

to express my gratitude to the German doctors who, in answer to our appeal, have carried out such magnificent work in a country where insecurity and fear reign. We assigned these doctors to particularly dangerous posts because we knew that we could count on them. We were right in doing so. Everywhere in the world the German Red Cross is at work efficiently and generously.

A few weeks ago a Delegate of the International Committee in the Congo had to visit one of the most insecure regions of the country. He was accompanied by an escort of Ghanese soldiers. He got into the jeep of the commanding officer, which was followed by a lorry full of soldiers, all armed to the teeth. After a while the Ghanese officer turned to him and asked: "Don't you have any weapons?"—"No", he replied, "a representative of the Red Cross is never armed". The officer was silent for a while, then he turned to the man from Geneva again: "Then you are without protection?" "Of course", answered our Delegate, showing him the little cross on his jacket. The officer said nothing, then suddenly he took off his revolver, threw it to his orderly and commanded the escort to return.

Alone and unarmed, the Delegate and the officer continued towards the unknown and danger.

Thus the whole Red Cross movement continues to move forward, fulfilling its duty. It has confidence in the future, since it is in itself a hope. And hope is what we all need in these times."

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## Iceland

The Secretary-General of the Icelandic Red Cross made a broadcast early in the year of which a summary is given below:

Progress in technical methods has, to some extent, reduced the dimensions of our globe and the nations of the world may be compared to families of varying sizes which are becoming increasingly conscious of their joint responsibilities. No nation can remain

unconcerned about the misfortunes of another. When a national disaster strikes one nation, the others go immediately to its aid.

The Red Cross (Red Crescent, Red Lion and Sun) Societies have been particularly active in this field. The Red Cross Idea was originally directed only towards the care of wounded and sick on the battle-fields, but with the development of these Societies it has been extended much farther afield. The Centenary of the Red Cross Idea was in fact celebrated two years ago. The Idea was born on the battle-field of Solferino in 1859.

The ideal which guides our movement has, however, always been upheld by the Icelandic people and it can be traced back to the ancient sagas. Thus the Saga of Viga-Glums relates the part played by his wife during the Battle of Hrisateig (about 1000 AD) in calling women to her aid to dress the wounds of the survivors of either side. One man's shoulder was hewn off and exposed his lung ; this Saga says that Halldora dressed the wound and remained with him until the end of the battle.

The Red Cross may be looked upon as the first example of an international organisation for mutual aid in time of danger. It is comforting, for instance, to know that during January ten milk distribution centres were opened under the auspices of the Icelandic Red Cross for refugee children in Morocco and that this Society sent a contribution towards the building of a new hospital in Agadir to replace the one destroyed by the earthquake.

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## Italy

The provincial Committee of the Milan branch of the Italian Red Cross has recently made an innovation which would seem to be unique in the Red Cross world. A 24-hour emergency medical service has been set up to which requests can be made to visit people in their own homes. An ambulance with a doctor or a surgeon in attendance can be made immediately available to the required address merely by dialling a number. The ambulance contains