

A HUNDRED YEARS OF RED CROSS HISTORY

Under this title a play was broadcast by Radio Genève, on May 8, 1963. For fourteen years an emission—sponsored by the ICRC and the League and the European Broadcasting and Television Union—was devoted to the Red Cross, leading up to the anniversary of Henry Dunant's birth. Relayed by an ever increasing number of broadcasting societies, it now covers four continents.

In view of the celebrations marking the Red Cross Centenary, Radio-Genève aimed at giving this broadcast a particular lustre. Turning to a Swiss author, M^{me} Isabelle Villars, they asked her to write a piece adapted for broadcasting, recalling the great moments in the history of an institution which, started in Geneva, then became universal.

A Hundred Years of Red Cross History, a narrative account accompanied by musical sound-effects, arranged by André Zumbach, is very moving. In a short captivating recital the author recalls the beginning of a humanitarian epic, one century old today. With the special sound effects, she uses the documents themselves, such as certain messages received by the Central Tracing Agency, describing the suffering of the wounded and the prisoners, mentioning the sacrifice made by those who died in the service of the Red Cross. The story starts with Hiroshima devastated by the atomic bomb ; it is also there that it ends, with an appeal for peace, to be secured by men of goodwill in all countries.

This emission, organized as usual by the Broadcasting and Television Office of the ICRC, directed by Mr. G. Kuhne, had one of the largest audiences in the world : 37 countries participated. It started with a " multiplex " during which all the Broadcasting Societies which could, replied direct to the appeal of Geneva. The versions arranged in English and Spanish by the Swiss Short-Wave Service were distributed throughout the world. An Arabic version was also made by the Lebanese Broadcasting Services.