

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

EMILIO POITEVIN: " VUESTRA CRUZ ROJA " ¹

The author of this book, who carried out important and effective functions in the Guatemalan Red Cross, is now Honorary President and Medical Adviser of that National Society. He therefore knows full well the practical problems that beset the Red Cross in its task and the scope and difficulties of humanitarian action. Yet, with great breadth of vision, he has also made it the subject of reflection on the meaning of Henry Dunant's humanitarian act, on the value of his example and of the example of others who have devoted themselves to serving humanity: Florence Nightingale, Clara Barton, Anna Nery . . .

The book which he has dedicated to the Red Cross will therefore be read with great interest, as may be gathered from some of the chapter headings: the origins of the humanitarian concept, the Geneva Conventions, the Red Cross doctrine, a history of the Red Cross in Guatemala, women and the work of the Red Cross, the future of the Red Cross, the Red Cross and civil protection.

This small volume will allow everyone to learn about the various activities of the Red Cross and the opportunity it provides of showing active human solidarity and helping the suffering. The book contains a number of illustrations relating to the history of humanitarianism and Guatemalan Red Cross activities.

J.-G. L.

New Hope for the Aged, *World Health*, Geneva, April 1972.

The problem of caring for the aged has taken on new dimensions in the 20th century. As the quality of medical practice improves and as preventive medicine plays a more important role in our lives, the proportion of old people in our society increases. The result is an ever-growing number of old people—who may lack purpose, direction or hope.

Often, in its eagerness to prolong life, society has neglected to utilize the vast potential of the aged. In some respects we have taken a step

¹ *Editorial José de Pineda Ibarra, Ministerio de Educación, Guatemala, 1971, 103 pp.*