

*in a form which it may itself decide, the result of the studies of the Working Party to the favourable attention of the member States so that they may accept its application,*

*invites the International Committee of the Red Cross to continue the study, if necessary, of an eventual transposition of the proposed measures into rules of positive international law.*

The participants in this IXth Discussion had the opportunity of being present at and in taking part in the deliberations of the Commission of International Medical Law of the International Law Association, which had been convened by the same organizers on the same dates, also at Liège. They were most interested in certain subjects discussed by this Commission and in particular by its efforts for drawing up a Statute for "medical institutions". This question, which is entirely new, will no doubt be further considerably developed and the International Committee will certainly have the opportunity of subsequently referring to it in the *International Review*.

The Commission has furthermore expressed its wish to see improvements made in the protection of medical aviation and especially of helicopters engaged in evacuating the wounded. It has learned with satisfaction that the ICRC, which also shares this desire, considers making a study of this problem in the near future and will without doubt renounce proceeding on its own in this direction.

J. P. S.

### **THE STAFF OF AESCULAPIUS HAS BECOME OFFICIAL IN BRAZIL**

Brazil is one of the first countries in the world to adopt a law enforcing the use of the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, by all members of the medical and auxiliary professions, except, naturally, those who have the right to display the sign of the red cross.<sup>1</sup> This is its text as it appeared in the official gazette of the

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<sup>1</sup> *Plate.*

United States of Brazil (October 2, 1961) and freely translated :

Records of the Legislative Power :

Law No. 3960 of September 20, 1961.

Instituting the obligatory use of the distinctive emblem for national health organizations and laying down other provisions.

The President of the Republic :

I hereby make it known that the National Congress decrees and that I sanction the following law :

Art. 1. The emblem suggested by the International Committee of the Red Cross, represented by the staff of Aesculapius, red on a white ground, as on the attached sketch, will be adopted for the obligatory and exclusive use of all national health units, whether public or private, in order to protect and to distinguish the members of medical and auxiliary professions in the exercising of their activities.

Unique paragraph. The provisions of this article do not apply to the Nation's Armed Forces in regard to whom will be observed the international treaties and conventions signed by Brazil and which concern the use of the red cross emblem.

Art. 2. Within 90 days of the publication of the present law, the Executive Power will determine, through the intermediary of the Minister of Health, the statutory provisions for its strict enforcement.

Art. 3. The present law will enter into force on the day of its publication, rescinding all provisions to the contrary.

Brasilia, September 20, 1961, 140th year of Independence and 73rd of the Republic.

Joao Goulart,  
Tancredo Neves  
Souto Maior.