

rather on a departmental than a regimental basis. To attempt a complete change may be considered premature, as it would certainly be unpopular, at present. We know the heart-burnings that ensued on a similar change being decreed in Her Majesty's service—but there can be no doubt, nevertheless, that however socially agreeable to individual officers, the regimental system on service has always failed, and always will prove an utter failure. It stands condemned, and must go if our branch of the service is ever to be made effective.

The idea of forming a proper reserve list appears to meet with more general and official approval. I have been asked to elaborate the plan and furnish details, but at present I consider a modification of our defective ambulance system and the formation of "bearer companies" (at least in Halifax, which is exceptionally situated), of more pressing importance. This was also the view taken by the general meeting in Halifax, and by the committee appointed to deal with the whole subject.

The following resolution was the outcome of the discussion :

"*Resolved*, That it is desirable that militia medical officers should receive such instruction in military surgery, ambulance drill and the routine of military medical administration generally as will enable them to discharge satisfactorily their duties in the field, in camp and in military hospitals. It is desirable that bearer companies should be formed wherever possible in localities where several regiments are brigaded together ; that the officers and men of these companies should receive instruction in stretcher drill, in ambulance work and in giving 'first aid' to the wounded ; that each bearer company should be provided with a proper supply of medicines, surgical appliances and ambulance furniture to enable officers and men to learn their duties practically and to prepare them to carry them out on emergency."

This resolution was drawn up by the committee, was presented to the full meeting and discussed, and was passed with a recommendation that it be forwarded to the Department. The part of the resolution dealing with the formation of bearer companies in connection with our militia forces attracted particular attention, and elicited amongst others the following remarks in support from Surgeon-Colonel O'Dwyer, P.M.O. of Her Majesty's forces in Canada :

"It is considered desirable generally that bearer companies should be formed in connection with modern armies, (a) because all Christian nations now employ them in war ; (b) because a bearer company, properly organized, saves much suffering to the wounded, and in many instances, by timely and skilled assistance, prevents loss of life in the field by bleeding, with which the medical officers available would be