

*IN GENEVA***New ICRC member**

At its plenary session on April 1, 1965, the International Committee elected Mr. Adolphe Graedel as a new member.

Born at Sonvilier in the Bernese Jura (Switzerland) in 1902, Mr. Graedel studied at Saint-Imier and later in Brussels, attended the Social Service School. From 1940 to 1943 he was a member of the Neuchâtel State Council; from 1946 to 1951 he held a seat in the Bernese State Council and from 1951 to 1962 he was a member of the Swiss National Council.

After holding office as President of the Chaux-de-Fonds Workers Union and editor of "La Sentinelle", he was appointed Secretary for the Central Office of the Swiss Metal Workers Federation. Since 1961, he has been the Secretary-General of the International Metal Workers Federation in Geneva.

The International Committee is pleased to be able to count on the co-operation of Mr. Graedel who, with his sense of realism and wide social experience, will be able to make a valuable contribution to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross.

The ICRC Organizes a Training Course

Anxious always to be in a position to assume and carry out effectively the humanitarian tasks incumbent on it as a neutral intermediary in time of war and internal disorder, the International Committee of the Red Cross decided to train staff and future delegates. We must not forget that circumstances sometimes arise when the ICRC is suddenly confronted with a considerably increased task which necessitates its supplementing its permanent personnel, sometimes from one day to the next. For this reason it organized at its Geneva headquarters a fortnight's course, the start of which on March 22 last was mentioned in a previous edition of the *International Review*.

At the opening session, under the chairmanship of a Vice-President of the ICRC, namely Professor Jacques Freymond, thirty-eight participants, including four young women, immediately applied themselves to the task in hand. Mr. Gallopin and Mr. Pictet, respectively Executive Director and Director for General Affairs of the ICRC, as well as Mr. Coursier, Adviser in the Legal Department and several heads of department, took it in turns to lecture on the institution's special and varied activities¹. The participants, from a number of Swiss towns, studied questions related to the law and practice of humanitarian intervention.

It is, of course, no easy task to deal with a wide subject in so short a time. The topics dealt with were: History of the International Committee—The Principles governing its activities—The framing and constant development of humanitarian law as codified in the four Geneva Conventions—The tasks assumed at headquarters and in the field by ICRC delegates in the event of conflict—The structure of the International Red Cross—The duties of National Societies (of which the League is the federation) in the countries signatory to the Geneva Conventions—The development of the Central Tracing Agency whose records today comprise 45 million index-cards—Assistance to victims of disturbances and the protection of civilian populations against the dangers of war.

Each lecture was followed by a lively discussion and films illustrating the main activities. Practical exercises were carried out related to various aspects, such as visiting prisoner-of-war camps or centres for political detainees, together with the relief action for their benefit; all present took an active part in these exercises. There was also an exhibition of equipment which ICRC delegates take with them on mission and this too received close attention.

Administrative questions, relations with the authorities and public relations problems were also matters dealt with and those who wished were able to visit the radio transmitter which today links the International Committee with its delegates in distant countries.

In addition, the ICRC General Delegate in the Yemen was called upon to describe his own experiences. The audience was thus able to follow an account of the work accomplished under difficult

¹ *Plate*: A training course at ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

conditions, particularly at the field hospital at Uqhd in the desert. They realized that, in the field, only thorough knowledge allied to moral courage enables Red Cross delegates to solve the complex problems with which they are faced.

The course would not have been complete without a visit to the League of Red Cross Societies, where the students were welcomed by Mr. Beer, the Secretary General, and his principal colleagues. Thanks to the lectures on the actions of the Federation of National Societies and to the films they were able to see, the participants realized the important place of the League in the International Red Cross and its rôle in various fields of humanitarian action.

The Swiss Red Cross, for its part, delegated from Berne its assistant Secretary-General, Mr. J. Pascalis, who gave an account of the important work being carried out in a number of fields on the national level.

At the conclusion of the course the ICRC President, Mr. S. A. Gonard, gave an address in which he stated how pleased he and his colleagues were in the interest displayed by participants in this first training course and he expressed the hope that some of them would subsequently serve the Red Cross, whose tasks are ever-increasing in the world today.

Compensation for victims of pseudo-medical experiments

The Neutral Commission, appointed by the ICRC to determine claims by the victims of pseudo-medical experiments practised in German concentration camps and to whom the German Federal Republic had decided to allocate compensation, met on April 8, 9 and 10 in Geneva.

The Commission was composed of Mr. Jean Graven, President of the Supreme Court of Appeal and Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Geneva, who presided, of Dr. Alex F. Muller, Professor of Physiopathology at the University of Geneva, and of Dr. Sylvain Mutrux, Medical Assistant of the Psychiatric Clinic of Bel Air, Geneva. Two representatives of the Polish Red Cross were present at the meeting as observers: Miss Danuta Zys, Head of the External Affairs section, and Dr. Jerzy Nowkunski, medical delegate. Dr. Götz, an expert in matters of compensation, also attended as an observer.