

to an army in the field was made in anticipation of active service. The scheme was carried out with remarkable skill by Sir J. McGregor, P.M.O., so much so that between the siege of Burgos and the battle of Vittoria (ten months) 95,348 sick and wounded passed through the hospitals. Yet so assiduous were the surgeons that only 5,000 sick were in hospital at the time of the latter battle. There was no ambulance service, in the modern sense of the word, country carts being used for the transport of the sick. In 1812, the Royal Waggon Corps was organized for transport and commissariat purposes. Special waggons with springs were constructed for the carriage of the wounded. This corps was disbanded in 1833. On the outbreak of the Crimean war the Hospital Conveyance Corps was started, and is in existence still under the name of the Army Transport Corps, under the orders of the Army Medical Staff. The Crimean war brought out the many weaknesses of the medical organization, and efforts were made to put it on a more efficient and satisfactory basis. Medical officers were attached to regiments. There was a general medical staff service, but there was no "chain of responsibility," so the organization would not work. The conveyance of the wounded from the field of battle on stretchers, and the attendance on the sick and wounded in hospitals was a part of the regimental system, and was performed by regimental orderlies under regimental surgeons. By Royal warrant, in June, 1855, the first Medical Staff Corps was formed. It consisted of nine companies, of 78 each, and was "employed in any way that may be required in the performance of hospital duties." The lack of military organization in this corps caused it to fail, and it was replaced by the Army Hospital Corps in September of the same year. The failure of the Medical Staff Corps was due to its anomalous position in relation to the combatant ranks. The medical officers had no military control over the corps, and therefore discipline could not be maintained. The new corps possessed a complete military organization. From this time there has been a great improvement in military medical matters. In 1873, the regimental system was abolished, and all medical officers were placed in a department. In 1877, medical officers were empowered to command the officers, n.-c. officers and men of the Army Hospital Corps, and all patients in the hospitals. In 1883, the medical officer in command of a hospital was given undivided control of the hospital and ambulance transport. In 1884, the Army Medical Department and the Army Medical Corps were designated the Medical Staff Corps, which name it still bears. In 1889, the medical officers were given substantive in place of relative rank, and medico-military titles, so that an assistant surgeon became a surgeon-captain; surgeon, surgeon-major; surgeon-major, surgeon-lieutenant-colonel;