

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

VICTOR SEGESVARY: "THE BIRTH OF RED CROSS SOLIDARITY"¹

In the collection "Studies and Perspectives", published by the Henry Dunant Institute, there now appears a second work devoted to the intervention of the Red Cross during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71: a historical study which shows that Red Cross solidarity is not merely an idea, but a fact. "It was never decided that the Red Cross Societies would help one another in adversity; they just did it."

The text of this study appeared previously, it will be remembered, in the *International Review*. But today it is accompanied by a map of remarkable accuracy, thanks to which the location of ambulances, field hospitals, aid-depots, as well as the places where medical staff are situated, can very easily be found; and one can clearly distinguish the nationality of those who, in 1870 and 1871, came to bring their aid to the war victims for the first time under the emblem of the red cross.

J.-G. L.

PHILIPPE BRETTON: «LE DROIT DE LA GUERRE»²

This work does not claim—and moreover could not do so in view of its size—to cover all law of war. One would wish it, however, to quote more of the Geneva Conventions and the work of the

¹ Editions L'Age d'homme, Lausanne, 1971, 42 pp.; price 14 Sw.fr. A special price of Sw. fr. 12 is accorded to members of the Red Cross.

² Publisher: Armand Colin, Paris, 1971, 96 pp.

ICRC in the field of humanitarian international law. But it has the merit of drawing attention to the *jus in bello* and of reproducing, at the end of the volume, extracts from various documents, in particular the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Hague Convention of 14 May 1954 for the protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict.

The first part of the work studies the ambiguity of the law of war and the very idea of war. The author then examines the international sources of the law of war, the codification of which took place during the second half of the 19th century, and subsequently analyses the national sources.

A second part is composed of texts, of inter-State or internal origin, directly concerning the law of war. Finally, a third part deals with the direction of current research on these subjects and recalls that " what makes the codifying of the law of war so difficult is that it demands numerous compromises ": between the rights and interests of the belligerents and those of neutral countries; between the interests of the various belligerents; between military necessities and humanitarian demands.

J.-G. L.

Principles of organization of the anti-cancer campaign in the USSR, by A. V. Chaklin, International Union against Cancer, *Bulletin*, No. 4, 1970.

...Oncological dispensaries exist in the capitals of regions, oblasts and republics, in towns administratively subordinate to republics, regions and oblasts, and also in large district capitals (inter-district oncological dispensaries).

The oncological dispensary is a specialized therapeutic and prophylactic establishment at which patients with malignant tumours and pre-blastomatous diseases are kept under observation and receive treatment. Its main tasks are:

- To give assistance to departments of health in working out a composite plan for combating cancer on a scale appropriate to the size of the republic, oblast, region, ASSR, town or district;
- To give guidance on questions of organization and methods to other oncological establishments, oncological out-patients departments of