

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.

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THE LIFE AND WORK OF ALBERT CALMETTE

1863-1933<sup>1</sup>

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-

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<sup>1</sup> Editions Albin-Michel, Paris.

ing his career and his long association with Albert Calmette whose close and enthusiastic follower and colleague he was. It is therefore natural that this work should show a complete understanding of the character and the full life of Albert Calmette.

In his introduction, Noël Bernard straightaway characterizes his subject with a quotation from Bergson : " I know that one can argue on the relation between action and thought. But the motto which I would commend, not only to the philosopher but to the man in the street, is the simplest of all, and I think the most Cartesian. I would say that one must act like a thinker and think like a man of action."

And it is surely in this light as a thinker and man of action that the author describes this " missionary of the new science ", and his varied life. And how varied it was. Albert Calmette wanted to go into the Navy, but for reasons of health was thwarted in his choice of career. He therefore studied medicine, and in the second chapter entitled " Naval Doctor 1883-1890 ", the author describes the campaigns in the Far East and in Gabon, during which Calmette discovered various diseases, and finally in the St. Pierre and Miquelon islands, where he received his initiation into microbiology during research into the functions of cod which marks a decisive stage in his career. This is a very interesting chapter in which one can discern the shadow of Pasteur, his contemporary, and whose loyal fellow worker he was.

This microbial initiation was to lead Calmette to the Pasteur Institute, following which he left for Saigon in 1891, at Pasteur's suggestion, with the job of setting up the first overseas Pasteur Institute. It was here that after a great deal of research, he adapted the preparation of anti-smallpox vaccine and post-bite anti-rabies vaccination to local conditions. He also continued his research work, particularly on cobra venom, and it was here, in Saigon too, that he met his famous colleague, Doctor Alexandre Yersin, who has been the subject of a previous review article<sup>1</sup>; and it was here, too, that his career developed as a result of the varied work inspired by the needs which he observed in the regions where he lived.

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<sup>1</sup> A review of Noël Bernard's book on Yersin appeared in the October 1956 issue of the *Revue internationale*.

## BOOKS

The striking thing about this chapter and the book as a whole, is the admiring way in which the author speaks on what can be achieved by an exceptionally active mind coupled with a profound feeling for mankind, in spite of the numerous difficulties which Calmette encountered and particularly the risk of infection which he continuously ran.

The author goes on to describe Calmette's return to Paris to the Pasteur Institute in 1894, the work, the study of poisons, protective serums, plant poisons, etc. Then follow the years spent in Lille (1895-1919), where Calmette was asked to go by Pasteur and Roux to set up the Pasteur Institute for Northern France, an institute that was soon to become "an ante-room for Pasteur's doctrine". It was a difficult task because, before him, there had been nothing; and on reading this chapter, one is struck by his organisational ability, his decisive mind and the speed with which he applied his ideas. Amongst his many achievements, we read of the creation of a research laboratory for anti-poisonous serotherapy, the creation of a chair of health and bacteriology at the Lille Medical Faculty, work on public health, study on miners' illnesses, etc. During this period, he was also sent on missions in France and abroad, particularly to Algiers, where he set up a new Pasteur Institute.

In 1919, he returned to Paris for good to take up his duties as Vice Chairman of the Pasteur Institute. The author gives a concise account of the many tasks and also the difficulties which he had to contend with over many years, and which it is not for us to go into in this article. We will merely recall that it was in the Pasteur Institute in Paris that he finished the crowning achievement of his life, interrupted in Lille in 1915 as a result of the war. This was the biological study of the Calmette-Guérin Bacillus (BCG) which he defended "unceasingly to his dying day".

Year follows year and the reader is continually astonished and charmed by this untiring strength of purpose allied to a welcoming nature which enveloped his fellowmen. After describing the end of his life "when he had the satisfaction of living amongst his colleagues and friends who were still as active as ever", the author goes on to describe the gap caused by Calmette's death in 1933, but he also reveals the trail which Calmette blazed in so many aspects of

science, a trail which his numerous disciples had only to follow in order to continue his great humanitarian work.

This is the story of a great life, a life which was quiet but essentially civilized and public spirited, its field of battle was a humble and sometimes most uncomfortable one, and its weapons were the peaceful weapons of the laboratory, used to save lives and not to destroy them.

J. Z.

## THE FRONTIERS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW<sup>1</sup>

by GEORG SCHWARZENBERGER

Present-day International Law suffers from patent weakness and has to its credit remarkable achievements. It is one of the objects of this book to explain this apparent paradox in the sociological, historical and ethical perspectives opened up by the writer.

In this connection the chapter dealing with the laws of war is of particular interest. Recalling the St. Petersburg Declaration of December 11, 1868 prohibiting the use of certain explosive or inflammable projectiles, then the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907 (and in particular the famous Hague Regulations concerning the laws and customs of war on land), the author also refers to the Geneva Conventions of 1929 and 1949 relative to the protection of the victims of war. He shows how the "necessities of war" intersect the "needs of civilization" to determine the extent of a protective zone respected by universal consent.

He lays special emphasis on that essential provision in an article common to the four Geneva Conventions of August 12, 1949 (I, 63; II, 62; III, 142; IV, 158) according to which denunciation of these Conventions "shall in no way impair the obligations which the Parties to the conflict shall remain bound to fulfil by virtue of the principles of the law of nations, as they result from the usages established among civilized peoples from the laws of humanity and the dictates of public conscience."

H. C.

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<sup>1</sup> Stevens & Sons, Ltd., London, 1962.