

Surgeons to disappear, by death and age retirement. That process has gone on so steadily that, from a former total of about 250 Militia Regimental Medical Officers, they have sank to a poor remnant of 24, most of them well on in years, and naturally soon to follow their retired brother officers. The result of this condition of things is, now that Britain has made a heavy call on her militia, the Government find themselves without their former Militia Regimental Medical Officers; and with the Army Medical Corps fully occupied, is unable to assign few or any of them to Militia Battalions. The result of this condition of things is, that a host of civilians are being recruited, so to speak, to take their place. A similar state of things exists at the seat of war, where nearly two hundred civilians are now employed. Any one who has had any experience of military life knows that the duties of a Military Medical Officer cannot be learned in a few weeks. Moreover, military medical duties are a species of specialty, and while the civilian medical man is learning them, the corps to which he is attached suffers in no small degree from this want of knowledge. Army officers well know that in any campaign the civilian element becomes a great source of weakness. We readily admit that a unified medical service has conserved force and thereby lessened expenditure, but it would seem as if the theory has been carried to such an extreme in practice as to strike at the root of the efficiency. The present war in South Africa has exposed the evil, and the day of reckoning has arrived. British medical men are loudly clamouring, both for a large increase of the Royal Army Medical Corps and a possible revival of the Regimental Militia Medical Service, or a combination of both. The lesson which we in Canada should draw from the present condition of the British Medical service is, that we should have at our hands, for use when wanted, a large body of medical officers. With this object in view, we would suggest that the Junior Medical Officers of Battalions be not dispensed with. We believe it would be good policy to retain them, while the Bearer Companies, Field Hospitals and Medical Staff be formed as intended, the whole strong enough to perform duty with a force of one hundred thousand men in the field. The