

to be a large sum of money, feeling that a military force for our protection and defence is a necessary part of our national existence. It is the duty of every nation to be prepared for the terrible emergency of war. To be prepared for action is the *raison d'être* of the existence of a militia. 'Ever ready' in every department when the time of action comes should be the aim of a well-organized force. It is for this object that the country spends its money and our young men give their time and energy to assist the work. To be prepared, each part of the system should be a perfect organization in itself. The medical department I will not speak of as being poorly organized—it is hardly organized at all. The medical department is a most necessary part of the service in the field, and if every other part of the system gets proper attention, this service should not be neglected. I will urge, again and again, that the medical department of our militia should receive more attention and be put in proper shape."

The doctor then went on to say that the ordinary training of a general practitioner is not sufficient for a military surgeon; that the present plan of medical organization is old-fashioned and not in touch with modern military science, and he concluded by recommending a reformation of the system and the establishment of chairs of military surgery in the different medical schools throughout the Dominion.

In replying to Dr. Farrell's caustic criticism of the department, I was much pleased to be able to point out to him and to the meeting what had lately been done and what had been suggested for improving the militia medical service. I could only deal with the suggestions offered by myself, being ignorant of the labors of others—perhaps more competent than I am—to inaugurate adequate reforms.

The following changes, at different times, had been submitted to the Ministers of Militia and Defence :

(1) The reorganization of the service on a departmental—in lieu of the present, the regimental—system.

(2) The formation of a reserve corps of medical officers on the same basis as that of the British army medical service.

(3) The perfection of the ambulance system by the formation of bearer companies to give "first aid" and transport to the sick and wounded in war.

In discussing the question of reorganization, I informed the meeting and the committee subsequently appointed to deal with the matter, that I had had exceptional facilities for becoming acquainted with the relative merits of the departmental and regimental systems, as I had had personal experience of each, in the Queen's service and the Canadian militia, both at home and abroad.