

After analysing the idea of legal protection in the absence of diplomatic or consular representation of the same nationality as the interested parties, and after giving an account of the protection afforded in former times by the Great Powers to the nationals of small nations, Mr. Hans Haug shows what an important innovation in international law, the clause in the Geneva Convention of July 27, 1929 relative to the treatment of prisoners of war (article 86) was, which established " the possibility of collaboration between the Protecting Powers charged with the protection of the interests of the belligerents ".²

Mr. Hans Haug then goes on to give a summary of the tasks of the Protecting Power as well as Switzerland's activities in this capacity.

This remarkable study elucidates an important contribution by Switzerland to international mutual aid, and every attention should be given to it.

H. C.

JAPAN AND THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

The Japanese Yearbook of International Law (Tokyo, No. 5, 1961) published an important article under this heading by Professor Juji Enomoto, who discusses the Geneva Conventions of 1949, their ratification and their dissemination in Japan.

The author is well known to the ICRC and to our readers, since he took part in the Conference of experts which met in Geneva in May 1956 to examine the question of the legal protection of the civilian population. In the same year he published a most remarkable study of the origin of humanitarian ideas in Japan.²

Countering the objection raised by certain legal experts against the ratification of the Geneva Conventions by the Japanese Government, under the pretext that article 9 of the Constitution lays it down that the Japanese people perpetually renounces war as a

¹ There is an account of the legal system of Protecting Powers in the *commentary on the Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949*, published by the ICRC, vol. 1, pp. 86 to 95.

² See *Revue internationale de la Croix-Rouge*, September-December, 1956.

BOOKS

method of settling international conflicts, Mr. Enomoto replies that article 2 common to the four Geneva Conventions establishes that these apply in the case of declared war or all other armed conflict arising between two or more High Contracting Parties, " even if a state of war is not recognized by one or other of them ". He stresses, furthermore, that the Geneva Conventions have as their object, above all, the respect of the individual, and he congratulates the Japanese Government on associating itself, by ratifying them, with the progress made in international law in defence of the essential rights of the individual.

The author furthermore indicates in this interesting article, the points in internal legislation in Japan which, in his view, should develop in order the better to take into account the undertakings resulting from the Geneva Conventions. Thus this also embraces, for example, the rules relative to the use of the protective sign of the Red Cross.

On the other hand, he emphasizes the very methodical efforts being employed in disseminating the Geneva Conventions amongst the Japanese defence forces as well as the general public, thanks to the authorities and to the Junior Red Cross.

We would like to congratulate Mr. Juji Enomoto for this new testimony on behalf of the Red Cross ideal.

H. C.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF ALBERT CALMETTE

1863-1933¹

by NOËL BERNARD

The collection " Les Savants et le Monde ", edited by Mr. André George, has had a new work added to it. Professor Pasteur-Vallery-Radot introduces its author in an interesting preface, recalling that he is Honorary Vice Chairman of the Pasteur Institute, Former Director General of the Pasteur Institute in Indochina, and describ-

¹ Editions Albin-Michel, Paris.