The newspapers announced the fact, and tacked on the item this flattering comment: "Dr. —— applied for his commission at the time enrolment of physicians became compulsory."

That makes a man hesitate about accepting a commission just now. It no doubt pleases the FACSimiles to see how well the Volunteer Medical Service Corps is working out its problems.

The Journal should handle this question without gloves. This gratuitous organization is working a great deal of harm, and beyond any doubt its quasi-official rulings as to eligibility encourage many a doctor, who is waverer, in the belief that it is his duty to get into this service. Its entire system is harmful to the best interests of the country and of the profession, in precisely the same way that the Red Cross is injured by the type of woman that wears the uniform of the Red Cross nurse for show purposes. Just now it is merely a question of button, button, who's got the button—or rather who hasn't. But if the thing goes on, first thing we know the doctor who stays at home because he must or will is going to have a lovely uniform to wear as evidence of his great sacrifice.

William Brady, M.D., Elmira, N. Y.

To the Editor:—In July, immediately after the request from the President of the American Medical Association to do so, the writer undertook through the presidents and secretaries of the county medical societies of this state a survey of the medical situation. This has been done so far as appears possible up to the present, but final results cannot yet be made. This canvass met a whole-hearted response from many of those requested to aid and an equally whole-hearted criticism from many more. My personal view was that it was not, in this state, necessary, and that inasmuch as it carried no authority from the War Department it was more likely to do harm than good.

However, this and my visits to ten county societies have resulted in a very definite opinion being formed so far as the volunteer system of securing physicians for the Army is concerned, and community needs. For the former it has secured a fair percentage, but very much at the expense of the needs of the country—farming—population so great that even, there is developing a condition which is most likely to become serious as difficulties of cold weather travel develop, and it seems to me that no one in the American Medical Association, including yourself, has any authority to remedy it.

Your comments on the Volunteer Medical Service Corps appear to ignore the fact that the Surgeon-Generals of the Army, Navy and Public Health Service and the Provost Marshal-General head the list of the Central Governing Board and Council of this body, and that it therefore bears their approval, and that the work must be done in order to fill a definite need which they foresee.

It seems to me that, as good soldiers, a request from these men should receive all the strength of a command and that we are making a very serious mistake if we in any way block the work which they are trying to do. If we are to have unity in the medical profession now and in the future, criticisms of this sort in the official organ of the Association of the work of those at the head of the medical work of our forces should be curtailed. It seems to me that if the leaders in the work of The Journal disagree with the methods and criticize the work of this body, the least they can do is to publish at the same time the plan and scope of the work and the names of the officers.

It should be enough for any man to know that these men in their official capacity ask this, for every physician in the country to immediately respond and place his services at the disposal of the corps, leaving the work of securing the members of the organization in their counties and state to whom the work has been delegated subject to their right of appeal to the Surgeon-Generals and Provost Marshal-General as heads of this body.

George H. Cooks, M.D., Waldoboro, Maine.

To the Editor:—There has been brought to your attention, as evidenced in Queries and Minor Notes of last week's issue, a letter and questionnaire that have been sent out over the signature of the chairman of the Medical Section of the Advisory Commission of the Council of National Defense. I believe these demand consideration and discussion in The Journal.

While one is reading these documents many questions spring to mind, chief of which concern the inferred inefficiency or insufficiency of the Surgeon-Generals' Offices and the Provost Marshal-General's Office; the purpose and necessity of this new organization; its relation to the above mentioned offices, and its relation to the profession and of the profession to it. For we read with interest, if not with enlightenment, the "pledge," the "scope and purpose," the "object of the corps," the "working plans" and the "operating system." Throughout we gather the impression of the implied lack of foresight and of breadth of vision, of inefficiency and insufficiency of the Surgeon-Generals and other government officials, and therefore the need of such a wise governing body as the Medical Section of the Council of National Defense.

Among other things, the Volunteer Medical Corps places on record all medical men and women in the United States. How more so than the present government information as gained from the American Medical Association and other sources? Are other sections similar to the Medical Section of the Council of National Defense.] How or by what means are they made? For in what respect any, and at what times have, the medical men shown themselves less loyal than other professions or trades that they should be thus treated?

The "working plans" and "operating system," for sheer autocracy, should condemn themselves to His Imperial Majesty, Wilhelm. The applicant finds his organization thoroughly manned with officers and executives awaiting only his humble self. Provided with the title of "FACSimiles of officials, hand-picked and responsible only to the Medical Section of the Advisory Commission. By this same Medical Section we find that the applicant has his rules and regulations all cut and dried for him. To these he promises to conform. If the Central Board tells him to apply for a commission he must do so, whether the Surgeon-General wishes it or not; it is imperative and of democratic purpose.

The Journal would serve an excellent purpose by giving this matter extended consideration and explaining matters to its great democratic constituency.

Hugh Neil MacKechnie, M.D., Chicago.

To the Editor:—I wish you might think it advisable to enlighten the profession as to the alleged Volunteer Medical Service Corps as the last Chicago Medical Society Bulletin has done. We need the information.

William T. Belfield, M.D., Chicago.

To the Editor:—I wish to thank you for the information concerning the Volunteer Medical Service Corps. I do not like the methods pursued. The circular letter received with the application blank was an imperative one, saying, "Sign this and return at once." Another thing that has crept in is the signing of this blank by men over age not acceptable.