

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.

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MAURICE VEILLARD-CYBULSKI : " INTRODUCTION AU TRAVAIL  
SOCIAL " <sup>1</sup>

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

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

## BOOKS

undertaken by full-time workers, exercising a profession for which they have received a long period of training. Behind them they have institutions which grow ever larger and more powerful, some of which moreover, such as the Red Cross, are of private origins. However, the State intervenes more and more, making increasing resources available to the social services.

Nevertheless, as the author so rightly points out, it is its profoundly human aspect which gives the social services their quality and these must be watchful of bureaucracy and too rigid methods of administration. For there is still much to be done, in spite of increased efforts on the part of these services, since their field of action, as Mr. Veillard-Cybulski points out in the second part of the book, continues to extend. This development, however, can be justified only as long as it takes its inspiration from the humanitarian ideal of service to others.

*J.-G. L.*

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### THE RED CROSS AND THE POSTAL SERVICE <sup>1</sup>

In "Le Monde des Philatélistes", Mr. Max-Marc Thomas published a series of articles concerning the early years of the Red Cross.

These articles were collected in a booklet together with a monograph by Mr. Rouard-Watine, Director of the Information and Public Relations Division of the French Red Cross, entitled "La Croix-Rouge et le timbre-poste".

This booklet contains interesting information on the beginnings of Red Cross philately. It is well illustrated with a number of reproductions of vignettes and post-marks, including some used during the war of 1870.

It contains also the first messages sent to prisoners of war by the International Agency for Relief to the Wounded which was set up in Basle by the ICRC. Also reproduced are some of the first letters sent by prisoners of war which benefited from the exemption

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<sup>1</sup> Published in "Le Monde des Philatélistes", 5, rue des Italiens, Paris 9<sup>e</sup>, Study No. 70, 1965, 20 pp.