

is practically helpless in the matter, is not in any way to blame for the consequent waste of good material. The responsibility for this waste must be laid at the door of the D.M.S., who in too many cases appears to have ignored special qualifications altogether, and has distributed the personnel in the most haphazard manner.

At the outbreak of the war our medical organisation was a small one, and quite unprepared to cope with the large problems created by the growing necessities of a rapidly increasing force. Making all due allowance for these difficulties, one would naturally have expected that some definite policy would have been pursued to ensure that our men should receive the best possible treatment, and at the same time to secure the full value for every dollar expended.

To this end a policy of concentration of hospitals would possess obvious advantages from both these points of view. Instead of this, hospitals have been scattered all over the country, rendering efficient control and inspection difficult, and also entailing needless expense in transporting patients to and from them.

I take it that the first duty of the Canadian Army Medical Corps is to the sick and wounded of our Canadian Expeditionary Force.

On June 16th, 1915, Colonel Hodgetts wrote to Surgeon-General Carlton Jones, suggesting that as special arrangements had been made for sending wounded Canadians to the Queen's Canadian Military Hospital, Beechborough, could not similar arrangements be made in regard to the Duchess of Connaught's Hospital at Cliveden. Accordingly, on June 18th the D.M.S. wrote to the War Office, requesting that the Cliveden Hospital should "as far as possible be reserved for sick and wounded Canadians from Overseas." The War Office acceded to this request, and gave instructions that Canadian soldiers (other than officers) should be sent to one or other of the two hospitals mentioned above. Later representations appear to have been made to the D.M.S. that for Imperial considerations it was advisable to spread the Canadians throughout the British Isles. On December 17th the D.M.S. replied, expressing the opinion that "it is conducive to the patients' well-being and comfort to be under our own administrative control."

As a consequence of this arrangement many more Canadians found their way to these two hospitals, yet in spite of this we find that the D.M.S., on February 2nd, 1916, wrote to the War Office to ask that these instructions be amended, and in a further communication, dated March 25th, 1916, stated "that it is not now considered necessary from a Canadian point of view to make any special arrangements at Southampton for the collection of Canadian patients." No reason is assigned for this complete change of attitude.

At the present time we have in Salonica, where there is not a single Canadian soldier, three hospital units, with a total bed capacity for 2,800 patients. In our base hospitals in France for the reception of