THE USEFULNESS OF COLORIMETRIC METHODS FOR ANALYSIS IN LABORATORIES.

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The Japanese Army are developing colorimetric methods in clinical and other chemical analyses carried out for their hospitals in a manner similar to that being introduced in our own Army by the Pathological Directorate. The authors claim that with these methods minute traces of substances can be detected and estimated; simple manipulation only is required and there is no need to isolate the substance to be estimated.

A list of substances in blood, urine and water, which can be determined colorimetrically is given, and it is stated that with improved modern scientific instruments the liability of any serious error in the analyses is negligible.

THE DENTALLY UNFIT AND MILITARY SERVICE.

Reporting Countries:—
A. Netherlands (Dental Officer: T. POELSTRA).
B. Greece (Dental Officer: N. CARYDIS).

SUMMARY OF REPORTS.

The Reports are mainly based on the replies received to the following international questionnaire:—
(1) What are the standards of fitness in the different military services for: (a) The totally edentulous? (b) the partially edentulous?
(2) To what extent is the artificial denture compatible with military service?
(3) How can masticating efficiency be determined?
(4) What are the oral and dental conditions which markedly affect physical fitness in the Services?
(5) Is the serving soldier supplied with artificial dentures at public expense in all circumstances, or only when the loss of teeth or denture is due to military service?

The replies from twenty-four countries, many of which were vague or incomplete, revealed there was no common standard of dental fitness and no scientific means of estimating masticating efficiency. As regards the other questions, the local conditions of service in each country, such as length of service, age-groups, size of forces, etc., were responsible for much diversity in the answers.

The Report from the Netherlands describes experiments into the possible accurate determination of masticating efficiency. These investigations suggested it was unscientific to estimate this merely by a count of the number and position of the teeth—other physiological factors played an important part in the process of mastication and varied in each individual.

The Report from Greece describes the dental standards in that country, the scheme of dental treatment for the various categories and the military employment of the dentally unfit while undergoing treatment.