Albanian Red Cross, 35, Rruga Barrikadavet, *Tirana*.
- ARGENTINE — Argentine Red Cross, H. Yrigoyen 2068, *Buenos Aires*.
- AUSTRALIA — Australian Red Cross, 122-128 Flinders Street, *Melbourne, C. 1*.
- AUSTRIA — Austrian Red Cross, 3 Gusshausstrasse, *Vienna IV*.
- BELGIUM — Belgian Red Cross, 98, Chaussée de Vleurgat, *Brussels*.
- BOLIVIA — Bolivian Red Cross, Avenida Simon-Bolivar, 1515 (Casilla 741), *La Paz*.
- BRAZIL — Brazilian Red Cross, Praça da Cruz Vermelha 10-12, *Rio de Janeiro*.
- BULGARIA — Bulgarian Red Cross, 1, Boul. S.S. Biruzov, *Sofia*.
- BURMA — Burma Red Cross, 42, Strand Road, Red Cross Building, *Rangoon*.
- CAMBODIA — Cambodian Red Cross, 8 Phlaur Ang Nonn, P.O.B. 94, *Pnom-Penh*.
- CANADA — Canadian Red Cross, 95, Wellesley Street East, *Toronto 5*.
- CEYLON — Ceylon Red Cross, 106, Dharma-pala Mawatte, *Colombo VII*.
- CHILE — Chilean Red Cross, Avenida Santa Maria 0150, Casilla 246 V., *Santiago de Chile*.
- CHINA — Red Cross Society of China, 22, Kanmien Hutung, *Peking, E*.
- COLOMBIA — Colombian Red Cross, Carrera 7a, 34-65 Apartado nacional 11-10, *Bogota*.
- COSTA RICA — Costa Rican Red Cross, Calle 5a Sur, Apartado 1025, *San José*.
- CUBA — Cuban Red Cross, Ignacio Agramonte 461, *Havana*.
- CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Czechoslovak Red Cross, Thunovska 18, *Prague III*.
- DENMARK — Danish Red Cross, Platanvej 22, *Copenhagen V*.
- DOMINICAN REPUBLIC — Dominican Red Cross, Calle Galvan 24, Apartado 1293 *San Domingo*.
- ECUADOR — Ecuadorian Red Cross, Avenida Colombia y Elizalde 118, *Quito*.
- ETHIOPIA — Ethiopian Red Cross, *Addis Ababa*.
- FINLAND — Finnish Red Cross, Tehtaankatu I A, *Helsinki*.
- FRANCE — French Red Cross, 17, rue Quentin-Bauchart, *Paris (8^e)*.
- GERMANY (Dem. Republic) — German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic, Kaitzerstrasse 2, *Dresden A. 1*.
- GERMANY (Federal Republic) — German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Friedrich-Ebert-Alee 71, *Bonn*.
- GHANA — Ghana Red Cross, P.O. Box 835 *Accra*.
- GREAT BRITAIN — British Red Cross, 14 Grosvenor Crescent, *London, S.W.1*.
- GREECE — Hellenic Red Cross, rue Lycavittou 1, *Athens 135*.
- GUATEMALA — Guatemalan Red Cross, 3.^a Calle entre 8.^a y 9.^a Avenidas, *Guatemala*.
- HAITI — Haiti Red Cross, rue Férou, *Port-au-Prince*.
- HONDURAS — Honduran Red Cross, Calle Henry Dunant, *Tegucigalpa*.
- HUNGARY — Hungarian Red Cross, Arany Janos utca 31, *Budapest V*.
- ICELAND — Icelandic Red Cross, Thorvaldsens-straeti 6, *Reykjavik*.
- INDIA — Indian Red Cross, 1 Red Cross Road, *New Delhi 1*.
- INDONESIA — Indonesian Red Cross, Tanah Abang Barat 66, P.O. Box 9, *Djakarta*.
- IRAN — Iranian Red Lion and Sun Society, Avenue Ark, *Teheran*.
- IRAQ — Iraqi Red Crescent, *Baghdad*.
- IRELAND — Irish Red Cross, 25 Westland Row, *Dublin*.
- ITALY — Italian Red Cross, 12, via Toscana, *Rome*.
- JAPAN — Japanese Red Cross, 5 Shiba Park, Minato-Ku, *Tokyo*.
- JORDAN — Jordan Red Crescent, P.O. Box 1337, *Amman*.
- KOREA (Democratic Republic) — Red Cross Society of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, *Pyongyang*.
- KOREA (Republic) — The Republic of Korea National Red Cross, 32-3 Ka Nam San-Dong, *Seoul*.
- LAOS — Laotian Red Cross, *Vientiane*.
- LEBANON — Lebanese Red Cross, rue Général Spears, *Beirut*.

ADDRESSES OF CENTRAL COMMITTEES

- LIBERIA** — Liberian National Red Cross, Camp Johuson Road, *Monrovia*.
- LIBYA** — Libyan Red Crescent, Berka Omar Mukhtar Street, P.O. Box 541, *Benghazi*.
- LIECHTENSTEIN** — Liechtenstein Red Cross, *Vaduz*.
- LUXEMBURG** — Luxemburg Red Cross, Parc de la Ville, *Luxemburg*.
- MEXICO** — Mexican Red Cross, Sinaloa 20, 4º piso, *Mexico 7, D.F.*
- MONACO** — Red Cross of Monaco, 27, Boul. de Suisse, *Monte-Carlo*.
- MONGOLIA** — Red Cross Society of the Mongolian People's Republic, 26, Nairamdal Gudang, P.O. 20/26 *Ulan-Bator*.
- MOROCCO** — Moroccan Red Crescent, rue Calmette, *Rabat*.
- NETHERLANDS** — Netherlands Red Cross, 27 Prinsessegracht, *The Hague*.
- NEW ZEALAND** — New Zealand Red Cross, 61 Dixon Street, P.O.B. 6073, *Wellington C.2*.
- NICARAGUA** — Nicaraguan Red Cross, 12 Avenida Nordeste, 305, *Managua, D.N.C.A.*
- NIGERIA** — The Nigerian Red Cross Society, 2, Makoko Road, P.O. Box 764, *Lagos*.
- NORWAY** — Norwegian Red Cross, Parkveien 33b, *Oslo*.
- PAKISTAN** — Pakistan Red Cross, Frere Street, *Karachi 4*.
- PANAMA** — Panamanian Red Cross, Apartado 668, *Panama*.
- PARAGUAY** — Paraguayan Red Cross, calle André Barbero y Artigas, *Asunción*.
- PERU** — Peruvian Red Cross, Tarapaca 881, *Lima*.
- PHILIPPINES** — Philippine National Red Cross, 600 Isaac Peral Street, P.O.B. 280, *Mamila*.
- POLAND** — Polish Red Cross, Mokotowska 14, *Warsaw*.
- PORTUGAL** — Portuguese Red Cross, General Secretariatship, Jardim 9 de Abril, 1 a 5, *Lisbon 3*.
- RUMANIA** — Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, Strada Biserica Amzei 29, C.P. 729, *Bucarest*.
- SALVADOR** — Salvador Red Cross, 3a Avenida Norte y 3a Calle Poniente, 21, *San Salvador*.
- SAN MARINO** — San Marino Red Cross, *San Marino*.
- SIERRA LEONE** — Sierra Leone Red Cross Society, 6 Liverpool Street, P.O.B. 427, *Freetown*.
- SOUTH AFRICA (Republic)** — South African Red Cross, 14 Hollard Street, P.O.B. 8726, *Johannesburg*.
- SPAIN** — Spanish Red Cross, Eduardo Dato 16, *Madrid, 10*.
- SUDAN** — Sudanese Red Crescent, P.O. Box 235, *Khartum*.
- SWEDEN** — Swedish Red Cross, Artillerigatan 6, *Stockholm 14*.
- SWITZERLAND** — Swiss Red Cross, Taubenstrasse 8, *Berne*.
- SYRIA** — Syrian Red Crescent, 13, rue Abi-Ala-Almaati, *Damascus*.
- THAILAND** — Thai Red Cross Society, King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital, *Bangkok*.
- TOGO** — Togolese Red Cross Society, Avenue des Alliés 19, P.O. Box 655, *Lome*.
- TUNISIA** — Tunisian Red Crescent, 1, Avenue de Carthage, *Tunis*.
- TURKEY** — Turkish Red Crescent, Yenisehir, *Ankara*.
- UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC** — Red Crescent Society of the United Arab Republic, 34, rue Ramses, *Cairo*.
- UPPER VOLTA** — Upper Volta Red Cross, P.O.B. 340, *Ouagadougou*.
- URUGUAY** — Uruguayan Red Cross, Avenida 8 de Octubre, 2990, *Montevideo*.
- U.S.A.** — American Red Cross, National Headquarters, 17th and D Streets, N.W., *Washington 6, D.C.*
- U.S.S.R.** — Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Kouznetsky Most 18/7, *Moscow k. 31*.
- VENEZUELA** — Venezuelan Red Cross, Avenida Andrés Bello No 4, *Caracas*.
- VIET NAM (Democratic Republic)** — Red Cross of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, 68, rue Bà-Triez, *Hanoi*.
- VIET NAM (Republic)** — Red Cross of the Republic of Viet Nam, 201, đường Hồng-Thập-Tu, No. 201, *Saigon*.
- YUGOSLAVIA** — Yugoslav Red Cross, Simina ulica broj 19, *Belgrade*.