

Let us see now what are the arrangements for the preservation of the health and the medical and surgical care of so vast a body of men suddenly thrown together in the field.

The Director General is the responsible head of the department and is charged with its administration. He nominates the officers for the different staff positions.

On active service the Principal Medical Officers are employed in the following capacities:—

- (1) Principal Medical Officer of the field force.
- (2) Principal Medical Officer at the base of operations.
- (3) Principal Medical Officer to each division.

The Principal Medical Officer of the field force has his headquarters with the General of Communications but is available for consultation with the Commander-in chief.

The Principal Medical Officer at the base under the Officer Commanding and the Principal Medical Officer of the field force has control of all hospitals at the base, and hospital ships together with all medical supplies.

The Principal Medical Officer of a division is on the staff and remains at the headquarters of the division.

To each unit in a division is attached a Medical Officer. This means that one Medical Officer is detailed to every regiment of the line when ordered for service; one to an artillery division; one to the divisional transport; and one to the remaining details, i. e. a squadron of cavalry, an ammunition column and a company of Royal Engineers. Together with the Medical Officers of the two bearer companies and the three field hospitals, this makes 30 Medical Officers actually in the field with every division, or 150 with each army corps besides the vast number employed in the stationary, general and base hospitals and on the hospital ships and those employed in special services; officers for garrison duties; officers for services to residents or natives of the country where military operations are in progress; sanitary officers; quarantine officers; bacteriologists and consulting physicians and surgeons. The divisional Principal Medical Officer selects a Medical Officer attached to a corps for Brigade Surgeon, who has under his charge all the regimental Medical Officers of his brigade. At the port or ports of landing are established the base hospitals, comprising a large staff of medical officers. The duties of these officers are varied, not the least being to prevent the introduction of any infectious or contagious diseases such as bubonic plague, cholera, small-pox, enteric fever, scarlet fever or other maladies likely to spread and play havoc with the troops. We understand the necessity for every precaution of this kind when we remember that sickness has always been a greater decimator of the army than battle-