

in all it will take another 800 men. That being the case, it would mean 2,800 men in the medical services.

We have about 11,000 medical men in Canada for a population of 11,000,000. These men are being asked to enlist. Our medical men are troubled. They are asking themselves whether they could perform a greater service by going into some of the medical services in the armed forces or by staying at home and continuing in their civil practice. There are communities in Canada, not in the cities I will admit, where medical men have to service as many as from four to five thousand people. Then there is the fact that we have in industry in this country approximately 700,000 people. If our industrial production is to be what we would have it; if it is as important as we are led to believe, then the men in industrial and agricultural life in Canada are equally entitled to medical service with those in the armed forces. Therefore it becomes a question whether these men should enlist in the armed services, or should remain at home and carry on their civilian duties.

I had something to say with reference to a let-down. The standard does not appear to be as high as in civil life. There must be some reason for that, and the only reason I can see is that there is poor distribution of the men who are in the service. There could be a better allocation of the work which the medical men have to carry on. We believe that every man in the armed forces when ill should have the advantage of the best and most skilled medical and surgical treatment and should be treated just as well as if he were a civilian. I sometimes wonder if the men are given that treatment, if they are given all the protection which the medical services can give them, or if some of the regulations or the concepts of those who are on the permanent staff are as up-to-date as they should be.

May I refer to two or three particular matters in regard to which I have some doubt as to whether or not they are being carried into effect; and I can assure the minister that, with reference to some of them, I think our policy should be to carry out certain preventive measures. Let me refer particularly to the Wassermann test. According to my understanding, that is a matter of choice to those who are in the services, whether or not they shall be given that test. In my judgment the Wassermann test should be given every man who goes into the armed services. It should be given to him also upon discharge from the army. Let me call

this very interesting information to the attention of the committee. The number of syphilis cases reported in Ontario last year showed an increase of 66 per cent over the 1940. We medical men understand—

Mr. RALSTON: That is in Ontario.

Mr. McCANN: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: Not in the army.

Mr. McCANN: No, not in the army. This is, in my judgment, a serious matter. If we had a 66 per cent increase in the number of cases of syphilis in Ontario in 1941 and a proportionate increase during 1940, then since the war started there has been a marked increase. It is generally regarded that in war time there is likely to be an increase in these social diseases; that is taken for granted. One can readily imagine the reasons. But knowing the facts as we do, our medical services in the armed forces should take every precaution that these men are protected both by preventive measures and by good social measures from contracting the disease, or, if they have contracted it, it should be diagnosed by means of the Wassermann test, and they can undergo treatment while in the army without losing any appreciable time.

All our armed services in all branches should be given protection against diphtheria. That is a very simple matter. A great number of the younger men in the forces have been protected by inoculation earlier in life. In Ontario we are proud that diphtheria has been almost entirely eradicated. That is due to the fact that the practice of toxoiding has been carried into effect. In England they had 63,000 cases of diphtheria last year. We are sending over 150,000 young men to England where diphtheria is prevalent and where they are not given the protection which they could be and should be given before they leave this country.

There is another matter along the same lines which I should like to mention. Every man in the armed forces should be typed as to his blood. That could easily be recorded on his identification disc. The way that would work out is this. If a man meets with a serious accident or has a serious illness, it may be necessary to give him a blood transfusion. He can be given a blood transfusion successfully only by being given blood of his own type. If he is brought to an operating room, if he has fallen from an aeroplane or has been hit by a truck or a tank and is in a desperate condition, that is no time to type his blood; but if you have his disc there and it shows he is type No. 2, it will not take