

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

R.-M. FIEDLER-WINTER: "ENGEL BRAUCHEN HARTE HÄNDE" ¹

The German writer Gertrud von Le Fort prefaced this book with an analysis of what kindness in the modern world can do and the magnificent results it has achieved as the outcome of that love which transcends all frontiers. Men and women today are united to exercise that kindness in such organizations as the Red Cross which "thanks to these combined forces has been able to alleviate incalculable suffering and even to prevent it to a large extent".

Women have played and continue to play a prominent rôle in humanitarian action. Alongside men they have carried on a valiant struggle for two centuries, especially in the defence of human dignity. Mrs. Rose-Marie Fiedler-Winter has therefore chosen to write of several remarkable women.

Some of them, whose noble destiny and the difficulties they faced she describes, are particularly dear to the Red Cross, such as: Elizabeth Fry—of whom Henry Dunant said he had been influenced by her and her mother; Florence Nightingale; Harriet Beecher-Stowe; the Empress Augusta of Germany and her daughter; the Grand Duchess Louise de Bade—who worked to promote the nascent Red Cross in her country; Clara Barton—the outstanding figure in the history of the American Red Cross; Princess Amrit Kaur—so active and efficient within the Indian and the International Red Cross; Miss Lucie Odier—whose relief work as a member of the ICRC, particularly during the Second World War, is well known.

The author gives a concise picture of what charitable women are capable of in an era of injustice and amidst the cruelty of war. She recalls the humanitarian work of the Grand Duchess of Saxony-Weimar, Maria Pawlowna, the social work of Amalie Sieveking and

¹ Econ-Verlag, Düsseldorf — Vienna, 1967, 300 pp.

Bertha von Suttner's efforts for peace, as well as two women whose energy and courage saved thousands of victims and opened up new horizons, namely Florence Nightingale, the "Lady of the Lamp", and Elsa Brändström, the friend of abandoned soldiers who was called "the Angel from Siberia".

This book is not merely the author's fair and reasoned tribute to these women devoted to humanity. It is also an encouraging reminder of what people of unwavering faith in a better world have been able to accomplish.

MANUEL E. SALADIN VELEZ: "VIDA Y OBRA DEL
FUNDADOR DE LA CRUZ ROJA"¹

The President of the Dominican Red Cross has just produced a brief study on Henry Dunant. Dedicated to Mr. P. Jequier, Delegate of the ICRC, it vividly describes how that remarkable book *A Memory of Solferino* was written and the experiences from which it originated.

The founding of the Committee of Five and the rapid growth of the Red Cross movement on an international scale is also recalled. A comparison is also rightly made with the corresponding development of international humanitarian law. By way of illustration the texts of the Geneva Conventions of 1864 and 1906 are also given.

Dr. Saladin Velez concludes with a description of Dunant's wandering life after 1870 and his last years, when he received many tributes at Heiden and was given due recognition at last for his prominent part in initiating the Red Cross.

¹ Editorial Arte y Cine, Santo Domingo, 1967, 62 pp.