

the command of Surgeon-Lieut.-Colonel Norton, and separate companies at Edinburgh, Woolwich, Manchester, Maidstone, Leeds, Aberdeen, Norwich and Glasgow. A brigade surgeon of volunteers is now on the staff of the brigadier-general of a district. He has under his orders the regimental surgeons and medical corps companies, and, in addition to these companies, the regimental ambulance corps or stretcher detachments. The several regiments and battalions have regimental surgeons. Appointments to the Army Medical Staff Corps are made either after examination, which is the usual way, or by recommendation from the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons to the Secretary of State for War. A candidate for examination must have a license from one of the licensing bodies in Great Britain or Ireland, and must be of unmixed European blood, between twenty one and twenty-eight years of age, of good character and physically sound. The Examining Board is a permanent body, and contains no officers of the army on the active list. The compulsory subjects are anatomy and physiology, surgery, medicine, chemistry and pharmacy—each having a maximum of 1,000 marks. The optional subjects are French, German and the natural sciences, 600 marks in all. Much stress is laid on modern languages. To be accepted a candidate must gain at least one-third of the maximum number of marks. These examinations are held half yearly, the Secretary of State for War reserving the right to accept or refuse persons who have passed the examination, the probability of being a credit to the service being the cause of rejection. This right of choice is held by the Minister until the candidate finally receives his commission. As soon as the examination is passed the candidate becomes a "surgeon on probation," and proceeds to Netley Hospital Medical School for further instruction and final examination. During this period he receives pay and wears uniform, but without sword, and lives in quarters, dining at the general mess. He is under careful surveillance while at Netley, and may be reported as unsuited for the service through defects of character. At the end of the course he passes another examination, and is appointed a surgeon-lieutenant. He is then sent to Aldershot for eight weeks for instruction in purely military matters. Drill, internal economy, and equitation form the subjects. After having passed another examination in these the young medical officer is ready to go on ordinary duty. Thus, it will be seen that medical officers of the army to-day are only accepted after much proving and examination, hence the fine scientific corps, which is a credit to the nation, but which is not even yet appreciated by the authorities as it should be. In its way it is quite the equal of the Royal Engineers or the Royal