The author and publishers are to be congratulated on producing an excellent book which must be of benefit to the student and which contains a great deal of information for the junior postgraduate.

P. St. G. A.


In 1954 the World Health Organisation convened an Expert Committee on Nursing Service Administration. Mr. H. A. Goddard was a member of this Committee; his special work is hospital organisation. He has put before the nursing profession some guiding principles of administration, much of which is common knowledge to those who already hold administrative positions. It could perhaps be read with advantage by those intending to take administrative positions in the future.

It would have no appeal to members of the Army Medical Services; few would feel inclined to wade through so much detail. The book is expensive for what it has to offer.

H. A. G.

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**Correspondence**

**The Army Medical Services**

*From Major-General R. E. Barnsley, C.B., M.C. (Retired).*

*SIR,*

Major Gordon deserves the thanks and congratulations of the R.A.M.C. for his very interesting and lively *Brief History of The Army Medical Services* published in your October issue.

In tracing the story of our medical services back to 1345 it is plain that Major Gordon has primarily those of the British Army in mind, but there seems to have been an army in Britain some 1300 years before this whose organisation had much in common with that of our army of today.

In the *Journal* of August, 1903, Captain Howell gives an interesting description of this organisation based on the researches of Sir James Simpson.

The army of the Roman occupation consisted of *Legions* and each legion contained ten *Cohorts*, each cohort consisting of some 700 men. It is attractive to think that the *Medicus Legionis*, or head doctor to the legion, may have corresponded to our A.D.M.S. of today and that the *Medicus Cohortis* to an S.M.O. Brigade. We learn, too, that medical men were divided into two grades, the *Medicus Clinicus* and the *Medicus Ordinarius*—surely the forerunners of our specialists and general duty medical officers of today!

A memorial tablet to one of these "ordinary" M.Os., Ancius Ingenius who died at the age of twenty-five, still exists in Hadrian's Wall at Housesteads in Northumberland. The article also gives details of the typical lay-out of a Roman encampment which always contained a Valetudinarium, or camp hospital, under the administration of the Quartermaster-General’s Department.

In his *Treatment of the Wounded in War* George Wilkinson wrote: "In the
Correspondence

provision and organisation of an army medical service . . . Imperial Rome was more advanced than were the nations of Europe down to the 17th or 18th century.” One might even put it at a century or so later for surely much of the medical débâcle of the Crimea might have been avoided if Lord Raglan had had an organisation of the kind at his disposal with a forceful D.M.S. or Medicus Legionis at its head.

R.A.M.C. Historical Museum,  
Queen Elizabeth Barracks,  
Crookham, Hants.

From MAJOR-GENERAL F. M. RICHARDSON, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., Q.H.S., M.D.

SIR,

Did Major Gordon really expect to get away with a reference in this Journal to the wishes and biases of Wellington as “absurd”? Wellington—whom Wavell rated as possibly the soundest of all great commanders, and who surely earned support for Wavell’s verdict from Army doctors for all time by the following piece of research. In his first week with his regiment, when only seventeen, he had one of his soldiers weighed in full marching order and then in his clothes alone, in order to compare the power of the man with the duty expected of him. It took us Army doctors about 170 years to think of repeating that young man’s observations as the basis for our recommendations about the soldier’s load.

The belief that Wellington was cold and callous dies hard, despite Sir John Fortescue’s judgment that “he had actually an emotional nature which he kept, owing to early training, under so stern control as to forbid it any vent except upon very rare occasions”; and despite the abundant evidence of his distress about casualties, and so on. I believe that it is wrong to speak of Wellington’s “anger” that transport should be used for the wounded. He had to use what transport he could scrape together, first and foremost, to attain his objective, without which the whole force could have suffered greater disasters. On many occasions his plans were conditioned by the inadequacy of the resources, especially in transport with which the Horse Guards provided him.

Proper siege equipment would have spared him his agony at Badajoz, where observers, including McGrigor, were shocked by the suffering in his face. A Q.M.G. of his own choosing and better commissaries could have spared his admirers the pain of his scathing, and perhaps unjust, outburst after the withdrawal from Burgos in 1812.

Anyone who will read the Autobiography and Services of Sir James McGrigor can see that this great medical officer received constant sympathetic and practical support from his formidable Commander-in-Chief.

I am, etc.,  
F. M. RICHARDSON,  
Major-General.

Headquarters,  
British Army of the Rhine,  
British Forces Post Office 40.
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