

SEMINAR ON NURSING LEGISLATION

In July 1970 an International Council of Nurses seminar took place in Warsaw. It was attended by representatives of the international Red Cross institutions: the ICRC by the Head of its Nursing Personnel Service, Miss A. Pfirter, and the League of Red Cross Societies by the Director of its Nursing Bureau, Miss Y. Hentsch.

Financed with funds from the International Florence Nightingale Foundation, the seminar was attended also by representatives from 23 national nurses associations and from the European Office of the World Health Organization. The subject of discussion was nursing legislation and its related problems (teaching, practice, recognition of qualifications in all countries, modernisation of the profession).

The paper submitted by Miss Pfirter on "Nurses and the 1949 Geneva Conventions" aroused keen interest. Delegates from six countries announced their intention to have the booklet "Rights and Duties of Nurses under the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949" translated.

The following recommendation was unanimously adopted:

The Geneva Conventions of 1949 having become part of national legislation by ratification of individual Governments, all nurses should be instructed in the provisions contained therein concerning nurses; this instruction should be continuing." (Should be included in basic curriculum for all categories of nursing personnel.)

After the seminar Miss Pfirter was the guest for a few days of the Polish Red Cross and was made welcome by several of its leading members, such as Mrs. A. Musialova, Vice-President, and Miss D. Zys, head of international relations. She also visited the club for blind servicemen in Warsaw and the "Stocer" Rehabilitation Centre at Konstancin, some 12 miles outside Warsaw, directed by Professor Marian Weiss. This is the largest such centre in Europe with 500 beds, an artificial limb workshop, 47 doctors, 62 physiotherapists, 110 nurses and 8 social workers.