

Dental Work Among Our Soldiers

Story of the Movement Which Eventuated in Modern System of Army Dental Hygiene and Surgery—Maritime Men Take Lead in Canada—Completeness of Dental Service at Aldershot.

Specially Written for The Nova Scotia Highlander

The Army Dental Service is the latest addition to the Military Organization for the cure and prevention of disease and disability amongst soldiers.

The recognition of Medical, Surgical and Sanitary Organization has only occurred in very modern times. Napoleon was the first great Military Leader to recognize Surgical Aid in the field of battle. In early times the wounded soldier was looked upon as a nuisance, and was often slyly put out of the way.

The importance of the organization of a Dental Service has also been long in getting recognition. In fact it is quite a modern institution, and was long considered a mere part of Medicine and Surgery, and the habit prevailed of simply extracting the teeth. As a profession, however, Dentistry has made great strides in very recent years, and the importance to the general health of preserving and perfecting the grinding surface for the proper mastication of the food, and the keeping of the mouth in a healthy condition is now fully recognized.

Professor E. C. Kirk of the University of Pennsylvania associated with Professor Nichols has gone into extensive research and experiment with the secretion of the mouth, and it has been found that all of the juices and secretions of the body none are of more importance than the saliva, and that from an analysis of the saliva a diagnosis of all constitutional diseases can be early and accurately made. For instance, Bright's Disease, Cancer, Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia and so on.

Capt. James M. Magee, head of the Dental Service here at Aldershot Camp, and Acting Assistant Director Dental Services for Military District No. 6, read a paper ten years ago before a meeting of the Maritime Medical Association in Charlottetown, entitled "The mouth as an index of health." This was the first Dental paper ever read in a meeting of a Medical Association in Canada, and attracted wide-spread comment.

ORGANIZATION

At a meeting of the Canadian Dental Association in Montreal in 1902 a special committee was appointed for the purpose of conferring with the Military Authorities with a view to organize a Canadian Army Dental Association. In 1904 at the World's Dental Congress held at St. Louis, a resolution was passed memorializing the American Congress to establish a Dental Corps in the Army and Navy. Following this, Dental Surgeons were appointed in the American Army and Navy, and about the same time the movement assumed tangible form in Canada. The first establishment provided for 18 Dental Surgeons, two for each Military District. This was later increased to 26. Each Dental Surgeon was given the honorary rank of Lieutenant, and they were all attached to the Field Ambulance.

About 1910 Dr. G. K. Thomson, of Halifax, who is now Capt. Thomson, Assistant Director of Dental Services for

Director of Dental Services for Military District No. 6, and Capt. Magee got the ear of General Drury, who was always modern and progressive in his ideas. A general scheme of organization was mapped out; similar to that of the Army Medical Corps. This, however, was not put into practical operation until the breaking out of the war in 1914.

MARITIME MEN LEAD

As in all great and progressive movements in Canada, Maritime Province men were found playing a foremost part. So, in this movement Capt. G. K. Thomson, of Halifax, and Capt. Magee, of St. John, were the moving spirits. Sir Sam Hughes, ever alert and quick to discern an advantage to the Service, immediately gave this movement his support, and a Canadian Army Dental Corps was formed after the manner of the Canadian Army Medical Corps, and Dr. J. A. Armstrong, a leading dentist of Ottawa, was appointed Director General of Dental Service, with the rank of Lt.-Colonel. Col. Armstrong was sent overseas in command of the Canadian Army Dental Corps. Major O. K. Gibson was also sent over as second in command. Major A. A. Smith remained on this side as the chief executive.

Assistant Directors of Dental Services were appointed for the different Military Districts of Canada. Dr. G. K. Thomson, of Halifax, was made A.D.D.S., for Military District No. 6, the Maritime Provinces, with the rank of Captain. On Capt. Thomson taking charge of the administration of the Dental Service at Valcartier Camp, Capt. Magee was appointed A.A.D.D.S., for the District No. 6.

ALDERSHOT CAMP

Capt. Magee was, at the time, at the head of the Dental Services at Aldershot, which he is still directing. The Dental Service at Aldershot is most complete. Through the enterprises of Capt. Thomson a commodious and well equipped building was secured, and there are six experienced operators now at work, but there is still a shortage of enough men to meet the requirements.

Previous to the advent of an adequate system of properly caring for the mouth and teeth, a large number of casualties were constantly occurring from disease of the mouth and teeth. A man might be as big as a Goliath and as strong as Samson, but a pin-hole in one of his teeth, sufficient to give a violent tooth-ache, would place him upon the casualty list, and he would feel like Bobby Burns that he was afflicted with "the hell of a' diseases."

With the adequate system now in vogue, men's teeth and mouth can be kept in a perfectly healthy condition, and plates supplied to fill any vacancies caused by lost teeth. Altogether it is an exceedingly important department of the Military Service, to which too much importance cannot be attached.

A GOOD RECRUITER

Capt. (Rev.) F. C. Ward-Whate of Lunenburg was a visitor in Camp on Thursday. Capt Ward-Whate is doing good work in recruiting along the South Shore. The town of Lunenburg, has given 178 men

to date out of a population of 2700.

For Sale—A horse, 4 years old, weight 900 lbs, perfectly sound and kind; a fine driver. Apply to C. Hogan, Port Williams, Kings Co., N S sw 41

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ROYALTY

(Editorial in N. S. Highlander)

Although the visit of Field Marshal, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught to Aldershot Camp last Saturday was dwelt upon at length in the last issue of The Nova Scotia Highlander, it is considered important that further reference should be made to the address given by him to the officers of the Brigade, now that we are in a position to draw attention to several of the points he emphasized.

His Royal Highness highly complimented the Brigade by remarking that it is one of the finest bodies of men in Canada. He strengthened this by adding that he had inspected troops from Vancouver Island to Prince Edward Island and could speak, therefore, with knowledge of what the Division had done.

The Nova Scotia Highland Brigade was amongst the finest units inspected by His Royal Highness. He was glad to see this and noticed with pleasure that the officers wore full equipment as well as the men.

In a stirring manner he drew attention to the splendid response throughout the Empire. It had opened the eyes of Germany and of the whole world. The Empire has done well so far but it is up hill work because Germany has been preparing for at least forty years while Great Britain paid more attention to better development. Now that the life of the Empire depends upon it, attention must be turned to military matters.

His Royal Highness pointed out that whenever a victory has been won it was in no small measure due to the excellent discipline maintained. He strongly urged that every means be taken to have the men well disciplined. Vital results depend upon it.

In this war, he pointed out, the soldier specializes. Men are required to become expert in bombing, bayonet fighting, sniping, machine gunning, and so on.

In conclusion, His Royal Highness said that as this would be almost his last review in Canada he desired to thank the people of the Dominion for the gratifying manner in which his office had been upheld during his term in this country and his work made pleasant as well as profitable. He wished the Nova Scotia Highland Brigade success and above all victory and thanked one and all for the splendid review.

British Losses For August Total Over 127,000

London, Sept. 2.—It was officially announced yesterday that the British casualties, killed, wounded and missing, on all the theatres in the month of August totalled 4,711 officers and 123,234 men.

Pleased With 85th Battalion

Major-General Lesard, Inspector-Unit—Impressed With Personnel and Efficiency.

During his visit to Aldershot Camp, among other matters, Major-General Lesard, Inspector-General for Eastern Canada, inspected the 85th Battalion. He expressed himself as much pleased with the personnel and efficiency of the Battalion.

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught visited the Hospital on the occasion of his recent visit to camp and spoke encouragingly of the work.

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THE GRAY-DORT — The wonderful car that was chosen from the entire American Market as the car best suited to the needs of the Canadian business man and farmer. The powerful car, enthusiastically sought by the automobile agents from every part of Canada, as the most worthy of the backing of their name and experience. The car that within three days completely outsold the capacity of the factory for many months ahead—an unprecedented achievement.

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If you will make those sudden stops,
If the city will water asphalt,
If rain will make muddy roads;

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