

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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KEMAL ÖZERDEN: "LE SORT DES MILITAIRES  
BELLIGÉRANTS, VICTIMES DE LA GUERRE, DÉBARQUÉS  
DANS UN PORT NEUTRE,  
D'APRÈS LA CONVENTION DE GENÈVE" <sup>1</sup>

This is the title of an extremely interesting thesis for which its author was awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws of the University of Neuchâtel. It deserves the attention of all who follow the development of international humanitarian law. In addition, the application of the Second Geneva Convention poses some difficult problems. This is what Mr. J. Pictet, Vice-President of the ICRC, points out in his foreword to the book, the main passages of which we quote hereunder:

*The idea of limiting the evils of war and protecting man against oppression is nothing new. It goes back, indeed, to the beginning of time. The sum total of the efforts to which it has given rise keeps pace with the ascending curve of civilization, to which it is indissolubly bound. Like civilization, it has known periods of sudden acceleration, of stagnation, and of set-backs marking out the long course of history with white or black milestones.*

*Progress was particularly slow on the high seas, where customs were harsh and the conditions of fighting difficult. Yet, as we all know, the sea covers three-quarters of the surface of the globe and on its mastery world supremacy has often depended in the course of history. Consequently, in that inhospitable environment, where relief was confronted with so many obstacles, victims were in greater need and danger than on land, and their plight prompted special concern. How many tragedies have been witnessed only by the denizens of the deep and of the skies.*

*There have been several versions of the Second Geneva Convention for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Ship-*

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<sup>1</sup> Editions A. Pedone, Paris, 1972, 237 pp.

*wrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea, of August 12, 1949. Concluded—but not ratified—in 1868, in the form of additional articles to the 1864 Geneva Convention—the parent Convention of the Red Cross and of all international humanitarian law—it became the Hague Convention III of 1899, for Adaptation to Maritime Warfare of the Principles of the Geneva Convention and later, after revision, Convention X of 1907. Today it is again one of the Geneva Conventions to which it has always been akin, since it is designed to grant direct protection to victims of hostilities.*

*But the « maritime » Convention, as we call it, has remained the « poor relation » of the humanitarian Conventions ; in any case the least known. It has prompted little comment and even the reports of the diplomatic conferences which prepared, drafted and developed it, are laconic to the point of being hardly more than a passing mention. Seafarers are notoriously taciturn.*

*It is therefore with particular satisfaction that we greet a sound and detailed book on that Convention, the more so as it is not limited to dealing with only its chosen subjects, that is to say “ the condition of military belligerence ; victims of war, having landed in a neutral port ” : its first part, of a general scope, contains inter alia some useful definitions and gives an interesting insight into the problem of internment and even the law of neutrality. This book will therefore be, as the Americans say, a “ must ” for all who work in Ministries and Universities and are interested in the humanitarian law of the sea.*

*When editing the Commentary on the “ maritime ” Convention in 1959, after having taken part from 1937 onwards in the commissions and conferences which elaborated that Convention in its present-day form, I was struck by the fact that, not only in 1949 but ever since then, a problem so important as the plight of the wounded and sick disembarking in a neutral country had been left in an aura of uncertainty : this is a typical example of the “ head in the sand ” policy, which alas is all too familiar in the world today . . .*

*. . . The fundamental researches of which this book is the fruit make it a mine of valuable information. Mr. Özerden undertook an onerous task, and he has accomplished it with admirable perseverance, keen perception and professional zeal.*

*When preparing the revision of the “ maritime ” Convention and the relevant Commentary, I felt it would be useless to seek a single key*

*to the uniform solution of problems affecting military belligerents who disembark in a neutral country but that the goal was a manifold solution, taking into account such considerations as the nationality of the people concerned or the type of vessel. Mr. Özerden's research is along similar lines, since he advocates an even more diversified solution, taking other considerations into account, such as the conditions of the operation and the place where the victims are rescued. His solution, the result of thorough study, is by no means simple, but it seems logical and theoretically satisfactory.*

*I am convinced that Mr. Özerden's momentous work will prove extremely useful when it is possible to revise thoroughly the "maritime" Convention or the law of neutrality, and it is to be hoped that the Powers will then elaborate that international law to which, in 1949, they merely referred, but which is so difficult to bring about. Until such time as a complete reform is feasible, this book will be of signal service in government Ministries for the interpretation of prevailing law. I therefore wish it every success.*

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**Caring for the Mentally Handicapped, The Role of the Nurse, by P. J. Rogers, RNMS, *Nursing Times*, London, 1971, No. 9.**

...Our wards and units must become, in effect, experimental workshops where the nurse can, with the help of other disciplines, develop new techniques and fresh approaches to the training of the mentally handicapped.

We must develop purpose-built play equipment and vocational training aids. Our attitudes and techniques must be constantly examined and altered where inappropriate or inefficient. We must explore new patterns in training as well as keep an ever-watchful eye on technological development. Each nurse must be awarded the right to specialize in a particular area. The day of the over-all expert has passed and we are now in the era of the specialist. Postgraduate training and visiting scholarships must be provided.

Recently there has been a call for running down the nursing service and development of a new discipline of social therapy. This would interact with other disciplines in the training of the mentally handicapped, and through extra-curricular activities social and recreational training would be provided.