

## BOOKS

### THE STORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS <sup>1</sup>

by

BERYL AND SAM EPSTEIN

The authors of this 170-page book, containing some fine photographs, have endeavoured to depict in a lively manner the Red Cross activity from its foundation to the present. The dust jacket points out that the history of the Red Cross is the history of a dynamic idea which, in the course of the last hundred years, has impelled men to perform prodigious deeds. This is indeed revealed in word and picture in every chapter, on every page. The Red Cross can be seen working for the general good, particularly in the course of the two world wars, following natural disasters, amongst the sick, the homeless, the victims of internal strife. It has been able to carry out its task without ever shedding a drop of blood—except for that of its own delegates—overcoming all barriers between men such as national boundaries, religious beliefs, political opinions, racial prejudice, etc.

In the course of its hundred years, it has been confronted with fresh tasks such as the one described in the first chapter under the title "People helping People". This deals with emergency relief in Morocco, when medical and social assistance was given to some ten thousand Moroccans of all ages who had been partly paralysed by food poisoning: "The paralysis victims still listed as patients include some 750 who need only medical supervision now that therapy has been completed, and 272 only who still require regular treatment. All the rest of that 'army' of men, women and children, are now fully able to look after themselves and are listed as complete cures". This is for the authors, one more example of a battle engaged and won by the Red Cross.

The other chapters describe the manifold achievements of the Red Cross and successfully convey the feeling that this is a movement which is going forward from strength to strength. This book by Beryl and Sam Epstein may not only arouse interest but even inspire a sense of vocation.

J. Z.

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Nelson and Sons, New York, Edinburgh, Toronto.