

own Regimental Medical Officer, they would require a course of stretcher drill, under a competent instructor.

In Halifax, should sanction be given to form such a Bearer Company, or half a Company (which will be sufficient for local purposes) we propose applying to the General Officer commanding in Canada to appoint such an instructor for 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 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 competent 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, Surg.-Col. O'Dwyer, with us, ever ready to give us the benefit of his vast experience in military medical matters. Col. O'Dwyer has organized similar Bearer Companies in connection with the Militia and Volunteer forces in Great Britain, and commanded a Bearer Company during the late Egyptian campaign. I am delighted to see him present here to-day, and hope that he will be pleased to favor us with some of his experiences. I would like particularly to hear from him what he has to say as regards re-organization of our militia medical service on a departmental basis; also what his ideas are as regards the formation of a Reserve Corps of medical officers, and particularly what he thinks is needed to complete our defective ambulance organization. I already know that both he and his predecessor,

Surg.-Col. Archer, have warmly recommended the formation of a Bearer Company in Halifax.

This plan for the formation of a Half Bearer Company in Halifax has gone through the proper channel to Ottawa, and as it involves no expense to Government and is urgently required, and in the words of the local Dy. 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 to be the initiatory step in the direction of a complete and effective re-organization, such as I have outlined, of the 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. Thos. Kenny, who has always shown the greatest interest in Militia matters for the kind assistance they have at various times shown me, in bringing my views on service matters before the heads of the Department, as also my thanks to the present and previous Ministers of Militia and Defence, Sir Adolphe Caron, Mr. Patterson and Mr. Dickey, for the invariable courtesy they have displayed, when I have had occasion personally to discuss these matters with them.

Details of the Medical personnel of a Half-Bearer Company.

Two Medical Officers, (2),

One Staff Sergeant, (1),

Three Sergeants, (3),

Three Corporals, (3),

Twenty-three Privates, (23),

including Officers' servants and a Bat-man for the Senior Non. Com. Officer.

In Halifax City two Medical Officers, one available from the 63rd and 66th Batts., which have each two Medical Officers, a Surgeon and an Asst. Surgeon. They will continue to be attach-