

Dynamique de la Paix, by Jean Laloy, *Nova et Vetera*, Geneva, 1969, no. 4.

... Under these conditions, will it not be possible to admit that the objectives of international activity should be and at the same time tend to be no longer the maximum satisfaction of the interest of each, that is to say the constant struggle to get the better of others, i.e. *success*, but *reconciliation* of all, bearing in mind the genuine solidarity of all faced with the threat of annihilation. For the first time there has appeared a temporal awareness, not at a religious but at a political level, of the existence of a single human family threatened not by an external enemy but by an instrument of man's own invention.

The idea of *reconciliation* radically changes international relations. Its effect is to establish a genuine moral community transcending States, perfectable and never perfect, on which all efforts to achieve peace, at whatever level they are exerted, may be based . . .

The Hippocratic Oath, *World Health*, WHO, Geneva, May 1970.

... There was another side to his character: he was a man with a strong sense of professional responsibility. Hippocrates drew up a code of honour summarizing the rules governing the behaviour of doctors and this Hippocratic oath has been in use over the centuries. The code sets a high moral standard for the medical profession. and demands absolute integrity of doctors.

Hippocrates was a voluminous writer. The "Corpus Hippocraticum" runs to seventy treatises, and is incredibly rich in information. It is not all by the master's hand, but the whole work reflects his thinking. His aphorisms reveal a lucid, balanced and precise mind. Their short, incisive phrases, so nicely turned that they remain stamped on the memory for ever, have received the imprimatur of survival for many centuries. The first and best known is worth recalling. "Life is short, art is long, experience is difficult. Not only should the doctor be ready to do his duty, but the patient, the assistants, and external circumstances must conspire to effect a cure." A simple and moving paragraph which sums up the art of medicine.

The medicine of Hippocrates was made up of observation, experiment and reasoning, and represents the highest point reached by Greek medicine. Even today its scientific aspects are striking. The renown of the wise man of Cos is well deserved. Hippocrates will always be regarded as one of the masters of the medical art.