

Easter come again, the dogwood blossoms with the season, and seems to bear out the promise of life renewed.

Tulips and daffodils are often used in Easter greeting card designs, and once again we can trace the legendary meanings of these flowers. In medieval times, the tulip was believed to symbolize the Resurrection, and we can easily see an early-day correlation to the occasion of Easter and the blossoming of the tulips. The daffodil was early likened to the trumpet, the musical instrument most often mentioned in the Bible.

Violets are a symbol of steadfastness, and in today's greeting card designs violets and other flowers are pictured adorning the cross. It is said that early Christians added flowers to their drawings of crosses on the walls of the catacombs thus seeking to lighten memory of the cross as an instrument of the Saviour's death.

The egg, symbol of Life, has an important place in Easter card designs and customs, and Legend tells us that eggs are laid by the Easter rabbit on Easter eve. So it is that little girls and boys leave "nests" or baskets that they will find filled with colored eggs on Easter morning. The chicks, ducklings and bunnies who frolic about on Easter cards have appeared as beloved greeting card designs for many years, and are symbolical of the renewal of life in the Springtime.

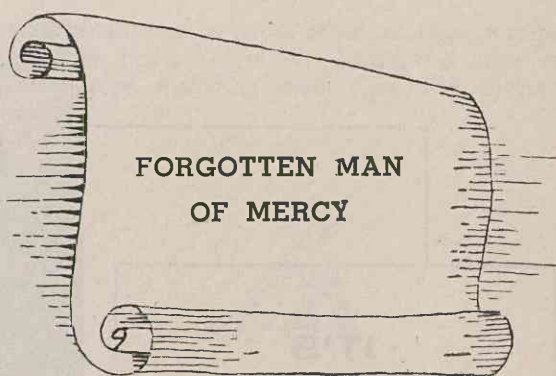
Easter takes its English name from the Anglo-Saxon Eostre, goddess of Spring, whose festival was held every April. The word "paschal" (pertaining to Passover or Easter) derives from the

## Easter

French word "Pasques" for Easter, which in the beginning came through the Latin from the Hebrew name of Passover, the time of the sacrifice of the lamb. The Jewish Passover comes at about the same time as the Christian Easter, and is also a time for rejoicing.

In the beginning there was much disagreement as to the actual date of Easter, but the First Nicene Council, A. D. 325, finally decreed that Easter should fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon or after March 21. The earliest possible date on which Easter may occur is March 22, the latest, April 25.

This year Easter is early. On March twenty-fifth the world and her people will be dressed in Spring's finery to herald the joyous Resurrection. In legends and in flowers the Easter story is told—and on Easter Sunday people from all walks of life will throng their churches to sing hymns of praise for the Saviour's Rebirth. The happiness of the world is told in the stories, the prayers, the anthems, and the greetings of Eastertide.



Becoming appalled with the bloodshed during the War in Italy, a young Swiss banker named Henri Dunant published in 1862 a booklet, giving a shocking account of the distress of the wounded left to perish on the battlefield for lack of medical care. He urged the need for some permanent organization for securing volunteers to aid the wounded during times of strife. It was his hope that military leaders in all countries would agree on a sacred international plan for care of the wounded.

Dunant's ideas found fertile soil in the hearts of several Europeans, so delegates of nearly every country were asked to meet at Geneva to discuss these ideas. A commission, which later became known as the Comite International de la Croix-Rouge (International Committee of the Red Cross), was formed to study methods of aiding the wounded in War.

This commission drew up a draft agreement providing for national committees to assist Army medical service by creating volunteer aid corps. Also, an international meeting was called at Geneva from October 26-29, 1863, at which meeting there were laid down the fundamental principles of the Red Cross.

But Henri Dunant had put too much time, energy and money into his crusade. His ideas had taken root, but his health was failing and his business was gone. He disappeared into the slums of Paris, and soon he was forgotten.

Some 30 years later, a newspaper reported visited a home for the aged in an Alpine village. While there, he interviewed Henri Dunant, then an old man, and wrote a story that made front page history.

Nations all over the world honored him, one Empress bestowed a life pension, he was awarded prizes, and societies of all nations appointed him to honorary membership. In 1901 he shared in the first Nobel Peace Prize.

Honor, fame and fortune came late in life for Henri Dunant as the result of a newspaperman discovering him in a home for the aged and writing these words: "The founder of the Red Cross is alive and in need."