

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### “ KAMPF OHNE WAFFEN ”<sup>1</sup>

These two well illustrated volumes edited by Erich Grassl will be of interest to the young since they describe the characters and work of those who to a high degree worked for others and thus deserve sympathy and also enthusiasm because of the effect and durability of their achievements.

The first volume contains the biographies of famous figures in XIXth Century history: Florence Nightingale and Henry Dunant. A vivid account is given of the Crimean War, the persistent struggle to improve conditions for nurses, which is followed by a description of Dunant at Castiglione, then in Geneva where, after writing “ A Memory of Solferino ”, he became the animator of a small group which was to found the Red Cross.

Biographical sketches are made of three fine characters: the Reverend Wilhelm Löhe (1808-1822); Dominikus Ringeisen (1835-1904), founder of the “ Ursberg ” Institute in Swabia for crippled, blind, deaf and epileptic children and known as the “ Stadt der Nächstenliebe ”; and Albert Schweitzer.

In the second volume, several contributors give lively accounts of five courageous beings whose work was far-reaching enough to instigate and make effective relief actions and the founding of institutions of a humanitarian character today. These are Friedrich von Bodelschwingh (1831-1910), St. John Bosco (1815-1888), Marie Juchacz (1879-1956) and Johann Heinrich Wichern (1808-1881). A Swedish woman, Elsa Brandström, who holds a place of honour in the history of the Red Cross, is also to be found in this useful contribution to humanitarian achievement. It should be recalled that during the First World War and in the following years she devoted her life to German and Austrian prisoners of war in Russia. Eruptive typhus which she had contracted whilst caring for them did not prevent her from continuing her work, when cured, going from one camp to another, bringing clothing, medicines and moral comfort to them.

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<sup>1</sup> Verlag Ludwig Auer, Donauwörth, 1967, Vol. 1, 144 p., Vol. II, 172 p.