

BOOKS

EDUARDO DE NO LOUIS: « LA CRUZ ROJA Y EL DERECHO DE GUERRA ».

This study, which goes back to the academic year 1956-57 is none the less of considerable topical interest. Its author, Colonel Eduardo de No Louis, who is Assistant Director of Legal Services at the Ministry of War in Madrid, gives a most clear account of the history, organization and directing ideas of the International Red Cross. As such it gives all that every officer and official responsible for the application of humanitarian law should know of the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions.

Colonel de No Louis, doctor of law of the University of Madrid, devoted his thesis to " Prisoners of war ". Amongst other functions he was secretary on the editorial staff of the review " Africa " and also acted as secretary to the Commission charged with drawing up the code of military law in 1945. He then became professor of international law and director of studies at the Academy of military law. Member of the mixed commission set up by the Hispano-American Mutual Aid Agreement, he is head of the military law section at the " Francisco de Vitoria " Institute of International Law and directs the " Revista Española de Derecho militar ". It is sufficient to say that this study, to which we have pleasure in drawing the special attention of the Red Cross world, is the work of one of the best qualified in this field.

The author insists, in particular, on the judicial character of the red cross emblem as the protective and indicatory sign, and refers with appropriate comment to the highly important provisions of articles 53 and 54 of the First Geneva Convention of August 12, 1949 regarding the use and respect for the emblem. It is only too certain, as he himself observes, that misuse of the sign of the Red Cross should be scrupulously avoided (or repressed) in the interest itself of the effectiveness of protection.

In concluding his account, intentionally limited to essentials, Colonel de No Louis emphasizes the rôle of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the development of humanitarian

¹ Escuela de funcionarios internacionales, " Cursos y Conferencias ", 1956-57, Madrid, 54 p.

law. " Many achievements in the law of war ", he writes, " before being recognized by the Conventions, have found practical realization thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross using its right of initiative, by constant, tenacious and insistent work . . . thanks to exemplary patience and neutrality."

Whilst pointing out the state of " confusion and profound evolution " of the present world, the author finally observes that on many occasions the international Red Cross has been successful in alleviating suffering, bringing modification to problems seemingly without solution and, to a certain extent, acting as a balancing factor in the increasing dangers of war.

H. C.

MAURICE VEILLARD-CYBULSKI : " INTRODUCTION AU TRAVAIL
SOCIAL " ¹

Numerous publications on social work have appeared, but there are few handbooks in French. This book by Mr. Maurice Veillard-Cybulski, doctor of law, is therefore most welcome. He deals not only with general problems of social welfare existing in the world today, but also with the tasks undertaken in various sectors on behalf of infants and youths, family matters, the aged, the sick and the maladjusted. The first chapters relate to social activities on the international level and mention is made on several occasions of the Red Cross, an important factor in social reconstruction. It should be pointed out in passing that if the ICRC's rôle, in time of war, is to ensure the practical application of the Geneva Conventions, it goes far beyond the organization of " the social services in prisoner-of-war camps ".

The book opens with an excellent historical summary and the author shows the fundamental changes which have taken place in the field of social services, which in the beginning was the product of charity and was of a purely voluntary character. Today, this is

¹ Published by the Cartel romand d'Hygiène Sociale et Morale, Lausanne 1964, 214 p.