Clinical and Other Notes.

MEDICAL RECORDS IN THE ARMY

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In the medical notes of the British Medical Journal of May 29 of this year there appears a brief note which introduces the new Journal of Medical Records. The note goes on to say that it will provide an opportunity for an exchange of views for those working in Medical Records Departments in hospitals and other medical establishments.

It occurred to me that many officers who have been in the Corps for some time would ask themselves what was there in Medical Records to justify the formation of an Association in its name or that the Association could go so far as to commence a Journal dealing with their affairs. Officers who have been in the Corps only for the short period prescribed by the Government and who have come from hospitals where medical records are efficiently kept, will have noted, I feel sure, the extent to which Army medical records fall short of standard and will not be so surprised at the activities of the Medical Records Officers' Association.

However gladly I accept the task of writing on this subject I must confess my shortcomings in attempting to write an article for the Corps Journal in which I intend to show the importance of Medical Records, how efficiency in their maintenance may be achieved and some methods in detail which may be of assistance to R.A.M.C. officers who are remaining in the Corps and to those about to return to civilian life.

I can think of no better opening than to give in full an Address made by Sir Hugh Cairns, K.B.E., F.R.C.S., who has kindly given permission to publish. In passing I would like to say that the influences of Sir Hugh and other eminent medical gentlemen who visit this hospital can be felt in the medical records at the Military Hospital for Head Injuries, Wheatley, where the medical records, by no means perfect, are at least the most carefully kept and easier of access than in any other military hospital I have seen in recent years. I have also to pay tribute to my predecessor, Major T. Walkley, R.A.M.C., for his part in obtaining this very happy state of affairs.

This is the text of Sir Hugh Cairns' lecture which was given to a Course Conference for Hospital Records Officers organized by the Nuffield Bureau of Health and Sickness Records.