

size the need for faster and more modern techniques, and to seek new ideas for attracting youth to the work and ideas of the Red Cross. This Second Meeting of Heads of Information and Public Relations was indeed an opportunity for all participants to cast a wide glance around them in a particularly important field of Red Cross activities. We shall return to this topic when a full report has been published.

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### AN EXHIBITION AT THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MUSEUM

We have several times mentioned the interesting International Red Cross Museum which was opened eleven years ago in one of the most beautiful manors of Castiglione delle Stiviere in North Italy. In that small palace an exhibition on "The Red Cross and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71" has just been opened.

The exhibition is the result of co-operation by the Henry-Dunant Institute, the ICRC, the League and several National Societies, assisted by the local authorities and the management of the museum. It was inaugurated on 16 June on the occasion of the visit to Solferino and Castiglione of the heads of information and public relations who attended the IIInd meeting organized by the League in Geneva, and of which we give an account elsewhere in this issue.

It might be asked whether the Red Cross movement is justified in commemorating the centenary of historic events which concerned mainly only Germany and France. The answer is yes, for those events were a decisive stage in Red Cross development. It was during them that for the first time

- a) the Geneva Convention, which had been ratified by both belligerents, was applied in practice;
- b) the medical services of both armies were assisted by a National Aid Society for the Nursing of the Sick and the Wounded in the Field;

- c) the solidarity of the Societies was fully manifest. The Central Committees of twelve neutral countries despatched to the battle-field doctors, nurses, ambulances and donations;
- d) the International Standing Committee for aid to wounded soldiers (later to become the International Committee of the Red Cross) opened an agency for the tracing of missing persons and for the transmission of news and relief supplies;
- e) the Red Cross went beyond its initial aim, extending its action for the benefit of prisoners of war.

The documents displayed at Castiglione show all that clearly: the work of ambulances and their attendants from various countries; medical supplies; card indexes on missing persons; the letters Henry Dunant sent by balloon; arm-bands worn in battle; carts for the rapid transport of the wounded; and many other items. We cannot but recommend a visit to this exhibition which is open until 31 October 1970 and which is under the kind patronage of the Italian Red Cross.

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### **Algeria**

Two Round Table meetings, jointly organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the League of Red Cross Societies and the Algerian Red Crescent Society, took place, first on 19 May at Tizi-Ouzou, and then, on 22 May, at Constantine. The ICRC was represented by Mr. P. Gaillard, and the League by Mr. Ruiz Gomez. In both towns the ICRC and League representatives were received by the local Red Crescent Committee. Dr. Belaouane, President of the National Society, introduced them when they read, in turn, a short paper on the work of the institution each one represented. In addition, Mr. Gaillard showed a film on the ICRC.

At both Round Tables, some fifty persons were gathered, including representatives of the authorities, the teaching and