

ADDENDA.

Details of the medical *personnel* of a half-bearer company: Two medical officers, one staff-sergeant, three sergeants, three corporals, twenty-three privates (including officers' servants and a batman for the senior non-commissioned officer); total, thirty-two.

In Halifax the medical officers are obtainable from the city corps, which have two each, a surgeon and assistant-surgeon. The men have been promised (ten from each of the city corps—H.G.A., 63rd and 66th Battalions) by the officers commanding, who warmly endorse the project, as do also the medical officers of the three corps. We await only the sanction of Government to organize, and as the plan involves no expense to Government, fail to see why there need be any delay about getting it.

COCAINE IN URETHRAL SURGERY.—Any surgeon having much to do with urethral surgery has noticed in some very modest and nervous patients the extreme prostration from shock on passing any instrument into the urethral canal, and much greater is this shock in these nervous patients after passing a urethrotome, even though the cutting has been very slight and no pain has been experienced. This I have noticed many times. I have used injections of cocaine in the urethra hundreds of times, but I have never but once observed any symptoms which I could absolutely lay to the cocaine. I have, however, never but once used a ten per cent. solution. Two cubic centimetres of a two per cent. solution is amply strong enough for the relief of pain in deep urethral operations, while in cases of internal urethrotomy of the distal end of the penile urethra not deeper than three inches I use a four per cent. solution. In both cases the strength of the solution is ample to completely anesthetize the urethra. The solution should not remain in the deep urethra longer than seven minutes at the utmost. Usually five minutes is long enough, while in the distal penile portion it will require seven to ten minutes to completely anesthetize this portion of the urethra. It should be seen that the urethra is completely emptied of the cocaine solution by stripping it, so that there is no further or prolonged absorption. By observing these simple rules, and by using weak solutions, I have never since encountered nor seen any alarming or poisoning symptoms from the use of cocaine.—Dr. W. H. Dukeman, *N. Y. Med. Jour.*