

## Monaco

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross, the Red Cross of Monaco has published, for information to the public, an attractive booklet in which the text is supplemented by beautiful photographs and drawings showing the development and administration of the Society. In it are described the origins of the Red Cross, its objectives and the manifold charitable actions undertaken under the patronage of the Sovereign Prince and the presidency of Princess Grace of Monaco, who herself takes part in the events organized by the Society.

The activities are depicted by scenes taken from life which demonstrate the zeal to bring aid and relief in numerous fields: civil and military first-aid on land and sea, propaganda campaign for the recruiting of blood donors, charity needle-work room, dispensaries, hostel centre, teaching, social service, international service, Junior Red Cross.

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## The Philippines

On the occasion of the Centenary of the Red Cross, Mr. Alfonso J. Aluit, in his 600-page book, *The Conscience of the Nation*<sup>1</sup>, relates the history of the Red Cross in the Philippines. It would be impossible to outline here this very complete work which goes into great detail and is the result of thorough research. It contains a considerable number of facts on events, dates and references to Filipino and American personalities.

In her spirited introduction, Mrs. Geronima T. Pecson, the Chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, states that she shares the opinion of the author, who considers the National Society of the Red Cross in his country to be not only one of the elements of the national conscience but also a means whereby that conscience finds expression. But it is also a living testimony to a magnificent

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<sup>1</sup> Red Cross Centenary Edition, 1963, Manila.

hope and ambition, that of contributing to the welfare of humanity not only in its own country, but throughout the world.

The first part of the book is concerned with the universal Red Cross movement, its precursors, the origins of the movement of which Henry Dunant was the promoter, the International Red Cross, the American Red Cross and the life and work of Clara Barton. The second part of the book deals with the beginnings of the Red Cross in the Philippines towards the end of the last century, the structure of the Society, its organization, its years of trial, its achievements and its official recognition by the International Committee. The latter announced this event in a circular sent out to the Central Committees on May 5, 1947. The National Society was in fact founded on January 13, 1947 by legislation passed by the Philippine Republic and that same year, on February 14, the Philippine Government acceded to the Geneva Convention.

The activities of the Philippine Red Cross are described in Part III. They include the organization of relief to children and the destitute. The volunteer workers of the Red Cross are competent in all their spheres of activity. The Junior Red Cross, with some 4,800,000 members, is the largest youth association in the country. The author briefly describes the relief work on behalf of troops wounded on the battlefield, the assistance given to prisoners and to civilians during war-time as well as relief actions in time of peace. Mr. Aluit goes further than that. He forecasts that the Red Cross will be called upon to play an even more important rôle for the protection of civilians, hospitals and prison camps against indiscriminate weapons. He believes the Red Cross will prove capable of adapting itself to changing circumstances ; it has done so in the past, it will continue to do so in the future. The author concludes his book not with a question, but with an affirmation appropriate to this moment on the threshold of a second century, the one made by Albert Schweitzer on May 8, 1953 as a tribute to Henry Dunant when he wrote : " The Red Cross has become a greater and more powerful organization than its founder ever dared dream to be possible. It is even more than this . . . It is forever encouraging us to want a better sort of world than the one we live in ".