

want my hon. friend to open up the general departmental administration to have a free-for-all talk about the department again, except in so far as the discussion may be relevant to that item. It has been suggested that hon. members might ask certain questions if they do not insist on answers at the time.

Mr. GRAYDON: The minister may be inviting the very thing he is trying to avoid. Under medical and dental stores, I cannot see very much reason why the hon. member might not be permitted to ask about the health of troops.

Mr. RALSTON: Probably it would be better and would help to keep us closer to the subject if we did that. I should prefer to consider it as part of this item. I have not the record before me. The other night I gave an indication of the large percentage of rejects which has taken place. I believe the rejects are in the vicinity of fifty per cent at the present time, and I may observe that this was under consideration in connection with the Pulhems system. Was my hon. friend asking about the break-down?

Mr. ADAMSON: Yes.

Mr. RALSTON: This is only approximate. It may change as the system gets into effect, and there may be some difference between those called under the National Resources Mobilization Act and the volunteers, because the volunteers are in a wider range of age class than those under the National Resources Mobilization Act. Roughly, however, the rejections are of the order of thirty-five per cent on medical grounds and fifteen per cent on nervous and mental grounds.

Mr. ADAMSON: Thirty-five per cent of the total?

Mr. RALSTON: Of those examined, fifty per cent roughly are rejected, and thirty-five per cent of that fifty per cent are rejected on the ground of physical disability and about fifteen per cent on the ground of mental and nervous disorder.

Mr. ADAMSON: That is, of the total fifty per cent rejected, thirty-five per cent are on physical grounds and fifteen per cent on mental?

Mr. RALSTON: One hundred men come up and fifty are rejected. Of those fifty, thirty-five are rejected on physical grounds and fifteen on the ground of mental or nervous disability.

Mr. ADAMSON: That is what I am driving at. I think it would help the committee

on social security and this committee as well, to get at the true state of the health of Canada at the present time if we knew how many were rejected for tubercular lesions, for example. These figures are available, because at the reception depots—this I know is the case at the depot in No. 2 district—at the end of a period the percentages are calculated from a daily tally. The information derived therefrom would be very useful for this committee.

Mr. RALSTON: This committee or another?

Mr. ADAMSON: It would be useful for this committee, and the other one could use it, too.

Mr. JACKMAN: Would the minister be good enough to say whether there is any co-ordination in the handling of food and the preparation and serving of it between the different armed services, particularly among the army, the air force and perhaps the navy? In connection with the messing officers, with regard to whom the minister mentioned Colonel Webb, are these qualified medical practitioners and nutritionists, or are they drawn from the quartermaster's department in accordance with the manner in which the army used to be fed in the old days? Does the army retain women in connection with the preparation of food or in connection with dietary matters as regards the feeding of the troops? I have heard it said that in one of the services the orderly officer, instead of going round to the mess halls and asking the men if they had complaints, usually receiving no response at all, as has always been the custom, is now required, during his day on duty, to take his meals with the men in order to find out for himself just what the condition of the food is. Would the minister be good enough the answer these questions?

There is another question I might ask at the same time. Is it true that the ration given to our men in Canada is greater than the ration which maintains the fighting strength of our own soldiers in Great Britain?

Mr. RALSTON: First, with regard to co-ordination, each of the armed services has its own plans for the serving of food.

Mr. JACKMAN: There is no co-ordination despite the tremendous amount of research work that has gone on in one or other of the services? I frequently hear—

Mr. RALSTON: Please let me finish. Each service has to do with the serving of its own food, but there is co-ordination in the nutrition committee. We have a joint nutrition com-