† Marcel Junod

Member of the International Committee of the Red Cross

It was with consternation that the International Committee learnt on June 16 of the death of Dr. Marcel Junod, who had been nominated member in 1952 and had been its Vice-President in 1959 and 1960. It remains profoundly grateful to him for the important part which he had taken for so many years in its work, accomplishing its tasks, first as a delegate then as a member, with so much intelligence and devotion.

The Red Cross world has also been greatly saddened by this loss. As soon as the news of his death became known, messages of sympathy poured in to the ICRC from the National Societies, the League and from numerous directors of the Red Cross and of international institutions.

The life of Dr. Junod had been intimately connected, since 1935, with that of the Red Cross. Responding to the appeal of the ICRC, he had then gone as delegate to Abyssinia where war was raging. In 1936 he went to Spain, in which country he was general delegate throughout the civil war. On the outbreak of the Second World War, Dr. Junod once more placed his services at the disposal of the ICRC and undertook missions in a number of countries, notably in Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Sweden and Turkey. He also went to Hiroshima shortly after the explosion of the first atomic bomb.

¹ Plate.
MARCEL JUNOD
1904 - 1961
In 1948 he was in charge of a mission to China on behalf of the International Children's Emergency Fund.

When he was nominated member of the ICRC, his wide experience was of great value to the institution to which he always gave useful counsel. In 1959 he went to Japan where he occupied himself with the repatriation of Koreans\(^1\). Last year he accompanied the President of the ICRC to Warsaw and to Moscow and undertook another long mission, his last, to the Far East and America.

The above is only an outline of his activities. In 1947 Dr. Junod published *Le troisième combattant*\(^2\) a book in which he described the daily experiences of a delegate of the ICRC in the midst of every sort of danger. He thus testified to the Red Cross ideal which was his inspiration and which he never ceased to serve, carrying out this duty, in the words of Max Huber in his preface to the book, with the "staunchest fidelity to the cause of the Red Cross." Dr. Junod admirably defines the rôle of "the third combatant", as will be seen by the following quotation, of which furthermore he was the incarnation, he who had followed so many roads across the world driven by his faith in humanity.

"No matter what their intrinsic value and significance, texts rely for their application on the action of men.

Again and again on the missions which took me to theatres of war I have had the lively impression that I too was a combatant engaged in battle.

A battle must be waged against all those who violate, or neglect, or know nothing of, the provisions of these Conventions. A battle must be waged for their proper application and for their extension. And if the texts should prove imperfect then a battle must be waged to secure recognition for their spirit. Whoever accepts such a mission is in no way exempt from the risks of battle, but he must become blind and deaf to the reasons why it is being waged.

There are never more than two adversaries engaged in battle. But these adversaries are apt to find that suddenly in their midst is a third combatant—a warrior without weapons.

He fights for everything which human combat spoils and destroys. He appears wherever a human being is left, under no

\(^1\) *Plate*.

matter what form, at the mercy of his enemy. His only aim is to prevent the victor, whoever he may be, from relentlessly persecuting the vanquished.”

At Marcel Junod’s funeral, Mr. Léopold Boissier, President of the ICRC, paid a final tribute by saying of him, that he had been... “the most accomplished of the delegates of the International Committee of the Red Cross. I mean the most accomplished since, from the large host of those who have expended themselves and are still doing so, in order to come to the aid of the victims of wars and of internal disturbances, none had had such varied experience with so many opportunities of displaying his qualities of abnegation, courage and humanity.”

Mr. Boissier recalled that the civil war in Spain had left its deepest mark on Dr. Junod. “In such a conflict the Geneva Conventions, then in force, did not give to the delegates of the International Committee the means of fully accomplishing their mission of a neutral intermediary between the two adversaries. That did not matter... for Marcel Junod, full of faith, did more than his duty. By his unceasing interventions with both sides, by appealing to what remained human in a struggle which until then had been without mercy, he succeeded in saving thousands of lives. Thanks to him, condemned men were spared and hostages who had been destined to die were saved and exchanged. A delegate of the Committee is not only someone who relieves suffering. He is also a witness. He informs Geneva of the experiences which he has made and draws the attention of his chiefs to the ameliorations which should be made in humanitarian law so that man, if he must suffer, shall suffer as little as possible.

Across the Geneva Conventions which were revised and completed in 1949, one can hear the voice of these witnesses calling out their urgent message.”

Marcel Junod was a man of action and also a man of feeling and of this he gave proof on many occasions. For him the Red Cross was a means of putting his own sense of human fellowship into practice. By serving that cause he fulfilled himself best and knowing this, he was always ready to respond to an appeal and to leave on a mission, as if he were giving something of the best which was in him.
"He was everywhere and always a faithful and enthusiastic person," continued Mr. Boissier, "faithful because he was a man of the Red Cross body and soul, a body which alas! he never bothered about and a soul which was filled with love of his neighbour, of those in hospital or prison camp who were close to his heart, that heart, which, I repeat, never abandoned anyone.

And above all, that enthusiasm, the irreplaceable gift which overcomes all obstacles.

Marcel Junod acted with certainty and joy, convinced that he brought with him a message of life. Because he gave all to the Red Cross, he believed that it could for its own part obtain all. And this sense of completeness was reflected in his fine face, with its pure and direct look."

† Maurice Thudichum

With the death scarcely six months ago of William Michel, the International Committee has suffered another loss when Maurice Thudichum died on June 5, 1961.

In 1941 he entered the service of the ICRC as technical director of the British Section of the Central Prisoners of War Agency. He became its assistant-director in 1943 and it was in this capacity that he organized the ICRC action in favour of dispersed families. In 1946 he took over the German Section of the Agency and carried out various missions especially in Germany and in the Near East.

From 1948 to 1951, he was in charge of the International Tracing Agency at Arolsen, at that time under the control of the International Refugee Organization and which was later to be entrusted to the ICRC.

In 1956 and until October 1957 he once more took part in Red Cross work as delegate of the ICRC first in Port Said, then in Cairo, where he ensured the protection of numbers of victims of the events. In 1958, he undertook a short mission to Cuba. Finally,