

INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

In the course of the International Medical Law Seminar at Liège, a number of papers were submitted on topics with which the Red Cross is concerned. It should be mentioned that in this context "international medical law" covers legislative provisions intended to guarantee the right to medical care. It is, therefore, part of international humanitarian law.

One of the papers dealt with the teaching of this law; it gave the programme of courses at the University of Pristina in Yugoslavia under Professor Patrnic, Dean of the Faculty of Law. It is well known that the ICRC is keenly interested in international humanitarian law, on which, as was mentioned in the International Review two years ago, courses are given at Geneva University by our Director-General, Mr. J. Pictet. We believe our readers will be interested in this programme.

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I

1. Basic Function

- a) humanitarian principle
 - terms of definition
 - philosophic considerations
 - political and legal considerations
- b) principle of protection of human values
 - basic term of humanitarian principle
 - man as the beneficiary of humanitarian rules
- c) humanitarian standards
- d) man, subject to international law
- e) defining the functions of humanitarian law in war and peace

MISCELLANEOUS

- f) humanitarian and other fields of international law
 - common characteristics
 - g) international humanitarian law and diplomacy
 - h) man and international relations
2. Protection of the human person
- a) humanitarian principles
 - terms, definitions
 - custom and regulation
 - b) protection in time of peace
 - custom and major bilateral and multilateral treaties
 - the United Nations Charter
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
 - application of the Charter and the Declaration to bilateral and multilateral treaties
 - c) protection in war-time
 - common law
 - draft international conventions
 - The Hague Conventions
 - The Geneva Protocol
 - The Geneva Conventions up to 1949
 - The Geneva Conventions since 1949
 - d) protection against weapons of mass destruction
 - prevailing rules
 - draft rules advocated by the International Committee of the Red Cross

II

1. The Nüremberg Principles
- a) work of the United Nations Commission on international law
 - b) the Nüremberg Principles and the Geneva Conventions
 - c) national penal codes and punishment of war criminals
 - d) the problems of individual responsibility
 - e) International Penal Court

2. Internal conflict (not international in character)
 - a) the meaning of internal conflict
 - b) forms and types (characteristics) of armed conflicts
 - c) the problem of recognition of rebel governments
 - d) United Nations and internal conflicts
 - e) humanitarian standards
3. United Nations emergency armed forces
 - a) types of armed forces
 - b) classification of action according to the objectives of the United Nations
 - c) the application of humanitarian regulations by the United Nations forces
 - d) the need for special regulations in respect of each type of United Nations armed forces and each type of action they undertake
4. International humanitarian law and neutrality
 - a) the meaning and limitation of such political neutrality
 - b) problems of terminology
 - c) neutrality and humanitarian activities
 - d) the problem of unison in humanitarian actions

III

1. International humanitarian law and the International Red Cross
 - a) International Committee of the Red Cross
 - b) League of Red Cross Societies
 - c) International Committee of the Red Cross and the progressive development of international humanitarian law
2. The activities of international organizations in the humanitarian field
 - a) International Committee of Military Medicine and Pharmacy
 - b) Commission médico-juridique de Monaco

MISCELLANEOUS

- c) International Law Association
- d) World Health Organization
- e) UNESCO
- f) International Medical Law Study Group
- g) International Committee for the Neutrality of Medicine
- h) other international and national organizations

IV

1. The prospects for the codification of international humanitarian law
 - a) partial and complete codification
 - b) contemporary trends in international law development and their influence on international humanitarian law

V

1. By way of conclusion
 - a) the present dilemma: humanity and nuclear weapons.

ARAB MEDICINE IN THE MIDDLE AGES

In La Presse Médicale (Paris, November 1966), Mr. Monnerot-Dumaine describes the importance of Arab medicine in the Middle Ages and of its leading figures. We think it to be of interest to reproduce this account following on a series of studies devoted to the theoretical and practical development of humanitarian ideas in different civilizations.

There are some admirers of the Middle Ages who express their irritation when criticised for the obscurantism, stagnation and backwardness of that period. They make every effort to prove that