

16.—SATISFACTORY RECORDS REGARDING INDIVIDUAL CASUALTIES ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

(a) Report from Lt.-Col. Adami in reply to a request for a return showing the work carried out by A.D.M.S. Records.

There is no such appointment as A D.M.S. Records. Lt.-Colonel Adami was appointed Medical Historical Recorder, and directed to join the staff of the D.M.S. in April, 1915.

For historical purposes original documents are a first necessity; hence it was necessary that the Recorder should have access to the War Diaries of the different medical units; for medical historical purposes to treat of the diseases affecting the Expeditionary Force it was equally necessary to obtain accurate returns of Canadian casualties; while, thirdly, to write intelligently about the doings of the different medical units and their doings, it was essential that the Recorder should visit and become familiar with these units and the field of their activities.

1.—WAR DIARIES AND OTHER RECORDS.

With reference to the War Diaries, it was found that prior to the arrival of the Historical Recorder these had been kept very irregularly.

As the result of correspondence, more particularly with the D D M S Canadians in France, the Army Regulations were put into force, and the O.C. each Canadian medical unit overseas now provides monthly three copies of his War Diary. Two of these are forwarded through the 3rd Echelon to the Officer i c Records, Canadians. Of these one, the original, is transmitted to the War Office, and until this month the duplicate has been transmitted to the Medical Historical Recorder, to be by him abstracted and returned to the Officer i c Records for eventual transmission to Canada. Now, according to office instruction of Officer i c Records, No. 103, dated 4th August, 1916, duplicate copies of War Diaries received from 3rd Echelon Base are to be transmitted to the Officer i c War Records, Canadians, Historical Section, 3, Lombard Street, E.C., instead of to the Secretary, Militia Council, Ottawa, as heretofore. Arrangements are therefore being made with Sir Max Aitken with regard to future procedure.

The third copy is retained by the A.D.M.S. of the division for three months, and then forwarded through the 3rd Echelon to the Officer i c Records, to be retained by him