

disputed, subject to the leave being obtained summarily from a judge or court, whose jurisdiction would be determined by the amount claimed in one case or fixed in the other, to litigate the question. If leave is so given, then the onus should be upon the party disputing to convince the judge at the trial that it was either too high or too low."

The performance of these duties would be a portion of the tasks assigned to the Medical Director, as is made clear by what is said on page 65, where the duties of the Medical Director are discussed: "There is as well the real need for someone who would be, in effect, a protection both to the public and the professions against excessive charges, and particularly that branch of that question to which I have alluded, the elimination or reduction of unnecessary and costly operations."

We gather from this that in the event of any difference of opinion between the medical attendant and the patient on the matter of the fees, the dispute would have to go before the Medical Director. His decision would not be "wholly final," but would be "prima facie evidence" that the amount fixed was a fair remuneration for the services. If the doctor thought that the award was too low, or the patient that it was too high, the case could be carried to such a court as would have jurisdiction according to the amount in dispute. In such a case, however, the burden of proof would rest upon the one appealing from the decision of the Medical Director, to show that the award was not fair or proper.

We have said on former occasions that an officer that might advise on the matter of fees, or a sort of taxing officer, could sometimes be of use, nevertheless we do not think that the gain would be equal to the cost and the annoyance. The whole matter of fees may be safely left to the good sense of the profession, on the one hand, and the adjustment of the courts on the other, if anyone feels that the charge is too high. Evils, as a rule, are rarely remedied by creating too much machinery. Then, again, physicians and surgeons would be unwilling to bow to the dictum of someone who, in many lines of work, would have much less experience than themselves. To give a concrete example: The one who is appointed Medical Director has been in general practice, and the one who claims a certain fee is an eye specialist of many years' experience. The latter could not accept the judgment of the former on the matter of what would be a proper fee for the services rendered, when that judgment from the one held by the attendant on the case. That the Medical Director is to be a medical man, is clearly set forth in the words already quoted, namely, "a physician of experience."

(2) *Hospitals*.—The next duty that is mentioned as coming within the purview of the Medical Director is "The relation of the military establishment in medical practice and education, and their proper rela-