

BOOKS AND REVIEWS

The ICRC's efforts to widen as much as possible the scope of article 3, common to the four Geneva Conventions and relative to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Conflicts, were approved without reservation.

Willy-nilly, the author considers, the application of the Geneva Conventions by the United Nations Forces calls into question that institution's legal position in the international order. The solution which has been adopted, based on bilateral undertakings between the organization and the States providing contingents was, of necessity, approved by the Conference as no other solution was offered, but it hardly appears to satisfy Dr. Schlögel.

The reuniting of families was given special attention at the Conference by the delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany. The broader scope of the resolutions in this connection takes reality into account. Finally, wider dissemination of the Geneva Conventions was urged.

J. de P.

DAISY CAROLINE BRIDGES: "A HISTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF NURSES" ¹

The author of this book is well acquainted with the work of the International Council of Nurses, having been one of its principal officers as Secretary-General from 1948 to 1961. In this book she gives a detailed history, describing how the Council, when founded at the beginning of the century, integrated into the general context of a world which was seen to be made up of increasingly interdependent parts. In addition, the nursing profession then assumed a dignity unknown in Florence Nightingale's time.

After the adoption of its first by-laws in 1900, the ICN developed continuously, as can be seen from the following few figures. In 1901, the first International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo was attended by 400 nurses. In 1965, at the 13th Quadrennial Congress

¹ Pitman Medical Publishing Co. Ltd., London, 1967, 254 p.

at Frankfurt-on-Main there were 6,000 nurses from 50 countries. Today there are more than 500,000 nurses associated in this Council which has survived two world wars and which recently moved its headquarters to Geneva from London, where they had been for many years. It is closely allied with international organizations concerned with health and working conditions and also with the international organizations of the Red Cross.

The book is well illustrated and contains an index for ready reference to the names of people who, on the five continents, have contributed to the advancement of working conditions for nurses, such as Bedford Fenwick and Lavinia Dock. Miss Bridges gives a biography of these two complementary personalities—the first a person of vision with a talent for organization, the second a courageous defender of women's rights—who were behind the foundation of the ICN.

This account of a world-wide movement led Miss Bridges to mention circumstances and events directly influencing the birth and growth of national nursing associations, and the development of nursing care and of health services in many countries.

J.-G. L.

Health services for Afghanistan' women and children, by Joan Liftin, *UNICEF NEWS*, No. 48, 1967.

. . . Today, Afghanistan must be considered in the early stages of developing an infrastructure of health services. Towards this end, UNICEF, since 1949, has allocated a total of \$1,267,000, much of which has gone into rural health service, where help is most urgently needed.

There are now health services (centres and sub-centres) in more than twenty rural "blocks", serving a total population of more than one million people.

Clinics for women and children also exist in eighteen provincial towns, as well as Kabul.

And—perhaps most importantly—there are now thirteen schools outside the capital training Afghanistan women to be nurses and midwives. The latest reports from these schools show that there have been consistently more applicants than places available.