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under our signature. I have been in the habit in any special cases of going in and explaining the case to Col. Belton and talking it over with him, and asking him if he will kindly endorse my opinion of the case.

Q. Do you remember whether you did that in this case or not?—A. I think I did that in this case.

Q. Will your records show?—A. Yes.

*By Hon. Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. Why would you consider this case should go into the doubtful class?—A. I do not want to say doubtful. I do not mean to say that exactly.

Q. You mean debatable?—A. Debatable class. I considered it a total disability, and then it was an officer, Col. Labatt; so I took it in to Col. Belton. I wanted to reinforce my own opinion. I did it personally, probably along the line we adopt in all these cases—as protection. You get another man to endorse your opinion. In certain cases where there is a question among the medical advisers we are in the habit of making a précis and passing it around half a dozen medical advisers and getting their opinion, and we make a set case of it for future reference. We put it in as a stated case.

Q. You referred all these debatable cases to Col. Belton?—A. I do not want you to infer that. I am in the habit of doing that in a large number of important cases of that kind.

*By Mr. Nesbitt:*

Q. Why did you arrive at the conclusion that this was a case of total disability on service in place of having been aggravated?—A. We have to examine these cases according to the records that are given us, and if you look through the file here you will find that under date 17th June, 1915, there is a medical board at Osborne, Isle of Wight, and this is not signed by a Canadian medical officer. It is signed by a Royal Army Medical Corps officer, in fact, two of them, in which they say that he has marked aortic regurgitation, with dyspnoeae on exertion, has been an athlete, but has never had a sign of heart trouble before present attack. That is one board. Then there is a medical board 15th October at Hamilton, Ont., in which they state—

Q. This board came before you?—A. Certainly they all came before me. This board states that there is 100 per cent disability and that there is no aggravation due to service, that clause 14 is not applicable that the whole disability is due to service. It is on these boards that we have to pass judgment. Then the history of the case shows that the man went over when the rest of us went, in the first contingent. He lived through Salisbury Plain. I was there, and I know something of the conditions of Salisbury Plain. He went through an operation in January. He was strong enough to stand the anaesthetic for an operation which must have lasted between one and two hours. He had a gastro-enterostomy done. He recovered from that and went to France in May and returned from France in June with heart trouble.

*By Hon. Mr. McCurdy:*

Q. Do you consider that you have had before you all the medical history that can be of service in arriving at a decision?—A. I think the ideal condition would be if we had an absolute charted medical examination of every soldier on enlistment. We have not got that.

Q. Is there any part of the medical history overseas that would have assisted you in coming to a conclusion?—A. The heart examination which is made by an anaesthetist before the operation would materially assist us. He had an operation in January, 1915, in the Salisbury Plain Hospital, at Netheravon. It is usual for an anaesthetist to make an examination of the heart, as we have always done in all cases. That would have given a description of the condition of the heart.

Q. Would that have assisted you in coming to a conclusion?—A. Yes.

[Lieut.-Col. George Philp.]