EDITORIAL
DREW'S ROLL—ANALYSIS

Our readers will be aware that our Service's interest in statistics dates back about 150 years. It was Sir James McGrigor who, amongst his many achievements, first put Medical returns on a sound basis. Thanks to the pioneer work of Marshall and Tulloch these returns were analysed and so the foundation of our Army Health Statistics were laid.

It is therefore a matter of considerable surprise that, with such a long history of statistical expertise, our Service should have neglected so rich a source of information as "Drew's Roll" which contains a mass of detail on our officers covering three centuries.

Our readers will readily think of many points for analysis. A few obvious examples are nationalities (how many of our readers know that an American Negro entered our Service as long ago as 1813?); length of service, expectation of life, relationship between death and service overseas (especially in tropical climates); cause of death i.e. enemy action or disease and so on. If these points were analysed it would be interesting to see what patterns emerge and how they may have altered over the years.

We have penned this Editorial with the hope that it may stimulate some active, intelligent and mathematically skilled reader to undertake such an analysis.

To those who wonder why the Editor doesn't do the analysis himself we would with due humility confess that we lack the qualities which we have listed as necessary for such an exercise.

Birthday Honours List 1975


R.R.C. Colonel M. A. Brown, Q.A.R.A.N.C.