

received on their condition. Five of the men had been reported as killed, wounded or missing.

The results obtained are shown in the following table :—

Number of cases.	No reply.	Not traced.	Traced.
147	46	50	51
Cases traced.	No recurrence.	Killed or wounded.	Recurrence.
51	45	5	1

If the men who had been reported killed, wounded or missing be regarded as successful cases, as I think is quite justifiable, for they were obviously fit for general service, we have, of the cases that could be traced, fifty fit and only one recurrence in about eight or nine months after the operation. As regards the case which recurred, the medical officer in charge informed me that a swelling reappeared six months after the operation, that he had been provided with a truss, and was able to continue on full duty. It was interesting to note that several medical officers, when writing, pointed out how unsatisfactory it was to have men who were wearing trusses in front line units. It would have been interesting to know to which type the recurrence belonged, but the impression given was that it was a small bulging and probably belonged to the second group.

At first I was rather disappointed that so many of the men could not be traced, but when one remembers the circumstances under which the enquiries must often have been received, it is extremely gratifying that so many medical officers in those strenuous times were able to examine and to report upon the men in question. Large numbers of the men, of course, never rejoined their original units, but had to be sent back to other battalions or units, and many of those who did rejoin were subsequently transferred before the arrival of the enquiry.

Doubtless there were other recurrences among the cases about whom there was no reply, or who could not be traced, and very possibly some of those who were satisfactory at the time of the enquiry relapsed later ; but, from the above figures, their number was probably small, and, considering the severity of the test, these results must be regarded as very satisfactory.

These operations were continued during 1917 and 1918, but