

the RECORD on "Medical Officers of the Canadian Militia," we direct the attention of our readers to the following extract from the *British Medical Journal* of 17th March, headed, "The Undermanning of the Army Medical Service":

Compared with the February list, the total has decreased by 4, accounted for as follows in the obituary: 1 murdered on Burmah-Chinese frontier, 1 died of wounds and 2 from disease in South Africa.

The number at home has sunk from 117 to 75, no doubt through the mobilization of the Eighth Division, while the number in South Africa has correspondingly increased from 350 to 389. The number at other foreign stations is 386, against 385, while the unposted have declined from 6 to 4.

It must be noted that if the administrative and the executive officers holding staff appointments, and therefore not available for general duty, be deducted from the 75 at home, only about 50 full-pay executive medical officers are left for general duty. These are reinforced by about 84 retired-pay officers, called "acting" in the Estimates, and by 33 on the retired list "temporarily employed" (of whom 2 are in South Africa), and by a large contingent of civilian surgeons, of which there is no complete return.

The effective total strength of full-pay army medical officers is nominally at present 854, not including the Director-General, but if 16 seconded officers be deducted the real strength is 838. This number is insufficient for ordinary peace duties, and, of course, quite unequal for the present strain. It provides no margin whatever for current casualties and periodical reliefs; it will be still more insufficient when the proposed addition of 27,600 men to permanent army establishments is effected. The present number of 838 officers must indeed be reinforced by at least 200 if the service is to be placed on an efficient footing.

DAMAGES CLAIMED FOR ANTENATAL INJURIES.

According to the *New York Medical Record*, the Supreme Court of Illinois has recently adjudicated in a remarkable case. An infant claimed damages for a deformity alleged to have resulted from injury to the mother before its birth. The mother, while pregnant, was injured in an