army hospital model. The main drain had collapsed, which led to a constant overflow in the latrines; water had not yet been laid on. The surroundings were, owing to the want of any supervision, always in a filthy condition. Most of the equipment was of German origin. Artificial lighting was not provided, which greatly restricted operative work.

A hospital of 200 beds for infectious cases was established at a later period. Typhoid fever generally ran a mild course, with great enlargement of the spleen and a copious eruption almost like that of measles. Cholera when it first appeared only caused a mortality of 7 to 10 per cent; at a later period the mortality rose to 50 per cent.

Lotsch gives a list of the hospitals in Sofia, with a short description of each; nearly all of them were under the charge of foreign Red Cross units.

C. E. P.

Correspondence.

THE MEDICAL PROBLEM OF THE MOBILIZED TERRITORIAL FORCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

Sir,—I have just read with much interest Major E. B. Waggett's lecture on the Medical Problem of the Mobilized Territorial Force as reported in the Journal of the Royal Army Medical Corps for July, and having had five years' experience of Territorial work I would like to make a few remarks upon it.

Major Waggett, in his paper at any rate, seems somewhat of a pessimist, tending to over-rate the disadvantages and under-rate the advantages which the Territorial Medical Officer has in dealing with the problems he sets forth.

First, he states that the T.F. Medical Officer can only get fourteen days' training in the year. One is accustomed to hear this from newspapers, but not from Territorials themselves, who know that training of one sort or another goes on all the year round. Does Major Waggett receive no invitations to staff-tours or rides, or to regimental parades and field days? Does he train no stretcher-bearers, give no sanitary lectures, attend no week-end camps? All these things are training over and above the fifteen-day camp. He does not notice the enormous advantage enjoyed by the R.A.M.C. (T.F.) in belonging to field ambulances which exist as definite units in peace-time, and are not merely made up on the outbreak of war—an advantage which should, and in most cases I believe does, make them fit to take the field immediately on mobilization.

Major Waggett seems still to hold the ancient idea that the M.O. is a voice crying in the wilderness without support or assistance from his
colleagues, surrounded by apathetic combatants and exposed to a limelight of Press criticism. The S.M.O. at Slough, to take the example he puts forward, if he could not run his own show, would apply to his A.D.M.S. for assistance. In any case the A.D.M.S. would have helped him at the outset with instructions and orders as to the general care of troops in billets. The billeting problem will not be a difficult one as the troops will be placed in schools and public buildings which have long been surveyed for the purpose, and their accommodation ascertained and registered, and even the amount of extra latrines and ablution benches required carefully noted. To see that there is no overcrowding, and that the ordinary rules of cleanliness and sanitation are enforced, and to pick out and isolate every kind of disease which is in the least suspicious, should not be difficult under these circumstances.

These remarks apply very much also to camps. If these are formed, which is doubtful, they would be placed on carefully chosen sites with good water supply, and if by this time every Territorial unit has not become capable of carrying out camp sanitation—possibly with a little advice and supervision at the start—it can only be due to defective instruction by the medical authorities. At any rate the G.O.C. of the division at the outset of the camp would publish strict orders drawn up by his A.D.M.S., and the S.M.O. of the brigade would see they were carried out.

Major Waggett scores a point when he alludes to the indisposition of the authorities to allow the grounds to be trenched, and much valuable instruction in camp sanitation is lost in consequence.

At a certain village two years ago which was selected for a camp site, I condemned the local water supply and laid down certain stringent precautions which were punctually observed by the T.F. troops, and will be equally well observed this year. This points to good discipline and the intelligent appreciation of the dangers of village water. Water discipline among manoeuvring troops is a matter for the C.O. and not for the sanitary officer, but it may be observed that T.F. regiments have no filter water-carts, so it will resolve itself into cold tea and clean water-bottles.

"Foot" parades would be more frequently held if the S.M.O. would ask his Brigadier to put them in brigade orders. In the same way if the C.O. of a battalion (not as Major Waggett puts it, the colonel of a regiment) does not take his M.O.'s advice, then the S.M.O. must invoke the Brigadier's authority to make him do so. Major Waggett I am sure knows all this, but he is so haunted by "the medical voice crying in the wilderness."

The town Territorial is "soft" for the first few days, but soon hardens, and most of the "gastro-enteritis" is, I think, a familiar camp diarrhoea, due to change of habits and diet, which soon passes off. It is doubtful
how many men would volunteer for antityphoid inoculation, few I fear until an outbreak took place. Smallpox, we all agree with Major Waggett, is a serious problem, but there would be few men who would decline re-vaccination after mobilization had taken place. To sum up, I think Major Waggett would allow that the sanitary problem is much simpler in a temperate than in a tropical country, that pure water supplies would be available at most war stations in places of concentration of Territorials, at any rate during the mobilization stage—which he thinks will last for months—and he must admit that what with the initial courses and examinations, and promotion courses and examinations, staff-tours and local camps, and so forth, a M.O. of any energy has great opportunities of learning military sanitation as well as his other duties, and that in his sanitary work he will have the entire support of his A.D.M.S., and of the specialist sanitary officer of the division who is a M.O.H. engaged in active practice, and therefore one who has almost certainly had actual experience in checking outbreaks of epidemic disease in England.

Finally, if the combatant officers do not believe in sanitation, it lies with Major Waggett and his medical confrères to interest and instruct them in the subject. It is not a difficult thing to do and has often been done successfully.

I am, &c.,

E. C. FREEMAN,
Major R.A.M.C. (Retired Pay.)