

FIFTY YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF THE RED CROSS

During the Presidential Council meeting on September 24, 1964, the International Committee took leave of a staff member with fifty years service to her credit. Miss M.-L. Compagnon began working with the International Prisoners of War Agency in October 1914, at that time installed in the Rath Museum in Geneva. From 1919 onwards she was a member of the Secretariat staff of the ICRC, which grew in importance progressively with events, e.g.: the Abyssinian war, the Spanish civil war, the Second World War of 1939. At that time Miss Compagnon was working in the Central Agency for Prisoners of War, where she attended to the recording of mail. Later she was attached to the Delegations Bureau. Subsequently she joined the General Secretariat and since 1955 was a member of the Department responsible for the publication of the *International Review*.

In the course of the session of the Presidential Council, which was attended by several members of the Committee and some of Miss Compagnon's colleagues, Mr. L. Boissier, President, expressed to her the institution's profound appreciation and stressed this example, exceptional in the annals of the International Committee, of half a century of faithful service. He briefly outlined the duties performed by Miss Compagnon over the years and she in turn said how stimulating it was for her to devote herself to this humanitarian work.

Mr. Jacques Chenevière, Honorary Vice-President of the ICRC, under whose direction Miss Compagnon worked for many years, was unable to attend and a message from him was read. In this he recalled the useful work performed by Miss Compagnon in the cause of the Red Cross and he too expressed the gratitude of all members and staff of the ICRC for the accomplishment of a task for so many years and with such devotion.
