LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

NEW LEGISLATION EFFECTING THE ARMY DENTAL CORPS.

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AFTER a long and strenuous effort, the Army Reorganization Bill has passed Congress and been signed by the President. Incorporated in this is the following provision relating to the Army Dental Corps:

"The President is hereby authorized to appoint and commission, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, dental surgeons, who are citizens of the United States between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-seven years, at the rate of one for each one thousand enlisted men of the line of the Army. Dental surgeons shall have the rank, pay, and allowances of first lieutenants until they have completed eight years' service. Dental surgeons of more than eight but less than twenty-four years' service shall, subject to such examination as the President may prescribe, have the rank, pay, and allowances of captains. Dental surgeons of more than twenty-four years' service shall, subject to such examination as the President may prescribe, have the rank, pay and allowances of major: **Provided**, That the total number of dental surgeons with rank, pay, and allowances of major shall not at any time exceed fifteen: **And provided further**, That all laws relating to the examination of officers of the Medical Corps for promotion shall be applicable to dental surgeons."

It will be noted that this does not con-

tain all the provisions recommended and strongly supported by the Legislative Committee of the National Dental Association. However, it should be recognized that all legislation is more or less a question of compromise and in view of this, we should accept what has been secured as a very decided improvement over the present conditions.

The following brief data may be interesting: In 1901 Congress passed an act providing for an Army Dental Corps, the members of which served as contract dental surgeons until 1911, when under specific conditions, the rank of first lieutenant was provided for them. At the present time there are seventy-five members in the Corps, thirty-six first lieutenants and thirty-nine acting dental surgeons. When the new legislation becomes operative, up to its full quota, there will be approximately 200 members in the Corps. This is on a basis of "one to each one thousand men in the line of the army." This is on a basis of an army of 211,000 allowing them 11,000 non-combatant officers, altho these officers may be slightly in excess of this number.

In view of the improved conditions the future of this service will be decidedly more attractive and should strongly appeal to the dental graduates of today and stimulate the members of the Corps to

develop it to its highest possible efficiency.

For the benefit of those not familiar with the procedure in securing this improved legislation, I think all who have been in close touch with its progress fully appreciate this has not been accom-

plished without a strong fight and many sacrifices, on the part of a goodly number of persons. In due time we expect to make a public acknowledgement to those who have loyally co-operated and made possible that which has been secured.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS ON SENATOR POMERENE'S AMENDMENT.

From Congressional Record, Pages 6964 to 6968, April 14, 1916.

MR. POMERENE. Mr. President, the bill as presented by the Senate Military Committee provides for giving to members of the Dental Corps the pay and allowances of lieutenant or captain or major. Under the law as it exists today members of the Dental Corps are entitled to the rank of lieutenant. Under the amendment I have offered members of the Dental Corps will be given the pay, allowances, and rank of either lieutenant, captain, or major, under the terms and conditions provided in the amendment, which are substantially the same as those in the Senate committee substitute, save perhaps that there has been a change as to the length of time which they must serve before they may be entitled to promotions. Those promotions are to be granted upon examination.

Mr. President, under the law as it exists today, and under the substitute as reported to the Senate by the Senate committee, members of the Medical Corps are entitled to the rank and pay of lieutenant, captain, major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, and major general. We are only asking, by this amendment, that the dental surgeons be entitled, under the conditions provided, to the rank of lieutenant, captain, or major. I notice in examining the bill that chaplains are given the rank, as well as the pay and allowances, of certain officers; and I do

not quite understand why the dental profession should be discriminated against.

Senators are well aware of the very great advance which has been made by the dental profession in the last 50 years. We see in the newspapers today many accounts of the wonderful work which dental surgeons are performing in the hospitals and on the field of battle in Europe; and it has seemed to me that one of the reasons which heretofore has made medical work or dental work attractive to members of those professions is not so much the pay as it is perhaps the rank which is conferred upon its members under the statutory provisions now in vogue. Nearly every man who enters the Dental Corps, if he were simply seeking the financial emoluments connected with the office, could do better in his private practice; but he will be attracted by the fact that he may be entitled to some official rank. Some men may not regard that as of very much importance, but others do. The question of rank seems to be a matter of very great importance to the medical profession; and I would not be understood for one moment as attempting to decry the merits of that profession; but the dental profession is entitled to some recognition, as well. We are interested in having the Dental Corps so attractive