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These were the main factors; subsidiary elements, changes in personnel, and the like, may have been stimulated by our unpleasant experience, but the great improvements, which began about that time and continued till the hospitals were no longer needed, were initiated within the Service, and not by the stimulus of the Commission. Altogether this is a volume which should be found in every library.

R. J. S. S.

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Reprint.

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ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF  
MILITARY SURGEONS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ON this occasion of the formal opening of our Congress, which the Honourable Hannis Taylor has so eloquently initiated, it gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Association, to acknowledge the kind welcome which has been so gracefully offered by the representative of the District Commission, Hon. Henry B. F. Macfarland, and the member of the medical fraternity of the District of Columbia, Dr. S. S. Adams. I hold it a peculiar privilege also—not only as President of the Association, but as a long resident of Washington—to extend a heartfelt greeting to all delegates—to felicitate them, and those who accompany them, upon the opportunity to visit this beautiful city and enjoy its hospitality, and to rejoice in the circumstance which has brought us together in a renewal of old acquaintance and to hold conference on subjects of prime importance.

The interests of the Association of Military Surgeons embrace the physical efficiency of military and naval organisations, the efficiency of the medical profession as regards each of its manifold responsibilities in military spheres of activity, the honour of nations, and the welfare of humanity. No organisation is more widely representative of the vital concerns of the human race, and, owing to its intimate identification with the great physical emergencies of life and nations, the deliberations of those gathered here under such a bond of fellowship deserve to be fruitful.

We unite this evening literally “from the four corners of the earth,” and no one element of our constituency is devoid of those laurels, the reward for contributions to material progress, which bespeak an earnest ambition for the purpose of this meeting and give substantial promise of profitable results. The central Government of the United States is represented through three national organisations—the Army, the Navy, and the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, including members of the Medical Reserve, National Guard and Naval Militia; and all the civilised countries of the world are represented, either by selected delegates or in spirit. I think I may safely say that each one of these

countries not represented in the person of an officer extends wishes of supreme goodwill and entertains an appreciation of the work that claims our attention. The consciousness of this moral support of our aims must be a source of gratification to us all, and the Association is the recipient of many expressions which give tangible evidence of the broad interest which exists. We entertain feelings of deep gratitude to those countries which have honoured the Association and enhanced the capabilities of this Eighteenth Annual Meeting by sending delegates; and just here I desire, as President of the Association of Military Surgeons, and on its behalf, to address a few special words of welcome to the foreign representatives who are our distinguished guests. It is happily not an unfamiliar experience to find you in our midst. Each year for many past these meetings have been attended by members of the Medical Corps of the armies and navies of great nations. From the very first occasion of the participation of foreign countries we have been sensible of the honour conferred and appreciative of the manifest disposition to co-operate for the common good, but as time has passed this recurring intercourse has developed an enduring tie of personal and service friendship between us, and we welcome you, who have come so far from different directions—both because of an affectionate, fraternal regard and because of that growing feeling of international comity, through which military medicine hopes to take its rightful place as an important factor in national strength.

The history of the organisation dates from the year 1891, when on September 1st, at the instance of the late Nicholas Senn, some fifty members of the National Guard of the United States met in Chicago, Illinois, with the object of instituting an "Association of Military Surgeons of the National Guard for the Advancement of Military and Accidental Surgery and all things pertaining to the Health and Welfare of the Civilian Soldiers." From this small but earnest gathering of medical men has evolved the Association of Military Surgeons of to-day. In 1893 the affiliation of the Army, Navy, and Public Health and Marine Hospital Service was invited, representatives of these services being in attendance at the meetings of that year, and the name and constitution and bye-laws of the Association were changed to make such affiliation possible and acceptable. The object of the Association was re-stated to be ". . . . to increase the efficiency of the medical services of the Army, Navy, the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service, and of the Militia of the different States, by mutual association and the consideration of matters pertaining to the medico-military service of the United States, both in peace and in war." Such a mission seemed at that time to be sufficiently broad in scope to satisfy the ambitions for utmost usefulness—yet but a year later steps were taken to increase the value of the Association's councils by the participation of delegates from foreign countries. The success which attended the efforts in this direction may be judged by the fact that we have with us this year distinguished repre-

sentatives from Great Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, The Netherlands, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Guatemala, Peru, Japan and China. Thus our aim to increase the efficiency of medical services extends far beyond the boundaries of these United States. With this comprehensive purpose as a guide, the Association is completing its eighteenth year of that prosperity and usefulness which Colonel B. J. D. Irwin, Medical Department, United States Army, predicted in his remarks to the charter members, on the occasion of their meeting in Chicago.

There is an essential unity in singleness of purpose of all medico-military establishments and all are in common need of enlightenment upon the newest ideas and most approved methods pertaining to the duties which properly devolve upon them in peace and in war. Each one must share in every step of progress toward highest efficiency—first in effective preventive measures (sanitary and hygienic), and then in the various problems relative to the care of the sick and succour of the wounded as applicable under the peculiar and changing conditions of Army and Navy service, including schemes of organisation, character of equipment, methods of transportation, questions of reserve stores, plans of improvisation, sources of assistance available in emergency expansion, and the manner of its affiliation with the regular services in time of war. The Association of Military Surgeons, in annual convention, as far as I am advised, alone affords opportunity for the international discussion of these several purely medico-military subjects. The original reformulated object of the Association epitomises the work of the past and indicates the line of work for the future. We must not permit ourselves to stray from this definite programme. It embraces enough to keep us fully occupied if best results are to be accomplished. There is a growing importance that each officer take part in the movement toward improvement in every direction where the slightest improvement is possible, and an exacting obligation rests upon all to communicate such observations, discoveries, inventions and ideas as are calculated to strengthen our hands and enlarge our resources in the discharge of that sacred responsibility reposed in us—especially in the crisis of war, when medical service is in greatest demand and its capabilities are put to the severest test. To have conceived an idea, to have profited by an experience, or to have conducted an investigation bearing upon the advance of medico-military science entails the ethical requirement that the knowledge gained be promptly communicated for the benefit of all who may be interested in or helped by the information. In order that our studies may be properly directed, the discussion at each annual meeting should serve to develop and suggest the subjects it would be most profitable to consider at the next. And, moreover, acting upon such a guide, the programme should be tentatively cast well in advance, so that all may clearly understand the general character of papers desired, and the line of thought, preparatory to discussion, which the Association regards as

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of most importance to the elucidation of troublesome questions and the perfection of methods and resources. It has been well said by Major (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Charles F. Mason, that "In time of war there are always two armies in the field—the effective army and the great army of non-effectives, the sick and wounded; the functions of the Medical Department are to constantly strive to add to the number of the effective at the expense of the non-effective, and to take entire charge of the latter so as to relieve the line of their care." Nothing satisfactory to this end can be accomplished unless due preparation has been made in times of peace, and it is courting disaster to neglect any consideration which will enable medical services to carry out those measures which, in their scientific judgment, are believed to be necessary to insure military prosperity.

I feel impelled just here to reiterate and emphasise the importance of vesting an adequate range and degree of authority in the medical services as a pre-requisite to success in their functions. They should have direct and full charge of all matters and provisions pertaining to their work, including the *personnel* of the medical department, hospitals, hospital ships, &c., and they should have power and means, subject only to the final authorisation of commanding officers, to execute the plans for proposed sanitary improvements.

"The remarkable success of the Japanese in preventing disease in their armies during their late war with Russia must be attributed, in large measure, to the fact that they accepted as a fact that their medical officers possessed superior knowledge of sanitary matters, and that, having employed them as specialists in that line, they accepted their advice without question, gave them the men, material and money to carry out their suggestions, and held them responsible for results."

If medical services are to be held accountable, as they should, for the consequences of their work, the special training of medical officers must be recognised, and they must be given proper authority within their legitimate field of operation. We can afford no hesitancy in the contention for this principle, and those represented by this organisation should be strongly supported in their work by everyone interested in the welfare of the men who are devoting their lives to the service of their country and upon whose health the efficiency of armies, navies and nations depends.

I have tried to outline our primary duty as an association, but on the component divisions of the organisation and on the individual members of those divisions rests an obligation distinct from (but allied to) the purely medico-military purposes of the Association. The superior opportunities of medical men, in military and naval service, for the observation and study of types and forms of disease in every part of the world, gives the profession a right to expect from us valuable contributions to exact knowledge on many unfamiliar diseases, and on the effects of geographical positions and climate in modifying the character of those better known.

Moreover, medical officers of military establishments come in such extensive and close contact with the young manhood of nations that, as the *Lancet* puts it, ". . . their fingers are literally on the pulse of the public health and their collective investigations should go far to solve some of the most difficult problems of our time." There is need, therefore, that medical officers of the services should not neglect the professional privileges of their positions and wide travel, and that they employ them to the advantage of medical science in general and their associated colleagues in particular. The Association of Military Surgeons, by means of its meetings and through the agency of its Journal, very naturally lends itself to the discussion and dissemination of such information, which must assuredly be in harmony with accepted aims to take cognisance of all that is of interest and which makes for efficiency in medico-military circles. We desire the medical world to look upon this growing association of medical officers as a body of highly trained organised observers and, whether or not the facilities which it offers are utilised as the medium for the announcement of advanced knowledge relating to these subjects, the Association must inevitably play an important rôle in fostering and encouraging original research and independent thought and action.

With reference to the Journal of the Association, I desire to invite the attention of the members to the perplexing question of advertisements. I use the term "perplexing" only in connection with the experienced difficulties in securing the proper sort of advertisements, and the Journal's present regrettable need of them as a support of its publication. There should be nothing perplexing in the Association's attitude toward them as entirely out of keeping with the cherished ambition for the high ethical standard of our Journal, and I believe I am expressing the sentiments of all when I say that the time has come when its dignity should be enhanced and maintained by relieving it of any dependence upon advertising matter. I trust that the Association will give deserved consideration to this question and make provisions in accordance with this need.

The policy which has animated the administration of the Association during the past year may be expressed in the alliteration—economy, efficiency and enthusiasm.

Conscientious watchfulness over the finances has been exercised and partially successful effort has been made to order the business concerns of the organisation on a sound basis. The establishment of headquarters in Washington has, by bringing the President and Secretary in closer touch, aided reform in this direction, but it still remains to complete the administrative organisation of headquarters by transferring the office of Treasurer, at least, to the immediate neighbourhood of the Secretary's office, if not by amalgamating it with that of the Secretary. And just here I desire to say that the regrettable illness and absence at this meeting of the Association of its Treasurer emphasises what I have said on this subject.

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Major Arnold has been a most efficient officer, zealous and ever ready to advance the best interests of the Association, and I hope and believe that he will join heartily in any reform which may be considered for the best interests of the Association as a whole.

The increased efficiency and broader usefulness of the Association in fulfilling its purposes have claimed the earnest consideration of all officers, and some success has rewarded the effort to improve the Journal and enlarge the membership. It is a matter for gratification, also, that the stability of the Association is being more and more fortified by an awakening enthusiasm as well as by a substantial growth in the numerical strength, and an increasing active interest is being aroused on all sides.

In certain respects the past year has been unusual, and it is unfortunately marked by an event which not only operates to embarrass the full realisation of admittedly necessary reforms, but to bring sorrow to the hearts of all who enjoyed the privilege and pleasure of an acquaintance with our former Secretary and Editor, Major James Evelyn Pilcher. Major Pilcher's resignation is deeply regretted, both as a great loss to the Association and as an expression of the failing health which made it necessary. This officer is credited with the distinction of originating the idea of the Journal and demonstrating its feasibility, and he will ever be remembered with affection and esteem as the guiding spirit and force in the Association's evolution through a long period of abundant prosperity. It would be presumptuous for me to attempt to add to the words of sincere appreciation and gratitude so gracefully framed by the resolution committee of the Executive Council, or to the eloquent eulogium by Major Pilcher's closest associate and valued assistant, William H. Ames. Suffice it to say that his exceptional abilities will be as greatly missed, now that he has severed his official connection with the Association, as they were appreciated during his long and faithful service in every direction during his secretariat and editorship. The appropriateness of some further sign of that respect, gratitude and sympathy felt for Major Pilcher, and of confidence in his accomplished and widely experienced successor, Major Charles Lynch, and his able and zealous assistant, Surgeon William H. Bell, is of course apparent to this assemblage.

It has been many years since the organisation met in Washington, and in view of all that this City represents as the headquarters of everything military, and in view, moreover, of the growing international character of the Association of Military Surgeons, it would seem not only desirable but highly proper that the national capital should be the adopted home and place of meeting as far as possible in the future. The idea is suggested for the consideration of the Association, and it is believed to be deserving of careful thought, more especially as it would insure a larger attendance, and would offer the strong probability that greater effectiveness would attend the expressed opinions as to the needs of the

medical services, which develop in the course of discussion during such conventions as this.

The potentiality of usefulness which this organisation represents can not be overestimated, and in concluding this trespass upon your patience I beg to express the earnest wish that the conference upon which we have now entered may be marked by the utmost success in point of both professional accomplishments and social enjoyment. The Association extends the most cordial invitation to foreign delegates and other guests to participate in all discussions, and it respectfully solicits a free expression of their judgment upon the various subjects before us, and such information as they may feel at liberty to give with regard to methods and practices in vogue in their respective countries. I hope that every member of this Association, individually and collectively, will do his utmost to make this Eighteenth Annual Meeting one to be remembered for the good it has accomplished.

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### Current Literature.

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**A New Field Operating Table for the German Army.**—A field operating table is supplied to the German Army in the proportion of two for each bearer company, one for each hospital train, and twelve for each advanced depôt of medical stores. Field hospitals do not carry operating tables, but would draw one if necessary from the advanced depôt.

The existing German pattern of table is made of wood, but for many years improvements have been under consideration, and a table has now been constructed, with the co-operation of several army medical officers, by the Medizinisches Warenhaus, Berlin. It is not patented, and will gradually replace the old operating table in the units mentioned above.

A description of the new table is given in the *Deutsche Militärärztliche Zeitschrift* of August 22nd, 1909, by Stabsarzt Dr. G. Schmidt. It is very similar in general construction to Haga's operating table, used by the Japanese in Manchuria and illustrated on p. 373 of the Medical and Sanitary Reports of the Russo-Japanese War. It is made of metal (galvanised iron and steel). Its weight is about 55lb. (25 kilogrammes), and the price for the most expensive make £6 10s. Apparently a cheaper price or make is intended.

W. G. M.

**The Ambulance Dog in Morocco** (article by Dr. Granjux).—The article begins by stating that Major Richardson resigned his commission in order to undertake the management of the police dogs in London. It also refers to a Spanish journal as saying that in the Russo-Japanese War numbers of lives which would otherwise have been lost were saved by means of these dogs. The Spanish journal further states that Major Richardson went to Spain, taking his trained bitch "Joyful," and was received at San Sebastian by Queen Victoria, who approved of his wish to