

**15.—MEDICAL BOARDS WHICH REGULATE
THE CLASSIFICATION OF CASUALTIES,
WHEN CONVALESCENT, HAVE NOT BEEN
ADEQUATELY PROVIDED FOR.**

(a) Appendix.

Office of the Standing Medical Board,
19, Westbourne Gardens, Folkestone.

March 18th, 1916.

To the D. of R. and O.,
Folkestone.

From the President.
Standing Medical Board.

Dear Colonel Reid,

Replying to your letter of yesterday, broadly, I would answer your question by stating that Medical Boards, particularly where questions of discharge and subsequent pension are involved, should be of the same class as practitioners in civil life who would be deemed suitable to express opinion for the guidance of Courts in Civil actions—in other words, men who, by training and experience, had reached such a position in their profession as to be regarded by their fellow-practitioners as specially well informed upon the subject upon which they assume to express an expert opinion. Few men attain to this recognition without having fitted themselves first, by post-graduate study, and subsequently by clinical investigation and practice in large hospitals. A conclusion reached by a Board so constituted is likely to stand.

At present we have only two members on each of the permanent Boards: while this is sufficient, it is scarcely as desirable as if three members could be present: further, the work is very onerous, and under present conditions no one can absent himself without interrupting the work seriously, and there is always the possibility that the necessity for haste may lead to injustice and mistakes. The minimum number of men required for deliberate and satisfactory work is five—there should be obtained, if at all available, an additional four or five who would make sure that histories were properly and intelligently filled out before the papers were presented here.

I would hesitate to mention the names of individuals, but if my suggestions may be of value to you I would ask that you secure the return here of the following men from No. 4 General Hospital, Salonica, or, better still, as we require as I have stated above, more than the undermentioned number, the return here of the whole unit who to my certain knowledge are practically unemployed at present:

Capt G. E. Wilson
Capt. J. H. McPhedran.
Major W. J. O. Malloch
Major Donald McGillivory.
Capt. Geo. Boyer.