

profession, for of all the different groups of officers at that camp, engineers, infantry, artillery, medical etc., the group of physicians ranked lower in mental alertness than any other group of the military class, except the supply train, dentists and veterinarians. These scientific findings were abundantly borne out by experience, and if memory serves correctly, the chief surgeon at that camp recommended some 40 per cent of his medical men for discharge as not qualified for service. This group of medical officers at Camp Lee was further investigated in a general way as to their antecedents, and was found to have largely come from poor schools and small communities and to have represented an exceptionally poor class of the "general run of medical officers."

The purposes of the mental examinations in the U.S. Army were necessarily practical and so may very usefully serve as an indication of how helpful such examinations are as distinguished from purely medical tests in relation to general care and possible usefulness. They approach the subject from the standpoint of conduct which is the test of feeble-mindedness under the Imperial Statute of 1913. The original purposes and the way they were worked out are thus stated:—

"As originally conceived, psychological service within the Medical Department was to assist medical officers, and especially neuro-psychiatric officers, in discovering and eliminating men who are mentally unfit for military duty. It appeared, prior to actual trial, that reasonably well planned methods of mental measurement should enable psychological examiners to discover mentally inferior recruits as soon as they arrived in camp and to make suitable recommendation concerning them to the medical officer. It was also believed that psychologists could assist neuro-psychiatrists in the examination of psychotic individuals. The proposed role of the psychologist then was that of an assistant to the army surgeon, the actual role, as a result of demonstration of values, was that of expert in scientific personnel work.

"In interesting contrast with the original purpose of mental examining, as stated above, stands the following account of the purposes actually achieved by this service: (1) The assignment of an intelligence rating to every soldier on the basis of systematic examination; (2) the designation and selection of men whose superior intelligence indicates the desirability of advancement or special assignment; (3) the prompt selection and recommendation for development battalions of men who are so inferior mentally as to be unsuitable for regular military training; (4) the provision of measurements of mental ability which shall enable assigning officers to build organizations of uniform mental strength or in accordance with definite specifications concerning intelligence requirements; (5) the selection of men for various types of military duty or for special assignments, as for example, to military training schools, colleges or technical schools; (6) the provision of data for the formation of special training groups within the regiment or battery in order that each man may receive instruction suited to his ability to learn; (7) the early discovery and recommendation for elimination of men whose intelligence is so inferior that they cannot be used to advantage in any line of military service.

"The utilization of methods of mental testing by the army has at once increased military efficiency by the improved utilization of brain power and *demonstrated the applicability of the group method of measuring intelligence to educational and industrial needs.* The army methods, although not adapted to the usual educational or industrial requirements, can readily be modified or used as a basis for the development of similar procedures.