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Reprinted from THE CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION JOURNAL,  
April, 1917

## RETURNED SOLDIERS AND THE MEDICAL PROFESSION

CANADIAN physicians and surgeons come in contact with returning soldiers in many ways. They meet, not only as physicians and patients, but as fellow-soldiers, fellow-citizens, and friends. In Canada, members of our profession have an unusually honoured position and have great influence in the formation and control of public opinion; for that reason, it is very desirable that an exact appreciation of the conditions under which discharged, often disabled, soldiers return to their homes should be general among us.

The war has created in Canada many needs, insufficiently provided for by preëxisting social organization. Public and private energies have produced a number of new bodies designed to meet those needs and, on the whole, the situation has been well met. In providing for the needs created by the return of our soldiers it is vital that the thing best for them and best for Canada be secured; the medical profession can do much towards generalizing a knowledge of what is the best thing that can be done by Canada for her returning soldiers.

The republican ideals of France and Great Britain are, in many ways, similar to those of Canada. The old world has been living for two and a half years in a situation which we are only commencing to feel with clear seriousness and it has adopted measures of astonishing uniformity for coping with that situation. Consequently, it is possible for Canada to gain much advantage by a consideration of measures found desirable and adopted in France and in the Mother Country. Both have introduced legislation coördinating and extending the activities of private, semi-private and public bodies preëxisting or established to care for returning soldiers. Canada has done likewise. In addition to the Canadian Army Medical Corps, which is responsible for the active treatment in the field of invalided soldiers, the Military Hospitals Commission and the Board of Pension Commissioners have been created, by the Dominion Government, to aid in caring for returning, disabled Canadian soldiers and sailors. Their work is supplemented by the Provincial Commissions which, at present, are mainly occupied