

# NEWS OF NATIONAL SOCIETIES

Formerly: International Bulletin of Red Cross Societies, founded in 1869

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## Argentina

A meeting of doctors was held in October 1963 at the National Academy of Medicine in Buenos Aires, at which a report was presented by Dr. Francisco J. Martone, President of the Argentine Red Cross. This report gave an account of the main relief actions and other interventions carried out by the Red Cross throughout the world in the course of its hundred years, both during war and in natural disasters.

The purpose of this detailed report was to draw the attention of responsible institutions in the Argentine to the importance of foresight in the organization of relief on a wide scale in order to ensure maximum efficiency. It concluded by recalling the relief programmes undertaken under the auspices of the Argentine Red Cross and which date back to the 19th century.

Mention should also be made of the fact that the Córdoba branch of the Argentine Red Cross commemorated the centenary of our movement by the organization of a widespread publicity campaign. During the week from September 8 to 15, 1963, talks by radio and television programmes were given with the aim of arousing the whole population's interest in the Red Cross, its principles and its work of mutual assistance.

The National Society was also eager to mark this exceptional year by a special effort in the field of publications. It issued a re-edition of Henry Dunant's book under the Spanish title *Un recuerdo de Solferino* in the version published some years ago under the auspices of the Mexican Red Cross by Mr. Rafael Dominguez. The new edition, which is printed in Buenos Aires, displays the Centenary emblem on the front cover and contains a foreword by the Supreme Council of the National Society. The reader is reminded of the National Society's foundation in 1880 by Dr. Guillermo Rawson and Dr. Pedro Roberts. This is followed by a preface

written by Gustave Ador and an unpublished article by Dunant, in which he mentions at what moment and following what circumstances he came to Solferino.

In addition, the National Society has published two booklets relating to the Junior Red Cross. One of these was published by the La Plata Section, under the patronage of the Ministry of Education. It is intended for school teachers and contains several suggestions appropriate to encourage development of the Red Cross movement amongst youth on the basis of a complete course of instruction which may be embodied in the general educational programme. Space is devoted to the life of Dunant, of Florence Nightingale and of the founder of the Argentine Red Cross, Dr. Guillermo Rawson, as well as to the ideas of famous people.

The second booklet deals with the origins of the Junior Red Cross in the Argentine. The motto which was chosen for it is " Help thy neighbour " and gives information on the organization of youth centres, the obligations and the rights of youth leaders, the administrative structure and the bye-laws of the Junior Red Cross and the principles which are at the basis of Red Cross action.

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## Belgium

The Belgian Red Cross has resumed publication of its review *Mieux-Vivre* and the first number (Brussels, No. 1) has just appeared. It is extremely well presented, amply illustrated and contains articles of great variety and constant interest. It opens with a message from the National Society's President, Prince Albert of the Belgians :

" The production of this new review of the Belgian Red Cross is certainly placed under fortunate auspices; since it coincides with the commemoration of our National Society's Centenary.

Its aims and purposes will be stated elsewhere. I would only like, in this first number, to express my gratitude and personal good