

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### ELLEN HART: "HENRY DUNANT" <sup>1</sup>

In a collection devoted to outstanding persons whose merits have earned them a Nobel Prize, a book has recently come out, in English, about the man who shared with Passy, the pacifist, the first Nobel Peace Prize awarded by the Storting. It is by a writer who has already published a study on Henry Dunant.<sup>2</sup> To write this book, Ellen Hart referred to documents in the ICRC's possession and studied Dunant letters and manuscripts in the Geneva University Library. Pursuing her research outside Switzerland, she delved into the archives of private collections in England and the United States. She is therefore thoroughly familiar with the subject, and the picture she has drawn is one of unflinching interest.

She has summarized the essential facts of an eventful life, dwelling on its various stages and on the passion of a man who, following Solferino, had one sole aim: to find and set in motion practical means of providing relief for war victims and for all wounded soldiers like those he had seen suffer and die for lack of care in the Chiesa Maggiore at Castiglione. Yet his background had made an enduring mark on him, and his reactions, hopes and idealism would be hard to understand if one did not recall his childhood and his youth in a city he was soon to leave for ever, yet to which his mind unceasingly returned.

Ellen Hart rightly devoted a long chapter to "l'esprit de Genève". In it she summons up with great sensitivity the emotional and intellectual atmosphere, in the last century, of a small town lying in the heart of Europe which saw its international purpose defined and enhanced and which, moreover, made a deep and lasting impress on its citizens. This, as the writer says, undoubtedly applied to Dunant.

Ellen Hart's book ends with a chronology of historical events compared with events in Dunant's life; a summary of the work

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<sup>1</sup> Editio-Service S.A., Geneva. Distribution by Heron Books.

<sup>2</sup> "Man Born to Live", London, 1953.

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of the international Red Cross since 1910, the year that Dunant died at Heiden; the text of the first Geneva Convention, and, lastly, an account of non-Red Cross humanitarian activities. We might add that the book is enriched by a large number of carefully selected illustrations and that it ranks beside the fundamental book which Willy Heudtlass<sup>1</sup> devoted to a man whose destiny has not ceased to amaze and stir.

J.-G. L.

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**International Meeting of Experts on Communications Planned, *International Rehabilitation Review*, Vol. XXII, Nos. 3 and 4, Sydney, Australia.**

As the first step in the implementation of the decision of the Rehabilitation International Council to convene an International Meeting of Experts in Communications Related to Rehabilitation, a meeting of specialists in different areas of communications was held in New York City from December 2 to 4, 1971, to plan the structure and program of the proposed Meeting of Experts . . .

... In his opening remarks welcoming the participants, Mr. Norman Acton, Secretary General of Rehabilitation International, said that if the gap between the increasing number of disabled people in every country and the provision of services for their rehabilitation was to be closed, it was imperative to enlist the technical resources, knowledge and experience of the world's foremost experts in all fields of communications. It was with this objective in mind that the Experts Meeting was being planned.

As an outcome of the two days of discussion it was agreed that the Meeting of Experts should take place in Europe at the end of 1972 and that the topics of the Meeting should include new approaches through modern technology, from the most sophisticated to the simplest, to expedite the training of auxiliary and technical personnel; an evaluation for the use of the mass media for community and client education; identification of means of facilitating the flow of information to workers on the field and guidelines for the use of the mass media to create greater awareness of the seriousness of the global problem of disability...

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<sup>1</sup> *Henry Dunant*, Stuttgart, 1962.