

RICHARD DEMING: "HEROES OF THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS" ¹

The author wishes, as he says, to introduce us to some past and present figures who have defended the values of the Red Cross in the field. They have accomplished missions in the name of the ICRC, or else, in their own countries, have shown such courage and tenacity that they were able to impose on all the strength of a national Red Cross organization, extending its action in ever-widening spheres. There was Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, of whom Mr. Deming paints a lively and colourful picture. He also portrays Henry Dunant, in the first chapter, whom Clara Barton did not have the opportunity of meeting, but with whom she exchanged correspondence.

Several delegates of the ICRC during the Second World War and in the period following appear haphazard in this book. We would lay emphasis on those who died and in particular would mention Marcel Junod and Georges Olivet, true humanitarian figures. The former had a wide knowledge of countries at war and his missions led him from Ethiopia to Spain, then from Germany to the Far East. We certainly agree with the author's conclusion in saying: "Although it is now many years since Marcel Junod last served as an ICRC delegate, he remains one of the great delegates in the annals of the ICRC and is still singled out as an example to emulate in training new Red Cross delegates."

Georges Olivet, it will be recalled, died in Katanga in December 1961, at the same time as two volunteers of the local Red Cross, Nicole Vroonen and Styts Smeding. As the author points out when describing the circumstances of the drama, he was trying to negotiate a truce for the evacuation of civilians in the fighting areas. Due tribute is here given to one whom Mr. Deming calls "one of the martyrs" of the Red Cross.

¹ Meredith Press, New York, 1969, 205 pages.

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Finally, based on past examples, two delegates are presented under fictitious names, imagination adding to the obscurities of greatest tragedy, the story of the concentration camps into which the ICRC delegates were unable to penetrate during the Second World War, except right at the end of the fighting in Germany.

It can be seen that this amply illustrated work, and which is aimed in the first place at the young, is intended above all to give a lively rendering, even by entirely imaginary dialogues and which should therefore be taken with a grain of salt, of the work of delegates who have served or who are still serving a humanitarian cause, often at the risk of their own lives. This indeed proves the power of the ideal animating them.

J. G. L.

PHILIP H. COOMBS: "THE WORLD EDUCATIONAL CRISIS"¹

Many are the Red Cross Society members which are asking themselves whether the time has not come to recognize the activities of the Junior Red Cross as an essential supplement to the work accomplished by the Societies' adult members, and that it is necessary to give youth a greater share of directional responsibilities in the field of education. For such Societies this book might well be of interest. It shows that man is not—or at least not yet—adapted to the times. It is true that on life's road one suffers from this only occasionally. Youth, however, which is about to set out, profoundly resents this new state of things. And, as the author points out, the world crisis in teaching or—to use a term of wider scope—education is due to a large extent to this fact that man is not adapted to his time.

This book was first written as a working document at the International Conference on the world crisis in education in the

¹ Oxford University Press, New York, London, Toronto, 1968.