

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

NINETEENTH AWARD of the FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

As is known, the Florence Nightingale Medal is awarded every two years by the International Committee of the Red Cross, after being proposed by the National Societies to honour nurses and voluntary aids who by their selflessness, devotion to the principles of the Red Cross and perseverance have given proof of their high sense of duty towards others.

It was in 1963, the year in which the Centenary of the International Red Cross was also celebrated, that distribution was thus made of this medal. A large number of National Societies therefore combined in one single ceremony both the anniversary of the founding of the Red Cross and the bestowing of this award to the appointed recipients. That year these numbered thirty-seven, belonging to twenty-three National Societies, of which one, that of Belgium, was the subject of a special award mentioned in the annex of the last ICRC circular on the Florence Nightingale Medal. This in fact concerned the distressful case of Mrs. Nicole Vroonen, Voluntary Aid, who paid for her life in 1961 whilst on a Red Cross mission in Katanga, by her high sense of duty, as so many others before her had done.

It is not without admiration that one learns of the reasons which guided the National Societies concerned and then the International Committee in their choice. In the recipients of this award we can recognize an élite whose target has been to alleviate suffering and to prevent it, if possible, wherever and however it is found.

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In this connection we are pleased to see that the majority of National Societies complied with the wishes of the founders of the Medal, by giving to the presentation ceremonies the solemnity consistent with the distinction of the honour conferred and at which leading personalities of the countries concerned were present. By giving these events this particular aspect one is thus paying tribute to those receiving the award. One is also drawing world attention to all the courage and intelligence required of the nurse's task. Well-merited honour and admiration are thus rendered to those who have followed that vocation, which Florence Nightingale was the first to arouse after many struggles and difficulties.

The International Review warmly thanks those National Societies which, in response to the ICRC's request, have been so good as to co-operate in the editing and illustration of this article by sending it the necessary material on the basis of which biographical notes on the recipients have been made. We are still awaiting several replies, to our regret, but we hope to be able to complete this account in due course.

AUSTRALIA

On June 8, 1963, the President of the South Australian Division of the Australian Red Cross, Lady Bastyan, accompanied by the Deputy Chairman, Sir Ivan Jose, presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to Miss *Rose Zelma Huppatz*, at Red Cross House, Adelaide. Honour was thus rendered to a long career during which full application was given to her wide knowledge and thanks to her remarkable spirit of service and devotion.

Miss Huppatz, Registered Nurse, extended her field of action considerably by increasing the range of her studies. She obtained certificates in Midwifery, Infant Welfare and Infectious Diseases and holds a Diploma in Nursing Administration of the College of Nursing, Australia. She is at present Matron and Superintendent of Nurses, Royal Adelaide Hospital.

The presentation ceremony was given wide publicity in the press and a photograph published in a local newspaper reflects all her pride and pleasure at the event.¹

¹ *Plate.*

AUSTRIA

On May 17, 1963, the inhabitants of the small town of Mauerkirchen learned through the press that one of their own had received the Florence Nightingale Medal from the hands of the President of the Austrian Red Cross at Linz. Dr. Hans Lauda had indeed pinned the insignia of this high distinction on the uniform of Mrs. *Maria Hafner*, one of the National Society's most meritorious nurses.

"Schwesterhelferin" of the Austrian Red Cross and Directress of the Mauerkirchen Central Committee were the recipient's titles when she was awarded the medal. She is the sixteenth Austrian to receive this mark of honour.¹

From 1914 to 1920 she was an active member of the Red Cross and from 1939 until now, she has been, as we have already said, in charge of the Central Committee of Mauerkirchen. In this capacity she accomplished remarkable work which could be described as "outstanding action" at the time of the defeat of the 6th Army in 1945.

Two hundred thousand soldiers of the Wehrmacht and a continuous flood of fugitives heading in disorder towards the German frontier found themselves halted in that area as a result of military operations by the adversary.

It was then that Mrs. Hafner and thirty-two of her colleagues, giving proof of the utmost courage, scoured the country to ask help from the inhabitants, to collect and distribute food, linen, bandages and medicines for the 3165 wounded in the field dressing station near by. From May 2 until September 16, 200,000 fugitives and members of the German armed forces, assembled in the camps and aid posts of Mauerkirchen, were placed under her charge and more than 130,000 meals were prepared and distributed there.

Thanks to the complete selflessness of Mrs. Hafner and her assistant nurses, the threat of famine and the danger of infection were removed. The distinctions bestowed upon her by the German Red Cross in the German Federal Republic, the expressions of praise and thanks by the administrative staffs of military hospitals

¹ *Plate.*

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and prisoner-of-war camps, as well as those made by former members of the Wehrmacht and their families are the best of all testimonies. Mrs. Hafner was often called the " Angel of the 6th Army " by those who had come under her care.

BURMA

On August 12, 1963, at the Faculty of Medicine, Rangoon, the Chairman of the Burma Red Cross presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to Sister *Khin Ohn Mya*, Graduate Nurse, Lieutenant, Burma Army Medical Service.¹ Holder of Certificates for Midwifery and Public Health Visitors, she is the first nurse of that country to be honoured by this high award.

The ceremony was attended by doctors and nurses of the civil and military departments as well as by members of the Red Cross Society. The Chairman's address was followed by the reading out by the Society's Secretary of a speech of the Minister of Health and Education.

The news of the presentation ceremony appeared in all the leading newspapers and the National Society's Bulletin devoted a complete number to the event with the publication of articles and photographs relating to Red Cross action in the world and to Florence Nightingale.

Shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War, Sister Khin Ohn Mya enrolled as voluntary secretary to a unit of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. She rendered great services during the evacuation of the country by the British forces. From 1943 she was engaged in hospital work. In 1958 her services were transferred to the Army and she was immediately commissioned Second Lieutenant, then Lieutenant as Army Nursing Sister. She experienced much anguish and danger during the occupation of Burma by the Japanese forces. In spite of air raids and enemy action she displayed exceptional courage and energy, and cared unceasingly for the sick suffering from cholera and smallpox, as a result of the large influx of refugees on their way to India. She is continuing her career with outstanding efficiency and unflinching devotion.

¹ *Plate.*

CANADA

The Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded in 1963 to Miss *Mona Gordon Wilson*, Registered Nurse, of Prince Edward Island. The presentation ceremony was organized by the Central Committee of the Canadian Red Cross in November 1963 and Miss Florence H. M. Emory, honorary adviser in nursing of the Red Cross who had herself received the award, presented the medal to the recipient,¹ flanked by two other nurses who had also won that distinction. That National Society thus now numbers nine recipients of the award.

Miss Wilson's record of service is summarized as follows : Born in Toronto, after college education she graduated at the School of Nursing of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore. She is also a graduate in Public Health Nursing of the University of Toronto.

In 1918 and 1919 she served in France with the United States Army Nurse Corps and for the next three years did hospital and public health work with the American Red Cross in Siberia, Albania, France and Montenegro.

On her return, she was appointed Chief Nurse of the Canadian Red Cross in Prince Edward Island, a position she occupied from 1923 to 1931. The work accomplished by that Division in the field of public health was outstanding and most of which could be credited to Miss Wilson. When a Department of Health was formed in that island, she was appointed Director of the Nursing Division and continued to serve in that position until the National Society called on her services at the beginning of the Second World War.

From 1940 to 1945 she was Assistant Commissioner of the Canadian Red Cross in Newfoundland. She was then sent to London where she worked for a year in the Overseas Headquarters. She subsequently resumed her work as Director of the Public Health Nursing Division, Prince Edward Island, in which capacity she remained until her retirement in 1961.

Miss Wilson was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her public service and in 1946 an Officer of that Order as a tribute to her work in Newfoundland.

¹ *Plate.*

CHILE

The ceremony at which the Florence Nightingale Medal was presented on September 1, 1963, was of particular brilliance, since it took place in the programme of an official assembly which met in the Municipal Theatre of Santiago on the occasion of the Centenary of the International Red Cross. The recipient designated by the ICRC, Mrs. *Elena Velasco de Castillo*, is a Voluntary Nurse of that Society and President of one of the local committees of the National Red Cross.

Present at the ceremony were the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Public Health, the aide-de-camp of the President of the Republic, heads of diplomatic missions, senior government officials, officers of the armed forces and representatives of the public and private services, as well as the President of the Chilean Red Cross and members of the Central Committee. Delegations from all the provincial branches of the Red Cross and a large section of the public entirely filled the Municipal Theatre, making an impressive display.

The Minister of the Interior delivered a short address in which he conveyed a warm tribute from the Government and, as far as he was concerned, he stated how satisfied he was with the way the Red Cross had co-operated in the accomplishment of his tasks as a minister, in his professional activities and in his life as a simple citizen. "The hopes of the founders of the Red Cross have been able to be fulfilled thanks to a host of men and women who, by their sacrifice, have gained the respect of mankind. During the course of a hundred years of existence, the idea conceived in 1863 has been not only supported unanimously by most countries, but its aims have been so largely increased that the Red Cross, as a spiritual force for the bringing together of peoples and the maintenance of peace, stands as a beacon of universal understanding and hope."

The President of the Chilean Red Cross then spoke. He recalled certain great events in our movement's history and also mentioned the action of the National Society, which now has to face new problems arising from economic and social developments, in order to

co-operate with the Government in seeking solutions. It has to make efforts in the face of catastrophic situations to bring indispensable material and moral relief to the population of a country so often torn by natural disasters.

In conclusion, the President, after having declared that the Chilean Red Cross fully associated itself with the universal tribute paid to the International Red Cross, declared that the ICRC had awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal to Mrs. Velasco de Castillo, whose record of service he then recalled. She had devoted a great part of her life to the service of the Red Cross, having shown exceptional self-sacrifice. Her outstanding and indisputable qualities were demonstrated by the work she accomplished with boundless devotion.

In awarding her the Florence Nightingale Medal the ICRC had paid a tribute of recognition to her work undertaken without flinching. "Everyone knows that modesty is one of the qualities possessed by Mrs. Velasco de Castillo, but if on this occasion she has feelings of pride, these we would share, we who have the good fortune of being her working companions and the great privilege of counting ourselves amongst her friends. In the name of the International Committee of the Red Cross we now bestow the Florence Nightingale Medal upon her."¹

In replying, the recipient stated that to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal was the greatest honour for women of the Red Cross. She thanked the Central Committee for having applied for this award on her behalf and the International Committee of the Red Cross of Geneva for having complied with this request. After also thanking the authorities present, the Assembly and the large audience, Mrs. Velasco de Castillo described the life of a Red Cross Society, and of the Chilean Red Cross in particular and spoke of those men and women who serve it. She went on to say: "The Red Cross was born for arduous tasks. Like Florence Nightingale it goes to war, and like her it is to collect the wounded and sick. It is present at moments of difficulty such as in great misfortune or disaster, when men are the prey of sickness, sorrow or pain. It teaches us to live with serene vigour. We must forge our own characters,

¹ *Plate.*

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strengthen our souls because we cannot be weak when we struggle against death . . . ”

After expressing the wish that this moving event be a further inspiration to act in ever better ways towards others, Mrs. Velasco de Castillo thanked all concerned for this fine ceremony, to which the Chilean press gave wide publicity.

FINLAND

An impressive ceremony took place on May 31, 1963, at which the Florence Nightingale Medal was presented to Miss *Annemarie M. A. van Bockhoven*, Registered Nurse, by the President of the Republic of Finland at his residence. She is Matron at the Aurora Municipal Hospital of Helsinki.¹ Also present at this event were the President of the Finnish Red Cross, the Secretary-General of that Society and the Chairman of the Nursing Committee of the Finnish Red Cross. Miss van Bockhoven is the tenth Finnish nurse to receive this high distinction.

In 1930 she became a registered nurse, then a graduate in 1939 of Bedford College, London University, and of the College of Nursing. From 1930 to 1932 she was a nurse in the policlinic and in the operating theatre at the Hospital of Surgery, Helsinki. From 1932 to 1940 she served as a nurse at the Red Cross Hospital (policlinic, men and women's departments).

From 1940 to 1945 she was Matron at the above-mentioned hospital in charge of the war-disabled. In 1945 she became Matron of the Helsinki Municipal Hospital. Furthermore, from 1931 to 1949 she directed senior courses in teaching and administration at the Nursing Institute (senior grade) at Helsinki College. She also gave instruction to matrons in the same establishment from 1931 to 1951, of which she became Directress in 1961.

We would add that during that period she was a member of the Finnish Nursing Associations and Committees, Honorary Secretary and Chairman of the National Nursing Council of Finland, member of the Swedish Nursing College and of the Nursing College of

¹ *Plate.*

Helsinki, and also a member of the Foundation for drawing up training programmes in hospital administration, members of which included doctors, nurses and hospital almoners.

Miss van Bockhoven has written a number of studies on hospital administration and nursing care. She has visited many foreign countries, taken part in international nursing conferences in Paris and Brussels and was a delegate in Atlantic City in 1947 and at Stockholm in 1949.

FRANCE

The presentation ceremony of the Florence Nightingale Medal took place on December 20, 1963, at the headquarters of the French Red Cross in Paris. The three nurses designated by the ICRC to receive the awards were: Miss *Anne de Cadoudal*, holder of the S.S.B.M. (Aid Society to the Wounded) Nursing Diploma, Directress of mobile teams of the French Red Cross; Miss *Germaine Tanguy*, State Registered and Red Cross Nurse, Directress of mobile teams of the French Red Cross; and Mrs. *Yolande Bonnet de Paillerets*, State Registered and Red Cross Nurse, registered welfare assistant, President of the Red Cross Committee of the XXth District of Paris, member of the Executive Committee of the French Red Cross.

During the course of the ceremony, the President of the National Society, Mr. A. François-Poncet, described Florence Nightingale's personality and work. He then presented the medal to the three recipients with these words of appreciation ¹:

"You have all three given a magnificent example of devotion which the real nurse knows how to show in times of difficulty. The French Red Cross is proud of the honour which has been rendered to you. It will keep it in memory."

From 1939 to 1958, Miss de Cadoudal served with great devotion and efficiency in different posts in France and abroad, then from 1959 onwards was outstanding for her part in the French Red Cross action in Algeria during military operations.

Having gone to North Africa as a voluntary nurse to form part of a mobile team, she was in charge of 4 to 10 of these teams in the

¹ *Plate.*

Constantine Department, formed to aid the population stricken by the troubled situation. She directed them, gave them encouragement and supplies, often travelling alone in her vehicle in the midst of constant danger. She knew how to communicate to her nurses and drivers the spirit animating her, setting them an example of calm courage, faith, charitableness and devotion to the Red Cross ideal.

Miss Tanguy worked as a hospital nurse in various sanatoria in Germany, then in hospitals, notably in Paris. From 1949 to 1951 she carried out a BCG vaccination mission in North Africa.

The experience she gained during the course of that mission enabled her to render outstanding service in 1960, when she volunteered for a French Red Cross mission in Algeria. As a nurse in a lorry in the mountain zone, she rapidly distinguished herself by her energy, competence and devotion to her work. She was then placed in charge of mobile teams of the French Red Cross in the Algiers and Oran Departments, whose task it was to ensure medical service and basic welfare to the large numbers of the population who had been uprooted from their homes by military operations. Her sense of reality, her understanding of the Moslem population, her energy and her authority made her eminently suited for this post.

In 1941 Mrs. Bonnet de Paillerets was in charge of youth centre teams in France. The sufferings of the population, economic distress and frequent bombing led her to form and develop teams capable of acting effectively in charitable actions, and especially in rescue work during air raids. In 1942 she became central directress of First-Aid groups of the French Red Cross. Under her impulse these groups were to become a first-class force, consisting of both the young and adults, which, in 1943 and 1944, numbered some 60,000 and which assisted nurses and ambulance drivers in air raids and battle areas, collected the dead and wounded, guided evacuations and brought food to children. By her energy as well as by her devotion and selflessness, she developed a sense of duty and contempt for danger in those giving first-aid. Since the war, Mrs. Bonnet de Paillerets has dedicated herself to the medical and welfare work of the National Society and the results which she has obtained can be quoted as examples.

GERMANY
(DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

The ceremony of the awarding of the Florence Nightingale Medal took place on June 28, 1963, at the headquarters of the German Red Cross in the German Democratic Republic. The occasion was enlivened by a festive display of flowers. Those receiving the award were two nurses of the National Society: Schwester *Emmy Dörfel*, Registered Nurse, and Schwester *Claudine Röhnisch*, Registered Nurse. Beside the members of the Presidential Council there were a large number of guests present, including all the representatives of the regional committees of the Red Cross. Considerable publicity was given to the event by the television, film and broadcasting services.

The President of the Society made a speech in which he gave a brief historical account of the Florence Nightingale Medal, emphasizing its high quality and the reason for its existence, namely that the example of a great nurse should be followed and her memory honoured. He then paid tribute to the two recipients and recalled their records of service of which the main points are as follows :

Schwester Emmy Dörfel : Factory worker from the age of 14 to 20, then, after the requisite training, she became a school teacher and subsequently, drawn by service to others, she trained as a nurse, to become, in 1933, a State Registered Nurse. She has always been outstanding for the strength of her humanitarian convictions and her determination to realize her ideal, irrespective of any risk she might incur. During the Spanish Civil War she worked as a nurse in the International Brigade. After a serious accident she hovered for many months between life and death.

On being returned to Germany after a short period of internment in France, she was immediately sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp, then to that of Buchenwald. There she still followed her vocation and, without counting the cost, she cared for her companions who had come from every corner of the world, large numbers of whom owe her their lives. During the last days of the war she was to have taken part in the " death march ", but gather-

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ing all her strength she succeeded in escaping and reached her native town, exhausted and seriously ill.

After 1945 she immediately resumed her task as a nurse in various hospitals. She also assumed other important functions, in particular that of directing the Institute of Scientific Research on Rheumatism at Elster. Since 1953 she has been a nurse at the municipal hospital at Friedrichshain-Berlin.

Through her excellent work she is contributing to extend and improve the knowledge of Red Cross personnel, especially as regards dermatology. Her deep experience of life and her professional knowledge, as well as her modesty, self-denial and devotion are inestimable benefits for the Junior Red Cross.

Schwester Claudine Röhnisch : Senior Nurse. Has devoted her whole life to her profession. In 1918 whilst still a young girl she worked as an auxiliary nurse in various departments of the Charity Hospital in Berlin. After the First World War she was exceedingly active, not only in her professional duties, but also in her unceasing work to improve material and social conditions for nurses.

In 1929 she qualified as senior nurse in the same hospital but in 1933, in view of the political situation, she was dismissed without warning. This for her, who could only live for her work, was a very heavy blow. However, she continued her task in municipal and private hospitals. Throughout this distressful period she did not give in and continued to serve the cause of altruism, abnegation and human dignity, whatever it may have cost her.

In 1945 she took part in the re-opening of the Berlin Charity Hospital and efficiently co-operated in organizing public hygiene, whilst at the same time performing her duties as senior nurse at that hospital in the stomatology and neurology departments. Since 1946 she has been the permanent representative of the head matron of the Charity Hospital, a position she still occupies, combined with that of instructress.

In addition to these essential activities, her dynamism attracted her to other interests, particularly to children and more especially orphans.

In spite of her age she still works with the same devotion and, thanks to her long experience in professional and social matters, she is a fine example to all her colleagues in the public health services.

The President of the National Society ended his speech by expressing his pleasure over the recital of these accounts¹. A representative of the Ministry of Public Health and a member of the Presidential Council of the Red Cross then congratulated the recipients on behalf of the Minister, leading officials of the Presidency and of the Council of Ministers. He praised the high qualities of those receiving the award and hoped that the new generation of nurses would follow their example.

The ceremony ended as it began with orchestral music whilst flowers were presented to the recipients of the Medal.

GERMANY
(FEDERAL REPUBLIC)

Three nurses of the German Red Cross in the German Federal Republic were distinguished by the ICRC in 1963. These were: "Oberin" *Margarete Gerhardt*, Registered Nurse, at Bremen; Miss *Berta Veeck*, State Registered Nurse; and Schwester *Ernestine Thren*, Registered Nurse, at Heidelberg.

The ceremonies took place at the headquarters of the respective provincial committees in an atmosphere of dignity and cheerfulness.

On November 6, 1963, Red Cross nurses of Bremen were invited to a farewell ceremony to Miss Margarete Gerhardt, "Oberin", during the course of which she was invested with the Florence Nightingale Medal. More than three hundred nurses and a large number of friends came to honour one who had been their companion for so many years.

The President of the "Schwesternschaft" delivered a speech for the occasion. He referred in moving terms to the Red Cross spirit which the recipient had always shown in her work and recalled that she had directed the nursing corps for more than thirty years. He thanked her warmly on behalf of the Executive Council and of the nursing personnel.

The President of the Association of German Parent Establishments ("Mutterhäuser") of the Red Cross then spoke a few words. He laid stress on the recipient's qualities and recalled all the services

¹ *Plate.*

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she had rendered as a hospital nurse. Mrs. Gerhardt had in fact distinguished herself in all spheres connected with the nursing service of the Red Cross. The President then bestowed the medal and diploma on her and congratulated her on behalf of the "Verband Deutscher Mutterhäuser".¹

On December 23, 1963, in the course of a ceremony which took place at the Doctors' Club of the Elizabeth Hospital at Birkenfeld in the presence of representatives of the different regional committees of the German Red Cross, the President of the Provincial Government, accompanied by his wife, bestowed the Florence Nightingale Medal on Miss Berta Veeck¹. He made a speech on that occasion in which he pointed out the exceptional character of that decoration and mentioned the fine qualities of the recipient who had so fully deserved such a distinction.

Miss Veeck has in fact spent more than fifty years in the service of the Red Cross. Even before 1914 she had been active in following the Red Cross ideal. During the First World War she was a nurse in the army medical services and in various theatres of operations. After 1918 she worked in different Public Health departments and from 1925 to 1934 she directed emergency teams at Idar. The speaker then enumerated the successive posts she had held since then in various sections of the Red Cross. She is at present holding a position of importance at Birkenfeld.

Emphasis was made in the speech on her work since 1945 for prisoners of war, internees and children. Mention was also made of her attachment to the humanitarian ideal during the troubled and difficult period through which her country had gone. She had been an inspiration to all working for the good of others.

The ceremony was widely reported in the local press which stressed the impressiveness and the cordiality of the occasion.

On May 15, 1963, the Nursing Association of the Province of Baden included, at its annual fête at Karlsruhe², the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to one of its members. Some two hundred nurses and a large number of guests were present on this

¹ *Plate.*

² We know that the Red Cross of Baden-Württemberg is the oldest Red Cross organization after that of Geneva. See the article on the subject in the *International Review*, March 1964.

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Drawing by Mrs. R. Schönhaus for the diploma of the Florence Nightingale Medal.

SOUTH AFRICA



The President of the Republic congratulating Miss I. I. Marwick to whom he presented the award. Centre, the President of the South African Red Cross.

GERMANY (Democratic Republic)

Left to right, Schwester E. Dörfel, Schwester C. Röhnisch and President of the Red Cross.



GERMANY (Federal Republic)

The President of the Association of Parent Establishments of the Red Cross (Mutterhäuser) bestowing the medal on two recipients: Oberin M. Gerhardt...



... Schwester E. Thren.

The President of the provincial Government presenting the medal to Miss B. Veeck.





AUSTRALIA

Miss R. Z. Huppatz being congratulated by the President and Vice-President of the Red Cross of South Australia

AUSTRIA

The President of the Austrian Red Cross (on left) bestowing the medal on Mrs. M. Hafner.



BURMA

Sister Khin Ohn Mya, recipient of the award.



LIBERIA

Mrs. J. L. King, President of her country's Red Cross, is the first nurse of the African States to receive the Florence Nightingale medal.



CANADA

Three recipients of the Florence Nightingale medal meet again: (from left to right) Miss F. H. M. Emory, 1953 award, Miss M. Wilson, 1963 award and Miss H. G. McArthur, 1957 award.

CHILE

The Minister of the Interior bestowing the medal on Mrs. E. Velasco de Castillo.



**KOREA
(Republic)**



The Vice-President of the Red Cross presenting the medal to Miss Ri-Kil Won.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Chairman (*on left*) and the President of the American Red Cross congratulating the three recipients, Miss A. K. Magnussen, Miss N. L. Dorsey Mrs. R. L. McManus.





FINLAND

The President of the Republic congratulating Miss A. M. A. van Bockhoven after having presented her with the medal. (On left) the President of the Finnish Red Cross.

FRANCE

The President of the French Red Cross bestowing the medal on the three recipients. From left to right, Mrs. Y. Bonnet de Paillerets, Miss A. de Cadoudal and Miss G. Tanguy.





GREAT BRITAIN

H.R.H. Princess Alexandra (on left) in conversation with the recipient of the medal, Mrs. J. P. Adams.

IRELAND

The Chairman of the Irish Red Cross presenting the medal to Rev. Mother Mary Martin.





JAPAN

H.M. The Empress bestowing the medal on Miss Y. Abé. From right to left, the two other recipients, Miss M. Yoshino and Miss K. Kawashima.

NEW ZEALAND

The President of the New Zealand Red Cross congratulating Mrs. M. A. Gidall on receiving the award.



PAKISTAN

The Head of the Army Medical Services presenting the medal to Major M. C. Bearcroft.



PHILIPPINES

Before the presentation of medals to the recipients. From left to right, Mrs. F. Loberiza Legayada, Miss A. R. Castro, Mrs. F. Andaya (Miss R. Andaya's mother), Miss I. M. Abelgas. On left, Mr. Mittner, delegate of the ICRC.



RUMANIA



The President of the Rumanian Red Cross presenting the medal to Mrs. I. Cruceanu...

... and to Mrs. E. Zeleniuc.



auspicious occasion. After the playing of an orchestral piece, the President of the Association then bestowed the medal and diploma on Schwester Ernestine Thren.

In her address, the "Generaloberin" expressed her appreciation to the recipient of the constancy with which she had always performed her duty day after day.¹ She recalled the wide extent of her knowledge and her great courage in every sort of situation during the two world wars and when dealing with the seriously wounded in her capacity as "Stationschwester" of the infectious diseases department of the Ludolf-Krehl Clinic at Heidelberg, a position which she still holds.

Fearless and never thinking of herself, Miss Thren devoted herself entirely to the sick under her care. All those present and especially the doctors and nurses of the University Clinic of Heidelberg wholeheartedly shared her pride and pleasure in having been selected for this high distinction.

GREAT BRITAIN

On July 24, 1963, the Chairman of the Council of the British Red Cross, H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, in the presence of Their Royal Highnesses The Princess Royal, Commandant-in-Chief of that Society, and Princess Alexandra, Patron of the British Junior Red Cross, and other leading personalities, presented the Florence Nightingale Medal to Mrs. *Janet Patience Adams*, State Registered Nurse. She is holder of the Tropical Diseases Hospital, Midwives Board and Health Visitors' Certificates¹.

The ceremony took place at a meeting of the National Society's Council in London at which the recipient's service record was described.

Mrs. Adams has undertaken important and responsible work overseas since 1949. In that year, she went to Malaya where she set up a Red Cross clinic and pioneered welfare work in the Resettlement villages during the Emergency. Travelling without escort, she penetrated into remote jungle villages, hitherto unvisited by

¹ *Plate.*

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Europeans. Her pioneer work led to the formation of the Malaya Branch of the British Red Cross (now the Red Cross Society of the Federation of Malaya).

After her return to the United Kingdom in 1952, she went, in 1953, to Northern Nigeria and Ghana. In 1955 she was in Grenada to assist with relief work for the victims of a hurricane. She then went to Sierra Leone where she trained instructors and helped the local Red Cross to become the National Society of Sierra Leone. Finally, in 1961, she went at short notice to Uganda to bring assistance to some 20,000 refugees from Ruanda Urundi.

In any task she has undertaken, the recipient of the award has shown initiative, drive and devotion. Her action does honour to the British Red Cross.

INDIA

The International Committee awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal to Miss *Edith H. Paull*, Registered Nurse, of the Indian Red Cross Society. Her nursing career started in 1928 and she occupied a succession of senior nursing posts and that of matron at the Lady Hardinge Medical College Hospital, New Delhi, the Civil Hospital, Allahabad, the G.T. Hospital, Bombay, and Jahangir Nursing Home, Poona. She was President of the Trained Nurses Association of India for six years. Miss Paull was one of the few Indian nurses to be awarded a Florence Nightingale Scholarship before the war for study at Bedford College, London.

In her long career as a nurse whether at the bedside of the sick, in the classroom or behind the administrator's desk, she has carried out her duties with unflagging zeal and enthusiasm. She has also represented with distinction the nurses of India at various international conferences of nurses. Miss Paull has worked devotedly and her example has inspired many nurses to offer voluntary service to the Red Cross for teaching home nursing.

The Secretary-General of the National Society has informed the ICRC that, according to established practice, the President of the Republic of India will be presenting the award to the recipient at the Annual General Meeting of the Society which is usually held in April.

IRELAND

The Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded at a presentation ceremony at the International Training Hospital, Drogheda, on June 25, 1963, to Reverend Mother *Mary Martin*, Foundress and Mother General of the Medical Missionaries of Mary.

In the presence of numerous members of that Order, the Chairman of the Irish Red Cross Society bestowed this high award on the recipient, then delivered an address in which she first of all recalled that, according to documents in the archives of the Convents of Kinsale and Buttevant, Co. Cork, a group of nursing sisters from these convents formed part of a voluntary band with Florence Nightingale who aided the wounded and sick in the Crimea.¹ Mrs. Tom Barry then spoke of Mother Mary Martin's record of service and praised the congregation which she had founded.

" Your services began during the First World War as a Voluntary Aid in military hospitals in Malta and France. Your missionary work commenced in 1921 in Nigeria, where you saw the need of competent medical care, especially for maternity work.

Your foundation of the Religious Congregation of the Medical Missionaries of Mary, dedicated to medical work in the mission fields, shows how far-seeing you were in providing medical, nursing and nutritional training for so many of the countries of Africa and the Far East by the provision of hospitals and clinics in Angola, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Nyasaland, Tanganyika and Formosa. Many of your hospitals are recognized training schools in which African nurses have received their training.

This great International Training Hospital in Drogheda, where doctors, nurses, chemists, radiographers, bio-chemists, social workers and secretaries serve their apprenticeship before going abroad, is a worthy tribute to your life of dedicated service.

We are proud that the International Committee of the Red Cross has recognized your great service. Today when the United Nations and other leading world groups are seeking medical,

¹ *Plate.*

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nursing, nutritional and general education for the developing countries we are particularly proud that your Congregation is so well in advance in this great work."

We would mention that this moving ceremony was given wide publicity in the local press.

JAPAN

In 1963 three nurses of the Japanese Red Cross were chosen by the ICRC for the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal. They were: Miss *Yaé Abé*, Registered Nurse and Directress of the Nursing Service of the Japanese Red Cross Yokohama Hospital, Miss *Mitsu Yoshino*, Registered Nurse and Directress of the Nursing Service of the Japanese Red Cross Yamada Hospital; and Miss *Kiyo Kawashima*, Chief Nurse of the Kacho Agricultural Co-operative Hospital in Kochi Prefecture.

The attendance of eminent personalities and the speeches delivered on the occasion emphasized the official character of the investiture. The ceremony took place on June 26 in the auditorium of the National Society's headquarters and was presided over by Her Majesty The Empress, as the Honorary Vice-President, who was accompanied by the Imperial Princesses Takamatsu and Mikasa. The Minister of Health also attended as well as the President of the National Nurses Association, the Honorary Delegate of the ICRC in Japan, Mr. Angst, together with representatives from the American Red Cross Society in Japan.

After the President of the Society had opened the meeting, the Empress made a speech in which she stressed the honour which the award represented "not only for the three recipients, whose many years of devotion were in this manner recognized, but for the whole country." She then observed that "the award of the Medal is even more significant in that it takes place in this Centenary year of the Red Cross". She concluded by recalling the tasks performed by Miss Abé, Miss Yoshino and Miss Kawashima: to pursue their functions as nurses in a common spirit of service, to guide their younger colleagues in order that they too would be imbued with the same spirit of devotion, "by striving to carry out their mission as

nurses, following the example of today's recipients." The Empress then bestowed the Medal on each of the three nurses. ¹

Several congratulatory messages were then pronounced, in particular by Mr. Angst, the Honorary Delegate of the ICRC, who first of all stated that it was an honour and a privilege for him to be present at the investiture of this award to distinguish nurses and voluntary aids for the exceptional services which they had rendered to the sick and the wounded. He transmitted to the three nurses the congratulations and good wishes of the President of the ICRC. After mentioning the influence of Florence Nightingale's actions in the Crimea upon Henry Dunant when he conceived the future of the Red Cross, Mr. Angst expressed the wish that the light lit by Florence Nightingale would continue to shine for the peoples of the whole world and inspire them to render generous assistance to those in need.

Here are some facts which were mentioned in the career of the three recipients of the award :

With a devotion proof against every eventuality, Miss Yaé Abé has dedicated over forty years of her life to alleviate the suffering of the sick and the wounded. In 1937 she was chief nurse in Shanghai, where fighting was raging furiously. Under fire, in the front line, she cared for the wounded soldiers and also for the Chinese refugees suffering from such diseases as cholera, typhus, dysentery, etc. It was truly in this dreadful situation that her incomparable merit was shown. Her courage, combined with her skill and gentleness, was a source of inspiration for the young nurses and for the sick.

On her return to Japan in 1938, with a wealth of experience acquired on the battlefield, she devoted herself to nursing at the Central Hospital of the Japanese Red Cross. As a member or president of numerous nursing associations and committees, she contributes considerably to the improvement in the working conditions and the skill of nurses in Japan.

Miss Mitsu Yoshino has been devoted to the service of the wounded and sick for 38 years. She distinguished herself particularly during the war and in the course of the earthquake disasters which devastated Tokyo in 1923. At that time, day and night, she showed

¹ *Plate.*

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remarkable courage, giving relief at the risk of her own life and, by her example, earning the admiration of the people of the devastated areas. During the Sino-Japanese War and the Second World War, at the fronts in the north, in the south and in the centre of China as well as in Manchuria, she attended the wounded and sick and arranged for their evacuation, always with a cheerful spirit in spite of fatigue and danger.

In the course of her nursing activities, she assisted the authorities of the Yamada Hospital. Thanks to her technical knowledge, her vast experience and her kindness, she won the affection of the sick and, in directing young nurses, earned the respect and gratitude of all. Finally, as one of the leaders of the Association of Midwives and Nurses, she contributes to raising the level of nursing standards in Japan.

Miss Kiyō Kawashima has devoted more than forty years of service in favour of the sick. Her dedication and philanthropy are worthy of high praise.

During the Sino-Japanese conflict in 1937, she served as a nurse in a hospital ship carrying wounded from China to Japan. Thanks to her self-sacrifice and devotion to duty, in spite of extremely difficult conditions, many wounded were saved. She worked in various military hospitals in North China where the difficulties due to the bad climate, the lack of medical material and the inadequacy of medicines were overcome by her energy. From 1940 to 1944, when she was working at the Dojin-Kar Hospital at Hankow in Central China, not only did she attend to the hospital patients, but also to the local Chinese population.

KOREA (REPUBLIC)

Recognized by the ICRC in 1955, the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea has several times submitted the names of applicants worthy of figuring on the honours list for the Florence Nightingale Medal. A nurse from that Society has again been selected for this distinction by the International Committee.

The recipient of the award in 1963 was Miss *Ri-Kil-Won*, Chief Nurse at the National Police Hospital in Seoul. The following is her record of service.

Born in a small town in North Korea, she entered the School of Nursing in 1930 and three years later became a registered nurse at the Severence Hospital, Seoul. In 1937 she was promoted to the position of head nurse for her efficiency and devotion to her work. In 1946 she gave up her post to one of her subordinates to engage herself in social work for the orphans at Song Jook Won.

When the Korean War broke out in June 1950, the influx of wounded soldiers and refugees to the rear from the battlefield touched her deeply. She immediately volunteered to help them when nursing hands were short. Thanks to her efforts and her appeals to the authorities, a hospital was built in Seoul where she worked as head nurse. As the war continued she was at her post day and night often collapsing from overwork, which was beyond the limits of her frail health.

She also often cared for servicemen on the Southern sector in the fighting against guerillas. In spite of meagre medical facilities and a shortage of nurses, her humane attitude and devotion to the wounded won the respect of all.

In 1953 she was awarded a Certificate of Merit by the Minister of Health and Social Affairs in recognition of twenty-three years of nursing service, and on the same occasion received the Gold Medal of the Korean Nurses' Association. In 1962 for her thirty years of outstanding and devoted service she was awarded the special medal of " Small Star " by the Chairman of the Supreme Council of National Reconstruction of the Republic of Korea. This was the first time this award had been given to a woman.

The Vice-President of the National Society bestowed the Florence Nightingale Medal on the recipient at a ceremony of investiture given in her honour.¹

LIBERIA

On July 23, 1963, the President of the Liberian Red Cross, Mrs. *Jeannette L. King*, was honoured by the Red Cross Nursing Chapter of the Central Committee of the National Society¹ at a banquet held in her honour in Monrovia, at which she was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal. Members of the Government

¹ *Plate.*

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and of the Bench, leading personalities and representatives of other organizations of the country's nursing services were present at the ceremony. This was of a particularly exceptional character, since Mrs. King is not only the first Liberian to win this award, but also the first nurse of the African States to do so.

Due importance was given to the event by a Monrovia daily newspaper and a brief biographical notice recalled that Mrs. King was one of the first nurses and midwives in Liberia to receive training abroad, in her case, in New York at the Lincoln School for Nurses. The article also mentioned her valuable work as head of the Red Cross and her exceptional devotion to duty in that field.

In summarizing her record of service, we would point out that Mrs. King, in addition to the appointments we have already mentioned, is also Adviser to the Liberian Board of Nurse Examiners and Member of the National Nurses Association.

After private duty nursing, she then became a visiting nurse. On returning to her own country she was appointed Head Nurse of the Government Hospital, Monrovia, then Operating Room Supervisor and for twelve years she was Directress of Nurses at that same hospital. Subsequently, she became Instructor, T.N.I.M.A. School of Nursing, in Monrovia, which position she held for seven years. She was the organizer of the Liberian Junior Red Cross and of the National Nurses Association.

Finally, we would add that Mrs. King served as Chairman of the Board of Nurses Examiners for six years, a body which she assisted in creating. She has always taken an active part in the organization of the country's hospital services and with a pioneering spirit she has contributed and continues to contribute to the work which we have mentioned above, for the development of health and hygiene in her country.

NEW ZEALAND

On November 4, 1963, Mrs. *Mary Ann Gidall*, Registered Nurse and Midwife, was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal and Diploma¹ at a ceremony which took place at Red Cross headquarters in Wellington, attended by members of the Council.

¹ *Plate.*

The Lord Mayor of Wellington, who honoured the event with his presence, spoke in praise of the recipient for her valuable contribution to the health and welfare of the population of Wellington. This was followed by details of Mrs. Gidall's career which earned her this distinction and which may be summarized as follows :

Mrs. Gidall completed her general training at Paddington Hospital, London, from 1904 to 1907. In the latter year she also graduated as a midwife and subsequently became a Sister in several English hospitals. During World War I, she served in Malta and later in France until September 1919. In March 1920, she was appointed Sister-in-charge on board a ship taking wives and children of Australian servicemen to Sydney.

From 1921 onwards, Mrs. Gidall nursed in various private hospitals and gave voluntary nursing service to neighbours and local doctors. She took up service in 1940 with the New Zealand Red Cross as Lady Superintendent of Voluntary Aid Detachments, a post she retains to this day with unflinching energy.

Her thoroughness and efficiency over the years have maintained the high level of education and training of voluntary nursing auxiliaries and have won her the affection of all. She gave devoted nursing assistance during natural disasters, particularly at the time of the earthquake which largely destroyed Napier in 1931. Her practical help and sympathy to displaced persons were of enormous value to these people.

In Wellington, the ceremony for the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal was given wide publicity.

PAKISTAN

On November 18, 1963, the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal took place at the Armed Forces Medical College, Rawalpindi, attended by senior officers from General Headquarters. At the same time training certificates were distributed to the Nursing Cadets of the Armed Forces Nursing Service.

The Medal and Diploma were presented by Maj.-Gen. S. A. Mian to Major *Margaret Caroline Bearcroft*¹, SK., R.R.C., State Regis-

¹ *Plate.*

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tered Nurse since 1928, now Matron at the Combined Military Hospital in Lahore.

The ceremony was mentioned in the press, particularly in the *Pakistan Times*, a paper with one of the largest circulations in the country.

We give below a brief account of Major Bearcroft's career. For thirty years she has served the Armed Forces; in India from 1933 to 1947 and in Pakistan from 1947 to the present. Prior to the independence of Pakistan, she worked in various military hospitals in India; with the advent of independence, she chose to serve in Pakistan and since then she has worked as Matron in military hospitals in that country.

Major Bearcroft has always shown great devotion to duty. During the difficult period following independence, she worked unselfishly in the interest of patients and in the training of nursing cadets. The shortage of nursing staff was most acute and made her task more difficult; she gave many hours of her own time to improving nursing standards in the hospitals in which she served.

She has always been keenly interested in the morale and welfare of all ranks working under her and in welfare problems in general.

PHILIPPINES

On December 15, 1963, during the course of the Convention Dinner which was the climax to the fifth National Conference of the Philippine Red Cross and the observance of the Centenary of the International Red Cross, the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal took place, attended by Mr. J. W. Mittner, ICRC delegate.¹ The ceremony was particularly impressive; this year four faithful servants of our common ideal were to be honoured, one of the awards being made posthumously to a nurse who died of wounds received during the Second World War.

In an atmosphere worthy of the occasion, the wives of two former Presidents of the Republic presented the medals to the three recipients and to the mother for whom this distinction would be a supreme tribute to her daughter's memory. Those receiving the

¹ *Plate.*

award were Mrs. *Florita Loberiza Legayada*, Registered Nurse, Public Health Nurse, Teacher Nurse at the Iloilo Vocational School, Bureau of Public Schools, Lambunao, Iloilo ; Miss *Angelina R. Castro*, Registered Nurse, Captain, Nurse Corps, Armed Forces of the Philippines assigned to V. Luna General Hospital ; Miss *Irene H. Abelgas*, Registered Nurse, Public Health nurse, Chief of Nursing Service Section of the Philippine Red Cross ; † Miss *Rosario Andaya*, Registered Nurse.

A message was received from the President of the Philippines, in which he recalled the essential rôle and efficiency of the Philippine Red Cross, particularly in cases of natural disaster. He paid tribute to the National Society and assured it of the support of the Government for its undertakings. He concluded with the words : " As the International Red Cross movement closes its first century of existence and enters a new one, I join our countrymen in wishing it every success in its works of mercy."

On behalf of her fellow-recipients, Miss Abelgas delivered a short address in which she said "... the works of mercy never end ; so is it that the work of a nurse never ends. Everywhere, there is always human distress to be alleviated, and it is the pledged duty of the nurse to alleviate distress.

In accepting the Florence Nightingale Medal, we can only pledge anew to uphold the principles of service to humanity which is the lifelong duty of the nurse to uphold. For myself, this medal represents forty years spent in the service of my fellowmen through the Red Cross, and I shall treasure it as much as I treasure the memory of these years, which it has been my privilege to dedicate to our country and our people. I thank you."

News of these four awards was given a wide coverage in the press. On May 29, a Manila newspaper displayed photographs of the four recipients, giving a brief review of each of their careers.

Mrs. Florita Loberiza Legayada worked from 1933 to 1941 as Public School and Community Nurse in Iloilo, under the Philippine Chapter of the American Red Cross. During the war, from 1941 to 1945, she held various positions in several sectors and worked as Assistant Ward Supervisor at the Japanese Hospital in Fort McKinley, under the auspices of the Red Cross. Later, she was assigned to take care of released prisoners of war in Manila. In 1944

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she was assigned as school and community nurse of several Manila schools. In 1945, whilst in charge of the outpatients department at the Red Cross Central Office, she just managed to escape, with her companions, from the massacre of civilians then in the building. She helped in transferring patients to shelter until their evacuation to other hospitals where she followed them. At present she is a Teacher Nurse at the Iloilo Vocational School.

Miss Angelina R. Castro became a member of the Philippine Chapter of the American Red Cross in 1940 and was sent to Fort McKinley where she did routine hospital work at the station and medical dispensaries and at the first-aid clinic. In July 1941, she was assigned to Hong Kong to take care of refugees from China. The following month she was recalled to Fort McKinley to resume her former activities. In 1942, during the Japanese occupation, she volunteered to go to prison camps. Thereafter she was engaged in a dangerous task, working without respite and often in peril of her life.

Later, in her home town, she organized a team of volunteers, composed of doctors, nurses and Catholic sisters in order to set up an emergency hospital for wounded servicemen of the liberation forces. Finally, she returned to the Red Cross in Manila where she resumed her functions as a hospital nurse in various hospitals until, in June 1945, she accepted a commission in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, a position she holds to this day.

Miss Abelgas graduated in 1916 at the Philippine General Hospital, where she soon became Head Nurse, and, from 1918 to 1919, was promoted supervisor in the maternity wards. Later, in England and in the United States, she acquired a sound knowledge of nursing and when war seemed imminent and the Philippine Red Cross was mobilized, Miss Abelgas rendered signal service recruiting nurses to staff the hospitals, the camps and ships, designating the towns to be used as evacuation centres and taking charge of the camps for internees. In 1942, she organized the Home Medical and Nursing Services in the Red Cross headquarters, where doctors, pharmacists and nurses attended to the numerous released prisoners of war.

At the end of hostilities, Miss Abelgas returned to Manila which she had left to accompany the evacuees. After nursing in various

military and Red Cross institutions, she was appointed chief of the Nursing Service of the Philippine Red Cross, a position which she still occupies today.

It is with profound respect that we now mention Miss Rosario Andaya, who remained at her post to carry on her task to the very end, thereby sacrificing her own life. She was born in 1913 and graduated as a nurse in 1937, she took up service as a volunteer Red Cross nurse in 1945 and carried out her activities in a Red Cross hospital. The retreating occupying forces wanted to take over the Red Cross premises and broke into the building. On this occasion, Miss Andaya received a bayonet wound in the chest and in spite of the attention she received, she never recovered. She died two years later at the age of 32.

RUMANIA

On July 4, 1963, at a ceremony which took place at the headquarters of the Central Committee of the Red Cross of the Rumanian People's Republic, the President of the National Society bestowed the Florence Nightingale Medal on two registered nurses, deemed to be worthy recipients of this award.¹ These were: Mrs. *Ioana Cruceanu*, Chief Instructress of the Medico-Social Department and of the Junior Red Cross of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society, and Mrs. *Elena Zeleniuc*, member of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the Union of Medical Workers' Trades Unions.

The ceremony was suitably impressive for the occasion and at which a number of leading personalities were present, amongst whom were the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Insurance, the President of the Central Committee of the Union of Medical Workers' Trades Unions and member of the executive bureau of the Central Committee of the Red Cross Society. There were also present numerous active members and leaders of the medico-sanitary services.

After recalling Florence Nightingale's luminous spirit and stressing the example of selflessness and devotion which such a life represents, the President of the Red Cross described the activities

¹ *Plate.*

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of the two recipients, to whom he then presented the medals and diplomas, congratulating them warmly on behalf of the Central Committee and wished them further success in their work.

Mrs. Zeleniuc, who was visibly moved by such expressions, then thanked the audience. On behalf of Mrs. Cruceanu and of herself she asked the directing staff of the Rumanian Red Cross to convey to the ICRC their deep gratitude and to inform it that the awarding of this high distinction would act as a continual stimulant to them in their work in the service of mankind.

We now summarize the records of the two recipients of the award.

Registered Nurse in 1948, Mrs. Ioana Cruceanu, after having followed a course for auxiliary nurses in preventive medicine, was placed in charge, in 1949, of a provincial maternity home and was transferred to the Red Cross dispensary in 1950. In 1952, she volunteered for work in a medical team of the Rumanian Hospital of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, where she gave outstanding service with courage and devotion to duty, for which she received high awards.

On returning to her own country, she became an active member of the Central Committee of the Rumanian Red Cross where she at present holds the position we have already mentioned. We would add that her humanitarian work in the service of the wounded was remarked and appreciated by all.

Registered Nurse in 1950, Mrs. Elena Zeleniuc first worked as a nurse in a hospital in Bucharest.

In 1951, she was one of a team of doctors and medical personnel selected to bring aid in the Democratic Republic of Korea. Her work for the wounded and the civilian population was most effective and was always inspired by a deep sense of humanity. For this she received other distinctions as did the other recipient of that noble award, the Florence Nightingale Medal. On her return to Rumania she continued to work in the Red Cross, then, in 1953, she continued her humanitarian work within the Union of Medical Workers' Trades Unions. She is still performing this work today and is a member of the Central Committee of that institution.

She also showed outstanding qualities in the organizing of medical and auxiliary personnel.

SOUTH AFRICA

On October 23, 1963, an impressive ceremony took place in Tara Hospital, Johannesburg at which the President of the Republic of South Africa personally bestowed the Florence Nightingale Medal on Miss *Iris Irene Marwick*, Registered Nurse.

Detachments of Red Cross voluntary aids and nurses of the hospital lined the route leading to the hall in which some five hundred guests were assembled, amongst whom were representatives of the medical profession and nursing personnel, heads of the Red Cross, as well as friends and colleagues of the award's recipient.

The ceremony was opened by the President of the National Society. After having welcomed the President of the Republic, Honorary President of the South African Red Cross, he gave a brief historical account of the Medal, of the influence which Henry Dunant and Florence Nightingale had had and congratulated Miss Marwick, the tenth South African to obtain this distinction.¹

The Society's National Secretary recalled the recipient's record of service emphasizing the nursing and administrative aspects of her career.

Miss Marwick is a Registered Midwife, Registered Mental Nurse and Tutor, Matron-in-Chief of Tara Hospital, Johannesburg. Ten years after having qualified in general nursing and midwifery, she became a registered nurse in mental health in which branch she specialized completely, apart from the war period when she held various posts in hospitals and in forward areas in Italy.

She was subsequently appointed Matron of Tara Hospital, the largest psychiatric hospital in Johannesburg, a position which she holds today. In this capacity she has played an important rôle in all studies on mental health and initiated courses in psychiatric and neurological cases. She obtained important appointments through her competence.

Her action then extended beyond national frontiers and she distinguished herself as a member of committees of the World Federation of Mental Health, of the International Council of Nurses and of the World Health Organization, and took part in

¹ *Plate.*

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conferences held by those organizations in London, elsewhere in Europe and in Brazil. She was appointed an adviser in the Far East and at Singapore. She was awarded the Coronation Medal for her services to the mentally sick.

The President of the Republic then delivered an address. In a brief and moving speech he spoke in sympathetic terms of her and praised all the qualities required of the nurse in her task and, in conclusion, congratulated her " in the name of all those present and of the whole country, for the honour which she has herself obtained and which rebounds on the nursing profession and on her country ".

The ceremony ended on a personal note. A former recipient of the Florence Nightingale Medal presented Miss Marwick with flowers on behalf of the South African Nursing Association.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

World Red Cross Day, which is celebrated in all countries on May 8, is the day on which the American Red Cross has for some time past chosen for its annual Convention and then for the ceremony of awarding the Florence Nightingale Medal. This took place on May 8, 1963, in Philadelphia. The Society also celebrated the Centenary of the International Red Cross, at which Mr. Stevenson, representative of the United States at the United Nations, was present. He spoke warmly of the work of the Red Cross and the authority it had acquired since the last war. He also mentioned the expectations placed in the Red Cross for the future, since today it represents the clear light of hope.

The Florence Nightingale Medals were presented by the Chairman of the National Society, Mr. E. R. Harriman, after he had read out the records of service of each of the three recipients.¹ These are summarized below, together with a part of his speech :

" I have now arrived at one of the most pleasant moments of this Convention. Every two years, the International Committee of the Red Cross honours the outstanding nurses of the world by presenting the Florence Nightingale Awards . . . The fact that we are presenting these awards on May 8, World-Wide Red Cross Day,

¹ *Plate.*

heightens, I think, the significance of this honour. For the ladies who will shortly join me at the podium, this is a day of national recognition for their dedicated service to humanity.”

The first recipient of the award was Mrs. *R. Louise McManus*, recognized for her creative leadership in nursing education and research. On her retirement in 1961, she was Director of the Department of Nursing Education and Director of the Institute of Research and Service in Nursing Education at Teachers' College, Columbia University. It was under her leadership that the Institute of Research in Nursing was developed at Columbia and also under her guidance that a National Fund for Graduate Nurse Education was created.

Thanks to Mrs. McManus the number of nurses available for patient care was increased through the inclusion of nursing in junior college programmes. Furthermore, she has been adviser in Turkey for the development of nursing, then Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Florence Nightingale International Foundation. She is at present consultant to the Department of Nursing at the U.S. Army's Walter Reed Institute of Research.

The second recipient was Miss *Nan L. Dorsey*. She was enrolled as a Red Cross nurse in Omaha and a pioneer in public health nursing ; she was the first visiting nurse in that city. She took part in the development of the Visiting Nurse Association there and later organized similar associations in three other large towns. She served as the first President of the Nebraska State Nurses Association.

Miss Dorsey was for nine years supervisor and instructor in public health nursing for foreign students at Bedford College, London. She also served for five years as warden at Florence Nightingale International House in London.

Miss *Ann K. Magnussen* was the third recipient of the award. Enrolled as a Red Cross Nurse in 1925, she volunteered for the public health services and in 1939 became a career staff member, then a member of the Arlington County Chapter's Board of Directors, Chairman of the Nurse Enrolment Committee and a volunteer Nurse's Aid instructor. She is a member of the Advisory Committee of the League of Red Cross Societies and served as committee chairman from 1957 to 1961. She is now Vice-President of the American

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Nurses' Association. Throughout her career she has dedicated herself to the purpose of the Red Cross and to the accomplishment of its plans.

The ceremonies arranged for the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal were everywhere marked by a dignity such as the founders of this high award would have wished. They were also the occasion throughout for observing that the spirit of service is alive in the world and that the Red Cross gives it the opportunity of revealing itself in the most effective manner possible, namely, to help those who call and give aid to the suffering.
