

DISSEMINATION OF THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies have just brought out a booklet entitled *The Robinson Family* which traces, in story form, the experiences of various members of one family in wartime.

The object of this publication is to teach the provisions of the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949, in an attractive manner, by emphasizing the protection which is ensured for war victims.

The text is by Mrs Warburton who, for many years, was Director of the Junior Red Cross in Great Britain, and who as a result, has a thorough knowledge of the psychology of youth. To instruct and at the same time to amuse, such is the object of this booklet. It was difficult to attain this aim when one thinks of the seriousness, the tragic aspect, even, of the situations to which the Geneva Conventions relate. However, this very precise work (numerical references allow one to consult the text of the Conventions at any time) seems to have achieved its aim because, throughout, there runs an atmosphere of calm and sometimes of gaiety. In addition to this, the illustrations on each page fit remarkably well into the same atmosphere.

Mr. Pierre Leuzinger has contributed forty sketches (one of which is reproduced as an example)¹, which add to the attraction of the work. The artist has struck just the right note. The humour is not far fetched and the serious side is not overpowering, emotion and poetry are never far away.

This booklet, which will shortly be sent to all the National Red Cross Societies, is in English only and is in a limited prototype edition. This preliminary edition is undergoing certain corrections and the final publication will have a coloured cover.

However, after examining the copies which will be sent to them, the National Societies will have to say whether they wish to order a certain number of volumes, and in which language, or whether they prefer to deal with the edition themselves, both in

¹ Plate.

English and other languages. In this event, Mrs. Warburton's text and Mr. Leuzinger's drawings would be put at their disposal free of charge.

This publication is a further contribution to the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and it gives us great pleasure to bring it to the notice of readers of the Review.

AWARD

The International Committee has awarded its silver medal to one of its staff, Mr. André Durand, on his completion of twenty years service. The President, Mr. Léopold Boissier, handed him the medal at the plenary session on July 5, 1962. He recalled the institution's gratitude for the outstanding services that Mr. Durand had rendered, showing throughout all his missions a rare brand of competence and never failing courage :

You began working at the ICRC, first of all as a secretary in the reports section and were then attached to the General Directorate.

After a short mission in France in 1947, you left Geneva in 1948 to go to Palestine, where fighting had broken out. You thus began, on the continent of Asia, a career as an important delegate, assuming increasingly heavy responsibilities, meeting growing difficulties and suffering in the flesh and in the spirit, but you nevertheless succeeded in accomplishing the most delicate tasks, each time saving lives which one had thought lost.

In Palestine, you were seriously wounded going to the help of the wounded in no man's land. In 1951, the ICRC sent you to Hong Kong, then to Viet Nam where you visited prisoners in French hands, then to Hanoi. Such were your patience, your courage and the dignity of your bearing that everyone gave you their confidence . . . You are in every sense of the term, a neutral intermediary, not only because you are just and impartial, but also because you are animated by a desire to serve which your reserved and modest attitude hides.

In 1957, you helped in the repatriation of the Netherlands colony in Indonesia. The following year you were in Ceylon where the Cin-