

should have ventured to attribute to this Consul a démarche which, as the following letter of February 14th, 1936, from His Excellency the French Minister in Ethiopia shows, he never made:

The Legation of the French Republic in Ethiopia to the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Addis Ababa,
February 14th, 1936.

"Monsieur le Ministre,

"In letter No.154 of February 13th, Your Excellency was good enough to ask me to enquire from the French Consul at Harar how far the report that he (the consul) had urged Dedjazmatch Nasibu to remove the Red Cross emblem, placed on warehouses inside the Guebi and containing war stores, was correct.

"The French Consul at Harar has just assured me that he never addressed such a remark to Dedjazmatch Nasibu. The report in question doubtless arose from a distorted version of a conversation which a French medical man, Dr. Féron, Acting Consular Agent - not French Consul - at Harar, had with the Dedjazmatch last September. During this conversation our compatriot would appear to have pointed out to the Military Governor of Harar that he would do well to use the Red Cross emblem as little as possible, as it would only be respected in so far as it was not abused.

I have the honour, etc.,

(Signed) A. Boëard,

French Minister."

In the second place, the Italian Red Cross reproaches the Ethiopian Red Cross with being a new organisation, founded only just before hostilities began. The Italian Red Cross modestly compares with it its seventy year old record and its experience acquired in previous wars. The Ethiopian Government, particularly since entering the League of Nations, has so constantly cherished illusions of a lasting peace that, until the recent menaces from Italy, it felt it unnecessary to accede to international conventions concerning the laws of war. This explains its delay in acceding to the Geneva Convention of 1929 and in creating a National Red Cross to help the wounded and sick of the armies in the field. When the President of the Italian Red Cross states that "the Italian Red Cross has no Ethiopian Red Cross opposite to it", this is perhaps meant to justify the numerous bombardments of our ambulances. Nevertheless, the Ethiopian Red Cross, which he says does not exist, is a properly constituted society recognised by the International Red Cross Committee.

Thirdly, the President of the Italian Red Cross points out that as they operate in the actual fighting area, the members of Red Cross ambulances and medical units inevitably