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BY

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THERE used to appear monthly in "The Bulletin of the U.S. Army Medical Department" and there still appears in its successor (since January 1950), the "United States Armed Forces Medical Journal," a most interesting series of articles entitled "About the Medical Department," written by Colonel Paul I. Robinson, M.C., U.S.A., and other members of his Personnel Division. These popular articles describe topical personnel matters and are read with great interest by all U.S. Medical Department officers in U.S.A. and overseas; these articles are one of the more tangible ways in which the Personnel Division can share its problems with the officers for whose careers it is responsible. How a busy man such as Colonel Robinson can find time to contribute these informative monthly articles is explained by the fact that he considers it his duty and that officers have a right to expect such service. We can be sure then, that in the paper which Colonel Robinson has contributed to our Journal we will be given a most fascinating description of the organization and functions of his Division.

Colonel Robinson took his Bachelor of Science degree at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri, where he later qualified in medicine with the M.D. degree in 1928. He then joined the U.S. Army Medical Corps and served his internship at Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver, Colorado. In 1938, after a period at the U.S. Army Industrial College, he was appointed Fiscal Officer at the Surgeon General's Office. In 1944 he was sent to the European and Mediterranean Theatres as Chairman of the Surgeon General's Board for

planning redeployment of personnel and materiel. In 1945 he was Deputy Surgeon General for the U.S. Forces in the Far East and returned in 1946 to the Staff of the U.S. Army Industrial College. Three months later he was given command of one of the largest U.S. Army Medical Supply Depots, the St. Louis Medical Depot, from which he subsequently came to his present appointment as Chief of the Personnel Division in the Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D.C.

Strangely enough, Colonel Robinson claims no special training in personnel matters, yet he displays an awareness of the personnel responsibilities he has undertaken and has surrounded himself with experts in this field. It would seem natural that if a modern army requires, trains and uses, specialists in any of its arms or services, the procurement, careers and postings of these officers



should be managed by men properly trained in personnel management. Colonel Robinson has done much to make careers attractive in the Regular Army Medical Department and the following quotation from one¹ of his articles exemplifies the spirit of his endeavours, "Efforts must be continued and expended

¹ Robinson, Col. P. I., *Bull. U.S. Army Med Dept.*, 1949, 9, 733.

to increase the attractiveness of medical service in the army. Out-moded concepts must be replaced. The Medical Department belongs to those who are in it and is as good as its several components. Each year should see internal improvements. A stable, organized service that is acknowledged to be the best of any in the world is the heritage of every new officer of any of the corps of the Medical Department. With this beginning, progress and rapid advancement are inevitable."