

applicant's inability to do things which he is unable to do because of events occurring during his service. The physical and mental condition of a sailor or soldier is established by medical examinations made at his enlistment, at his discharge, and whenever it is necessary to do so for pension purposes. At these examinations the extent of any disability is estimated. In order to assist and guide the physicians and surgeons who estimate the extent of disabilities, Disability Tables have been drafted. These tables are based upon the practice of old pension administrations, upon judgments from all parts of the world in industrial accident cases, and upon experience of what has actually happened to men disabled in civilian life who, thrown on their own resources, have attempted to maintain themselves by their own labour. The material upon which the tables are based is insufficient. Some of the values given in the tables are certainly wrong. Nevertheless, as a whole, the tables are reliable. They are essential in order to secure uniformity among surgeons in their estimation of the degrees of disability resulting from identical injuries.

The values given in a Disability Table should be based, not upon precedent, but upon the actual experience, by each pensioning nation, of exactly what men suffering from given disabilities can do. To secure sound values, the Disability Table should be maintained by the pensioning authority and be corrected, as necessity arose, in accordance with actual experience of the success in civil life of disabled pensioners. As has been said, some of the values given by existing tables are certainly wrong. For example, a man who loses one eye does not lose half of his capacity; it is wrong to say that the loss of one eye entails a disability of 50 per cent. An estimate of 20 per cent would be more nearly accurate.

The nature and combinations of injuries may vary infinitely. Consequently, no Table of Disabilities can give a percentage of disability for every possible injury or combination of injuries. In a Disability Table certain injuries, such as the loss of both eyes, both arms, both legs, are taken as being totally disabling; they are listed as entailing a