

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

ALFONSO J. ALUIT: "THE CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION"¹

As already mentioned in this issue, there has been a second edition of a book which describes the history and the achievements of the Red Cross in the Philippines from 1896 to 1972. We quote below a particularly significant passage in which the author affirms his confidence in the Red Cross in the Philippines. We are well aware that he bases that confidence, as do all of us, on the hope that the Red Cross spirit and action will spread over the whole world:

"The development of the Red Cross in the Philippines reflects the development of the social conscience of the Filipino. The story of the Red Cross in this country is the story of the Filipino's awakening to his responsibility to the community in which he lives, his identification of social responsibility and, finally, his acceptance of it. We might say that Filipino nationhood began when the individual Filipino became aware of his place in a social pattern, apart from the political milieu, larger than that circumscribed by his clan; when he cast aside his tribal shell to work for the advancement of the interests of the community in which he lives; when he began to conceive of his community as one that transcended the boundaries of his *barrio* or his region, and accepted social responsibility for the whole. This process is far from complete, but the Red Cross as a national organization with all the unifying force of its moral strength, has played and is playing a key role in its ultimate realization.

What is the future of the Red Cross in this country? It may be assumed that the Red Cross will continue to adapt itself to changing circumstances, seeking to meet changing public needs. What these circumstances and what these needs will be only time can tell.

¹ Philippine National Red Cross Silver Jubilee Edition, Manila, 1972.

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The Red Cross, however, has shown its ability to meet change and challenge, and whatever time brings, the Red Cross will be there striving, searching with and for the people who seek a better world in which to live.

It is opportune to recall here the words of Albert Schweitzer, speaking on the occasion of Henry Dunant's birth anniversary, 8 May 1953: 'The Red Cross has become a greater and more powerful organization than its founder ever dared dream to be possible. It is even more than this. It represents in our troubled post-war world the clear fact which every human being is called to feel, to think and to act with that compassion and love which lie deep within his own nature, and this also applies to all nations which in themselves are associations of human beings. It vividly brings this ideal to our minds, to us who know it but are unfaithful to it. It is forever encouraging us to want a better sort of world than the one we live in. We therefore owe profound gratitude to the one who lit such a beacon in our present darkness. It is for us to see that it is not extinguished'."

CATHERINE MORDACQ: " *POURQUOI DES INFIRMIÈRES ?* " ¹

Last year saw the publication of a new series of books entitled " *Infirmières d'aujourd'hui* " (Nurses Today) by a French publishing house, co-directors of which are Mlle Y. Hentsch, Under-Secretary General of the League of Red Cross Societies, and Mlle C. Mordacq, Deputy Director of the *Ecole internationale d'enseignement infirmier supérieur*, Lyon. This series of books is designed to afford those engaged in nursing, teachers and students alike, the knowledge, experience and awareness that are now essential in facing the realities of nursing: psychological, psychiatric and psychosomatic problems, above all, because in medical occupations and, in particular, in hospital services, human relations have become a matter of paramount importance, as has the availability of scientific and technical information.

¹ Editions du Centurion, Paris, 1972.