

A MAN OF SCIENCE SPEAKS TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Professor Maurice Marois, of the Paris Faculty of Medicine, addressed the Board of Governors of the League of Red Cross Societies at The Hague, on September 7, 1967, on "Science and Responsibility: the Defence of Life". With the typical objectivity of a man of science, he outlined the evolution of the human race and its struggle against a hostile nature from which it emerged victorious with all the rich resources of human potential within its reach. Now, with the two threats of the atomic and the demographic explosions, man is facing a critical period. We have, said Professor Marois, to carry the burden of the metamorphosis and assume responsibility for man's future. Never has man known a situation so prosperous yet so precarious: will man's liberty prove his undoing?

The demographic explosion, he warned, bids fair to make civilization by the end of this century one of mass over-crowding, with all the intellectual lethargy which that implies, unless science brings in a new Golden Age relieving man of subservience to material considerations and giving free rein to the creative spirit.

These, the speaker stressed, are ethical not scientific questions and each human being bears the onus of responsibility. The "Institut de la Vie" (which he founded in 1960) is mainly intended to bring science and humanity together, for, he said "we are convinced that thought must precede action".

Professor Marois pointed out the analogy between the Institute's objective—the protection of human values—and the principles of the Red Cross, with its concern for man's welfare. Like the Geneva Conventions the Institute is the defender of human rights and life.