

(6) Inspection of meat, dairies, cowsheds, farms, etc. Sanitary reporting.

In the conduct of the examination the University has had the assistance of the highest authorities in the kingdom, viz., of Sir John MacFadyean and Sir Stewart Stockman.

That the institution of a post-graduate course in veterinary state medicine has met a want is shown by the fact that a number of men of high standing have taken advantage of the opportunities offered by the University, but the most convincing proof of the need which veterinary surgeons wishing to enter public service have of special post-graduate instruction has been given by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, who have quite recently instituted a Diploma in Veterinary State Medicine* on lines similar to those which have been described above.

ABSENCE OF OFFICERS OF THE SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE DURING THE WAR.

THE following circular has been issued to local education authorities:—

BOARD OF EDUCATION,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.

1. The Board of Education understand that in a number of areas school medical officers and other officers engaged in the work of the school medical service will be giving their services to the Navy or Army, and that consequently difficulties may be experienced in carrying on the work of the school medical service.

2. In the opinion of the Board it is of the greatest importance that the work of the school medical service should be maintained throughout the country with the minimum of interruption or irregularity, and the Board rely upon local education authorities to do their best to make good working arrangements for carrying on the work of school medical officers, assistant school medical officers, specialist officers, school nurses, and other officers engaged in the work of the school medical service, who are absent on duties connected with the present crisis.

3. The Board do not think that they can usefully offer any general suggestions as to the actual steps to be taken temporarily to replace absent officers, as the circumstances vary widely in different areas. The Board will make every allowance for the difficulties with which local education authorities are confronted at the present time, and provided that in practice the existing work is carried on with reasonable efficiency the Board will accept, for the purposes of their own administration, the best arrangements which can be made, so long as the present emergency continues.

4. The Board desired to be informed of each case in which officers of the school medical service are temporarily absent and of the arrangements proposed to be made for the discharge of their duties.

L. A. SELBY-BIGGE.

*The term *Veterinary State Medicine* was adopted by the University of Manchester, to indicate the fact that the object which the University had in view was the preparation of men for State and other Public Services in which a knowledge of Veterinary Medicine was of importance.

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH AND THE SANITARY SERVICE OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE.

From a Correspondent.

WHEN the Territorial Force came into being, an organisation of the Medical Service of the Force was approved, the scheme of which was devised in a large measure on the lines of the Royal Army Medical Corps of the Regular Army. In this scheme due recognition was afforded of the importance of prevention of disease in connection with the efficiency of the Home Defence Army, especially when mobilised for active service.

In the first place, a sanitary officer was appointed to each of the fourteen divisions of the Territorial Force, to act as adviser to the Administrative Medical Officer* on all matters connected with sanitation. Of the officers first appointed, several of whom had a previous record of service in the Volunteer Medical Service, all occupied important professional positions in connection with public health work. Thus, of the divisional sanitary officers originally gazetted, three were officially connected in a medical capacity with the Local Government Boards of England and Scotland, five were medical officers of health of large counties, four were medical officers of health of important cities or districts in England, Scotland, and Wales, and the remaining two were connected with institutions for the training of medical practitioners for public health qualifications. In addition, however, to the divisional sanitary officers the scheme provided for the evolution of a further development of the sanitary service, which may be described in the words of the Memorandum issued by Sir Alfred Keogh, at that time Director-General of the Army Medical Service.

"Again, for preserving the health of the Territorial Force troops during operations for home defence the cordial co-operation of those members of the medical profession who are engaged in preventive medicine will be sought. They will be asked to assist with their advice in time of war should troops be massed in the vicinity of their own spheres of work. These, like the hospital physicians and surgeons, will be asked to become officers *à la suite* of the Medical Service."

"It is not proposed to make demands upon the time of *à la suite* members. The duties which they will voluntarily assume in time of

* This title has since been altered to Assistant-Director of Medical Services (A.D.M.S.).