

## BOOKS

undertaken by full-time workers, exercising a profession for which they have received a long period of training. Behind them they have institutions which grow ever larger and more powerful, some of which moreover, such as the Red Cross, are of private origins. However, the State intervenes more and more, making increasing resources available to the social services.

Nevertheless, as the author so rightly points out, it is its profoundly human aspect which gives the social services their quality and these must be watchful of bureaucracy and too rigid methods of administration. For there is still much to be done, in spite of increased efforts on the part of these services, since their field of action, as Mr. Veillard-Cybulski points out in the second part of the book, continues to extend. This development, however, can be justified only as long as it takes its inspiration from the humanitarian ideal of service to others.

*J.-G. L.*

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### THE RED CROSS AND THE POSTAL SERVICE <sup>1</sup>

In "Le Monde des Philatélistes", Mr. Max-Marc Thomas published a series of articles concerning the early years of the Red Cross.

These articles were collected in a booklet together with a monograph by Mr. Rouard-Watine, Director of the Information and Public Relations Division of the French Red Cross, entitled "La Croix-Rouge et le timbre-poste".

This booklet contains interesting information on the beginnings of Red Cross philately. It is well illustrated with a number of reproductions of vignettes and post-marks, including some used during the war of 1870.

It contains also the first messages sent to prisoners of war by the International Agency for Relief to the Wounded which was set up in Basle by the ICRC. Also reproduced are some of the first letters sent by prisoners of war which benefited from the exemption

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<sup>1</sup> Published in "Le Monde des Philatélistes", 5, rue des Italiens, Paris 9<sup>e</sup>, Study No. 70, 1965, 20 pp.

of postal charges. The first labels used by the International Committee in Geneva are also illustrated and catalogued.

The information in this booklet will undoubtedly prove of value to all collectors interested in the Red Cross connection with postal services.

C. P.

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**WHO Chronicle, Geneva, Vol. 19, No. 6, 1965.**

*United Arab Republic : progress in nursing education.*—With the aim of improving nursing services in the United Arab Republic, the Government, with WHO assistance, began in 1961 a project to demonstrate nursing education and services in a model hospital and school of nursing at the Ahmed Maher Hospital, Cairo. It was hoped that the standards of education and practice set by the project would become the established pattern for the country as a whole.

The first phase entailed the revision of the curriculum and of certain policies, the preparation of facilities for both hospital and school, and the recruitment of additional staff. The Government gave every support to the plan: representatives of the Ministry of Health participated in committees for the revision of curricula and policies, initiated a large building programme, obtained equipment and supplies, employed seven graduates of the Higher Institute of Nursing of the University of Alexandria to work with staff provided by WHO, and made whatever other personnel changes seemed necessary for the project.

It was planned to start the second phase—the training of nurses from other nursing schools and hospitals—only after completion of the first. However, interest in the project was so great that courses had to be arranged before the final preparations were completed.

In 1963 it was decided to extend the project so as to provide “models” not only for general hospitals but for all spheres in which nurses served. The plan of operation was revised and the Technical Assistance Board increased assistance, providing for three additional nurses under contingency funds in 1964. Provision is now made for a senior adviser and educators in nursing services administration, general nursing education, public health nursing, and mental health and psychiatric nursing. The Government has also made provision for an additional 17 posts to be filled by graduates of the Higher Institute of Nursing.

Plans for the future include the enrolment each year of 12 graduates of the Higher Institute of Nursing, so that they may gain a year’s practical experience in teaching and administration before assuming these responsibilities professionally.

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