

thousand fresh cases of venereal disease every year in Great Britain, one-quarter of these being in its gravest form.

The International Medical Congress, in August of last year, held a weighty discussion on this subject, and I might quote the resolution which was passed: "Sensible of the ravages wrought by syphilis in the health of the country, and deploring the inadequacy of existing facilities for checking its dissemination, the International Congress calls upon the governments of all countries represented, first, to initiate a system of confidential notification of the disease to a sanitary authority, wherever such notification does not already obtain; second, to make systematic provision for the diagnosis and treatment of all cases of syphilis not otherwise provided for." This resolution was said to embody the irreducible minimum of what was right for all civilized governments to do.

Before concluding my address I wish to refer briefly to a branch of medicine in Canada which is deserving of commendation, and which I think has hitherto received but little notice—the Army Medical Corps. Previous to 1899 there was no medical service; each regiment had its own medical officer, that was all. At the present time there is an organized service of seven hundred medical officers and eighteen hundred non-commissioned officers and men ready for the field and, as compared to the rest of the service, it is very complete.

The inspector-general of the overseas forces, Sir Ian Hamilton, in his report on the military institutions of Canada, stated that the medical corps keeps well ahead of every other branch of the service in the completeness of its preparations for war, a state of affairs due largely to the whole-hearted support it receives from the medical profession in all its grades. A militia is, or rather ought to be, the expression, for the purposes of war, of every form of national activity, and other departments of national life, such as railways, telegraph companies, motorists and motor-cyclists, and the unions might well take a leaf out of the doctors' book and set to work to organize themselves for the defence of the country. These words should give much satisfaction to the able Director-General of the medical services and to all connected with the corps so recently formed, and to the profession generally. There is, however, ample room for much further development and the medical profession of Canada can do a great deal towards assisting in the matter. As the establishment is unlimited, members of the profession, especially those who have recently graduated, can join the corps. In this way not only does one share a public