



REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

SIXTEENTH AWARD of the FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

The Florence Nightingale Medal is awarded every two years by the International Committee of the Red Cross to nurses and voluntary aids who have distinguished themselves by their exceptional devotion to duty. In 1957, 31 nurses of 22 countries were awarded the Medal and their names were given in a circular letter by the I.C.R.C.¹

As is known, the founders wished the presentation of the Medal to take place with solemnity; for this reason, presentations in nearly all the countries concerned during the past year were accompanied by ceremonies. Most of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have very kindly sent information to the *Revue internationale* which has enabled us to publish this article.

Some presentations took place only towards the end of last year and we have delayed the publication of this report in order to give the fullest details. It will be seen that in every case the presentation ceremonies have enabled a tribute to be paid to the work that is carried out each day under the Red Cross emblem. The strength of the Red Cross lies in the spirit of self-sacrifice, and the example of the candidates put forward last year by the National Societies and chosen by the

¹ See *Revue internationale*, May 1957.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

International Committee to receive the Medal is a source of encouragement for the entire humanitarian movement throughout the world.

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AUSTRALIA

Miss Joan Abbott has given proof of her great qualities, not only in Australian hospitals, where she was Matron for many years, but also in military hospitals in the Middle East and Greece during the Second World War.

On September 19, 1957, Sir Peter MacCallum, National Chairman of the Australian Red Cross, who went to Brisbane for the purpose, presented Miss Abbott with the Florence Nightingale Medal and diploma. He recalled the high significance of this distinction. The local Press, in describing the ceremony, referred to the recipient's distinguished career and emphasised that the object of the Medal is to honour nurses and voluntary aids for their devoted service.

BOLIVIA

On August 16, 1957, the Florence Nightingale Medal was presented to Miss Maria Cermak, during a ceremony organised at La Paz University by the Bolivian Red Cross, which was most dignified and fully worthy of the recipient who, since 1951 has given devoted service to the lepers at the El Tanq Hospital in the heart of the jungle.

In a moving speech, Dr. Ismael Morales Pareja, President of the Bolivian Red Cross, praised the work done by Miss Cermak, and laid particular emphasis on her exceptional devotion in giving up everything to care for the lepers of Bolivia. After Miss Cermak had received a bouquet from the representative of the President of the Republic, the Minister of Health, Dr. Gabriel Arcé Quiroga presented her with the Florence Nightingale Medal and said it was a great honour for him to be taking part in the ceremony as he was fully aware of the self-sacrifice and devotion to duty she had shown.

Miss Cermak then made a moving speech to a vast audience including the Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, the mother of the President of the Republic, representatives of the national authorities, members of the diplomatic corps and the medical profession, and members of the Central Committee of the Bolivian Red Cross. Miss Cermak said that her profound religious beliefs had led her to go to Bolivia and to devote her time and energy to the care of the lepers. She expressed her gratitude for the tribute thus paid to her and made a formal promise to devote all her strength to the care and comfort of the patients of the El Tanq community, which has been under her direction since its foundation.

CANADA

Several Canadian nurses have already received the Florence Nightingale Medal ; the last recipient was Miss Florence H. M. Emory, Honorary Adviser in Nursing of the Canadian Red Cross Society and Professor of Nursing at the University of Toronto, who was awarded the Medal in 1953.

This year the Canadian Red Cross has once more been honoured, since the Medal was awarded to Miss Helen S. McArthur, National Director of Nursing Services of the Canadian Red Cross Society. The presentation ceremony took place on May 16, 1957, at the York Club, Toronto, where national officers of the Canadian Red Cross were gathered. Miss E. K. Russell, Director of the School of Nursing in the University of Toronto was also present. Miss Emory made the presentation to Miss McArthur, whose eminent services were recalled in a speech made during the ceremony.

CHILE

On June 23, 1957, the Florence Nightingale Medal was solemnly presented to Miss Maria Luisa Torres de la Cruz, at a ceremony in the Astor Theatre, where the stage was covered with bouquets sent by the recipient's numerous friends. The ceremony was attended by members of the Government and of the diplomatic corps, numerous doctors and directors of

hospitals, prominent members of the teaching and legal professions, and representatives of the Red Cross organisations in Santiago and the provinces. The presentation—which was widely reported in the Press and on the air—proceeded as follows :

Dr. Augustin Inostrosa, President of the Chilean Red Cross, made a speech in which he extolled the merits of the recipient and stated that the person who was being honoured that day had been chosen by the International Committee of the Red Cross as one of those whose high principles, sterling work and unfailing courage deserved general recognition. The Chilean Red Cross was therefore holding a celebration and wished thus to show its joy that one of its most faithful workers had attained the award reserved for a privileged few; it also wished to show its pride that she should have gained that supreme distinction. The Central Committee, which he had the honour to represent, and the entire Chilean Red Cross, were convinced that the distinction bestowed was the just reward for the work Miss Torres de la Cruz had accomplished, and they all knew that it would continue to be so, since she would continue to act as she had always done.

Other speeches were made by Mr. Naville, Ambassador of Switzerland, the Vice-President of the Nursing Committee of the Chilean Red Cross and the Vice-President of the Women's Red Cross Association of Chile. Finally, Miss Maria Luisa Torres de la Cruz herself, President of the Nursing Committee of the Chilean Red Cross made such a moving speech that we wish to reproduce it here; she said :

For a life to be worth living, it must be inspired with an ideal and guided by the wish to achieve a purpose. Once we have reached our aim, we are filled with satisfaction and justifiable pride since our efforts and our many hours of toil have been crowned with success. Nevertheless, it sometimes happens that we have at heart a longing which we cannot hope to satisfy; when it is fulfilled, we are surprised and deeply moved.

It was with such joy and surprise that my hearth glowed when the President of the Chilean Red Cross, on behalf of the Interna-

tional Committee of the Red Cross, pinned on my uniform the Florence Nightingale Medal and conferred upon me the greatest honour to which a nurse can aspire. The fact of having been chosen by the International Committee, the guardian and trustee of the Red Cross principles throughout the world, fills me with pride. I shall be for ever grateful to the Central Committee of the Chilean Red Cross for having put forward my name for such a high distinction. I have contracted a sacred debt towards the Institution which I swore to serve so many years ago but I shall now have still greater courage and energy to continue to give it even greater service in the future.

When I look back on my life, from the day I started my Red Cross work, I shall always remember the admiration and respect I felt in pronouncing the names of Henry Dunant and Florence Nightingale; the former for his admirable work which had its beginnings on the steps of the church at Castiglione, but which will continue to thrive throughout the centuries, and the second for her living example of what a woman can do when she puts all her heart into the service of a noble cause. That fragile creature, born under the sunny sky of Italy, traced a path through the fogs of London that was more luminous than that of a great warrior of the past or future. Wherever she found suffering she gave comfort, she changed grief into joy and anxiety into hope. Her name will always be spoken with respect at the bedside of those who suffer; human suffering owes to her its dignity and the legendary figure of the "Lady of the Lamp" will always remain the symbol of hope illuminating a world from which misfortune and distress would at last be banished. By giving Florence Nightingale's name to its highest distinction, it is as if the International Committee made this noble heroine part of its own history and a pioneer of its cause, even if she carried in her heart alone the sacred emblem of the Red Cross, the symbol of peace and love.

The medal, which features the noble woman who inspired its creation, now shines on my breast. I cannot understand, however, what I have done to deserve it; for if I have done anything in the Red Cross cause, I have not done it alone; I have had need of all who led my first steps—my teachers, my chiefs and my colleagues. It is to them that I owe the great honour granted to

me for I have merely carried out in the service of the Red Cross my great desire to follow a road which I had already chosen; I wished to make myself useful in order to give back to that Institution a measure, however small, of what it has given me.

I am receiving this distinction with a feeling of great humility. I will try to be worthy of it by considering this Medal, which bears the effigy of one who gave so much to others, not as a reward for work done but as an obligation for me to give still greater devotion to a task which I set out to accomplish of my own free will. I do not consider this decoration as like the one awarded to a soldier after a battle, but like the weapon given to him so that he may fight still harder for an ideal. Nor do I consider it as the end of a journey but as a beacon shining afar which shows the road and encourages us to go forward; I receive this Medal as a symbol of my better self.

To all of you, Mr. President and the members of the Central Committee of the Chilean Red Cross, and my colleagues, who all serve the same cause, and to the International Committee of the Red Cross which has shown me such goodwill, I renew the nurse's oath, asking the Almighty to guide my steps along the steep road and to give my body and soul the strength to keep the light of Christian charity burning forever.

DENMARK

Two Danish nurses, Sister Eva Lyngby and Miss Zelna Mollerup, were awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal this year. Mention may also be made of Miss Ellen Lund, to whom we will refer later; although a Danish subject, she was chosen by the International Committee of the Red Cross on the suggestion of the Indian Red Cross.

A ceremony was organised at the Danish Red Cross which took place on May 16, 1957, at the Society's headquarters, and the Chairman himself, Dr. Louis Le Maire, presented the two recipients with the Medals, the diplomas and a reproduction of a picture of Florence Nightingale showing the heroine of the Crimean War bearing a lamp.

FINLAND

Miss Sigrid Eleonora Larsson is the eighth Finnish nurse to be selected by the National Society of her country and the International Committee of the Red Cross for the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal. In Finland, as elsewhere, the presentation ceremony was carried out with solemnity and as a tribute to devoted services; it took place on June 3, 1957 at the residence of the President of the Republic, Mr. Urho K. Kekkonen. Mr. Kai J. Warras, Secretary-General of the Finnish Red Cross, and Miss Lyyli Hagan, Chairman of the Society's Nursing Committee, were present.

Mr. Kekkonen, the Head of the State, spoke a few words of congratulation; he explained the high significance of the award, recalled Miss Larsson's exceptional merits and said that the award of the Medal should also be looked upon as an honour for the whole nursing profession in Finland.

Miss Hagan presented the Medal to the recipient, to whom the President of the Republic said a few words, thus bringing to a close an intimate and most simple and moving ceremony.

FRANCE

As for the previous distribution, two years ago, two nurses of the French Red Cross, Miss Jeanne Le Camus and Miss Anne Valette, were chosen by the I.C.R.C. to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. They both gave devoted service in France, Indo China and Algeria, in assisting the wounded and sick.

The French Red Cross, which had arranged for the ceremony to be held with all due solemnity, has given us particulars of the presentation which took place on November 9, 1957, at the Convalescent Centre in the Setif Military Hospital, Algeria. The ceremony, as stated in the Algerian Press, represented an act of homage paid by all—civil and military authorities, humanitarian organisations and the population. The presence was noted, accompanying the President of the Red Cross in Setif, of Mr. L. Imbert, General-Delegate of the

French Red Cross in Algeria, representatives of the authorities and medical associations and delegates of the local Committees of the Red Cross.

Speaking to Miss Anne Vallette, Mr. Imbert said: *You know of the good life, entirely devoted to good works, of the "Lady of the Lamp", Miss Florence Nightingale. Since Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross, lived in Setif in 1858, I think it appropriate to recall today the stirring homage he paid her when he said that Miss Nightingale's example had inspired him with the idea of assisting the wounded at Solferino, and that although he had been the promoter of the Geneva Convention the honour was entirely due to her.*

Mr. Imbert added that it was to honour her memory and to distinguish the exceptional devotion to duty shown by nurses in the difficult and perilous circumstances which prevail in time of war and disaster that the Medal they were presenting to Miss Anne Valette had been created. She was particularly qualified to receive it. A true daughter of France, she was one more in the series of admirable nurses who in war-time are the combatants' sister at arms and, in peace-time, are missionaries who comfort the sick and alleviate their suffering.

He had great joy, therefore, in expressing the gratitude of the Red Cross by presenting Miss Anne Valette with the Medal she had so valiantly won.

Mr. Imbert pinned the Florence Nightingale Medal to the recipient's dark-blue uniform while the audience applauded. Then Médecin Lieutenant-Colonel Girardin, who presided over the ceremony, congratulated Miss Valette and said how pleased he was to see her awarded a high distinction which not only honoured the Setif Military Hospital but was also a homage paid to the magnificent qualities shown in all circumstances by the nurses of the French Red Cross.

The Medal was presented to the second recipient, Miss Jeanne Le Camus, at a ceremony held on December 5, 1957, in Toulon, at which the Prefect of the département, the Mayor of the City, the Presidents of the various local branches of the French Red Cross and well-known members of civilian and military circles were present.

Mr. Cordesse, representing the President of the French Red Cross, Mr. A. François-Poncet, made a speech in which he recalled the merits of Miss Le Camus who had taken an active part in the Society's work since 1915. During the war she made extraordinary efforts to ensure the continuation of emergency operations during bombing, and in particularly difficult circumstances. In addressing Miss Le Camus, Mr. Cordesse said that he was pleased to pay homage to the values she represented and to say that the Red Cross was proud of her—with such women in its service its flag would always be borne aloft.

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Two nurses in the German Federal Republic, Mrs. Régine Köhler and Mrs. Cläre Port, were chosen by the ICRC for the award of the Florence Nightingale Medal. Both the recipients have carried out important duties; the first played a great part in the Stuttgart nursing services, and the second showed the utmost devotion in caring for the wounded and sick during the war.

The members of the Mütterhauser association were invited to a special extraordinary meeting held on November 11, 1957, to take part in the presentation of the Medal by the President of the association, Mrs. L. von Oertzen. Delegates came from all parts of the German Federal Republic to attend this moving ceremony during which the recipients received great applause; they also received the congratulations of the leading members of the Red Cross and other persons present, and the ceremony ended with singing by choirs of Red Cross nurses.

Mrs. Cläre Port wrote later to the International Committee and said that she considered the award of the Medal as a great honour, and that care of the sick for her 42 years as a Red Cross nurse had become the sole object and centre of her life. She was grateful that she had been given the power of accomplishing her work.

ICELAND

The General Assembly of the Icelandic Red Cross was held on August 17, 1957, at Reykjavik, and on that occasion

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Miss Sigridur Bachmann was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal, awarded to her by the International Committee.

In the presence of various leading members of the Red Cross, including Mr. Olafur N. Björnsson, Chairman of the General Assembly, and Dr. Gunnlauger Thordarson, Secretary-General of the Icelandic Red Cross, the Medal and the accompanying diploma were presented to the recipient by the President of the Society, Mr. Scheving Thorsteinsson. The President warmly congratulated Miss Bachmann and said what a great joy it was for the Icelandic Red Cross to see this recognition of the outstanding worth of one of its country's nurses.

INDIA

Two nurses proposed by the Indian Red Cross for the sixteenth award of the Florence Nightingale Medal were chosen by the International Committee of the Red Cross. One of them, Miss T. K. Adranvala, is Indian, and the other, Miss Ellen Lund, is Danish but for the past twenty-five years she has been engaged in a very active campaign for the prevention of tuberculosis in India. As she had left India to return to her native land when the award was made, the Medal and diploma were presented to her at Copenhagen on August 5, 1957, during a ceremony specially organised for the purpose at the Danish Red Cross headquarters. The meeting was attended by the Central Committee, the near relatives of the recipient and the representatives of the Union Mission which appointed Miss Lund to the work which she undertook in India with such great zeal and efficiency.

The President of the Society, Dr. Louis Le Maire, personally presented the Medal to Miss Lund and made a speech in which he recalled the merits of the recipient whom he congratulated on behalf of the Indian Red Cross and the Danish Red Cross.

As regards Miss Adranvala, the Medal will be presented to her by the President of India during a ceremony to be held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Minister of Health for India will arrange for this celebration which, in view of the high-ranking

persons who will take part, will be of a very significant character and worthy of the magnificent devotion which the recipient has unceasingly shown in the performance of her professional duties.

IRELAND

The presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to Miss Rosetta Sheridan took place on July 18, 1957, at the Irish Red Cross Society's premises in Dublin. Members of the Central Council of this Society, including the Secretary General, Mr. J. A. Sweeney, representatives of the Irish Medical Association, members of staff and of the Governing Body of the National Maternity Hospital, Dublin (of which Miss Sheridan is Matron) and the Controlling Body of the Irish Nurses' Association were present at the ceremony. Mrs. Tom Barry, Chairman of the Irish Red Cross, made a speech in which she said:

It is very interesting for our people to note that in the work of the great woman, Florence Nightingale, commemorated by this award, it is recorded in the Archives of the Convent of the Order of Mercy in Kinsale, Co. Cork, that a group of those Nursing Sisters formed part of the voluntary band who actually succoured the wounded in the Crimea.

Your claim for this great recognition, presented to the International Committee by the Executive of the Irish Red Cross, covered in our opinion a life of devoted service to the sick and needy of Dublin in times of peace. There is no aspect of Nursing Duties which have not been covered in your splendid record. Much, indeed of your philanthropic work has never come to light owing to your retiring nature. Your work, too, for the betterment of nursing conditions and training has also been outstanding. Through all this you have shed lustre on Ireland, on your noble profession and on yourself, and we are very proud of you.

We are proud too that our International Governing Body recognised in your record great service. We know that many people in Ireland, particularly the mothers and children of Dublin, will read with delight of this recognition of your patience, your unselfishness and your outstanding care of the sick.

In replying to Mrs. Barry the recipient said she considered that a great honour had been conferred upon her, though she felt she had done little to deserve such an award. She added that she had seen a great many changes in the nursing profession since her training days and felt that nurses today had many better training facilities. It should be added that Miss Sheridan herself has greatly contributed to this improvement, as the Chairman of the Irish Red Cross pointed out in her speech.

ITALY

Several nurses of the Italian Red Cross have already been awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal and on each occasion the presentation was made by the General President of the Society at a ceremony held in Rome. In 1957, two nurses, Miss Mimy Rigat Macchi and Miss Bice Enriques were chosen by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Various circumstances, in particular the resignation of Professor Longhena and the fact that Miss Enriques had reached the age of retirement, prevented the Italian Red Cross from holding a similar ceremony in 1957. Nevertheless, a special meeting of the directors of the Central Committee of the Italian Red Cross took place during the summer; the Medal was presented to Miss Bice Enriques during a very simple ceremony which, owing to its very simplicity, contributed to the solemnity of the occasion.

Miss Mimy Rigat Macchi will be presented with the Medal at a ceremony organised by the Society, to which we will refer later.

JAPAN

As for the fifteenth distribution, two nurses of the Japanese Red Cross were chosen last year to receive the distinction awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross. They were presented with the Medals and diplomas by Princess Chichibu, Honorary Vice-President of the Japanese Red Cross,

deputising for H. M. The Empress of Japan, Honorary President, who was prevented by illness from attending the ceremony, following her usual custom, and reading her personal speech.

The presentation took place on June 17, 1957, at the Japanese Red Cross headquarters in Tokyo. Various well-known members of the Red Cross and the Government were present. In addition to Princess Chichibu, Prince Tadatsugu Shimadzu, President of the Society, Mr. Kotaro Tanaka, head of the Supreme Court of Justice, Mr. Shuji Masutani, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Truman Solverud, member of the American Red Cross and Mr. H. Kirner, Acting Honorary Delegate of the ICRC in Japan took part in the ceremony.

On presenting the Florence Nightingale Medal to the recipients, Princess Chichibu read an address in which she said that Miss Chiyo Mikami had devoted 40 years of her career to the care of leper patients, and that Miss Hisako Nagashima had given exceptional service in first-aid work during and after the war.

In the absence of Mr. H. Angst, Mr. H. Kirner, on behalf of the ICRC also congratulated the recipients and recalled the deep significance of an award which is highly esteemed throughout the world and honours Japan and the nurses of that country.

DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

In Pyongyang, on May 12, 1957, at a ceremony held on the premises of the Central Committee of the Red Cross of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and in the presence of numerous leading members of the medical profession and the Red Cross, Florence Nightingale Medals and the accompanying diplomas were presented to the two recipients, Miss Kook Sin-bok and Matron Li Myong-Woo by Mr. Li Byung Nam, Chairman of the Society.

The leading newspapers of the country published an account and photographs of the ceremony, and a broadcast was also made by Radio Pyongyang.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

On May 29, 1957, Mrs. Lee Hyo-Chung, Chief Nurse at Masan National Sanatorium, was presented with the Florence Nightingale Medal awarded by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The ceremony had been arranged in the meeting hall of the Red Cross of the Republic of Korea headquarters in Seoul. Numerous nurses in their white uniforms were present, as well as members of public health institutions and representatives of the American Red Cross. Over the platform, decorated with flowers and the national and Red Cross flags, a portrait of Florence Nightingale had been placed.

Mrs. Hyo-Chung was already in the seat reserved for her when the Honorary President of the Society, Mrs. Syngman Rhee, arrived, accompanied by the President of the Red Cross, Dr. Sohn Chang-whan. After the latter's opening speech, a Presidential Message was read by the Minister of Public Health and Social Affairs. Mrs. Hyo Chung Lee then went to the platform and read out the Florence Nightingale oath, which the nurses present repeated after her. The Medal was then presented to the recipient by Mrs. Syngman Rhee amid great applause. Congratulatory messages were also read and the ceremony ended with choir-singing by the nurses of Seoul.

The Red Cross of the Republic of Korea wrote to Geneva: *It was the most impressive and meaningful ceremony ever observed, with the highest honour for the nurses of this country, that will remain forever in our Red Cross history.*

LEBANON

To enable a greater number of persons to participate in the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to Mrs. Marcelle Hochar and Mrs. Eva Hérou Serhal, and to give all due solemnity to the ceremony, the Lebanese Red Cross Society had arranged for it to be held at the same time as the presentation of diplomas to the State nurses and other sections of Lebanon Red Cross Nursing School (air hostesses, first-aid workers, auxiliary voluntary aids).

The ceremony was held on June 21, 1957, in the main hall of the UNESCO premises at Beirut; there were present the wife of the President of the Republic, the Honorary President of the Lebanon Red Cross, the Marquise de Freige, President, members of the Central Committee and several Ministers, Ambassadors and prominent Government officials. Mrs. Issa el-Khoury, a member of the Central Committee, made a speech in French (followed by a summary in Arabic) and said: *Words fail us when we try to say how highly this great distinction is appreciated. Only thirty-six Medals are distributed every two years throughout the whole world; the Central Committee is pleased and proud to count among its members and at the head of the Management Committee of its Nursing School three recipients of this Medal.*

I do not wish to embarrass these ladies but there are some exceptional occasions when it is a pleasure to say what, for many years, one has thought. I am sure that I am expressing the views of the entire Lebanese Red Cross when I say how greatly we admire the unselfish, unfailing daily work which has made possible the creation and continual progress of this excellent Nursing School and its various sections. To give details of your devoted service would be to give the record of the Lebanese Red Cross over the past twelve years... The International Committee of the Red Cross, which makes an impartial study of all the files it receives from the five Continents, has chosen you both for this eminent distinction. We heartily congratulate you and hope to see you always to the fore, faithful to your ideal: the service of humanity.

After the presentation of the Medals, there was a march past of the new nurses and those who had received their State diploma took the oath. Next day another small reception was held in honour of Mrs. Hochar and Mrs. Serhal in the Red Cross headquarters.

NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Red Cross Society held its Annual Meeting on September 4, 1957, at Wanganui. During the reception held in honour of the hundred delegates from all parts of the country

the Florence Nightingale Medal was presented to Mrs. Catherine Lynette Wells. Dr. Alexander Gillies, Dominion President, made a speech in which he referred to the recipient's training and the exceptional service she had rendered to the Red Cross for many years, holding more and more responsible posts up to the past year when she performed wonderful work on behalf of the Hungarian refugees. He said that the Medal which had been presented to Mrs. Wells was particularly well merited, reflecting credit as it did upon the noble profession she represented, and especially the New Zealand Red Cross Society.

On the platform, which was surrounded with a guard of honour formed of local detachments of the V.A.D., were several members of the Government and the Red Cross, including Mr. E. Gibbard, Dominion Chairman and Mr. M. S. Galloway, Secretary-General, of the New Zealand Red Cross, Miss D. Whitelaw, Director of the V.A.D. for New Zealand and Miss Edna House of Hamilton, the only other New Zealand nurse to hold the Florence Nightingale Medal.

In returning thanks Mrs. Wells said that she was very pleased to have been chosen by the ICRC, but that the honour went to everyone in the New Zealand Red Cross; her advice to the young V.A.D. was *make your mistakes early and some one is sure to put you right.*

NORWAY

The presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal this year was a homage paid to the missionary nurse Martha Palm, whose life had been a campaign for charity which took her from Norway to South Africa in her youth. She left Norway in 1920 and from that time devoted her care to the native population. Her first dispensary was set up in a stable but, little by little, by patience and perseverance, she improved and increased her activities. She created a hospital which gradually grew larger (it now contains 190 beds) which was under her direction until 1947.

Mr. Erling Steen, President of the Norwegian Red Cross, when presenting Martha Palm with the Medal during the

ceremony held on June 26, 1957, in the school-rooms of the Norwegian Women's Health Association, where the recipient passed her nursing examination forty years previously, said that she had shown exemplary courage and devotion to duty in her campaign for the general welfare. Several members of the Norwegian Red Cross, the Norwegian Women's Health Association and the Norwegian Nurses Association were present at the ceremony.

The Press published numerous articles on the presentation ceremony and the opportunity was taken to mention Miss Palm's admirable work in Africa.

PAKISTAN

Miss G. M. Hodgson, who is now Superintendent of the East Pakistan Nursing Services, formerly occupied prominent posts—in the Calcutta and Dacca hospitals in particular—before assuming her present responsible duties. Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq, President of the Pakistan Red Cross, presented her with the Florence Nightingale Medal during a ceremony held on August 30, 1957, at Government House in Dacca. Many people were present as the National Society had taken advantage of the presence in the capital of delegates taking part in the Annual General Meeting, including government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and nurses, who wished to take part in the ceremony.

The East Pakistan Surgeon-General, Colonel T. D. Ahmed, made a speech in which he recalled Miss Nightingale's work and the high standard it still set us all in our times.

The Press was invited and published articles on the ceremony and the recipient's present work; a film was made and shown later in cinemas throughout the country.

UNITED KINGDOM

The ceremony for the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal to Dame Elizabeth Cockayne was held on July 24, 1957,

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at the headquarters of the British Red Cross in London. The ceremony took place in the presence of H. R. H. the Princess Royal, and representatives from the Services and Government Departments. The Medal was presented by the Duke of Gloucester, Chairman of the Council of the British Red Cross Society.

Details of Dame Elizabeth Cockayne's distinguished service in connection with the care of the sick both in peace and war were read to those present.

UNITED STATES

The presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal took place in the United States with the solemnity its founders wished to see. The Medals were presented to the recipients, Mrs. Elizabeth Kerr Porter and Miss Marion W. Sheahan during the annual convention of the American Red Cross in Washington last May. The ceremony took place in Constitution Hall on May 20 and some 4,000 chapter delegates and guests were present. The meeting was presided over by Mr. W. Croft Jennings, Vice-Chairman of the Board of Governors of the American Red Cross; the platform was decorated with the flags of 80 nations. The ceremony began with a concert, followed by a display of folk-dancing. Mrs. Porter, who arrived on the platform escorted by nine nurses in uniform, received the Medal from Mr. James T. Nicholson, Executive Vice-President of the American Red Cross.

Miss Marion W. Sheahan, who had already left for Europe to attend the meeting of the International Council of Nurses in Rome, was replaced, at her request, by Miss Ruth Freeman, formerly Administrator of Nursing Services of the American Red Cross, who accepted the Medal in Miss Sheahan's name, after Mr. Nicholson's speech; he spoke of the origin of the Florence Nightingale Medal and said that several nurses of the American Red Cross had been honoured with this distinction.

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It will have been seen from the foregoing that the ceremonies for the presentation of the Florence Nightingale Medal were held with the solemnity fitting to the circumstances. This is most gratifying to the International Committee since these awards prove that the spirit of mutual aid is still alive, and this is a comfort and a source of encouragement in the troubled world of today.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

News Items

The International Commission of the International Tracing Service (ITS) held its fifteenth meeting on March 13 in Paris. The representative of the French Government presided over the meeting, of which the main purpose was to examine the ITS Annual Report.

The Commission learned with satisfaction of the grant, by the Government of the German Federal Republic, of a supplementary credit to enable the ITS to enlarge its staff in order to cope with the extra work with which it is now dealing.

* * *

Numerous applications have recently been made to the ICRC by Spanish families wishing to obtain proof of deaths of their near relatives in German concentration camps during the Second World War.

Searches made in conjunction with the International Tracing Service in Arolsen have made it possible for the Central Agency to obtain death certificates which will enable the applicants to put in their claims for compensation.

* * *

Several leading membres of the Red Cross movement have visited the ICRC headquarters during the past two months.

In March, Mrs. Aura Mesaros, Vice-President of the Rumanian Red Cross and Dr. Dan Austraco, Member of the Health Section, visited Geneva on their way to Rome to organise an exhibition of their Society's work. They were received at the ICRC headquarters by Mr. F. Siordet and Mr. R. Gallopin and thus had the opportunity of discussing various problems of common interest.

During April, Mrs. Irena Domanska, President of the Polish Red Cross, and Professor Kosokowski, Member of the Central Committee, passed through Geneva and were the guests of the International Committee and the League. They were received at the ICRC headquarters by Mr. L. Boissier, the President, and some of his chief assistants, and were given information on our organisation's activities. The visitors were particularly interested in the Polish Section of the Central Agency where the work continues to increase.

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The Broadcasting Section of the ICRC has enjoyed, for some years past, the co-operation of Mr. J. de Rueda, the European Delegate of the Mexican Red Cross, who gives broadcasts in Spanish every fortnight.

Mr. de Rueda will give a special broadcast on May 8 on the theme "The Red Cross as a Peacemaker", presented as a dialogue. His broadcast begins with an interview with Mr. R. Olgiati, Member of the International Committee, who defines the part which the Red Cross should be called upon to play in the future. It would not limit itself to helping victims of events but—through the spirit which animates it and the growing confidence it inspires—it should become, without going beyond its traditional neutral role, a peacemaker. Mr. de Rueda then questions a young girl who, during tragic events in her childhood, was helped by the Red Cross. In simple terms the girl conveys the gratitude felt by thousands of anonymous victims who look upon the Red Cross emblem as the symbol of present consolation and hope for the future.

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

Early in April, Mr. C. Pilloud, Assistant-Director for General Affairs (Legal Department) visited Mainau, Germany, where the Red Cross of the German Federal Republic had organised a study course on the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions in schools. The Revue internationale will make further reference to this interesting meeting on a subject with which the ICRC is particularly concerned.

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On March 6 and 7 the sixth meeting was held at Antwerp on international medical law in which, as customary, the World Medical Association, the International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy, the ICRC and an observer from the World Health Organisation took part.

During the work of the meeting, measures decided upon at previous meetings were given final shape.

The ICRC sent a delegate to the meeting, Mr. J. P. Schoenholzer (Member of the Legal Department) who also delivered a lecture entitled "Law, Medicine and Red Cross" before the Société belge de droit médical.

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In March and April the ICRC was honoured by visits from H. E. Mr. S. Makiedo, Minister Plenipotentiary, the new permanent delegate of Yugoslavia with the international organisations in Geneva, and Brigadier Salah Gohar, Head of the Department for Palestine Affairs of the Ministry for Defence in Cairo.

The International Committee also had the pleasure of welcoming H. E. Mr. Ahmad Subardjo Djayoadi, Indonesian Ambassador in Berne, and Mr. Atwi Sutan Osman, head of the Immigration Bureau of the Ministry of Justice in Djakarta.

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Mr. A. Durand's mission in Indonesia was continued, in conjunction with the Indonesian Red Cross, in order to assist Netherlands nationals wishing to return to their country.

In this connection Mr. Durand visited Medan and Palembang (Sumatra).

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In view of the recent events in Cuba, the ICRC sent a telegram, on April 11, to the Cuban Red Cross to inform it that it was ready to lend any services which might be required for humanitarian purposes, and to recall the provisions of Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

In acknowledging receipt of this telegram on April 15, the Cuban Red Cross thanked the International Committee for its offer.

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As the Honorary Delegate of the ICRC in Israel, Dr. Tschopp, will shortly be returning to Switzerland, the International Committee, in agreement with the Israeli authorities, has nominated Dr. Johannes Bernath, a doctor in Nazareth, to fill his post.

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Recent events in the Southern Morocco area, and Ifni in particular, led the ICRC to offer its traditional services to both the parties concerned. It has already received lists, from the Government in Madrid, of Moroccan prisoners captured by the Spanish forces. However, the enquiries made by the ICRC from various Moroccan authorities concerning missing Spanish civilians and military personnel have so far had no result; the enquiries are being continued.

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In connection with the International Committee's recent mission in Algeria, Mr. R. Vust, Resident Delegate in Algiers, visited the Duperré district on March 21, in order to be present at the distribution of a gift of 5,280 tins of condensed milk, and feeding bottles, donated by the ICRC for the benefit of the Moslem population resettled in that area.

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The Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Poland, the People's Republic of China and the German Democratic Republic have informed the International Committee of gifts they have sent for the Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia. These gifts, which were not handled by the ICRC or the League, were sent direct to Tunisia or Morocco by the Societies referred to above.

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The firm of Leitz, in Wetzlar (Germany) recently presented the ICRC with an important gift of photographic equipment valued at over 6,000 Swiss francs. The apparatus consists of an enlarger, apparatus for making photostat copies of photographs and documents and a Leica camera of the latest model.

This modern apparatus will enable the ICRC to complete and to modernise its Photographic Department. Until now this section was only equipped for making photostat copies of documents, whereas now it will be able to reproduce and to enlarge photographs for publication, the Press or exhibitions. It may be said, in this connection, that the ICRC has a vast collection of photographs (which is to be filed on a new system) of which some are very ancient (a few, for instance, were photographs taken during the American Civil War).

The ICRC Photographic Department, set up in 1941, has produced since then nearly 4 million photostat copies, including 16,949 in 1957. The reproduction of lists of prisoners, death certificates, certificates of capture, etc., has been of great help in the work of the ICRC, and the Central Agency in particular, and has made it possible to transmit, in the shortest time possible, all particulars concerning prisoners of war and civilian internees to their home countries.

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As mentioned in the News Items in the English Supplement of the Revue internationale for March last, Radio-Genève prepared,

with the co-operation of the broadcasting services and National Red Cross Societies of various European countries, the International Red Cross Broadcast of May 8.

This year, however, on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition in Brussels, the Institut national de radiodiffusion belge was entrusted with the technical work of the broadcast, i.e. to act as the receiving and transmitting station of the broadcasts from France, Germany, Italy and Yugoslavia. The main theme of this broadcast consisted of an account of a visit to the Red Cross exhibit, opened on the same day at the Brussels Exhibition. A description of the posters displayed revealed to listeners some little known activities of the various National Red Cross Societies.

On May 8, in the evening, a television programme on the same subject was transmitted over the Eurovision network.

For its part, the Swiss Short Wave Service in Berne dealt with the co-ordination of broadcasts in English and Spanish to the American continent. The programme included an interview with the directors of the ICRC and the League who explained the meaning of the mission entrusted to the Red Cross and the scope of application of Red Cross principles throughout the world.
