NOTES ON WRITING THE MEDICAL APPRECIATION REQUIRED FROM MAJORS OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS IN THE PROMOTION EXAMINATION IN SUBJECT (h) PART II.

By A STAFF OFFICER.

(1) Training and Manoeuvre Regulations, 1923, sec. 25, para. 4 (as amended by Army Order 117 of 1926) state:—

"The writing of appreciations in the accepted logical sequence is a necessity. The general headings and the necessary sequence are:—

(i) Object.
(ii) Considerations which affect the attainment of this object.
(iii) Courses open to both sides.
(iv) Plan.

Unless the object is clearly stated in the opening paragraph, the appreciation is apt to become involved, and the decision—which is the aim and object of all appreciations—shrouded in doubt.

From the plan, as given in the final paragraph, any staff officer should be able to write the necessary orders."

(2) It is assumed that the situation set for appreciation in the examination is one which would arise at the commencement of a campaign, in which a striking force of approximately a division and a cavalry brigade is quickly mobilized for operations. The candidate is placed in the position of A.D.M.S. of the striking force and is asked to write an appreciation of the situation from its medical and hygienic aspect.

(3) It is suggested that the required appreciation might take the following form:—

Para. 1—Object.

(a) The preservation of the health of the troops and the prevention of disease.
(b) The rapid evacuation of sick and wounded from the area of operations.

Notes.—It is considered that the above clearly expresses the main object of the A.D.M.S. at the commencement of the campaign, i.e., to maintain health, minimize disease, and clear his area of casualties. This object must be borne in mind throughout the writing of the appreciation.

Para. 2.—Considerations which affect the attainment of this object.

(a) Topographical and Climatic Considerations.—Consider the effect of the country and climate on the health of the troops, nature of water supply, communications available for evacuation, etc.
(b) Nature of the Operations.—Consider effect on health of troops of rapid advance, long marches, bivouacs at night, etc.
(c) **Prevalent Diseases.**—Consider time of year at which operations commence and the diseases most likely to attack the troops.

(d) **Nature of Casualties.**—Consider casualties from aircraft and from gas.

(e) **Estimate of Casualties, Sick and Wounded.**—Calculations should be shown in an appendix and the conclusion embodied in the appreciation.

(f) **Resources available for Evacuation of Casualties.**—Whether these are sufficient, or what increases are necessary.

Other considerations may also arise which will affect the attainment of the object. But it is not considered necessary to repeat in the appreciation the information given in the scheme regarding the disposition of our own and the enemy forces, except in so far as these dispositions may affect the medical problem.

The third heading given in T. and M. Regulations, viz., "Courses open to both sides," has no bearing on the medical appreciation and may be omitted.

**Para. 3.**—**Plan.**

(a) Measures for preserving the health of the troops and for preventing disease.

(b) Measures for evacuation of casualties from the area of operations of the Force.

**Notes.**—T. and M. Regulations, sec. 25, para. 9, states: "The plan of action should be definite, clear and practical. It should be stated concisely, but in sufficient detail for a trained staff officer to be able to draft the orders required to carry it out."

In an appreciation of this nature the plan would contain the measures recommended by the A.D.M.S. for attaining his object. These measures, if approved by the G.O.C., would be made known to those concerned by means of orders issued by the staff.

Under (a) above would be included all sanitary and hygienic measures to be taken to preserve health, e.g., recommendations regarding water supply, its purification and safeguarding, also supplies which may be procured locally, such as milk, fruit and vegetables; any special measures recommended for disposal of excreta, refuse, etc., any special precautions necessary to prevent contamination of food by flies; precautions to be taken to combat prevalent diseases; recommendations regarding washing and disinfection of clothing, etc.

Under (b) above would be included the A.D.M.S.'s general plan for the evacuation of casualties from his area, based on the medical resources at his disposal and the communications available in the area of operations. The plan should show his medical dispositions in the concentration area, and his forecast for future operations.