

OBITUARY

DEATH OF YVONNE HENTSCH

Miss Yvonne Hentsch, former Under-Secretary General of the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, died in Geneva on 4 May 1991 at the age of 84. Her passing is a major loss for the Red Cross and for the world of nursing in general.

Miss Hentsch was a graduate of "La Source" School of Nursing in Lausanne, Switzerland, the world's first endowed school of nursing (founded in 1859). She began her professional career at a maternity hospital in Bari in southern Italy and later took up postgraduate studies at Bedford College (London University), the Royal College of Nursing, London, and the Teachers' College of Columbia University in New York.

Her international career was to begin at the League of Red Cross Societies in 1939; she was Director of the League Nursing Bureau for more than thirty years before going on to be appointed Under-Secretary General in charge of the Services to the National Societies Sector of the League Secretariat. She remained in this post until her retirement.

Miss Hentsch maintained close contacts with the ICRC, the International Council of Nurses, the World Health Organization, and especially the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, as well as with national and regional nursing associations throughout the world. She carried out missions to some 80 National Societies and took part in many international meetings in connection with the Red Cross, nursing and social welfare.

Miss Hentsch was a member of the *Association du Bon Secours* in Geneva and was National President of the Swiss Nursing Association. In 1977 she received the Florence Nightingale Medal, which is the highest distinction awarded by the ICRC to nurses for outstanding dedication to the Red Cross and Red Crescent cause.

The International Committee of the Red Cross would like to convey its deepest sympathy to Miss Hentsch's family and many friends.