

Recalling these facts, I again remark that at the Red Cross can be found all together, mothers of families, teachers, peasants, intellectuals, workmen and engineers.

Under its flag, bearing the motto "Inter Arma Caritas", the Red Cross is inspired by several sentiments: humanity, friendship, love amongst men.

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The ICRC has recently received an interesting and well illustrated booklet¹, published in Moscow for the Centenary of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies of the USSR in 1967². It first gives an account of the origin of the Red Cross in Russia, which at the beginning was presided over by the surgeon Nikolai Porogov. The various chapters: "Some History", "Soviet Red Cross", "Concern for the People", "Visiting Nurses Bureaux" "Blood Donors", "For Peace and Mutual Assistance", recount the history and consistent development of our movement.

"One of the main features of the Soviet health service is its mass character, the fact of public participation in prophylactic and hygiene measures. The Red Cross, with long experience of assisting official health service institutions, now has more than 423 basic organizations, with over 67 million members. This makes it one of the biggest mass organizations in the country.

¹ "A Century in the Service of Man", by Zoya Mayorova and Lilia Tcherkasskaya.

² See *International Review*, July 1967.

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Health education begins in childhood—in the family and at school. All schools, universities and colleges have Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations, and more than 22 million pupils and students belong to them”.

To illustrate the dedication of millions of Red Cross and Red Crescent members, the authors quote examples which show the diversity and effectiveness of the duties undertaken, particularly the efforts to propagate hygiene throughout the country by means of publications, reviews, films, records and posters. They cite the general increase in nursing recruits and the work of the nurses visiting the sick in their homes: “ In five years... nurses have attended more than 1 million patients in their homes. This is of great help—a concrete and effective form of assistance to the public health service ”.

The booklet concludes with a description of the National Society’s work for the benefit of disaster or epidemic victims in other countries; a practical demonstration of increasing solidarity among the nations.