

In conclusion, Mr. Beer stated that the Red Cross must "give, even more than now, a new, imaginative contribution to make our communities a better place to live in".

The name of Dr. René Sand, one of the great men of the Red Cross movement, is kept alive by an award bearing his name, which, at every International Conference on Social Welfare, is made to the social worker who has most highly distinguished himself. This year, the recipient of the "René Sand Award" was Miss Julia Henderson, Secretary General of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, who gave an address on "Developing population policy in relation to social change and social welfare".

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### TEAMWORK FOR WORLD HEALTH

*This volume is a record of a symposium on contemporary world health problems organized at Istanbul in 1970, under the auspices of the Ciba Foundation.<sup>1</sup> The symposium grew out of an earlier meeting, held in 1967, on "Health of Mankind", at which the disturbing imbalance between the urgent need for medical care in many parts of the world and the lack of manpower in the health services was made very clear.*

*It was Florence Nightingale who came to be fully conscious of a similar situation in most dramatic fashion, and she brought to it, for her part, and under certain given circumstances, a practical solution. On the occasion of the 150th anniversary of her birth, the Ciba Foundation convened its symposium in Turkey, not far from Scutari, where the "Lady with the Lamp" cared for the wounded and sick of the Crimean War.*

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<sup>1</sup> J. & A. Churchill, London, 1971, 242 pp.

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The papers read at the symposium gave rise to stimulating exchanges of views between the participants; they included those contributed by Miss Y. Hentsch, Director of the Nursing Bureau at the League of Red Cross Societies, by Professor T. D. Baker, of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, by Mr. A. Ordonez-Plaja, former Minister of Public Health of Colombia, and by Professor S. Artunkal, of the University of Istanbul. Titles of contributions were as follows:—

*Florence Nightingale—Handmaid of Civilization; Response to Emergencies, National and International; The New Priorities in Tropical Medicine; The Health Corps in Iran: an Approach to the Better Distribution of Health Resources in Remote Areas; An Example of an Integrated Approach to Health Care: the Turkish National Health Services; Experiments in Expanding the Rural Health Service in People's China; Backcloth to the National Health Service in England and Wales; The Family Care Team: Philosophy, Problems, Possibilities; Paediatrics and the Community; Paramedical Paradoxes—Challenges and Opportunity; New Concepts in Medical Education; Philosophy of Management: the Place of the Professional Administrator; Teamwork at Ministry Level; Mental Health Care: a Growing concern to Communities; Volunteers—Their Use and Misuse; Teamwork for World Health: Personal Conclusions and Recommendations.*

The account of Florence Nightingale's humanitarian work, contributed by Mr. Wolstenholme, Director of the Ciba Foundation, should be mentioned. Florence Nightingale certainly imposed discipline on the nurses, but it was a discipline founded on the consciousness of one's duty and loyalty to tasks taken up in full knowledge of what they implied. Her phrase: "No one was ever able to govern who was not able to obey", must be brought to mind. It is a measure of the demands she set on those who took up the arduous but splendid work of nursing the wounded and sick.

Miss Hentsch's paper must be noted, in particular, for it described some of the means through which the Red Cross ideal, especially the principle of humanity, is in practice brought to light, by providing the inspiration to the actions undertaken today on a large scale through-

*out the world, in order that the needs of populations with regard to the safeguard of health and progress in nursing service might be met.*

*Her remarks on the latter and her conclusions were given in the following words :*

Modern nursing and the Red Cross were born at the same time in the middle of the last century. The Red Cross ideal is also that of the nursing profession and they both function under the same basic principles. There is, therefore, reason enough for them to have been closely associated over the years and for their partnership to be still a reality today. One evidence of this is a clause which was introduced in the Code of Ethics of the International Council of Nurses in 1965, stating that "... it is important that all nurses be aware of the Red Cross principles and of their rights and obligations under the terms of the Geneva Conventions of 1949", remembering that all members of the medical services of the armed forces are subject to these rights and obligations. Moreover, it is a fact that most National Societies today are engaged in some nursing activity.

Some run basic, and a few of them post-basic schools of nursing; several offer specialized courses for nurses; a large number train auxiliary nursing personnel; over half of them conduct a Health in the Home instruction programme and many more give various types of home nursing and other health courses; almost all of them, as auxiliary bodies to the public health authorities, enrol nursing personnel for service in hospitals, homes and other institutions for the physically or mentally handicapped, public health services and disaster relief.

Thus, nurses and nursing auxiliaries are present in most Red Cross action designed to meet emergency situations, be it locally, nationally or internationally. It is today undisputed that, in all cases and like all other Red Cross workers, such personnel must be prepared for the service they are expected to render. Such preparation includes not only the specific nursing skills required, but also an awareness of the place of each member in the health team and a knowledge of what the Red Cross stands for.

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With this in mind, and with a view to perfecting the service of nurses in natural disaster relief operations, especially in international operations, the League of Red Cross Societies is at present working on the establishment of a set of guidelines for the use of National Societies. As this work proceeds, it has already become apparent that if relief personnel are to function as a team in the field, they should also come together during their training and learn to function as a team before they ever get into the real situation. This applies to all emergency relief operations, disaster relief and others, that require immediate action in order to save lives and relieve distress. Epidemics, malnutrition, displacement of populations are some of them. They all require nursing service. The insufficient number of people qualified to give such service where it is most needed has resulted in a vast mutual aid programme. Whether it be known as technical assistance, a development programme or some other name, whether it be conducted under official or private auspices, the fact remains that a world-wide mutual aid programme is in progress, in which hundreds of nurses are engaged. As members of an independent profession, they are increasingly being better prepared to assume their full share of responsibility in the health team, alongside members of the medical profession, social workers, public health engineers and various non-professional workers. Their contribution to world health is important. It will become even more so, inasmuch as they themselves and the other members of the health and social welfare professions increasingly recognize the need to work as a team and to include in the latter the people whom they serve.

This paper is concerned with emergencies which involve human suffering, and thereby affect the health of individuals and groups.

Response to such emergencies is basically the responsibility of the public authorities, assisted however by society as a whole. Effective assistance requires preparation, prevention and teamwork. The United Nations, the International Red Cross, the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization provide examples of a humanitarian effort undertaken at international level to establish and implement short and long-term relief plans.

Red Cross action in meeting emergency situations is over 100 years old. It is world-wide, and applies to victims of wars as well as of all other calamities.

Nursing service is closely involved in Red Cross action and in all other existing mutual aid programmes. Its contribution to world health is important and will become even more so as the need is increasingly recognized for teamwork between all members of the health and social welfare professions and between them and the people they serve.

In conclusion, today society is constantly engaged in mutual aid action designed to meet emergencies, national and international. As time goes on, such action is perfected not only through industrial development and progress in medical science, but also through the application to emergency relief operations of a deeper knowledge of human relations and of the potentiality of team work. The Red Cross plays a leading role in this world-wide action, and, in the words of Max Huber "... is one of the constructive and positive elements in the contemporary world, a factor of understanding, tolerance and conciliation".

*Finally, we would like to note the tribute paid to Florence Nightingale by the participants in the following lines :*

Florence Nightingale's great opportunity emerged through the catastrophe of war. Periods of war, and of disaster in general, have proved to be the background for many important innovations, made possible perhaps by the loosening of those bonds which hold a stable society tightly together. She, having embraced the opportunity that offered under emergency conditions, became involved in her great work for life. Her emotional involvement, her personal involvement in her great work perhaps led her to be somewhat unresponsive to the ideas of others, such as those of Pasteur about the transmission of infection by microorganisms, while her opposition to the State Registration of nurses was a related aspect of her character. Miss Nightingale's work was of the nature of an artist as well as that of a

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statistician, although she was indeed a first-class statistician and an innovator in that field. The creator of a work of art, emotionally involved at one stage, must disengage and step back to view the creation in an objective manner, in relation not only to the artist but to the world in general. Florence Nightingale was an outstandingly able administrator whose ideas about the necessity for clean water were of paramount importance in her time. And can we blame her for being sceptical about some of the new ideas which were then gaining ground but which were not accepted by doctors without a great deal of reluctance—ideas, for example, about the value of bacteriological methods for the examination and assessment of apparently clean water?

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