

1864, describes in moving terms how its inhabitants helped the wounded of both camps :

“ After the terrible slaughter of Loncomilla, Talca was transformed into one vast hospital drenched with the blood of the wounded of the two armies. The preparations made by the authorities proving themselves insufficient to deal with so many wounded after such an unprecedented battle, the inhabitants were asked to take the sick into their own homes to care for them.

“ I can also bear out that during that scorching summer in that year of disaster, there were not enough hands in the entire village to prepare sufficient bandages and that the ladies of quality put snow on deep wounds to prevent gangrene.

“ I was witness to this selfless sacrifice which took possession of all hearts and which was demonstrated in the highest degree by the fine, charitable and benevolent action on the part of the inhabitants of Talca ”.

Mr. Gana ends his letter by giving the names of those ladies who had been outstanding in their activity for the wounded and sick.

Such a fine, humanitarian attitude on the part of the inhabitants of Talca towards the wounded and sick, devoid of all discrimination, since the victims of both sides were treated alike, showed the real Red Cross spirit and deserves being mentioned as an example. These events took place moreover in 1851, three years before Florence Nightingale brought aid to the wounded of the British Army in the Crimea, and eight years before the battle of Solferino where the idea of the Red Cross originated with Henry Dunant.

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## Philippines

The Red Cross Centenary which will be celebrated in 1963, is an event of outstanding importance for our movement ; it will signify a mile-stone on the long road of humanitarian activity on a world level ; it will also be an opportunity to celebrate, at appropriate

local ceremonies, the bonds which unite the Red Cross Societies, and their support for the emblem which they have chosen to serve.

Already this event is beginning to claim the attention of National Red Cross Societies and the Philippine Red Cross has sent us its publication *Philcross News* which it prints for Red Cross Week, and which is already devoting a good deal of space to the Centenary.

The author of one of the articles "Red Cross Centenary Celebrations Readied" after making a brief mention of Henry Dunant, recalls that the first Geneva Convention was signed in 1863 and he lists the names of those who will be forming the Centenary Committee for the Philippine celebrations, set up in Manila; he then goes on to describe the preliminary draft announced by Mrs. Geronima T. Pecson, Chairman of the National Society. Each month of 1963 will give the Philippine Red Cross an opportunity to make a thorough study of the meaning of its humanitarian work, and in this way throw light on the profound reasons which move those who serve it. We should like to draw our readers' attention to this plan which has been thought out in a most original and sensible fashion.

*January*—Theme: The Life and Works of Henry Dunant, Founder of the Red Cross. Objective: To achieve a clearer understanding of the Red Cross movement by understanding the life of its founder.

*February*—Theme: The Red Cross Principles. Objective: To propagate the basic principles on which the Red Cross operates.

*March*—Theme: The Red Cross and Volunteer Service. Objective: To recognize, emphasize and develop further the role volunteers play in the Red Cross.

*April*—Theme: The Red Cross Mission in Mitigating Suffering. Objective: To underscore the work of the Red Cross in mitigating suffering caused by disaster.

*May*—Theme: The Red Cross Mission in Preventing Disease. Objective: To underscore the work of the Red Cross in promoting health and preventing disease.

*June*—Theme : The Role of the Red Cross in Family Welfare. Objective : To emphasize family welfare as the basis of all community welfare and to call attention to the work of the Red Cross in its promotion.

*July*—Theme : The Red Cross Mission of Saving Lives. Objective : To underscore the work of the Red Cross in saving human life.

*August*—Theme : The Role of the Red Cross in Youth Welfare. Objective : To underscore the stake the world has in the youth and to call attention to the work of the Red Cross in promoting youth welfare.

*September*—Theme : The Geneva Conventions. Objective : To propagate the letter and the spirit of the Geneva Conventions as an instrument of human welfare.

*October*—Theme : The Red Cross and World Peace. Objective : To underscore the role of the Red Cross in the creation of a world of law and in the promotion of the brotherhood of man.

*November*—Theme : The Red Cross in Perspective. Objective : To evaluate the position of the Red Cross movement among human institutions, to assess its strengths and weaknesses and to adopt corresponding action.

*December*—Theme : The Red Cross and Faith. Objective : to emphasize the role religion plays in all works of mercy.

The article finishes by describing the celebrations which will take place in Geneva from August 15 to September 15, 1963.