

indications regarding food and drink. Stress was laid upon the utmost cleanliness.

By these and other instructions—which were conscientiously followed by the citizens—Brugmans was able to avert a terrible epidemic and further the recovery of the multitude of wounded.

A very good precaution was the distribution of the wounded over a number of towns and villages whereby great accumulations of men were avoided.

The English Government had its own wounded and wounded prisoners evacuated as soon as possible via Antwerp and Ostend.

A tragic but necessary task was fulfilled too : the burial of the dead, which was carried out by the local population under supervision of the mayors. Thanks to practical measures taken and recommended by Sebald Justinus Brugmans, the battlefields were cleared in a relatively short time and no epidemic ensued.

TRIBUTE TO THE RED CROSS

During the fifth plenary session of the eighteenth World Health Assembly in Geneva in May 1965, the President, Dr. V. V. Olguin, recalled the significance of World Red Cross Day and paid tribute to our movement in the following terms :

... I would like to take the opportunity at our meeting today to pay tribute to the achievements of the Red Cross, an institution whose admirable work is familiar to all of us. The World Health Organization, as all of us are aware, maintains close connection with the International Committee of the Red Cross and with the League of Red Cross Societies, and I would not let this Red Cross Day go by without having once again placed on record the satisfaction and pride which we take in this valuable and useful co-operation. As it is customary to extend good wishes on the occasion of an anniversary, I am sure I am faithfully interpreting the feelings of all of you when I express our earnest hopes that the Red Cross will carry on its noble work with the same success as it has always achieved hitherto.

MISCELLANEOUS

The President then gave the floor to Mr. N. Abut, Assistant Secretary-General of the League of Red Cross Societies, who expressed thanks on behalf of the institution as a whole :

It is a great honour but also a difficult task to express in a few words, in the name of the Red Cross, its delight and genuine emotion in listening to the message of esteem and confidence which the World Health Assembly has been kind enough to convey to us through its eminent President.

Like the League, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the one hundred and four National Red Cross, Red Crescent and Red Lion and Sun Societies are highly appreciative of this message. Therein they will find valuable encouragement. In their name and ours, I ask you to accept the expression of our gratitude.

It is a hundred years since the founder of the Red Cross movement, Henry Dunant, wrote : " Our wish is to see the work of general hygiene become widespread and to help the propagation of personal hygiene ; we desire that the causes of physical ills be sought ever more diligently so that they may be remedied. "

The wording has perhaps been changed since then, but the idea remains the same. It is this objective towards which the efforts of the Red Cross have been directed as far as its limited resources allowed. That is why the work of the World Health Organization, with its well known strength, experience and methodology is of inestimable value to us ; that is why, also, the Red Cross is proud to co-operate wholeheartedly in your efforts, just as it is pleased to be able to count on your support. To this joint work, Mr. President, you have been kind enough today to bear fresh witness. In the name of our entire movement I express our gratitude.
