AN UNJUST PROFESSIONAL HANDICAP.

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The matter of dental legislation has been given more or less prominence in these pages for some months. It has been the aim and effort of the dental profession for years to obtain adequate federal recognition of its standing among the learned professions.

For a number of reasons unsatisfactory progress was made along this line up to the time of the reorganization of the National Dental Association, principal among these being, probably, the impracticability under the old system of organization of harmonizing and coordinating effort along any given line.

The first effort of our reorganized Association to obtain the recognition due the profession was made during the 1915-1916 session of congress and in the legislation which was enacted by this congress for the Army and Navy. A good degree of progress was made toward obtaining the recognition desired tho the profession was still left in an unenviable position in this respect.

It is now proposed to procure if possible the enactment of supplemental legislation which will remove all governmental discrimination against the dental profession and place it upon a par with the oth-

er professions represented in the federal service.

The accompanying table shows graphically the position of the dental profession in the military service as compared to the other professions in the non-combatant branches of this service.

It is apparent from this table that the dental profession has a poor relative standing in the Military service, and this is decidedly injurious to the profession's interests, and an unwarranted humiliation.

The Adjutant General's Department and the Quartermaster Corps of the Army correspond to the business profession in civil life, the Adjutant General's Department being the administrative department and the Quartermaster Corps having charge of the purchase and distribution of supplies, supervision of construction work and the payment of the troops. The Inspector General's Department corresponds most nearly to the profession of public accountant and auditor in civil life; the Judge Advocate General's Department to the profession of law; the Medical Corps to the medical profession; the Engineer Corps to the profession of engineering; the Ordnance Department to the profession of arms and munitions manu-

facture; the Signal Corps to the profession of telegraphy, telephony and aviation; Chaplains to the clerical profession; the Dental Corps to the dental profession; and the Veterinary Corps to the profession of veterinary surgery. The Infantry, Cavalry Coast Artillery and Field Artil-

enactment of the desired corrective legislation is at the present time when congress is in the mood to devote a considerable share of its time and attention to military matters. This, however, should be looked upon merely as a fortunate circumstance and not the prime reason

**COMPARATIVE SCHEME SHOWING THE ORGANIZATION NOW AUTHORIZED
(ACT OF JUNE 3RD, 1916, "NATIONAL DEFENSE ACT") FOR THE
DIFFERENT NON-COMBATANT BRANCHES OF THE ARMY.**

	Major or Brig. General	Cols.	Lt. Cols.	Majors.	Captains.	Lieutenants	Per centum above grade of Captain.
Adjutant General's Department.....	1	7	13	30	.....	.....	100%
Inspector General's Department.....	1	4	8	16	.....	.....	100%
Judge Advocate General's Department....	1	4	7	20	.....	.....	100%
Quartermaster Corps	3	21	24	68	180	73 (a)	39%
Medical Corps	1	47	80	350	(b)	1000 (b)	32%
Corps of Engineers	1	23	30	72	152	227	25%
Ordnance Department	1	10	15	32	42	42	40%
Signal Corps	1	3	8	10	30	75 (c)	17%
Chaplains .....	.....	.....	.....	15	(d)	128 (d)	10%
Dental Corps .....	.....	.....	.....	15	(e)	160 (e)	8%
Veterinary Corps .....	.....	.....	.....	118 (f)	(f)	(f)	100%

(a) The grade of 2nd Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps is a grade that was recently given to the former pay clerks connected with this corps. These pay clerks are limited to the grade of 2nd Lieutenant, and therefore the 73 officers (all former pay clerks) under the heading "Lts." are not considered in making up the percentage allowed above the grade of major.

(b) All officers of the Medical Corps are promoted from the grade of first lieutenant to that of captain after five years service in the Medical Corps. Original appointments are to the grade of 1st Lieutenant.

(c) The Aviation Section is not included in the Signal Corps as given, as this section is practically a separate organization tho made a part of the signal Corps by law for purposes of administration.

(d) Chaplains are appointed as first lieutenants, are promoted to the grade of captain after seven years' service, and to the grade of major after seventeen years service, the total number in the grade of major being limited to fifteen.

(e) Officers of the Dental Corps are appointed as first lieutenants, are promoted to the grade of captain after eight years service, and to the grade of major after twenty-four years service, the total number in the grade of major being limited to fifteen.

(f) Officers of the Veterinary Corps are appointed as second lieutenants, are promoted to the grade of first lieutenant after five years service, to the grade of captain after fifteen years service and to the grade of major after twenty years service, with no limitation as to the number in the grade of major.

lery—the combatant branches, or the line, of the Army—represent the profession of arms.

Can there be any just reason why the dental profession should not have recognition by the federal government equal to that of these other professions? Certainly not, and it is our duty to ourselves and to the profession to lend our unequalled support to the effort to have this injustice to the profession corrected at the earliest possible moment.

The most propitious time to secure the

for undertaking the prosecution of this work with all the vigor possible. The compelling reason is, or should be, the unjust stigma which is put upon the dental profession by reason of its present status in the military and naval services and the injury done the profession thereby.

It may not be fully realized that the profession suffers directly thru this condition of unjust governmental discrimination. Under conditions now obtaining, members of the dental profession

who are eligible—those with both the D. D. S. and the M. D. degrees—are seeking entrance into the **medical section** of the Officers' Reserve Corps of the Army rather than in the **dental section**, tho personal preference may incline to the latter, because of the fact that appointments to the grade of **captain and major**, as well as to that of first lieutenant, are available in the medical section, and to even higher grades should there be at any time a call for Volunteers, while in the dental section appointments to the grade of first lieutenant only may be made, and no appointments to the grade of captain or major may be made until after a service of eight and twenty-four years service respectively. This, if not corrected, will operate to cause many of our most prominent oral surgeons to join the **medical section** of the Officers Reserve Corps rather than the **dental section** in case their services are needed by the government, and all of the work they may do will accrue to the benefit of the medical corps and consequently to the medical profession, and the dental profession will be deprived of credit for the work of some of its most brilliant men.

It is further believed that our research work is handicapped by this unjust discrimination. It is not unusual for members of the various professions to approach philanthropically inclined individuals in behalf of the needs of their respective professions for assistance in the matter of prosecuting original work

or of promoting the interests of humanity in other ways.

If it is a matter of open record that the national government after sixteen years intimate experience with the work of the dental profession (the first dentists were attached to the Army in 1901) appears, thru the status accorded the members of this profession in the Army and Navy, to look upon the services rendered by the representatives of this profession as of less value than those of the other professions, it is at once apparent that the work of inducing these individuals to look with favor upon the claims of the dental profession is greatly increased, while, on the other hand, if it is possible to point to the fact that the national government recognizes the equality of the dental profession in relation to the other professions, it should be measurably easier to secure for the dental profession a fair share of the philanthropies that are being continually dispensed thru the liberality of our men of wealth.

It is believed that it is well within the power of the profession to obtain the desired corrective legislation inasmuch as it will be legislation backed not only by the influence of the profession but, in addition, by every consideration of justice.

However, nothing worth while is obtained without a certain amount of effort and sacrifice and it is devoutly hoped that no member of the profession will fail to respond promptly and to his full ability to any call that may be made upon him in this connection.

INFORMATION RELATING TO APPOINTMENTS IN THE DENTAL RESERVE CORPS OF THE ARMY.

(From Surgeon General of Army, Washington, D. C.)

The National Defense Act of June 3, 1916, and the tentative regulations thereunder, provide for a dental section or branch of the Officers' Reserve Corps.

The officers of the Dental Reserve Corps have the rank of first lieutenant, and are appointed and commissioned by the President, after having been found upon ex-