

## Japan

The Japanese Red Cross has just published the first volume of a series of medical records relating to the victims of Hiroshima and of Nagasaki<sup>1</sup>. By this initiative, explained in the foreword quoted below and which will later on be made apparent through the publication of a consecutive series of such records, the Japanese Red Cross hopes that further medical studies on the effects of atomic bombs will be undertaken in the near future. This first volume is concerned with fifteen medical records relating to ten cases in Hiroshima and five cases in Nagasaki and contains numerous photographs, tables and graphs. The foreword reads as follows :

“Following the atomic bomb explosions at Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, the Japanese Red Cross Society mobilized its rescue corps and medical facilities in a dedicated program of aid for the unfortunate sufferers. To carry out this humanitarian activity, the Japanese Red Cross Society established the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Hospital in September 1956, and subsequently, the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Hospital in May 1958. The former hospital has 160 beds and the latter 80 beds which are to be increased to 200 beds by the end of 1960. Both hospitals have qualified staffs and are equipped with all modern hospital facilities.

Medical studies of the effects of the atomic bombing have revealed that there are still many cases of delayed disorders among those exposed to the radiation. In spite of continuous study by many scientists over a long period of time, the true features of these delayed disorders have not yet been thoroughly understood. There remain many obscure problems which need to be clarified and solved as soon as possible so that we may be able to give satisfactory medical care to the survivors of the atomic bombs.

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<sup>1</sup> *Japan Red Cross Atomic Bomb Hospital—Medical Record*. Japan Red Cross Society—Special Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, 1960.

Since the establishment of the hospitals in both cities, many sufferers have come to them for medical care and treatment as physical and mental disorders have appeared. The medical records of these two hospitals have thus become uniquely valuable and should provide very useful data for future studies on the atomic bomb casualties, especially their delayed effects ; evaluation and summarization of these medical records will be a long-term task that can be achieved only by persistent endeavour over a period of many years.

At the present stage we feel it our duty to publish the medical records of these hospitals in their original form and without any of our own interpretation so that scientists around the world may have them for reference and critical study. Each medical record cannot introduce any definite scientific conclusion, yet the accumulated mass of these records will in time provide extremely valuable data for the further study of delayed effects of radiation.”

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## Luxemburg

The Information Bulletin of the Luxemburg Red Cross (June 1961) contains an account of the activities of this Society and the improvement of its financial position due to a substantial bequest from a Luxemburg citizen. In effect, this citizen appointed as his sole heirs the Cancer Prevention League (Luxemburg Red Cross) and the Tuberculosis Prevention League, which will therefore share between them a sum of about 3 million francs. The anti-cancer section of this Society will thus be able to dispose of half of this donation, to the great satisfaction of those in charge, who will be able to extend their field of action in this important branch.