

wish to impose upon the committee, but I am sure hon. members will be interested when they hear the details. It will be a revelation. I have a case just like that, the one I referred to last night. This man had a curvature of the spine and he had to wear a belt to support the sacroiliac. I do not know whether my translation is correct. Besides that, he had broken his wrist. I wrote to headquarters about this matter, and just here I may tell the minister that the office of the deputy minister took good care of all these cases. I know they handle cases from coast to coast and have a lot to do and I desire to praise them sincerely for what they have done.

Mr. RALSTON: I have no doubt that my hon. friend will be able to find cases in which the medical officers of the army and civilian doctors have gone wrong. Lawyers go wrong quite frequently. Most of the cases he has cited go back to 1940. But what I do object to is the broad statement of my hon. friend. Yesterday he said that a number of the medical officers of the army were incompetent and that with a few exceptions they were the dregs of the medical profession. That is what I object to most emphatically. To-day my hon. friend is quite fair in saying that it is not wholly the blame of the army officers, that some blame may be attached to civilian doctors who might not understand medical examinations and army procedure. But I consider that a statement like that by a member of the House of Commons with regard to the medical service of our armed forces is wholly unwarranted. At the proper time I shall give the committee the particulars of the qualifications of the men at the head of this service. A statement of that kind is calculated to do irreparable damage to the army and to morale, without doing any corresponding good. My hon. friend is indicating to-day that the cases to which he is referring have come up from time to time and that there may be some negligence or lack of knowledge on the part of the civilian doctors who examined these men, and also a lack of vigilance on the part of the army doctors in not turning them out. As I said before, most of these cases go back to 1940 and I submit that they do not justify a statement such as the one made by my hon. friend, especially when this service is headed by the type of men that are there at the present time.

These medical officers have been consultants and practising physicians. They are members of the Canadian Medical Association and the French-Canadian association of Quebec. Many of them gave up good practices, because at a time like this I should think it would be possible for every doctor to have a lucrative prac-

tice. Young men are coming out of the medical schools and going into the army instead of taking up what might, under conditions as they are to-day, be most attractive professional prospects. It is unworthy of any hon. member to say that these men should be classed as the dregs of the medical profession, and I hope that at the proper time he will see fit to withdraw that statement because I do not think he believes it himself.

Mr. POULIOT: Last night was a special occasion, and sometimes words like that may be exaggerated. My idea in bringing these cases to the attention of the minister and the members of the committee was to give full details. I am ready to make concessions, but I think the minister will admit that there should be at least a little purge among some of those who are in the service, because of observations I made last night.

Mr. RALSTON: The hon. member speaks of a purge. There have been changes. I am not going to say it is a purge. For the last eight months there has been at the head of the medical services Brigadier G. B. Chisholm, C.B.E., M.C. He won the military cross in the last war. He had post-graduate experience in clinical and psychological medicine and general medical practice, and for six years was a member of the teaching and clinical staff of Yale university. He was a lecturer in mental hygiene and psychotherapy at Yale medical school. He is a post-graduate of the medical school and Yale school of nursing. In addition, he took extensive post-graduate work overseas, and prior to the war carried on a special practice in psychotherapy and mental hygiene. He was a special lecturer in the department of social service, university of Toronto. It must be remembered that Brigadier Chisholm is not only a medical officer; he has been a senior combatant officer in the Canadian army and organized the department of personnel selection prior to his appointment as director general of medical services.

Associated with him as deputy director general of medical services is Brigadier J. C. Meakins. Brigadier Meakins was physician in chief to the Royal Victoria hospital, Montreal, and has an international reputation. In addition to many other appointments, he has been professor of therapeutics, university of Edinburgh; director of the department of medicine, McGill university; dean of the faculty of medicine, McGill university, and past president of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada. He could hardly be classed as being one of the dregs of the medical profession.