

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## LOUIS APPIA

The Hanau Section of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of its foundation, published an illustrated booklet. Several personalities in the town and representatives of other sections described the importance of the Red Cross today in the life of the country. Apart from articles on the activities of the Section itself in the field of first-aid and social service, the booklet contains a profile of one of the city's illustrious sons, Louis Appia, who became one of the most active of the Committee of Five which was the origin of the ICRC.

As the author reminds the reader, Louis Appia was born at Hanau on October 13, 1818. His father, from 1811, had been second minister in the parish of the canton of Vaud; he subsequently left this incumbency to become minister of the Frankfurt Protestant Community. Louis Appia was educated in that town and the environment in which he was raised was one which naturally predisposed him towards the zealous faith and desire to serve mankind which he later displayed when he was the first to wear the red cross armband. In 1836, he left Frankfurt to study at the Academy of Medicine in Geneva. Although this future member of the ICRC was profoundly religious, he chose the medical career rather than theology which his family considered was the natural family vocation. His father, Pastor Appia had himself cared for the wounded during the battle of Hanau in October 1813.