

To make known the Red Cross and the Convention.—Just in time for the International Red Cross Centenary a brief and popular book about the Red Cross was published in Sweden. Entitled “*Strife without violence*”, it mainly describes the international humanitarian work, especially the last ten years’ relief work in connection with natural disasters.

Last autumn the Swedish Red Cross also published a pamphlet called “*Life or Death*” together with a sound film strip. This material describes the four Geneva Conventions in a lively and thorough manner and gives concrete examples of when and how they should be applied.

We would point out that “*Life or Death*” is an illustrated booklet of 32 pages full of varied information on the Geneva Conventions and their application. Here are some of the chapter-headings: “*The wounded must be cared for*”, “*Protected by the emblem of the Red Cross*”, “*Maritime warfare*”, “*What information should a prisoner give?*”, “*The Fourth Convention*”. The booklet ends by drawing attention to the present responsibilities of the Red Cross in time of peace as well as in time of war.

Switzerland

“*La Croix-Rouge suisse*” (No. 3) the Swiss Red Cross Review, published in Berne, announces the building of a school for practical nurses at Chaux-de-Fonds in the Canton of Neuchâtel. It will be recognized officially by the Swiss Red Cross and will be able to accommodate 40-50 students. The ground-floor will comprise the secretariat, the superintendent’s office, a common room for the doctors, a lecture-hall, practical instruction hall, a lounge and a library. The next three storeys will each contain 13 single bedrooms and appurtenances. The fourth floor will contain living quarters for the Matron and ten other rooms.

What is the practical nurse’s function? It is a profession which is comparatively new to Switzerland.

“ Whilst the qualified nurse graduates after three years' training at any of the 33 schools recognized by the Swiss Red Cross, these practical nurses acquire their certificate after 18 months, that is in half the time. As a result, they may not administer actual treatment, such as injections, catheterism, etc. To quote the directives of the Swiss Red Cross : *Under supervision by a qualified nurse, the practical nurses take care of the chronically sick in institutions and hospitals ; without supervision they look after adults and children in need of attention but not of nursing care ; they will be entrusted with responsibilities in homes for the elderly, the convalescent, the disabled and other establishments ; they assist the nurses in hospitals ; in the general hospital they form part of the nursing team and work under the control of a qualified nurse ”.*

As can be seen, the practical nurse may really become a key worker capable of seconding the nurse and even of acting as her stand-in when the care required does not necessarily call for a qualified nurse.

Even before the roof goes on, the Neuchâtel school for practical nurses is already planning the training of the first group of candidates and is recruiting talent among the nursing aids working in the Chaux-de-Fonds hospital. Nearly every hospital has such nursing aids on its staff. They are young women who handle the menial chores, many of whom carry on their work year after year without any “ trade ” or recognized professional status. The chance of becoming a practical nurse, with a certificate issued by the Red Cross, ought to encourage these young women to undergo the necessary systematic training, especially as there is no maximum age limit restricting application.

Venezuela

It is always useful for a National Society to hold meetings of delegates of regional committees both for information purposes and for working parties. The great extent of the national territory,