

## CINEMA AND RADIO IN THE SERVICE OF THE RED CROSS

**Cinema** — For the Centenary, the ICRC particularly desired to present to the general public a review of its activities since its foundation and of the evolution of humanitarianism throughout the ages, which gave rise to the Geneva Conventions. Its colour film entitled *Red Cross on White Ground*, lasting for twenty minutes, is a documentary of no mean interest on the movement inspired by Henry Dunant.

The film was written and directed by Charles G. Duvanel of Geneva, who has a world reputation in the cinema industry. He was also the writer of the scenario for the film *Blood is still being shed . . .* the merit of which has already been mentioned in the *International Review*, and his work, which is most instructive, is a blend of erudition, selective artistry and up-to-date cinema technique.

The opening sequences show pictures of such personalities as Cyrus, Saladin, Grotius, St. Camille de Lellis, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau, who appear as the spiritual ancestors of Dunant and the "Committee of Five", the founders of the Red Cross a century ago. Duvanel and his assistants carried out exhaustive research in order to present these early beginnings in an original and authentic manner.

The succession of impressive scenes illustrated that each time men are arrayed against others in combat there is present a "warrior without weapons", armed only with a medical kit and good will. Although it may not always be the same man, his sign is constantly the same; that of the red cross on white ground, which commands universal respect.

The sequences relating to the tasks carried out by the ICRC during the two World Wars, are followed by a record of missions in Korea, Indochina, Hungary, the Congo, Algeria, Laos; everywhere, in fact, where delegates from Geneva have sought to relieve human suffering.

It should be mentioned that *Red Cross on White Ground* is available in French, English, German and Spanish, in both 35 mm and 16 mm.

During the centenary year, several films of importance have been shown. One of these was a production by the British Broadcasting Corporation, a 50-minute film entitled *The Third Front*. This is a general documentary on the International Red Cross intended for showing to a wide public. Although the original is in English, there are also French and German versions.

*A Hundred Years Ago* is a more modest documentary running for twenty minutes, produced by the Swiss Television. Like the BBC film it is available in three languages and shows unpublished documents on the foundation of the Red Cross and on Geneva in Henry Dunant's time.

Another film was produced by the Ministry of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany. This is entitled *Im Geiste der Genfer Conventionen* (In the spirit of the Geneva Conventions), and deals with the application of the four Geneva Conventions which today form the basis of international humanitarian law. This medium-length film, lasting 45 minutes, will be of great service. For the moment it is available in German and French, but an English version is now being produced.

The Centenary Commission of the Red Cross, for its part, is at present working on a 25-minute documentary in colour. This will show the important events which took place in Switzerland in 1963 for the Red Cross Centenary, including the International Exhibition, the Commemorative Day events and other ceremonies. Entitled *One Hundred Years of Service to Mankind*, this film will shortly be available in French, English and German versions.

In addition, the ICRC is preparing a short film dealing with its medical relief programme in the Yemen, showing the field hospital at Uqhd and the work of the mobile teams near the fighting.

**Sound Broadcasting** — On a number of occasions the *International Review* has mentioned the important rôle of radio in tracing-work and for news on the ICRC. The latter has been given considerable support since 1945, both by stations broadcasting on the medium-wave — such as Radio Genève — and by others on the short-wave band. In that year began the close co-operation between the ICRC and the Swiss Short-Wave Service. The advantage of this station is that its short-wave beams cover the whole world, broadcasting in many languages.

For about 20 years, short four to five minute newscasts in French have been broadcast once a week by the Swiss Short-Wave Service. Some of these have been relayed also in German and English ; in addition the news broadcasting services include many flashes concerning ICRC activities.

Yet further programmes are directed to particular regions of the world, such as the Arab language programme each Friday at 17.15 h. (GMT+1). This is on the air for 45 minutes on the 25.28 and 31.04 metre bands.

The ICRC has also planned to relay programmes to African countries, in French and English, with the object of making the Geneva Conventions and the various activities of the Red Cross more widely known.

The ICRC Information Department is at present endeavouring to interest the accredited correspondents of broadcasting stations, both Swiss and foreign, in the work of the International Committee, and it is to be hoped that this venture will soon show worthwhile results.