IV.—FIELD TRAINING.

When the men are proficient in carrying out these movements as a drill, extending, closing, halting, lying down, etc., passing whispered orders correctly, and keeping their interval and direction accurately by order and signal, the next step is to apply these principles to work over actual country with wide intervals.

Pains must be taken to develop the initiative of the Nos. 1, as a squad must always be looked upon as a semi-independent unit.

It should be impressed on all that their work is to give first aid and collect wounded and that the formations practised are only intended to facilitate control and the keeping of direction and are not to be blindly adhered to by individual squads under all circumstances.

(1) For instance if a squad in the first extension is confronted with thick cover or broken ground it should assume the second extension in order to search the cover, re-assuming first extension when clear.

(2) The fact that a squad has been ordered to "halt" should not prevent the bearers from searching neighbouring cover—they must however keep touch with squads on right or left while so doing.

(3) The fact that squads are ordered to "advance" should not prevent them in carrying out first aid or in passing information about the presence of casualties. Should these be numerous it is possible that order to advance would be cancelled for the whole formation on information being passed along.

Men should be trained when halted to lie down and take cover on their own initiative, always remembering to search round for wounded. Parade movements should be eliminated as far as possible as soon as the principles have been mastered.

Squads should automatically increase their extension laterally and bridge a gap caused by a squad halting to attend to casualties and close again if squad rejoins. All casualties found should be reported at once to the Commander.

It is recognized that when practising over difficult country, as soon as casualties are met the formation may become broken up and lateral com-

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1 i.e., squad or squads finding a "dump" or several wounded would signal to squads on each side to close in and help, and pass the word to the officer.
communication interrupted. Under these circumstances the Nos. 1, should make every effort to re-establish touch by putting out a "look-out" man and taking up new landmarks so as to preserve correct direction.

The taking up of landmarks by all bearers during an advance will also assist a squad to rejoin its formation.

As a general principle first aid and grouping is carried out during the advance, the carriage of stretcher cases being left for the return journey, as otherwise delay in giving first aid to cases may occur.

Sometimes two companies may work in echelon, the leading company grouping and the other company carrying patients back.

Very strict liaison between the two companies is necessary.

It is advantageous to divide the area to be searched into zones parallel with the front, the boundaries being easily recognized ridges or other landmarks. Squads should be instructed to halt on their own when reaching the limit of a zone. When the point is reached squads may either be advanced into the next zone by order or retired, carrying back casualties already grouped in the first zone.

Further details of instructional methods are given in the Scheme of Training, Appendix I.

Junior officers and N.C.O.'s should be instructed in the principles of reconnaissance in order to find the best line for the advance and in the art of explaining clearly to their men exactly what is required before deploying to search for wounded. They must have a knowledge of the elements of visual training, compass work and the clock and finger methods of describing points on a landscape.

A working knowledge of map reading is also necessary, especially the different methods of "setting" a map, finding a position and recognizing points on a map.

REFERENCES.
Royal Army Medical Corps Training.
Field Service Regulations.
Infantry Training.
The Musketry Regulations.

V.—EPILOGUE.

There are twelve "Trades" in the Royal Army Medical Corps, let us have a thirteenth (absit omen!) known as "Trained Stretcher Bearer." He should be of good physique, a "handyman," with a Second Class Certificate of Education, though not necessarily a man of letters, an out-of-door man with plenty of initiative and a fair instructor with a working knowledge of the subjects touched upon above and an "eye for country." He should be of course an N.O.iii. The trained stretcher-bearer would also be required to have a really thorough practical knowledge of first aid and for this purpose would have to pass a searching examination in this subject much above the present standard, and including a working know-
Random Jottings on the Training of the R.A.M.C.

knowledge of the contents of the " bearers' cart," method of loading the transport of a field ambulance company, etc. How many should there be? I suggest 57 for a start, i.e., 4 divisions × 3 field ambulances × 2 companies × 2 + 10 per cent. spare. On mobilization the field ambulances would be brought up to strength by a large number of partly-trained men. The "specialists" would be in the H.Q. and "A.D.S. party" of the field ambulance, therefore the partly-trained men would largely be stretcher-bearers. They require instruction at short notice. In peace time the "trained stretcher-bearer" would be employed on the permanent staff of the depot and in the company offices of hospital companies and in the "casualty theatre," etc. As the work of field ambulances in collecting wounded becomes more and more difficult so will the need of such men become apparent. They cannot be made in a moment.

APPENDIX I.

SCHEDULE: SCHEME OF TRAINING.

I. Practice in control by whistles and signals.
II. Demonstrations on the military vocabulary, use of landmarks, etc.
III. Drill in first and second extensions, with wide intervals (see Part III); control by signal or order passed down.
IV. Individual squad practices: based on the methods of instruction in force at the School of Musketry, Hythe.
   (a) Points to be touched in preliminary lectures.
   Hints to be noted when collecting wounded under fire.
   (b) Practical exercises which can be carried out on the parade ground.
   (1) Squads under fire advancing in second extension.
   (2) Squads under fire—casualties to be brought back at once.
   (3) Squad not under rifle fire.
   (4) Practice in removing wounded from a ridge or exposed position, squads not having to advance further.
   (5) Squads advancing under rifle fire with exposed ridge in front, squads being required to advance beyond ridge.
V. Collective bearer section practice over actual country—open at first, later broken and wooded, with "casualties" scattered about.
VI. (a) Practice in evacuating wounded down trenches and over obstacles, and the use of the trench stretcher.
   (b) Demonstration of a modern trench system, with Regimental Aid Posts and Field Ambulance Collecting Posts.
VII. Practice in loading lorries, trains, etc.
VIII. March discipline and route marches
IX. Practice in loading and unloading "bearers cart." (No. 1 Limbered G. S. Wagon.)

The term "fire" means liability to unaimed and casual firing.
SCHEME OF TRAINING IN DETAIL.

I. PRACTICE IN CONTROL BY WHISTLE AND SIGNALS. (The signals, with one addition, are those described in infantry training, q.v.a.) Commencing in close order; halting, advancing, changing direction, retiring, lying down, etc., by whistle and signal (as laid down in Infantry Training), until all can make and recognize signals (see Appendix II).

II. DEMONSTRATIONS IN THE MILITARY VOCABULARY (use of terms spur, crest, salient, glacis, neck, etc.): The recognized methods of visual training, description of landscape ("description points," and the clock and finger method); the use of landmarks and methods of keeping a true direction across country; use of cover and dead ground, etc.

III. DRILL IN FIRST AND SECOND EXTENSION with moderate intervals: Extending, closing, changing directions, by whistle, signal, or order passed down. Short distances up to 100 yards to be demonstrated when in extended order: Squads lower stretchers and stand easy when ordered to halt; squads to lift stretchers when ordered to advance. The object being to cut out unnecessary commands when in extended order.

Practice in correct direction and interval, squads extending to bridge gap caused by another squad falling out to see to casualties and resuming previous extension when squad rejoins, squads closing in to aid one another if a "group" of casualties is found, etc.

IV. INDIVIDUAL SQUAD PRACTICES designed to train the Nos. 1 to use their own initiative when working in the field and dealing with casualties on the following lines. Gas masks should be worn in some of the practices or an alarm of "Gas" raised during a practice.

A.—Points to be Touched in Preliminary Lectures.

Responsibility of No. 1 for the control of his own squad: He should, when necessary, whilst acting in accordance with the general idea, vary the formation to suit a local situation. For instance, suppose the bearer section to be advancing in first extension, and No. 1 finds that his line of advance leads through woods or broken ground where casualties may be hidden, he should adopt second extension for his own squad, and then, if necessary, resume first extension when clear. He should assign to each bearer in his squad particular duties as follows: When in the second extension, Nos. 2 and 4 carry the stretcher and help No. 1 to dress severe cases. Nos. 2 and 4 should always keep in touch with No. 1 unless ordered to the contrary. No. 3 searches neighbourhood, dressing trivial casualties, and draws attention of No. 1 to serious ones: in addition, No. 3 should keep in touch with squads on the right, and No. 1 with squads on left. For instance, when a squad finds casualties and halts to deal with them, the bearer finding a serious case will call up the No. 1, who will take over and treat it with the help of Nos. 2 and 4. The squad should not lose touch with its No. 1 and should be within signal range of him. Bearers, when not actually dealing with a case, will keep a constant look-out and observe...
direction taken by squads on their right and left so that correct direction may be kept at all times, they will also observe their direction marks.

When all casualties in the neighbourhood have been dressed, No. 1 will give the signal or order to advance again. When squad resumes its advance, No. 1 will be responsible for the direction on the left, and No. 3 for that on the right flank—in this way touch can be regained with other squads, the original landmark being kept in mind. If the original landmark falls out of sight a fresh one in the same line will be taken.

N.B.—Should the casualties be more than this squad can deal with, No. 1 should call neighbouring squads to his help by signal "to close" or by messenger.

Hints to be noted when treating and collecting wounded under fire.

1. Stop arterial haemorrhage if present with finger pressure or pad.
2. Get case under cover quickly with minimum exposure to case and squad.
3. Apply first aid, including tourniquet if necessary.
4. Only minimum number of bearers necessary should approach patient.
5. First aid to be given in prone position if no cover near. Never bunch round patient when under fire.
6. Reserve the stretcher for serious cases.
7. Do not cross sky-line unless absolutely necessary; if it has to be done, double, choose a part with bushes or cover in preference to a bare bit of ground.
8. If an exposed bit of ground lies in front with no casualties in it, skirt round it; if doubtful, send one bearer to explore it.

Wounded men come under one of four groups:

1. Cases able to get back after being dressed, without assistance. These should be directed to W.W.C.P. or A.D.S.
2. Cases able to walk with assistance of one or more bearers.
3. Cases requiring stretcher carriage, if carry is long use the four bearers.
4. Cases which must not be moved. Give examples of each.

During a retreat if all casualties cannot be got away, the most seriously injured should be left behind under shelter. Medical personnel should not stay with them unless ordered to do so.

Absolute necessity of liaison with Brigade H.Q. by telephone, signal message or runners; with R.A.P.'s by means of runners or a stretcher squad previously attached to each and with A.D.S. by messages sent by ambulance drivers or returning wounded, officers or N.C.O.'s.

If this liaison is not established, the whole scheme of evacuation may fall through.

Importance of using wheeled stretchers if a track exists, especially with the 2nd Echelon of a relay.

Necessity of organizing "car posts" as far forward as is consistent with reasonable safety in order to shorten hand carriage.
Field ambulance bearers should not be rushed up to a captured position if a counter attack is imminent, they will only get in the way and get shot. Wait until counter-attack has been dealt with.

The fact that a medical post is sited (by map) at a certain spot does not necessarily mean that it should be put there, the spot may be unsuitable, a directing flag should be placed on the spot and the post established in a suitable locality as near as possible.

B.--Practical exercises which can be carried out on the parade ground.

Stand the squads easy, and, taking each squad separately, make it collect a "casualty" under different conditions, No. 1 to control. Remaining squads to watch carefully. When each squad has completed its practice, ask Nos. 1 of the other squads to criticize what has been done, and get No. 1 of the squad which has carried out the practice to explain the action he has taken. Criticize the exercise yourself, and make the squads repeat correctly. When criticizing, emphasize important points such as: stop haemorrhage by finger—get under cover before dressing, if under fire—only minimum number of men required to approach case—use of cover—dead ground, etc.

This is the system in use at the School of Musketry, Hythe.

In order to impress on the men the importance of these rules, make casualties of all those bearers who expose themselves unnecessarily. The squads should always collect wounded in second extension if under risk of rifle or machine-gun indirect fire.

If a squad is seen by the enemy it may be fired on. Four men round a stretcher make a big target.

(1) Situation 1. Squads or squad under fire advancing in second extension.

The squad to be considered as a part of a bearer company. A casualty is found by one of the supernumerary bearers who hands the case over to No. 1. If case is severe, No. 1 will give signal to halt and dress the case with the help of Nos. 2 and 4, remaining bearers quarter the neighbourhood and look for other wounded, dressing slight cases and calling the attention of No. 1 to severe cases. When all the casualties are dressed, the squad continues its advance, the Nos. 3 and 1 re-establishing touch (leaving case to be carried back on return journey if so ordered).

(2) Situation 2. Squads or squad under rifle fire. Casualties to be brought back at once.

Squads act as in (1), but when casualty is dressed the No. 1 loads the stretcher with the help of Nos. 2 and 4, and retires his squad in second extension formation, making use of all available cover.

When squad is no longer exposed it may assume first extension.

(3) Situation 3. Squads not under rifle fire. Otherwise as in (2), but distance to wagons long.

No. 1 acts as in (2), but closes his squad in and then retires in first
extension formation, so that bearers can relieve one another or carry by the "shoulder" method.

(4) **Practice in removing wounded from a ridge or exposed position, it being understood that the squads will not have to advance further.**

No. 1 halts his men under cover and gives signal to lie down; just short of the ridge and under cover. He then advances with one other man, making full use of all cover, and assuming a prone position, draws the "casualty" into dead ground, etc., where it is loaded on stretcher and carried back.

N.B.—The above can be made collective practice with two or more squads on the parade ground—the "ridge" being imaginary.

(5) **Squad advancing under "rifle fire" with exposed ridge in front, squad being required to advance beyond ridge after dealing with casualties.**

No. 1 halts his squad, orders them to lie down and then reconnoitres ridge alone, or with another bearer. If wounded are found, he acts as in No. 4. If not, he returns to his squad and causes them to skirt the ridge, using dead ground to a flank, and deploys again when beyond the exposed bit of ground.

V. **Collective Bearer Practices** should also be carried out on the above lines with several squads or a complete bearer company over actual country if possible.

The piece of ground selected should be at least 600 yards square for the exercise of one company (nine stretcher squads). Casualties in the proportion of at least three per squad should be detailed, one per squad at least being a severe case requiring carriage. Collecting posts or car posts and regimental aid posts (imaginary if necessary) should be formed, and should be advanced and retired from time to time. Inter-communication and direction are the points to be stressed.

Before practising the search for "casualties," the bearer section or division should be halted in close order at the advanced dressing station, collecting post, or other jumping-off point—under cover.

Practice in assuming stretcher squad formation from column of fours and vice versa is essential to avoid loss of time.

The instructor should fall out the officers, N.C.O.'s and Nos. 1 and explain the scheme to them in detail, and, if possible, point out to them the sector of the country which they are to work. Landmarks and "descriptive points" should be indicated by the "clock and finger" method, and the importance of inter-communication and direction again emphasized. Special attention should be given to the points touched on under "Field Training" and lessons learnt by previous squad practices.

The N.C.O.'s and Nos. 1 should then rejoin their men and explain the situation to them. In early practices it might be advisable for the instructor to explain to all ranks himself. In any case he should carefully check
mistakes made in the explanations by the N.C.O.'s and Nos. 1 until latter are proficient.

Before deploying, touch should previously have been established, if possible, with R.A.P.'s by means of bearers previously attached to them who will carry back first casualties and act as guides.

If casualties have been detailed it should be decided whether they are to be (a) brought in at once as soon as found or (b) "grouped," given first aid, and the advance continued.

This depends on: (1) The nature of the action which is taking place in front; (2) the conformation of the country, i.e., if good cover for groups of casualties exists or if there are good roads or tracks along which wheeled transport may be brought later; (3) the distance to be traversed and the feasibility of dividing into zones; (4) the number of casualties and their nature if known approximately.

The country chosen should be fairly easy in initial practices but later difficult broken country should be used and searching at night practised, direction being by compass bearing.

The interactions of two "companies" in echelon connected by a relay post or posts should be practised.

The leading company doing first aid and grouping and informing the rear company of positions of groups and numbers of wounded and the rear company carrying back casualties to the car post.

As a rule a squad should not be required to carry a case more than 500 to 600 yards— if distance is longer relays must be arranged.

VI. DEMONSTRATION OF A MODERN TRENCH SYSTEM with regimental aid posts and field ambulance collecting posts. Models may be used.

VII. PRACTICE IN EVACUATING WOUNDED DOWN TRENCHES and over obstacles.

Practice in loading lorries, ambulance trains, barges, etc., when possible.

VIII. PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION IN MARCH DISCIPLINE BY ROUTE MARCHES.

Falling in in fours, or in stretcher formation by whistle, moving off by signal, falling out on left of road by whistle and signal. Water discipline on the march, etc.

IX. METHOD OF LOADING AND UNLOADING No. 1 LIMBERED G. S. WAGON ("bearer's cart"), practice in dumping packs and drawing stretchers, splints, surgical and shell dressings, haversacks, and vice versa.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF SIGNALS USED IN THE SCHEME.

(All are officially recognized in Infantry Training except No 7.)

1. "Advance" ... ... Arm swung forward as in under-arm bowling, palm to the front.

2. "Halt" ... ... Arm raised straight above head.
3. "Retire" ... ... Arm and hand describes a small circle above head several times.

4. "Double" ... ... Arm with fist clenched raised up and down several times between shoulder and waist.

5. "Lie Down" ... ... Arm with palm directed downwards raised and lowered several times between waist and knee as if patting the ground.

6. "Extend" ... ... (First Extension). Arm raised above head, and swung pendulum fashion from side to side. Arm is then pointed in direction towards which extension is to be made.

7. "Second Extension" ... (Special signal not in Infantry Training).

Both arms stretched forward horizontally, palms together and then separated and swung back in line with shoulders as in the "breast stroke" in swimming. The signal to re-assume "first extension" from "second extension" is the reverse of above.

8. "Close" ... ... Palm of the hand placed flat on the top of head and arm then pointed in direction towards which closing should take place.

9. "Incline" ... ... Arm raised horizontally and fingers pointed in required direction.

10. "Change Direction" ... Arm held horizontally with hand pointing towards present direction and then swung horizontally to new direction required.

11. The Whistle is used:

1. To call attention to an order or signal—on a short blast being given all look towards the instructor. This is followed by the order or signal.

2. To denote "fall in"—A series of short blasts preceded by one long blast for "A Company," two long blasts for "B Company" and three long blasts for "Headquarters."
APPENDIX III.

DIAGRAM SHOWING THE "CLOCK AND FINGER" METHOD OF DESCRIBING LANDMARKS. (MODIFIED FROM INFANTRY TRAINING.)

Presumed width of hand and fingers when held at arm's length for use with diagram.

Prominent landmarks not more than 10° apart (the width of two hands held at arm’s length) are used as description points, i.e., "church spire" (lowest visible part of spire) and "spinney" (the lowest part of right edge of a wood on the hill).

With these description points representing the centre of a clock face any object on the landscape can be pointed out in terms of the hour and distance from the description point in finger breadths (degrees) given. Thus:

- House at "A" = "Spire—one finger—eight o'clock—a house."
- Bridge at "B" = "Spinney—five fingers—seven o'clock—a bridge."
- House at "C" = "Spinney—five fingers—four o'clock—a house."
- Point "D" = "Spire—four fingers—six o'clock."
- Point "E" = "Spire—two fingers—two o'clock."

This method need not be used for obvious points such as the "bridge," etc., on sketch. The sketch is only explanatory.