

## APPENDIX No. 2

Dr. D. J. McKAY called.

*By Mr. Nesbitt:*

Q. What are you doing now?—A. I am in charge of the medical boards in Military District No. 1.

Q. What were you doing before that?—A. For four months I was medical officer of the 2nd Pioneers, and for six months I was on the Standing Medical Board at Bramshott, England; for three weeks I was medical officer of M.D. 1; for six months I was on medical board staff at office of D.G.M.S. at Ottawa; for three months I was member of medical branch of Board of Pensions and for the past eight months, I have been in charge of the medical boards in M.D. No. 1.

Q. Then you have been on the medical examining board at London?—A. Not on the examining board, I approve the boards; as A.D.M.S. representative I am responsible for the condition in which the board's proceedings leave the district.

Q. The boards examine the men before discharge?—A. Yes.

Q. And you approve the boards?—A. I approve the boards that go to the Board of Pension Commissioners.

Q. Then you are really responsible to a great extent for the appointment of these boards?—A. Yes, to the extent that I can suggest the personnel to the A.D.M.S. of the District.

Q. What would you say as to the qualifications of these boards to examine these men that are discharged?—A. I think if you get a man that was professionally of the highest, of analytic mind, a writer, it would be better, but those ideals are impossible. Under the regulations as at present I would rather have a man just out of college, who gives a scientific and detailed description rather than an elderly man because it is composed almost entirely of a description at present. Previous to this regulation going into effect when we were estimating the degree of disability I found that the man who has had more or less experience in practice, and who has been over the ground right up to the front and knows what the conditions are, when the man being under examination said that this thing happened, and such and such a thing happened, the examiner, having that experience, appreciated that, and with equal professional ability made a better doctor on that board than any other class of man. We get the most unsatisfactory results from boards composed of men who have not yet been overseas; they seem to think that the men who have been at the front regard them as not having gone overseas, and have not the same confidence in them and consequently they the members of such board, think that they have to give the man a little more when estimating the incapacity than he is really entitled to, on his condition.

Q. There was antagonism between the man who was being examined and the doctor?—A. I would not say antagonism, but an underlying feeling if the man did not get what he thought was coming to him, but there was that comeback, that the doctor had not been overseas, and did not know what the conditions were.

Q. Then, on the boards that you appoint, you depend upon men who are capable and have experience, or what you think are capable of examining these men, more especially men who have been overseas; have you many men who have been overseas on your board?—A. We have at present all men who have been overseas, except on one board, and that is one that discharges men (casualties) not having been overseas and men who have been on duty. Practically we have all returned men at present on boards dealing with returned men.

Q. Then is it your idea that the central medical board are better able to fix the amount of disability than the examining board, or is the examining board better qualified to do so?—A. The examining board are in a better position to do so.

[Dr. D. J. McKay.]