

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **Florence Nightingale Medal**

GENEVA, August 23, 1964

*Circular No. 456*

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

The 20th award of the Florence Nightingale Medal is to take place in May 1965. Under the new Regulations adopted in August 1952 by the XVIIIth International Conference of the Red Cross in Toronto, the International Committee will not issue more than 36 medals, without any obligation, however, to award the whole number.

It may be recalled that according to Article 6 of the Regulations, the Florence Nightingale Medal may be awarded to :

- (a) trained nurses who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their great devotion to wounded or sick in time of war or of peace.
- (b) matrons or nursing organisers who have rendered exceptional services in connection with the care of the sick or wounded in time of war or of peace.
- (c) voluntary aids duly registered with the Red Cross who have distinguished themselves exceptionally by their great devotion to wounded or sick in time of war or of disasters.

(d) nurses and voluntary aids of any one of the above categories who have fallen on active service.

Under Article 8 of the said Regulations, the Central Committees of National Societies, having taken all requisite advice, propose candidates to the International Committee of the Red Cross. They may propose one or more candidates ; they are not, however, bound to submit applications for each distribution.

The significance of this distinctive award can be upheld only if the Central Committees make a careful and judicious choice of the candidates whose names they propose to submit to the International Committee.

The Medal was instituted, not to crown a career, however deserving of merit, but to reward outstanding acts of devotion and as a recognition of exceptional moral and professional qualities.

We should like to draw attention to the fact that, according to Article 9, all nominations must reach the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva before March 1, 1965. Applications not received by that date, with all the particulars required, will be held over by the International Committee for consideration on the occasion of a subsequent award.

The number of applications submitted for the Florence Nightingale Medal has considerably increased during the past few years. This is only natural in view of the fact that several new National Societies have recently been recognized. The result of this, however, is to make the selection of candidates more and more difficult. We earnestly request National Societies to complete the attached questionnaire in as detailed a manner as possible, by indicating all records of service and all reasons in justification of the candidate, in particular the conditions in which she gave proof of outstanding moral and professional qualities. Otherwise the International Committee might, to its great regret, find itself obliged to consider only applications submitted according to these criteria.

Léopold BOISSIER  
*President*