

France

The French Red Cross has published a 48-page illustrated brochure entitled *Ce qu'il faut connaître des Conventions de Genève*, which it presents in the following terms:

“No matter how much is written, so vast and engrossing a subject, which is both humanitarian and legal, is never exhausted. First we shall simply endeavour to recall very briefly the birth and the purpose of the first Geneva Convention; then we shall outline the development of international law for the victims of war, and lastly we shall indicate the objectives achieved by the 1949 Conventions.”

Largely drawing inspiration from ICRC publications, the authors define the spirit of the four Geneva Conventions and describe its essential provisions. They then consider each Convention's specific provisions on the treatment of the wounded and the sick, the status of prisoners of war and the protection of civilians. They review the results which successive Conventions have achieved since 1864, and attempt to trace the probable course of humanitarian law, referring to the Conferences of Government Experts convened in Geneva in 1971 and 1972 as important stages towards a more effective protection of the victims.

In a final chapter, the present position, particularly in France, regarding the deontology of the nursing profession is outlined, and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross as adopted by the XXth International Conference of the Red Cross are enumerated.