

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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 ?* " <sup>1</sup>

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.

---

<sup>1</sup> Editions du Centurion, Paris, 1972.

Following an enquiry carried out under the auspices of the *Association française d'infirmières et infirmiers diplômés d'Etat*, Mlle Mordacq has produced an excellent book in which she recalls the evolution of nursing, and hence its role in present-day medicine, hospital organization, and medical and social structures. She outlines the major problems of training, practice and living conditions in a calling to which Florence Nightingale gave powerful stimulus by enabling nurses to receive real professional training and by establishing a school for that purpose, in London in 1860.

But in a century ideas and customs undergo profound changes. To become a nurse is no easy matter, nor are a nurse's functions easy in the world today, when the nurse's field of action is continually being extended and diversified. This trend is due to the ever greater advances made in medical and hospital techniques and to a new understanding of the nurse-patient relationship. It is becoming increasingly difficult, too, to recruit nursing personnel prepared to accept responsibilities which are often very heavy owing to the novel techniques in use.

The medical and hospital world is concerned with these various questions, which are of vital importance to society as a whole. Hence the lively interest roused by a book written by a nursing instructor. It contains a useful bibliography and has the following chapters: The Past; Present Situation; Specific Function of the Nurse; New Training Prospects. In a conclusion, the author points out that, in France at least, "obstacles lie in mentalities and structures".

---

PIERRE BOISSIER: "THE RED CROSS IN ACTION"<sup>1</sup>

This is the title of an opuscle, published by the Henry Dunant Institute in 1972, from the pen of the Institute's Director, Pierre Boissier. It contains a 45-minute 30-page lecture which is a new approach to the Red Cross, whose work, significance in today's

---

<sup>1</sup> Henry Dunant Institute, 3 rue de Varembe, 1202 Geneva.