

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 1 (1935-1936)  
**Heft:** 4

**Vorwort:** 1936  
**Autor:** [s.n.]

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

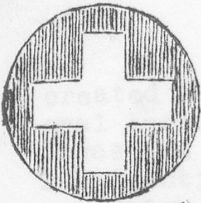
L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 14.03.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



# HELVETIA

Monthly Publication  
of the Swiss Benevolent Society,  
in New Zealand.

---

AUCKLAND, 1st January 1936.

No. 4

---

1936

New Year's Day is the opportune day for contemplation. Thinking back, we benefit, for we may realise our weaknesses and committed mistakes. Realising them, gives us the possibility and the strength of avoiding them in future. Looking ahead, gives us hope for the fulfilment of our expectations, realization of our plans for life, achievement of the task towards ourselves, our families and our friends.

Swiss in New Zealand, let us hope that the New Year will bring to all, health and happiness. We extend to you, our very best wishes for a successful year.

### A RED CROSS REMINISCENCE.

Of all noble institutions established for the benefit of suffering humanity, the Red Cross undoubtedly occupies the most exalted rank. Today the very knowledge of its existence has a reassuring effect all over the world, and wherever calamity visits a people it is to the Red Cross to whom they look as their administering angel.

A Red Cross on a white field is the universal insignia of this great humanitarian organization which was born in Switzerland. Thus, the Red Cross flag pays in a reversed arrangement everlasting tribute to the land of its origin.

The actual founder of the Red Cross Society is Jean Henri Dunant, member of a distinguished and pious family of Geneva. On June 14, 1859, he chanced to be present at the battle of Solferino, where the allied forces of the French and Piedmontese met and overthrew the armies of Austria. Horrible conditions prevailed on that battle-field, and Dunant, filled with pity for the thousands of wounded soldiers, resolved that only speedy action could save their lives. Quickly he secured a number of women from the neighbourhood, and with their aid improvised additional ambulance service to the village of Castiglione. Here he rendered personal assistance to the stricken men, who soon began to name him the "Gentleman in White", in allusion to his attire.

The harrowing scenes which he had witnessed left an indelible impression on Dunant's mind, and he conceived the idea of promoting a volunteer corps, drilled and instructed in the handling of stretchers, permanently organized and protected in its work on the battlefield by its absolute neutrality. One of his first acts after returning to Geneva was to write and publish a book "Souvenir of Solferino", in which he described his experiences. The volume