

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.

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

world, structure and action in specific circumstances, it summarizes in a clear manner which will appeal to a wide public. It is available in English and French.

To describe as clearly as possible the tasks and institutions of the Red Cross, and also to stimulate the visual memory, the talk is accompanied by two slides, two diagrams which serve as a backcloth and remain on the screen throughout the lecture. These two diagrams are reproduced under the flaps of the cover of the booklet.

---

### “ IN THE MINDS OF MEN ”<sup>1</sup>

This book is divided into three principal parts corresponding to the three main activities of Unesco. The first deals with Unesco's efforts towards international communication and co-operation, the second with its operational contribution to the economic and social development of Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Arab States, and the third with Unesco's normative action and its work in promoting conventions on human rights, international solidarity and peace.

Fifteen eminent persons from different countries have contributed to this book, and because they come from very different backgrounds—both in the geographic sense and on the level of ideas—an extra dimension is added to a collective work which makes it an invaluable tool for all those concerned with the evolution of international relations over the past twenty-five years. Opening the book is a historical account of the Organization. It contains a reference to the ideals inspiring its founders when they gave it a Constitution which lays down: “ Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed ”. Next come various articles on Unesco's work in education, science and culture.

---

<sup>1</sup> Published by Unesco, Paris, 1972, 352 pp.