

Switzerland

Mr. Samuel A. Gonard, President of the ICRC, accompanied by Mr. R. Gallopin, Executive Director, recently visited the Swiss Red Cross in Berne ¹.

They were received by Mr. A. von Albertini, President of the Swiss National Society and his colleagues : Miss H. Vischer, Vice-President ; Mr. M. Maison, Vice-President ; Mr. H. B. Gamper, Treasurer ; Dr. H. Bürgi, Head Physician ; Mr. H. Haug, Secretary-General ; Mr. J. Pascalis, Assistant Secretary-General ; Mr. E. Schenkel, Deputy Secretary-General ; and Miss M. Comtesse, Head of the Nursing Service. They then attended a meeting in the course of which, after an address of welcome by Mr. von Albertini, various speakers described the organization and tasks of the Swiss Red Cross.

At present the Society is having a building constructed for the Lindenhof hospital and nursing school, as well as a central warehouse for equipment. Mr. Gonard and Mr. Gallopin visited the building sites which are symptomatic of the great increase in the Swiss Red Cross' activities. They also went to the blood transfusion centre, where, too, expansion is in full swing. Under Dr. A. Hässig's direction, it is considered exemplary for the quality both of its work and of its set-up ².

The warm welcome by the Swiss Red Cross was highly appreciated by the President of the International Committee and it strengthened even more the close bond between the two institutions.

¹ *Plate* : Berne ; Visit to the Swiss Red Cross by the President and the Executive Director of the ICRC.

² An article was published not long ago in our *Review* on the blood transfusion service, whose new building in Berne was inaugurated in 1955. See *Revue internationale*, March 1956.