

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

ventions and appeals and requests for enquiries (as in the case of Georges Olivet's death) with a view to respect for the *jus in bello*. He concludes by saying:

It devolves on an impartial body such as the ICRC to contribute to the development of law in a field where new ground is to be broken, where the difficulties are legal, political and administrative, and where development by parties in conflict cannot but be uncertain and hesitant. It must be admitted that these parties have first to look after their own interests. Events have proved the value of a neutral moral power.

Both authors in this book have expressed original ideas contributing to the study of theoretical and practical problems involved in Red Cross intervention in conflicts. Such contributions postulate a widening of scope for the law of war and facilitate the framing of regulations which would permit a more uniform and stricter application of the Geneva Conventions.

J.-G. L.

" CLARA BARTON AND DANSVILLE " ¹

Compiled under the auspices of the Dansville chapter of the American Red Cross, this work, consisting of historical notes, letters and reminiscences, is a tribute to the famous founder of that Society. Dansville, in fact, prides itself on being the place where the Red Cross first appeared in that country, as indicated by its title " Clara Barton Chapter No. 1 ". In 1881 Clara Barton went to Dansville and spoke on behalf of its Civil War Service. Several years later the Red Cross was started there and that town therefore

¹ Dansville, New York, Privately Published, 1966, 621 p.

has its place in our movement's history. The documents and illustrations to be found in this work, some of which have hitherto been unpublished, describe the circumstances in which a Society was created. In 1881, and at that same time, a great fire broke out near Port Huron in Michigan. Clara Barton helped by her volunteers, members of the first Chapter, at once undertook a large-scale action which enabled aid to be brought with the least possible delay to the victims of that disaster.

This effective intervention coincided with the question of the accession of the United States to the Geneva Convention being once more submitted to the Senate's approval. One is certainly entitled to think that this relief action had a weighty influence on the United States' accession to the Geneva Convention.

Furthermore, this experience was a positive starting point, for whenever some natural disaster struck a particular area, a branch of the American Red Cross formed itself on the site. This was so in Rochester, Syracuse, Memphis, St. Louis and other places. When Clara Barton died in 1912 there were already 134 chapters with 16,000 members.

It was from the small Dansville Chapter, inspired by its founder's enthusiasm, that the National Society has become a powerful force, present in the smallest of places.

An entire section of this book, entitled "The Great Enterprise", is devoted to the unceasing efforts made by Clara Barton for the United States to sign the Geneva Convention. She had close correspondence on the subject with Gustave Moynier and also with Dr. Louis Appia, who had introduced her already in 1870 to the ICRC, its members and the work started. Examples of this can be found in letters to the United States' authorities and to those in charge of the Red Cross in Geneva.

J.-G. L.