

1869-1969

THE CENTENARY OF OUR PUBLICATION

With the first number of the Bulletin international des Sociétés de secours aux militaires blessés edited in Geneva in October 1869 by the International Committee of Aid to the Wounded, not yet known as the International Committee of the Red Cross, there originated a publication which in 1919 was to become the Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge, now widespread throughout the world and in which the activities, researches and intentions of our movement are described. We are therefore celebrating both the fiftieth anniversary of the Review's founding and also the centenary of the Bulletin to which it has succeeded without any interruption.

With a past rich in experience and with contents which many publications could envy, the Review constitutes a testimony of a unique sort of the history of the past hundred years. To the attentive reader it relates the vicissitudes, development and the pursuance of one of the most arresting of human adventures: that of the Red Cross. In these pages in which legal expositions, medical data and descriptions of activity can be found close to each other, an extraordinary history is unfolded. It is, in fact, an epic of all those self-effacing and effective men who struggle so that life may be less hard for those suffering misfortune, those in reduced circumstances and the homeless. It is also an appraisal of jurists who make efforts, through international conventions, to contain the ferocity of combatants, a tribute to doctors and nurses who give all their energy and solicitude

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and to delegates who, often at the risk of their own lives, place themselves in the forefront during natural disasters and in war.

On reading through these pages, one can estimate the amount of human suffering and discover much devotion which is often of the obscurest kind. One is held by unforgettable pictures: the face of a child lying prostrate, a long grey column of sad prisoners, above all the unbearable world of famine and barbed wire, the luminous Red Cross flag.

In spite of its apparent dryness, nothing can be so moving to read.

A publication of this sort cannot be replaced. It is the meeting place where those principles are affirmed, animating all those working under the emblem of the red cross, the red crescent and the red lion and sun.

It is a record of relief actions carried out by a few for the benefit of so many, without any other motive than that of service.

Through so much suffering it is an act of faith in a more friendly world.

To read this publication is to become aware and to make it widely known is all to the good.

Marcel A. NAVILLE

President of the International Committee
of the Red Cross