

those of the Royal Army Medical Corps, have been achieved in spite of obstacles that the subordination of science to ignorance, and of elasticity to military discipline explains, but cannot justify."

The passage of the Military Service Act at Ottawa raises two questions of intense interest to our profession. 1st, What number of army surgeons can the profession of this country legitimately supply? and, 2nd, shall students entered upon their course of medical study be liable to the draft?

In August last, the Central Medical War Committee of Great Britain informed the Government that after a careful survey of the whole of England and Wales, it is of the opinion that no more physicians can be called on to take commissions in the Army Medical Corps, without seriously endangering the supply of physicians for the treatment of the civil community.

In Australia the stress has become so great that the senior practitioners are being called upon to come forward and take on the younger men's job, and it is announced that the Department of Defence will send to France within the next two months every available physician.

In New Zealand we are informed that "as regards medical service for the civilian population the position is now becoming very acute". The Minister of Public Health there recently pointed out the absolute necessity which had arisen for the mobilization of the medical services, and the exercise of control in the location of physicians.

I have recently been invited, semi-officially, to ascertain who among the Toronto practitioners beyond the army service age are ready to step forward and assume the duties of house-physicians and surgeons, laboratory and dispensary assistants.

So far as figures are obtainable, 75 per cent. of the classes which have graduated at our University since the war began have joined the C.A.M.C. or R.A.M.C. For three years past, therefore, the accessions to the ranks have been inadequate to supply the loss through death.

The second question is also important. This arose first in Britain, where, as it has proved unfortunately, all students of medicine under the fourth year were drafted as combatants. In the United States the question is now to the fore. The registration recently made covered 8,983 students of medicine, or 85.9 per cent. of all students upon the rolls of the medical schools. In Canada, at the outset, the men in the senior years were advised to remain at their studies, but the juniors were not discouraged from enlisting. The draft will affect as large a proportion of the medical student body in Canada as in the United States. There, however, the question has been solved by the ruling of the President, that all hospital interns, and medical students of the 2nd, 3rd and