

In Halifax, should sanction be given to form such a bearer company, or half-company (which will be sufficient for local purposes), we propose applying to the general officer commanding in Canada to appoint such an instructor from the Army Medical Staff Corps. This instructor will receive adequate recompense, the expense to be borne out of local regimental funds. His services would only be required long enough to teach the medical officers, non-commissioned officers and men their stretcher drill. Afterwards, the medical officers so taught would be able to teach the stretcher drill themselves with the aid of the regulation text-book, "The Manual for the Medical Staff Corps," a copy of which should be in the possession of every medical officer.

In Halifax we are exceptionally well placed, having a complete staff of the Army Hospital Corps to copy. In addition, we are fortunate in having the Principal Medical Officer of the Imperial forces in Canada, Surgeon-Colonel O'Dwyer, with us, ever ready to give us the benefit of his great experience in military medical matters. Surgeon-Colonel O'Dwyer has organized similar bearer companies in connection with the militia and volunteer forces in Great Britain and commanded a bearer column during the late Egyptian campaign. I am delighted to see him present here to-day and hope he will favor us with some practical remarks.

This scheme for the formation of a bearer half-company in Halifax has gone through the proper channel to Ottawa, and as it involves no expense to the Government and is urgently required, and in the words of the local Deputy-Adjutant General, is considered "a practical scheme for a very necessary purpose," it is to be hoped it may meet with favorable consideration, and may prove the initiatory step in the direction of a complete and effective reorganization, such as I have outlined, of the whole militia medical service.

I will only add a few words to this purely technical paper, in order to thank the Hon. Mr. Daly (our present Governor of Nova Scotia and late M.P. for the city of Halifax), and his successor in Parliament, my friend, Mr. Thomas Kenny (who has always shown the greatest interest in militia matters), for the kind assistance they have at various times given me in bringing these views on service matters before the heads of the Department; and also my thanks to the present and various Ministers of Militia and Defence (Sir A. Caron, Hon. Mr. Patterson and Hon. Mr. Dickey) for the invariable courtesy they have displayed when I have had occasion personally to discuss these matters with them.