

This would permit our present Boards to be increased to three members each, and would allow the formation of a third Board for days upon which a specially large number of cases have to be dealt with.

(Signed) W. McKeown,

Lieut.-Colonel, C.A.M.C.

President, Medical Board.

(b) Administration Medical Boards. Standardisation.

All Medical Officers serving on Standing or Travelling Boards should be acquainted with conditions at the Front, in the Hospitals, and in the Battalions, and the personnel of the Boards should be so selected, or otherwise suitable opportunity should be given to these Officers to acquaint themselves with these several conditions.

The Folkestone Board should be the training centre for all Boards, as it comes in touch with all varieties of the work, especially the Battalions, and those cases returned as P.B. from France. Board methods and findings would then be practically uniform. At present the conceptions of Board Officers in France, Shorncliffe, London, Bramshott differ materially.

It is noted in particular that cases considered Permanent Base in France are not so regarded in the Shorncliffe area. Two hundred and twenty-six (226) cases of P.B. from France, July 17th, 1916, were Boarded here as follows:—

Permanent Base Duty	47
Temporary Base	74
Physical Training	57
Hospitals for Special Reports	33
Convalescence	3
Discharge	9
Fit for Duty.....	2
Unaccounted for	1
Total	226

Thus about one-quarter the entire list should be fit for duty in four weeks' time.

Again, in August, one hundred and eleven (111) Permanent Base cases from France were classified by Boards here as follows:—

Convalescence at Homes	1
Hospitals for Reports	10
Permanent Base	33
Temporary Base	15
Physical Training	45
Fit for Duty	7
Total	111

Nearly 50 per cent. Fit for Duty in four to six weeks.

Either the Medical Board in France is too lax or the Boards here too severe, but in any case the Boards have no common working basis. These cases are, moreover, unaccompanied by any Board Papers, only a Medical Transfer Certificate A.F.B. 172 without any remarks.