

The same applied to the massage and electrical departments. Very few medical men have been trained in these branches of medicine. A specialist in one of the largest British hospitals stated that one of their greatest difficulties had been to get medical men trained in electrical medicine. The profession realize this so little that they think an X-ray man is an electro-therapist, but actually he knows no more of electro-therapeutics than a surgeon knows of diseases of the eye. As a result of this, large departments were run without a medical officer in charge, and again the diagnosis and prescribing were done by the head masseur or masseuse.

These people were competent and were doing invaluable work, but it was like allowing a pharmaceutical chemist to prescribe as well as fill the prescription.

For this reason one of the most valuable branches of medicine and surgery failed woefully to fulfil its work. Only a medical officer who thoroughly understands the branches of physical treatment is qualified to prescribe and before prescribing a very thorough diagnosis must have been made.

As a result of this lack of organization, faddists tried to develop their own ideas and many and curious were the results.

In some gymnasias step dancing was taught, in others wand work or bar work, often throwing severe strains on tired muscles. Again, some instructors believed in long hard exercises, especially those of the old army school. In all of these systems there was some good, but many were developed to make a strong man rather than a healthy man, and none had been developed to meet the necessities of war casualties, and men were returned to command depots with disabilities that could have been improved greatly.

The director of physical training and bayonet fighting, realizing that by the aid of systematic instruction a vast improvement would result in the percentage of men to return to the front, after a long period of hard work succeeded in getting an organization to instruct instructors, and early in September, 1917, selected a class of thirty physical training instructors. These men were all instructors with Aldershot or Shorncliffe certificates. They were first sent to Shorncliffe for a refresher course in physical training.

All these instructors were themselves casualties, and all had had many months' experience in instruction in command depots. Having been themselves casualties, they could appreciate the mental attitude of the wounded man.

These instructors were then sent to the Military Convalescent Hospital, Epsom, and thus was organized the first school of remedial gym-