

IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

Integration of National Society medical teams in joint actions.—Several suggestions were put forward, including the following: this type of operation should have a strong central directorate; the international institutions of the Red Cross should clearly define responsibilities at all levels and draw up clear-cut plans; co-ordination, at Geneva and in the field, and liaison between the two, should be better than it is.

Technical questions.—Action should be taken to standardize equipment and data concerning pharmaceutical products.

Research and development.—National Society representatives suggested that a technical bureau should be set up at Geneva, that Red Cross Societies should keep in regular contact with each other and that the ICRC and League should as soon as possible define the exact role this newly-created bureau would be called upon to play.

The Swedish Red Cross undertook to draw up a report on the work carried out at the meeting and the suggestions put forward.

Philippines

The Philippine National Red Cross was inaugurated as a national organization on 15 April 1947. To commemorate the silver jubilee of that event, celebrations were held last year, and a special two-volume publication was issued by the Society. We are happy to pay tribute to the appearance of this book.

The first volume is entitled *Achievement and Progress*. In about 200 pages of text accompanied by many illustrations, it gives, first, a chronicle of the growth of the Philippine National Red Cross from 1899 and of its activities today in various fields (Nursing Service; Red Cross Youth; Disaster Preparedness and Relief Service; Safety Services; Blood Program; Home-Military Welfare Service; International Relations; Volunteer Service) and, in its second part, a record of the activities of its 71 provincial and city chapters situated strategically in various points of the country, all

performing a variety of tasks, a list of which fully demonstrates their great usefulness.

The book is an act of faith in the Red Cross and in its future in the Philippines. It is thus that it is seen by Mr. F.E.V. Sison, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Philippine National Red Cross: "As we complete a quarter of century of service to humankind, it is with firm resolve that all of us behind this noble organization shall reaffirm our commitments to mitigate human suffering, promote health and save lives in the standard of service for which the Red Cross is known the world over."

The second volume, entitled *The Conscience of the Nation*, was written by Mr. Alfonso J. Aluit and first published in 1963. Its second edition is a volume of some 700 pages, brought up to date by the addition of new material including a chapter containing an account of the Philippine National Red Cross from 1963 to 1972 and some valuable information on its growth in many different fields ranging from disaster relief action (The Red Cross in Disaster Relief) to blood transfusion campaigns (Blood Program) and social welfare (Red Cross Social Services). The book is exceedingly well documented and it shows that, in its own country, the National Red Cross Society is the instrument of the national conscience and a means for the latter to express itself. It is also the living expression of the hopes and ambitions for well-being that every person has, not only for himself and his kin, but for all men and women throughout the whole world.

The first part of this book deals with the precursors of the Red Cross movement, its origins, the International Red Cross, with a large section devoted to the life and work of Clara Barton. Part II relates the early history of the Philippine National Red Cross from the close of the nineteenth century, its growth and achievements and its official recognition by the ICRC in 1947. The third part gives a broad picture of current activities; here, the author points out the significance of the tasks performed by the Philippine National Red Cross, the growing efficiency of its work year after year and its dedication to a lofty ideal of service to others.