

THE FOUNDATION OF THE RED CROSS¹

SOME IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

This would seem to be a good moment, in this month of February 1963 when the International Committee is celebrating the hundredth anniversary of its foundation, to publish once more² documents of the greatest interest, since they throw light of considerable historic importance on the birth of the Red Cross. The material consists of the first minutes of what was known as the "Comité des Cinq" (Committee of Five), the Committee which was in fact the founder body of the Red Cross. Originally written in French, these were rendered into English by the Translation Section of the ICRC.

It will be recalled that the "Société genevoise d'Utilité publique" (Public Welfare Society of Geneva) was convened by its President, Gustave Moynier, to study the humanitarian proposals set out by Henry Dunant in his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino* (A Memory of Solferino). At their meeting of February 9, 1863, the Society decided "to give serious consideration to the suggestion made in the conclusions to the "Souvenir", and again at Moynier's instance, appointed five persons, General G. H. Dufour, Doctors Theodore Maunoir and Louis Appia, MM. Gustave Moynier and Henry Dunant³ as members of a Sub-Committee set up for that purpose.⁴

This "Committee of Five" inaugurated the work of the Red Cross. In 1863 it styled itself the "International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants" and in 1880 officially took the

¹ *Plate.*

² They were unpublished until they appeared in the *Revue internationale*, December 1948, presented by Mr. Pictet (*Ed.*).

³ Henry Dunant had been a member of the Public Welfare Society of Geneva since December 8, 1862.—The *Souvenir de Solferino* appeared in November 1862.

⁴ See *Bulletin international*, XXXII, 1901, p. 79.

name "International Committee of the Red Cross", which it bears today.

Of the following eight Minutes, seven refer to the "International Committee" and one to the "Geneva Section"; they cover the period between February 17, 1863 and March 23, 1864. All of them, save the last, were written by Henry Dunant, on whom had fallen the duties of Secretary. They fill the first twenty-seven pages of a stout note-book of ordinary format, bound in green cloth.

This note-book was found amongst Henry Dunant's papers after his death, and was handed to the International Committee on April 27, 1911, by his nephew and executor, Maurice Dunant.

Gustave Moynier wrote in 1902 that the "Committee of Five" had kept no minutes of any kind¹. However, the authenticity of the Minutes which we are now publishing and which were found after Moynier's death² cannot be questioned. Professor Alexis François, the historiographer of the Red Cross, has already pointed to the fact that the last Minute is in Moynier's own hand³. The mistake the latter made in 1902 is easily explained by the circumstance that, when he denied the existence of these Minutes, thirty-eight years had elapsed since the initial meetings of the "Committee of Five", and that no minutes were apparently kept between 1864 and 1867.

Though concise and matter-of-fact, the eight Minutes which have survived are of very great interest. At its first meeting, the Committee which was "charged with the preparation of a memorandum . . . for submission to the Welfare Congress in Berlin in September 1863", unanimously declared itself to be constituted a "Permanent and International Committee"⁴. This body would thus continue to exist as an "International Committee for the Relief of Wounded in the Event of War", after its mandate from the "Société Genevoise d'utilité publique" had expired.

¹ See G. MOYNIER, *La Fondation de la Croix-Rouge*, 1903, p. 8.

² Gustave Moynier was born in Geneva on September 21, 1826 and died on August 20, 1910. Henry Dunant, born in Geneva on May 8, 1828, died at Heiden on October 30, 1910.

³ *Le Berceau de la Croix-Rouge*, 1918, p. 109, note 1.

⁴ This is the original style which appears at the head of the first two Minutes.

The plan of action is then outlined : " We must first lay down general principles and then state what action could be undertaken immediately in all European countries, whilst leaving each country, district, and indeed town, free to organize itself according to its own wishes, and to pursue its work in the manner best suited to it ". The International Committee itself should, in Theodore Maunoir's own words, " keep agitating, if the expression may be used, for the adoption of our ideas by all, both high and low, by the rulers of Europe, no less than by the peoples ".

Further on, we find evidence of the first " tokens of support and approval from several European countries, in particular from the reigning Houses " and from " many soldiers and physicians, who considered the enterprise difficult, though not impossible ".

It is soon evident that Moynier and Dunant are the real moving spirits of the organization. They carry out the decisions of the council, draw up memoranda and convene meetings. Dunant himself travels and corresponds extensively with influential European personalities.

The convening of the celebrated International Conference which was to meet at Geneva from October 26 to 29, 1863, and from which the Red Cross was to emerge as a quasi-official organization, is not mooted until the meeting of August 25, at which an affirmative decision is immediately taken.

After the Conference and the adoption of the Resolutions that are still regarded today as the charter of the Red Cross, the following bald statement is recorded : " The Committee had every reason for satisfaction with the good results of the Conference ", and further, it is merely remarked that " the work had gone on apace ".

We then come to the setting up by the International Committee of the " Geneva Section ", a National Society in embryo, and to the Minutes of its first sitting. While these two organizations are at this stage distinct, their fields of action are as yet scarcely determined.

Finally, we read of the first dispatch by the Committee of delegates to belligerent countries during the war of Schleswig-Holstein. General Dufour " stressed our duty, in the present circumstances, to send two delegates, one to Germany and the other to Denmark, if we were to preserve our character as an impartial and international body ".

Reading all these papers, we are struck by the fact that the founders of the Red Cross had already laid down the principles that

have guided the organization throughout so many years and by virtue of which it has reached its present stature.

JEAN S. PICTET
Director for General Affairs

International Committee for the Relief of the Wounded

Sub-committee of the Society for the Relief of Combatants Wounded in Time of War ¹

Meeting of the Sub-Committee held on February 17, 1863

Present : General Dufour, Doctor Theodore Maunoir, M. Gustave Moynier, President of the " Société d'Utilité publique ", Doctor Louis Appia and M. J. Henry Dunant.

M. Moynier explained that the " Société genevoise d'utilité publique " having decided, at its meeting of February 9, 1863, to give serious consideration to the suggestion made in the conclusions to the book entitled Un Souvenir de Solferino, that Relief Societies for wounded soldiers should be set up in peace time, that a corps of voluntary orderlies should be attached to belligerent armies, and having appointed General Dufour and MM. Maunoir, Moynier, Appia and Dunant as members of a Sub-committee charged with the preparation of a Memorandum on these matters for submission to the Welfare Congress to be held in Berlin in September 1863, the Sub-committee was deemed to be duly constituted, all members being present.

He furthermore proposed, and M. Dunant seconded, that the Sub-committee should declare itself constituted a " Permanent International Committee ".

The proposal was adopted unanimously. On a show of hands General Dufour was elected President of the said Committee, which

¹ The heading of this first Minute is written over the original heading which is nevertheless perfectly legible and runs as follows :

Société genevoise d'Utilité publique.
Comité International et permanent de secours aux militaires blessés en temps de guerre—(Ed.).

would thus continue to exist as an International Committee for the Relief of Wounded in the event of War, after its mandate from the " Société genevoise d'Utilité publique " had expired.

The first task before us was to draw up the Memorandum to be presented at Berlin.

In its conclusions, the said report should express the desire of the " Société genevoise d'Utilité publique " that the Berlin Congress should :

1. Lend its authority to the creation of such Committees throughout Europe ;

2. Undertake to submit this project to Governments through the good offices of its members, and to request the support, opinions and advice of the said Governments.

Furthermore, the report should enlarge upon the concept of Relief Societies for wounded in time of war and present it to the public in such a way as to preclude all possible objections.

We should first lay down general principles and then state what action could be undertaken immediately in all European countries, whilst leaving each country, district, and indeed town, free to organize itself according to its own wishes and to pursue its work in the manner best suited to it.

General Dufour thought that the Memorandum should first state the need for the unanimous consent of the sovereigns and peoples of Europe, and should then determine the general line of action. Committees should be formed, rather than Societies, but such Committees should be organized throughout Europe, so that they might act simultaneously should war break out. Volunteer helpers were required who would place themselves at the disposal of the general staffs ; we did not want to take the place of the Quartermaster's Department or of the medical orderlies. Finally, a badge, uniform or armband might usefully be adopted, so that the bearers of such distinctive and universally adopted insignia would be given due recognition.

Dr. Maunoir wished the question of international relief societies to be kept in the public mind as much as possible, since it always took some time to bring an idea home to the masses. It would be useful if the Committee kept agitating, if the expression might be allowed, for the adoption of our ideas by all, both high and low, by the rulers of Europe, no less than by the peoples.

Comité International des Soins aux Blessés.
Commission Spéciale de la Société en faveur des Militaires Blessés
durant les guerres.

Siéance de la Commission du 17^e Février 1863.

Présents : M. M. le Général Cuvour, le Docteur
Stiévere, M. Maunoir, Gustave Moynier, Président
de la Société d'utilité publique, le Docteur Louis
Appia, et J. Henry Cunant.

Monsieur Moynier explique que
la Société Genevoise d'utilité publique, dans
sa séance du 9 février 1863, ayant eu
se première en sérieuse considération l'idée
émise dans les conclusions du livre intitulé
« Un Souvenir de Solferino », savoir la crea-
tion en temps de paix de sociétés de secours
pour les blessés militaires, et l'adjonction
aux armées belligérantes d'un corps d'in-
firmiers volontaires, & ayant nommé
Monsieurs Cuvour, Maunoir, Moynier,
Appia & Cunant comme membres d'une
Commission destinée à préparer un
Mémoire sur ces sujets pour être présenté
au prochain Congrès de bienfaisance, qui
doit avoir lieu à Berlin en Septembre 1863

La Commission se trouve constituée ce jour par la présence de tous ses membres.

Il propose, en outre, appuyé par M^r. Dunant, que la Commission se déclare elle-même constituée en Comité international permanent.

Cette motion est adoptée à l'unanimité, et M^r. Le Général Dufour est nommé par acclamations Président de ce Comité, qui continuera donc à exister comme Comité international de secours aux blessés en cas de guerre, après que le mandat qui lui a été donné par la Société Genevoise d'utilité publique aura pris fin.

Mais la première chose dont nous devons nous occuper est la rédaction du Mémoire qui doit être présenté à Berlin.

Ce rapport doit exprimer dans ses conclusions, le désir de la Société Genevoise d'utilité publique de voir le Congrès de Berlin:

- 1^o. Appuyer de son autorité la formation de semblables comités, dans toute l'Europe
- 2^o. Se charger par l'influence de ses membres de présenter cette idée aux Gouvernements, en sollicitant leur appui,

leurs bons avis et leurs conseils.

De plus, le rapport doit développer l'idée elle-même des Sociétés de secours aux blessés en temps de guerre, et la présenter au public sous une forme qui éloigne toute objection.

Il faut d'abord poser des bases générales; puis préciser ce qui peut déjà se faire dans tous les pays de l'Europe, en laissant toutefois à chaque pays, à chaque contrée, à chaque ville même, la liberté de se constituer sous la forme qu'elle préférera, et d'exercer son action de telle ou telle manière qui lui conviendra.

M^r le Général Buzour pense que le Mémoire doit établir d'abord la nécessité d'obtenir le consentement unanime des Princes et des nations de l'Europe; puis préciser quelles seront les bases générales d'action. Il faut qu'il se forme des Comités, & non des Sociétés, mais il faut que ces Comités soient organisés partout en Europe, afin de pouvoir agir simultanément au moment d'une guerre. Il faut des gens qui viennent en aide et qui se mettent à la disposition des

Etats-Majors, nous ne voulons pas nous mettre en lieu & place de l'Intendance, ou des infirmiers militaires. Enfin, il serait bon d'adopter un signe, un uniforme, ou un brapard, afin que ceux qui se présenteront avec cette marque distinctive, adoptée universellement, ne soient pas repoussés.

N^o le Docteur Maunoir desiré que le public soit préoccupé le plus possible de la question des Sociétés internationales de Secours, car il faut toujours un certain temps pour qu'une idée pénètre dans les masses. Il serait bon que le Comité entretint une agitation, si l'on peut s'exprimer ainsi, pour faire adopter nos vues par tout le monde, en haut et en bas, chez les Souverains de l'Europe, comme dans les populations.

N^o le Docteur Apfia voudrait que l'on fit venir tous les documents qui peuvent nous être utiles, et que nous nous missions en rapport avec la haute autorité militaire en divers pays.

N^o Moquier a déjà fait venir de Paris des documents qui pourront nous être utiles

M. Dunant voudrait que le Rapport fit bien comprendre au public, qu'il ne s'agit pas seulement, dans l'œuvre qui nous intéresse, d'envoyer des infirmiers volontaires sur un champ de bataille. Mais, il désire que l'on fasse bien comprendre au public que le sujet dont nous nous occupons est beaucoup plus vaste. Il renferme l'amélioration des moyens de transport pour les blessés; le perfectionnement du service des hôpitaux militaires; l'adoption universelle des innovations utiles pour le traitement des militaires blessés ou malades; la création d'un véritable musée pour ces moyens de sauvetage (musée qui aurait aussi son avantage pour les secourus civils); etc. Suivant lui, les comités doivent être permanents et toujours animés d'un véritable esprit de charité internationale; ils doivent faciliter l'envoi des secours de diverses natures, aplanir les difficultés de donanes, empêcher les dilapidations de tous genres etc. etc. Il serait, à son haine, que, partout les Souverains les prissent sous leur Patronage.

Enfin, M^r Dunant insiste tout spécialement sur le vœu émis, par lui, dans son volume "Un Souvenir de Solferino" savoir l'adoption par les Puissances civilisées d'un principe international et sacré qui serait garanti et consacré par un espèce de Concordat passé entre les gouvernements. Cela servirait à sauvegarder toute personne officielle ou non-officielle se consacrant aux victimes de la guerre.

Le Comité prie M^r Dunant de rédiger le Mémoire; et celui-ci demande à Messieurs les Membres de la Commission de vouloir bien lui fournir des notes écrites.

Le Comité, sous la présidence de Monsieur le général Dufour, désigne Monsieur Gustave Moynier comme vice-président et M^r Henry Dunant, comme secrétaire.

La séance est levée.

Approuvé le présent procès-verbal

Le Secrétaire,

J. Henry Dunant.

Dr. Appia thought that all documents likely to be of use should be procured, and that we should get into touch with the supreme military commands in the various countries.

M. Moynier had already obtained documents from Paris which could be of service to us.

M. Dunant thought the report should make it perfectly clear to the public that the present undertaking was not merely a matter of sending voluntary orderlies to a battle-field; he would like it to be carefully explained to the public that the question we had taken up was much wider in scope. It embraced the improvement of means of transport for the wounded; the amendment of the military hospital service; the general adoption of new methods of treating sick or wounded soldiers; the establishment of a veritable museum for these appliances (which would also be of benefit to civilian populations), and so on. In his opinion, the Committees should be permanent and should always be guided by a true spirit of international goodwill; they should facilitate the dispatch of relief supplies of various kinds, resolve customs difficulties, prevent any sort of waste and misappropriation, and so on. It was to be hoped that all European Sovereigns would take them under their patronage.

*Finally, M. Dunant particularly underlined the hope he expressed in his book *Un Souvenir de Solferino*: that the civilized Powers would subscribe to an inviolable, international principle that would be guaranteed and consecrated in a kind of concordat between Governments, serving thus as a safeguard for all official or unofficial persons devoting themselves to the relief of victims of war.*

The Committee requested M. Dunant to draw up the Memorandum, and the latter asked members to supply him with written notes.

The Committee, under the chairmanship of General Dufour, appointed M. Gustave Moynier vice-president and M. Henry Dunant secretary.

The meeting then adjourned.

The present Minutes approved
J. HENRY DUNANT,
Secretary

**Sub-committee of the Société d'Utilité Publique,
for the Relief of Wounded Combatants ¹**

Meeting of the Sub-committee, held on March 17, 1863

*Present : General Dufour, President ; Doctor Theodore Maunoir ;
M. Gustave Moynier ; Doctor Appia ; M. Henry Dunant,
Secretary.*

The Secretary read the Minutes of the meeting of February 17, which were adopted. He then informed the Committee that he had received numerous tokens of support and approval of our aims from several European countries, in particular from the reigning Houses in the Netherlands, Prussia, Italy, Baden, Hessen, etc., from many soldiers and physicians, who considered the enterprise difficult, though not impossible, and finally from a number of members of the public, who stated that they were prepared to give practical aid, when the time came.

M. Moynier requested the insertion of these expressions of approval in the Minutes of our meetings.

General Dufour thought that our first task was to lay down the general policy of the work which the Committees or Societies would have to do ; we should point the direction, others would later clear the way.

M. Moynier asked whether we wished Committees or Societies to be set up.

General Dufour and M. Maunoir thought that at the moment it would be sufficient to set up Committees, varying in size according to the countries concerned. When it was apparent to these Committees that the idea was taking shape and gaining ground, they would then decide what to do. The Geneva Committee could only take action when Committees had been formed elsewhere.

M. Dunant assumed that the Memorandum to be submitted by the Committee in Berlin should at some point fully illustrate the good which might have been done by voluntary orderlies during the war in Italy in 1859, had such a service then been in existence ; it was advis-

¹ The heading of the second Minute was, as in the case of the first, written over the original, which read :

Comité International et permanent de secours aux militaires blessés (Ed.).

able to quote an example of that kind in order to confront the public with summary, concrete proofs of the utility and necessity of the philanthropic corps we wished to see formed, and in order to give an idea of the considerable expansion possible in the work of these International Societies.

The Committee agreed, first and foremost, that, in its opinion, no action should be contemplated during civil wars, and that the Committees should concern themselves only with European wars. After a few years' experience, the welfare scheme, once universally adopted and established, could of course be extended in various ways, but for the moment we should confine ourselves to the question of large-scale conflicts between European Powers.

Dr. Maunoir made the following suggestions which were unreservedly approved by the Committee :

1. The Committees and their delegates should be officially recognized and approved by the authorities ;

2. The voluntary corps of male nurses should be subject to the jurisdiction of the military authorities, to whose discipline they would rigidly conform, from the beginning of any campaign ;

3. The corps should consist of helpers who would remain in the rear of the armies. They would cause no embarrassment, create no hindrance, nor involve the least expense for the armies concerned.

In short, the voluntary workers would cost nothing, and would be engaged and dismissed whenever necessary. Such well-organized units would have a responsible leader and a cadre of officers ; they would have their own means of transport and food supplies, and stocks of medicaments and of relief material of all kinds ; the managing Committees would keep the male nurses at the disposal of the military commanders and would supply the latter with the personnel they required.

M. Dunant, quoting the example of the Italian campaign, remarked that had a similar organization existed in 1859 it would have rendered immeasurable service. The organization would have been very simple, as the Austrian Army commander would first have applied for help to the Committees, either in Vienna, the Austrian Empire, or in the whole of Germany, whilst the French Marshals commanding the army corps would have demanded this assistance from Paris, Turin, Milan and Brescia in turn. As an alternative, there might have been a central managing Committee to which the commanders of the belligerent

armies would have applied direct, and whose work might be summed up in the words : charity, discipline and voluntary service. This work would consist of giving aid on the battle-fields, in ambulances and in temporary hospitals. A very small staff of resourceful and well-trained male nurses attached to the medical corps of an army could amplify by five or six times the relief which the said corps could normally render. The army commands would be in no way hindered or distracted by the voluntary workers and would incur no expense for their upkeep or their transport.

One member of the Committee thought that voluntary orderlies should not have to travel long distances, for instance not over thirty leagues ¹.

M. Dunant pointed out that railways allowed long distances to be covered in a very short time, and that at the outbreak of war there would be no lack of funds to meet the cost of transporting auxiliaries.

The male nurses should be enrolled for temporary service and should receive pay for the duration of their employment.

The same principles should be observed everywhere, but they might be developed in each country in accordance with the views, customs and habits of the population. It would be advisable, however, to designate a Central Office, which might be changed each year.

Our enterprise was capable of wide development, and practical experience would show to what purposes it could extend.

The Central Committee would be required to keep Branch Committees regularly informed of any progress made in the matters under consideration.

M. Appia requested that the Committee should publish a short handbook for the use of the proposed voluntary orderlies.

M. Dunant remained responsible for the drafting of the Memorandum to be presented in Berlin, and in which the suggestion advanced in "Un Souvenir de Solferino" would be further developed.

This Memorandum was to be handed to the Committee before the following September.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Minutes were approved.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

¹ About 75 miles. (Ed.).

P. S.—After the meeting, M. H. Dunant submitted the various documents he had received in regard to the subject under discussion, in particular a copy of the Spectateur militaire, dated February 15, 1863, containing a highly appreciative review of the book Un Souvenir de Solferino and of the opinions it contained, as well as 'a notice by Monsieur Louis Joubert, First Private Attaché to H. M. the Emperor of the French, on the folding-stretcher invented by him.

M. Dunant also submitted the correspondence on which he had been engaged for several months in order to disseminate his ideas in Europe and America, including his correspondence with the Société vaudoise d'Utilité publique and the Société neuchâteloise pour l'Avancement des sciences sociales, which had given their warm support to the aims of Un Souvenir de Solferino.

J. H. D.
Secretary

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, August 25, 1863

Present : General Dufour, President, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir, Dr. Appia and M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

The Secretary read the minutes of the meeting of March 17, 1863, which were approved.

M. Moynier announced that the Welfare Congress would not be held in Berlin that year, owing to various circumstances. Other means of action had to be found and, in agreement with M. Dunant, he thought that the only means of speeding up matters was to convene an international conference at Geneva.

General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir and Dr. Appia fully supported the suggestion, and requested M. Moynier and M. Dunant to draft an invitation, to be sent to all persons we might think likely to be interested in the question.

The Conference would be held at the end of October ; choice of the opening date was left to MM. Moynier and Dunant.

M. Dunant stated that he intended to go on his own account to Berlin, to attend the important Statistical Congress which was to be held from September 6 to 12, and that he would try to interest the Congress in our scheme. Further, M. Dunant would do his utmost to obtain the support of the German public, as he intended to visit Vienna, Dresden, Munich and other towns.

A draft concordat comprising ten articles having been prepared by M. Dunant, the Committee carefully discussed each item and requested M. Moynier and M. Dunant to draw up the final text, in such a manner that it could be joined to the circular.

MM. Moynier and Dunant were also entrusted with the printing of the circular, with the addition of any details or information they might think suitable, such as, perhaps, the concluding pages of Un Souvenir de Solferino. They were also made responsible for its circulation throughout Europe.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved
J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, October 20, 1863

Present : General Dufour, President ; M. Gustave Moynier ; Dr. Theodore Maunoir ; Dr. Appia ; M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.

M. Dunant gave details of his travels in Germany. The rulers of that country, the Ministers of State, the Army and the public had shown warm approval of our enterprise.

The Statistical Congress was greatly interested and the Fourth Section, composed principally of army physicians, had expressed itself very favourably on the subject.

After the Statistical Congress, M. Dunant had thought it wise to print, at his own expense, a new circular dated September 15, in which neutral status was requested for the wounded, ambulances, hospitals, medical corps and officially recognized voluntary relief services.

Finally, M. Dunant had written direct to almost all the European rulers, as well as to the War Ministers of several States, respectfully requesting that a delegate should be sent by each European Government.

Various arrangements were made for the meetings of the International Conference which was to open on the 26th instant in the Athénée, kindly placed at our disposal by Madame Eynard.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved
J. Henry DUNANT

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, November 9, 1863

*Present : General Dufour, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir,
M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.*

Absent : Dr. Appia, who had sent apologies.

The Committee had every reason for satisfaction with the good results of the Conference.

On a proposal by M. Moynier, the Committee decided to send :

1. A letter to the Delegates, urging them to form Committees in their respective countries and requesting them to inform us to what extent their Governments were prepared to adhere to our recommendations and resolutions.

2. A letter to the Ministers of those States which were not represented at the Conference.

3. A letter possibly also to Governments of small States from whom nothing had been heard.

M. Dunant informed the Committee that he had received the following donations for our work : 1,000 francs from Madame Eynard-Lullin, 200 francs from Madame Odier-Beaulacre, 100 francs from Monsieur and Madame Dunant-Colladon, 100 francs from Monsieur J.-L. Micheli and 50 francs from the Grand Duke of Baden. Those amounts had been deposited with MM. Hentsch, Chauvet & Co, Bankers, at Geneva. M. Dunant had prevailed upon M. Charles Hentsch to act as Treasurer for the Committee.

M. Dunant informed the Committee of his impending departure for Paris.

The drafting of the minutes of the Conference was left to M. Moynier.

The meeting then adjourned.

Approved

J. Henry DUNANT
Secretary

International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Combatants

Meeting of the Sub-committee, March 13, 1864

*Present : General Dufour, M. Gustave Moynier, Dr. Maunoir,
Dr. Appia and M. Henry Dunant, Secretary.*

M. Dunant informed the Committee of the official accession of Würtemberg, Prussia, France, Denmark, Portugal and Hanover to the recommendations of the Conference.

It was hoped that the accession of other Governments would follow at an early date.

During the months of January, February and March, M. Dunant had written numerous letters which he had sent to all European countries, in order to stimulate progress, revive the Delegates' interest and urge countries which had not set up Committees to do so at the earliest possible moment.

The work had in fact gone on apace and our meeting had aroused widespread attention.

M. Dunant and M. Moynier had received a large number of documents, newspapers and publications in all languages.

It remained understood that General Dufour should be Honorary President of the International Committee, M. Moynier President and that M. Henry Dunant should continue to act as Secretary.

M. Dunant proposed that a Geneva Section should be set up and gave the names of the following persons who were willing to become members: MM. J.-L. Micheli, Charles Eynard, Viollier-Ador, Ernest Cramer, Kunckler-Pictet, Charles Hentsch, Maximilien Perrot, Alphonse Revilliod, Jules Faesch, Dr. Dunant and Ferdinand Forget.

The Committee requested M. Dunant to write to these gentlemen, informing them that the creation of a Geneva Section had been decided and that they were invited to become members.

M. Dunant informed the Committee that he had at one time intended to go to Schleswig, but that he considered it would be more in the interests of the work if he left without delay for Paris, since the French Emperor had informed him of his willingness to discuss the question of neutrality at a diplomatic level through his Foreign Minister with all the other European Courts. To this effect, the Emperor had ordered that, on his arrival in Paris, M. Dunant should be put in touch with the French Foreign Minister.

M. Dunant announced that M. van de Velde was ready to start for the theatre of war, if the Committee decided to send him there.

M. Appia stated that he was quite ready to go, if the Committee considered it desirable, but that he would prefer to be sent to Germany, rather than to Denmark.

General Dufour stressed our duty, in the present circumstances, to send two delegates, one to Germany, the other to Denmark, if we were to preserve our character as an impartial and international body.

M. Moynier, who was to proceed to Berne on the following day, would request the Federal Council to grant blank letters of recommendation for the two delegates whom the Committee would send.

The meeting was then adjourned.

J. HENRY DUNANT,
Secretary

Meeting of the Geneva Section of March 17, 1864

Meeting held on March 17, 1864

Present : General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir, Dr. Appia, M. Ernest Cramer, Dr. Dunant, MM. Charles Eynard, Jules Faesch, Ferdinand Forget, Kunckler-Pictet, Alphonse Revilliod, van de Velde, Viollier-Ador and Henry Dunant, Secretary.

M. Charles Hentsch, who was absent, had informed M. Henry Dunant that he agreed to become a member of the Geneva Section.

In M. Moynier's absence, due to illness, General Dufour, Honorary President of the International Committee, took the chair.

After addressing the meeting the President declared the Geneva Section to be duly constituted.

Dr. Maunoir then read the resolutions of the October Congress, and in an eloquent address demonstrated the need for this work and the desirability of a Geneva Section.

M. Henry Dunant conveyed to the Committee M. Moynier's regrets on being unable to attend.

He informed the Geneva Section that Dr. Appia and Captain van de Velde, both present, were willing to leave, one for Schleswig via Germany, and the other for Denmark, to study the work done by voluntary ambulances and to take action if necessary.

M. van de Velde emphasized that the tour should be one of enquiry only, so that it should not appear too pretentious in the public eye.

M. Viollier-Ador supported the idea of sending delegates from Geneva.

General Dufour called for a vote on the question whether one delegate should be sent to Denmark and another to Germany.

A unanimous vote in favour was recorded.

M. Ernest Cramer asked whether publicity should be given to the creation of the Geneva Section, and whether the public should be informed that the Section was duly constituted.

General Dufour replied that it was preferable first to despatch the delegates ; the public might then be informed of our existence and would thus be under an obligation to help the organization by making donations.

The meeting then adjourned.

J. Henry DUNANT,
Secretary

International Committee

Meeting held on March 23, 1864

Present : General Dufour, Dr. Maunoir, M. Moynier.

The President reported that M. Appia had left the previous day for Schleswig and that M. van de Velde would leave on the 29th. Each gentleman held a letter of credit on Hamburg and on Copenhagen for 2,000 francs, issued by MM. Hentsch & Co.

M. Maunoir was requested to meet Madame Eynard in order to encourage her to set up an Auxiliary Committee for women.

The President would write to M. Appia asking him to keep a diary of his travels.

The Committee would convene the Geneva Section when news had been received of their delegates.

The meeting then adjourned.

G. MOYNIER,
Acting Secretary