

14  
2030 Rod Hugh Cecil: Men for military purposes the Director of Military Services is head, and for personnel the Director General of the Indian Medical Service is head

A Yes

2031 Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: Do the officers of the Indian Medical Service and the Royal Army Medical Corps work absolutely together, or are they in separate bodies, so to speak, in Mesopotamia

A They may work together; they are pooled; but of course the officers of the Indian Medical Service are with native regiments because they speak the language and know the men and the Royal Army Medical Corps officers are with the British. There are Indian general hospitals and Indian stationary hospitals and British stationary hospitals and British general hospitals. They have got the two systems working together in the Expeditionary Forces. India of course, has never sent a large expedition abroad before.

2032 Q Men you mentioned in the early part of your evidence that blankets were not provided by the Medical Department

A No, they are not

2033 Q Are ~~the~~ bed pans provided by the Medical Department

A In our Army, bed pans are provided by the Ordnance Department, not by the Medical Department. I do not know what happens in India

2034 Q Supposing now that in a moving hospital on the river or in a stationary hospital there was a deficiency of blankets and bed pans, who would have to supply them to those hospitals

A The medical officer in charge of the hospital would requisition the nearest Ordnance Store Department for these blankets

2035 Q Would he anticipate so to speak, his requisition

in considering the <sup>probabilities</sup> ~~possibilities~~ of his requirements,  
 A so far as he knew them.

~~A~~ He <sup>he</sup> would never know when there was going to be  
 a battle fought, naturally.

2036

Lord Hugh Cecil: Just one question arising out of that  
 answer. You have spoken several times of the necessity  
 of exercising foresight. That of course depends upon  
 the Director General of the Medical Services or  
 the Quarter Master General knowing the strategical  
 plans

A Entirely

2037

Q The responsibility of giving timely notice, lies  
 with the Commander of the force in the field, the  
 General officer commanding, generally

A Yes. All those officers should be equally acquainted  
 with what the military operations are going to be

2038

Q And supposing a sudden decision is taken by  
 the general officer commanding or by the Gov-  
 ernment behind him, which makes a difference  
 and makes it necessary to have new stores, and he  
 acquaints his Director of Medical Services and the  
 Quartermaster General of the change of plan,  
~~It~~ <sup>it</sup> is their business to say to him: "Well if this  
 plan is adopted we shall run short of  
 medical comforts etc." and if they do not acquaint  
 him they are responsible; but if they do acquaint  
 him and he pays no attention, he is responsible

A If you do not do that you are bound to have  
 a breakdown in every campaign. Strategy must  
 not <sup>out-</sup>run Administration. If the strategists in a war  
 are going to go on an expedition and are going  
 to fight there they cannot go there and they cannot  
 fight there unless the Quartermaster General  
 and the medical authorities and all the rest

of them say "We will supply you, and you may go."  
They cannot go unless the supply branches are in a position to send them there, and to take care of them when they get there.

2039 Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: If they do go.

A. If they do go

Chairman: They can override them, but they do so at very great risk

A. Yes, certainly, we all recognise that military necessity, but you have no right, other things being equal, to make a strategic plan and <sup>proceed</sup> to carry it out unless the <sup>administrative</sup> military services are with you, and are prepared to accompany you in the undertaking.

2040 General Sir Neville Lytton: The General Staff and the Administrative Departments must work in close co-operation

A. Yes, they must work together. If that does not go on continually and rapidly there is bound to be a breakdown

Chairman

13  
26  
2041 Chairman: I think we have got into our heads the framework of the administration pretty clearly. Now I come to your paper. In paragraph 1 you say: "Consequent upon the receipt of information concerning medical arrangements I wired to the Commander-in-Chief in India." Had no requisition been made to you for assistance from the Indian authorities previous to that.

A No, none.

2042 Q And what was the kind of information the receipt of which induced you to wire to the Commander-in-Chief.

A <sup>a</sup> ~~The~~ private letter.

2043 Q Stating that things were not going well.

A Representing that the wounded were suffering considerably, and the sick suffering. It was not a private letter to me, it was a private letter to somebody else which was shown to me.

2044 Q And it was of such a character that you thought it right to wire to the Commander-in-Chief and offer assistance.

A Yes.

2045 Q But up to that date, either as regards personnel or as regards materiel, there had not been any demand for assistance.

A Not officially. There had been a communication from us before that of a professional nature to India. We had made some change in our inoculation methods here, and we telegraphed it to India for their information; that was the only occasion.

2046 Q Now you enumerate the various demands that were made upon you. Would you like

to make a statement with regard to them.  
A might I just read to you the telegram I sent to India; it is quite brief?

2047 Q If you please.

A "We are fully prepared to afford you every assistance with medical supplies and establishments for Mesopotamia or elsewhere if you should require them."

2048 Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: That was your first telegram.

the A Yes.

2049 Chairman: Then what happened on that?

A We had a demand on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, I think it was, for a hundred officers and a hundred men.

2050 Q What sort of reply did you receive - was it a grateful reply? Have you the phraseology.

A (After referring) No, I am afraid I have not got it. I think it was just a demand. About the same time we also authorised Egypt to receive Mesopotamian sick and wounded, and the Egyptian authorities telegraphed to the Commander-in-Chief offering him accommodation; and I remember that his reply was that he was very grateful.

2051 General Sir Neville Lytton: When was that?

the A That was the 13<sup>th</sup> February.

2052 Chairman: ~~Well~~ <sup>and</sup> from the date when you made that offer up to now; you have been very constantly requisitioned.

A Yes; and I have supplied everything they have asked for. I have got a standing arrangement with them. I send them 50 medical officers every month, whether

pro

they want them or not; it is for them to stop me when they have too many.

2053

I had you much difficulty in complying with these requisitions.

A I cannot say I had much difficulty, because ~~what~~ saved the situation was that we were always many months in advance of our own requirements, as we always have very large reserve stocks, for six months hence, upon which we are able to draw. We have some difficulty at times in complying with demands made upon us by the India Office for articles for India. I remember on one occasion we got a requisition from the India Office, the India Store Department, asking for 100,000 lbs weight of wool in one ounce and two ounce packets. I had it, and I gave it them instantly, but of course I dipped into my reserves very considerably, and accordingly we protested; we told the India Office, and I saw the Director of Stores myself, that in the India Office they ought to be setting up reserves for India, just as we were, for their various troops. What they were doing was, when they got a requisition from India, - I hope I do not misrepresent them, but I believe it to be the fact, - they proceeded to contract; and that of course takes a long time. And we had written to them from the War Office an official letter more or less begging them to have some provision, and to

provision

set

set up some reserve stores. Now I was obliged to refuse one <sup>requisition</sup> request, not for Mesopotamia, but for India, which the India Office in a similar way made upon me. They sent over one afternoon and asked for 5,000 clinical thermometers. I had them, but I did not send them because if I had sent them I should not have been able to comply with requisitions from various towns that might come to me at any time. This was for India, not Mesopotamia. If they had been for Mesopotamia, of course I should have cleared myself out.

2054 Sir Archibald Williamson: It was not intended for Mesopotamia in directty?

Alto; it was a demand made upon them for purposes of India generally.

2055 Chairman: I assume that the India Office Store Department did not requisition you until they heard from India.

A yes, I should think so.

2056 I So assuming it to be a just <sup>condition</sup> conclusion that these demands to be anticipated, these sudden very heavy demands, probably came from India because the wants had not been anticipated.

A yes, I should so read it. There was no necessity for telegraphing anticipations, - they could write them.

2057 Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: These great demands upon you, that you have just mentioned, came on when the war had been going on 14 or 15 months.

A yes. I have a paper here concerning those stores, but I am afraid I cannot give the date.

2058 2 It is near enough for me at all events <sup>that</sup> if the war had been going on for over a year.

A yes; I think it had been going on a very long time.

Earden & Bingham

17  
2059

Chairman: Now supposing you had been requisitioned earlier than February 1916, you probably would have been able to have complied with the demands made upon you

A: But I have complied with all the demands made upon me

2060

Q But you could probably have complied if the demands had been made considerably earlier than February

A Yes, I could have complied with any demands made upon me at any time since the beginning of the Mesopotamian Expedition for a certainty, out of my own stock. I should have had, of course, to hurry up my own reserves

2061

Q You give us some very instructive information on which I should just like to put this question to you. The Indian government offered you two Divisions coming from France without their medical equipment. Who was responsible for that. I assume it would be the Embarkation authority

A: Yes, the Embarkation authority. Assuming that the medical personnel of the Divisions was delivered at the port of embarkation it would be his business to put them into ships.

2062

Q: That came on afterwards, as you know, but it came on <sup>late</sup> ~~right~~ - at least this is the information before us

2063

Lord Hugh Cecil: Owing to the French Railway organization

2064

Witness: I do not know the details of that

2065

Chairman: Would you like to say anything on this page one and a half; it seems to me an enumeration of the assistance you gave in personnel

A I do not think I have anything to say about it. I have complied with all their demands for personnel. The only outstanding question with regard to personnel to day



to-day is that hearing that the general hospitals and stationary hospitals in Mesopotamia were being split up in order to provide boats on the Tigris, and assuming <sup>that</sup> it to be true, of which I have no certain knowledge, I thought it <sup>would be</sup> well to send them some smaller units which they might use, and I have offered them three field ambulances and a charging station. We sent a telegram to that effect some days ago but we have received no answer; and the day before yesterday we sent a telegram reminding them that we had offered these. Whether they wish to accept them or not I do not know, but I can send them if they require them.

Sir

For Mr. Simpson

1266 Sir Archibald Williamson To whom was that sent?

A To Mesopotamia.

1267 Q To the Commander in Chief.

A To the Commander in Chief in India.

1268 General Sir Neville Lytton: When was that?

A ~~About ten days~~ I should think about ten days <sup>ago</sup> we sent the first telegram. I heard that they were want of small units on the Tigris for posts which they might set up, and I offered them these three units in order to avoid the ~~order to~~ break up of their general and stationary hospitals which I was told that they were either doing or contemplating, and I thought it just as well to offer it. That is all so to speak, that I owe them and I do not owe it them because they did not ask for it.

1269 <sup>the</sup> Chairman: I do not know whether your attention has been called to the arrangements <sup>that have been made</sup> by which the War Office here became responsible for the general conduct of operations in Mesopotamia

A Yes, I saw some letters the other day which were ~~sent~~ <sup>sent</sup> written to the India Office in July

1270 Q Did you get any information as regards matters outside medical affairs from Mesopotamia

A Not officially, I <sup>get</sup> information <sup>had</sup> deni officially. I had a letter yesterday which I have copied for the Commission, together with some plans which they sent <sup>in</sup> which gives the condition of affairs up

1271 to date, and in my opinion it is very satisfactory if I might be allowed to hand it in

Q Certainly

A It is from the Director of Medical Services

1272 in Mesopotamia (standing in the same)

Sir Archibald Williamson who is the Director of Medical Services in Mesopotamia

A Surgeon General Treherne.

1273 Chairman: The Secretary will read the letter

The Secretary:

Basra

Signed: Walter Hodgson  
Northward & Sinder

F. L. 3 Bingham

"Basra, August 5<sup>th</sup>. My dear Sir Alfred. I have not written for some time to report progress, but matters have been gradually improving and at last I am beginning to see some useful changes. The whole country has been divided into several Medical Administrative areas which are illustrated in the accompanying chart. Sheikh Saad (since the departure of General Goringe) has been made the advance base. This has simplified matters considerably. I have appointed an A. D. M. S. here to control the Medical and Sanitary arrangements especially - the evacuation of sick and wounded, the Sanitation of the River Steamers - and while the Casualty Clearing Stations are there, the control of these - also control of the other medical units of this advanced base. Colonel Fell is the D. D. M. S. I of C and is doing most valuable work. Sick List. The number of sick is still over - whenning and 12000 men have been sent to India during July leaving about 17000 still in the various hospitals and ambulances. This sounds rather serious, with our nation's strength of about 142,000, but it is not so bad as it sounds. A large majority of these cases are of a minor nature and will return to duty soon while the climate is so debilitating and trying at this time of the year that convalescence is slow. In September I anticipate a considerable drop in the sick state. The number sent to India is large, but this is due to there not being sufficient beds at the base to accommodate all

19 the sick. It is, however, not a bad scheme to send the men to India; the sea voyage and rest in comfortable quarters cause the men to convalesce much more rapidly.

"Enteric Group. From 3<sup>rd</sup> May to 24<sup>th</sup> June, 400 suspected enteric group cases were notified, 75 per cent were paratyphoid A - 15 per cent paratyphoid B, and 10 per cent typhoid. You will note that the number of paratyphoid cases is large. This is due to our being so frightfully scientific. Some of the cases of course are severe but there is no outbreak of paratyphoid. The following is a typical chart of many cases" [Then follows the chart]

"I think I recognise the resemblance to many hundreds of charts seen in India, only ~~when~~ <sup>then</sup> we ~~are~~ <sup>were</sup> not clever enough to diagnose the cases as paratyphoid, but thought they were chiefly connected in some way with constipation associated with exposure to the hot sun and called it simple continued fever, a Heat Stroke. The number of Heat Stroke cases is large. I am afraid this is inevitable with a shade temperature varying from 105 to 116 and the work must be done. The arrangements here is to have several 'heatstroke huts' at various places. At each of these an Assistant Surgeon is posted with water, baths, ice and all appliances to revive the cases. A man is rushed off to the nearest of these directly he is affected. Many cases occur in hospital where even have malarial and other fevers, and their temperature suddenly runs up and causes insensibility. Every hospital is provided with a room to deal

with

with these cases and all day long the sponging too is carried on, and the work is very hard and tiring on the very hot days.

" Malaria There is not much malaria now outside the date palm groves. It is severe about Basra but there is very little at the front. I myself was attacked on the 26<sup>th</sup> June and unfortunately had to go to Hospital from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> July. [Hospital Accommodation]

The accommodation in the General Hospitals is not yet complete but

it is in steady progress and

we have weathered the worse period"

20

F.L. 3: Small

Mr. Stiebel parts

(Follows Mr. Hodgson)

1974 ~~was present~~ The Secretary You need not read the list, I think  
Do you not wish me to read the list?

1975 Lord Hugh Cecil: Is it figures  
Witness Yes: it is the number of beds

1976 Q The total is the only thing that seems to  
matter

A It is not total I am afraid

1977 Q We shall see it presently

A Yes

1978 The Secretary "Eventually Electric fans and  
lighting will be provided for all huts  
and houses. Most of the fans are in  
position but not all of them are yet  
working." Water Purification. On river <sup>steamers</sup> water  
Witness That is no doubt purification is  
The Secretary being carried out generally by  
passing steam into the tanks and then cooling  
the water in "diggies."

~~The Witness That is no doubt~~

The Secretary "Otherwise chlorination. 13 River  
Steamers have been fitted with the steam  
arrangement. The method of chlorinating drinking water  
by chlorine water which I advocated some years ago  
in India is being thoroughly carried out. But where  
the water supply is being centralised and a large  
number of tanks are collected together this method of  
obtaining sufficient supply of chlorine water is  
becoming difficult Hence we <sup>have</sup> established a differ-  
ent system at these centres. It is found that bleaching  
powder rapidly deteriorates, some tins are found to  
have 25 per cent - others perhaps only 5 per cent of  
free chlorine. It therefore is unreliable. In the Chemical  
Laboratory now the medical officer in charge opens  
each tin and estimates the quantity of free  
chlorine

chlorine present. Then he puts on a label indicating the amount of chlorine in each ounce. The tins are distributed and the Medical Officer in charge of the water supply knows how much bleaching powder should be added to the water, having first made a solution of the powder in a bottle." Then there is a list of the Sanitary Organisation which I will not

revery easily understandable. It is merely a list of where the people are and so on. ~~It is very difficult to follow, and it is very long~~

~~General Sir Neville Liffelton: We shall not~~

~~of epidemic disease up and down the line. The launch is for making quick surveys. The Barges is equipped on the front~~

for general clinical bacteriology and for research into diseases of enteric group and cholera at the front." The next heading is "Medical Statistical Branch (A.A.G. Base)." "A lack of accurate statistics of the incidence of diseases was in the past a great hindrance to sanitary action and general information. Great improvement has been made under Major Harney I.M.S. There is a reduction in the number of patients remaining undiagnosed during their stay in hospital. Dysentery, Scowry and enteric group diseases are reported very prevalent and yet the available statistics show only about 5 per cent, 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively of all patients in hospital, suffering from these diseases"

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1277

Sir Archibald Williamson Can you explain that <sup>is added</sup> ~~is a little~~ further. There are only those small percentages, but it is reported as being very prevalent

Witness Would you mind reading the paragraph again

~~The Secretary "A lack of accurate statistics of the incidence of diseases was in the past a great hindrance to sanitary action and general information. Great improvement has been made under Major Harway, I.M.S., there is a reduction in the number of patients remaining undiagnosed during their stay in Hospital. Dysentery scurvy and enteric group diseases are reported very prevalent and yet the available statistics show only 5 per cent, 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively of all patients in hospital as suffering from these diseases"~~

The witness:

The explanation is that with a battalion a man reports sick, and says he has <sup>bad</sup> diarrhoea, <sup>is passing blood and so on.</sup> That is, not ~~and so on~~ and it is diagnosed as dysentery. They say "We have a lot of dysentery in our battalion." The bacteriological examination at the hospital <sup>true</sup> proves that they are not dysentery cases at all <sup>with regard to enteric fever cases are</sup> ~~found that in their own~~ <sup>enteric</sup> ~~they are~~ found not to be dysentery cases. It is the result of more accurate diagnoses in the hospitals than you have in the battalions.

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge. Do the percentages refer to the total force

A Yes, I think so

1280

General Sir Neville Lytton. It sounds like a very serious mistake. You do not think that



it is

no I think not

1281 Sir Archibald Williamson What are the per-  
centages

The Secretary <sup>the statistics</sup> ~~show~~ <sup>only</sup> show about 5 per cent  
of all patients in hospital as suffering  
<sup>4 per cent and 3 percent respectively</sup> from dysentery, scurvy and enteric  
~~witness:~~ The means of cases sent down - 5 per-  
cent, 4 per cent and 3 per cent.

1282 Lord Hugh Cecil Of the total sick?

Yes

1283 Admiral Sir Byrrian Bridge <sup>not of</sup> the total force

1284 Commander Wedgwood Is not the whole point  
to base an argument to show the need of a  
Statistical Department.

Yes the want of accurate statistics

1285 The Secretary "Motor Launch Ambulance Convoy"

The nucleus of this Convoy is now at the front.  
4 Launches are at work between the Arab village  
(opposite Hannan position) and Sheikh Saad. The  
tent divisions of the field Ambulances generally  
will be based on the river and the river, especi-  
ally during the floods is the only means  
by which evacuation can take place. One  
M.I.A.C. to be composed of 15 Motor Launches  
capable of being divided into 3 units of 5  
launches each. Each unit to have a medical  
officer in charge of <sup>and</sup> each launch to  
have a reliable R.A.M.C. orderly in addition  
to the Engineer and crew. Each unit to

have a small tug with a mahala or

suitable vessel for carrying stores, petrol  
etc. Each launch to be 40' long,

(25) "I beam with shallow draught." 419

1286

~~Ambulance Transport~~  
Sir Archibald Williamson

Do I understand that they exist or are asked for  
witness: It does not say. It is the organisation he is setting up, I gather. I do not think that he has them. I think it is the organisation he proposes to establish when he gets them. He ~~should~~ <sup>may</sup> have some of them but I did not so read it

1287

The Secretary He has four Launches there are ultimately to be 15. Ambulance Transport. This is most complicated as so many other things are in this country. Since each division is equipped on a different scale.

XIII Division 10 Light Ambulance Wagons (Salonica Scale). III Division 6 Ambulance wagons (French Scale). VII Division 6 Ambulance wagons (French Scale). XIV Division 12 Ambulance Tongas (Indian Scale). XV, Ditts ditto. They are not yet complete but are <sup>gradually</sup> generally being made up to scale. These are in addition to the Ambulance Motor Cars I have asked for.

The Benares Ambulance Corps (presented by the Maharajah) has arrived with 20 Cavalry galloping ambulance Tongas (Colonel Jones pattern) with ponies. These Ambulance Tongas are a useful addition. X Ray apparatus. The following are at present with the Force.

- 1 at ~~at~~ No 3 B.G.H. Basra;
- 2 at ~~at~~ No 9. I.G.H. Basra.
- 3 at ~~at~~ No 33 B.G.H. Basra.
- 4 Being fitted on the mobile surgical Operating Steamer Ailee.
- 5 at ~~at~~ No 32 B.G.H. Amara.
- 6 at ~~at~~ No 2 B.G.H. Amara.
- 7 at ~~at~~ No 12. I.G.H. Amara.

Amara. 8<sup>at</sup> ~~LA~~ No 27 IGH. Amara.  
Medical Base Depot. This has been estab-  
 -lished at Basra under Major Moses I.M.S  
 for reinforcements of every rank British  
 and Indian for the Medical Services so as  
 to work independently of the General  
 Reinforcement Camp. Bowby Outfits.  
 The 5 outfits I wired for on 22<sup>nd</sup> May have  
 arrived and are being distributed.  
Special Sanitary Mission from Egypt. I have  
 received notice that Colonel Hunter heading  
 a Special Sanitary Mission is coming here.  
 I do not know Colonel Hunter but I am  
 sorry the Mission is coming. My Sanitary  
 Officers are doing good work under very  
 trying and difficult circumstances and  
 whatever sanitary improvements have taken  
 place and whatever improvements may occur  
 in the health of the troops in the future  
 will be ~~done~~<sup>due</sup> to their efforts, and not to  
 any new mission. The Sick list is expected  
 to fall automatically at the end of the  
 hot season and hence this will coincide  
 with the advent of the mission. I am  
 afraid the Mission might make the most  
 of this. I hope any anticipations may be  
 falsified in this respect and we will  
 obtain useful information from the new comers  
Hospital River Steamers. These have not  
 yet arrived. I am glad to say that the  
 evacuation by the P boats and barges  
 which has been put to the greatest possible  
 strain, has greatly improved and no great  
 hardships have to be endured by the Sick.

421

The River Sick Convoy unit at Shik Saad  
(which will be absorbed on the  
arrival of the hospital ships) is working  
satisfactorily in supplying the personnel  
for the boats. Complaints are occasionally  
made and if possible are rectified.  
Unfortunately many of these 'grouses'  
which are not justified, find their  
way to England. Many people I fear  
have forgotten the essence of ~~soldiering~~  
soldiering in living far away from  
civilization under rough and tumble  
conditions. Yours very sincerely

(sd) Francis H. Treherne

Chairman

Wheeler & Snell

123

1288 Chairman: Now that letter is satisfactory as far as it goes, Sir Alfred but what is your opinion on the condition of the hospitals and the medical conditions generally of Mesopotamia, do you think that they have much improved?

a I think they have. I think that the whole trouble, if I might prejudge the matter, is due to want of transport and has been from the very <sup>beginning and</sup> to nothing else

1289 2 There is a letter in yesterday's "Morning Post", I do not know whether you have seen it.

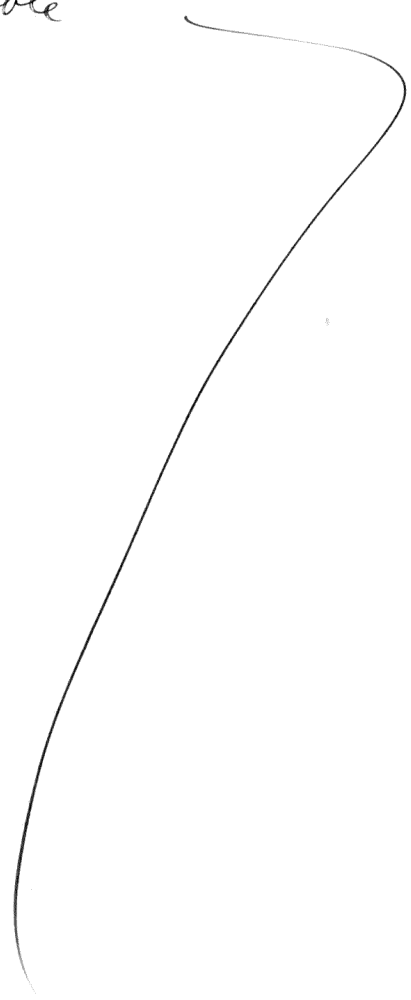
a No I have not

The letter was handed to the Witness

1290 2 It is an anonymous letter

a Well, assuming that it is true, it is very regrettable

~~Mr. Hodgson~~  
~~Mr. G. G. D. D.~~



Chair

Wheeler Snell

1291

Chairman: Despatching private communications have been received by different members of the Commission indicating that matters in certain hospitals are <sup>no sense improved</sup> in need of serious improvement. Have you any information on that point?

a No

1292 2 You therefore are not able to reassure us beyond the statement that there has been a large increase in the personnel and that <sup>improvements</sup> ~~measures~~ are pending if they have not actually taken place in the river transport.

a I feel perfectly certain that when sufficient transport is supplied things will change instantly. They will be able to get the material which these hospitals require. I can quite believe that the statement <sup>in the letter</sup> that men are lying on stretchers is true and if it is as bad as that I think the general medical arrangements must be very bad indeed. The fact of the matter is that in my opinion you will always be liable to this kind of thing on active service, especially in countries of this kind unless the medical service is charged with supplying everything necessary for the sick and wounded. I am strongly of that opinion and I have been <sup>that</sup> ~~strongly~~ for years and years. I believe we court disaster from time to time because we have to rely upon ~~other~~ people who are busy with other things. The Ordnance Department is very important indeed. It has to supply guns, munitions and so forth and these are trivial things in comparison. They are not trivial really, but to the Ordnance Department they are very trivial, while to us they are of the highest possible importance.

1293 2 You contend that if a Department has to provide certain articles and financial pressure is imposed upon it and it has <sup>in addition</sup> to provide ~~modify~~ a number of articles of secondary importance relating to another service, the secondary service will suffer a certainly

1294 2 and that, I suppose, has been your general experience a that invariably has been my experience

1295 2 <sup>Your experience has been that</sup> and whenever there is financial pressure the secondary service and secondary duties are cut down (invariably) a Invariably

1296 Commander Wedgwood: It was not solely <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ financial question that you were alluding to. It is not a financial difficulty so much as <sup>another kind of</sup> ~~a common sense~~ difficulty

a I do not wish the Commission to understand that I am at the present time or have been ever since I returned as Director General subjected to the least financial pressure; I have not

1297 <sup>the</sup> Chairman you are ~~going to~~ sending Sanitation Commission

a Yes; that Commission has gone. I ~~ought to explain~~ <sup>ought to explain</sup> what it is. As it has been mentioned in the letter that when we were dealing with the Dardanelles question and contemplating that Expedition I arranged to have a Sanitary Commission sent out to keep in touch with the Medical and other authorities there, and to advise them on Sanitation. They <sup>Commission</sup> consisted of eminent men each eminent in their <sup>his</sup> special branch of the work, and they have been <sup>succedingly</sup> especially useful to me in Egypt ~~and~~ in Gallipoli and Salonika and so on, when we began to be definitely responsible for

I thought that

Mesopotamia, ~~although~~ I had better ~~knowledge~~,  
 get first hand information, from <sup>this</sup> ~~the~~ expert body  
 as to sanitary conditions there and as to the  
 steps to be taken for remedying any defects, and I telegraphed to them  
 to go out. They were at that time at Salonika  
~~and~~ that is what he alludes to in that letter.  
 He has his own sanitary organization out  
 there which no doubt is quite efficient, ~~although~~  
 I thought that if I were responsible for the preservation of the  
 health of the troops in Mesopotamia, I ought  
 to get my own body to ~~read~~ <sup>give</sup> me first  
 hand and independent knowledge of what is  
 necessary. ~~and~~ They have been working elsewhere,  
~~they~~ <sup>they</sup> fear nobody and they will let me know  
 exactly the conditions.

1298

Q Chairman: When ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> you get the Report.

A I telegraphed four or five days ago. Although  
 I thought that I might have had something for the Commission  
 by now asked them as soon as possible to telegraph  
 an interim Report

1299

2 We ~~have been told~~ <sup>shall sit</sup> for some months <sup>and</sup> that it will  
 be very desirable to get Reports from the  
 Sanitation people

A They will send them in. I have voluminous  
 reports from them on the Eastern Mediterranean  
 Salonika ~~and~~ Gallipoli and so on ~~and~~ ~~we~~  
 doubt you have seen them. I only propose  
 that they should go there as a temporary  
 measure to advise me in the first place as  
 to what is wrong

1300

Lord Hugh Cecil: would they inspect the hospitals?

A Yes, from the sanitary side. They are only  
 Sanitary men

1301

Chairman What would be their status in Mesopotamia

and they



25  
1302

a They are delegated under authority from the War Office to report on Sanitary conditions

2 They have War Office authority behind them

a Yes

1303

2 If you will kindly pay attention to that point, we should like very much to have any material information relating to our Inquiry

a I will forward it to you

1304

2 ~~Even~~ By itself, even if it is not embodied in a Report, we should like it. Supposing for instance there is a <sup>rise or</sup> fall in the percentage of Sickness we should like to know it

a Certainly

1305

Mr Hodge: When did your Commission go out

a about three weeks ago. They were in the Eastern Mediterranean. They went from Salonika to Mesopotamia about three weeks ago.

1306

Lord Hugh Cecil: They are now in Mesopotamia?

a They must be by now

1307

2 You say "Sanitary". What would that cover as distinct from medical matters

a Food, clothing, housing - practically everything except treatment of the sick and wounded

1308

2 Provision of <sup>beds</sup> tents and equipment

a No

1309

Mr Hodge: Water supply

a water supply and everything bearing on the health of the troops. <sup>It would cover</sup> and whatever is inimical to the health of the troops

1310

Chairman would you be informed if troops were ~~not getting~~ <sup>getting</sup> full rations

a Yes; it is most important.

1311

Lord Hugh Cecil: It would ~~not~~ <sup>it</sup> cover such a thing as a hospital having nothing but a mud floor

A nothing but a mud floor ; that would  
be dragged in included

1312 Q It goes further than the sick. It deals with ~~that~~  
question whether people who are quite well have blankets for instance

A: ~~It considers whether people who are quite well~~  
~~have~~ Everything bearing on the <sup>health of the troops,</sup> ~~for instance~~ ~~that~~

<sup>that</sup> is the primary duty; that is the great thing

1313 Q You have nothing to do with nobody who  
will report to you on the medical side as  
a sort of inspector

A No

1314 General Sir Neville Lytton: The state of barracks,  
fents and camping grounds would be dealt with

All that.

1 f Some years ago I established an Army Sanitary Organisation, a part of which was the formation of a Sanitary Committee which should go to ~~the~~ War with the Army inspecting constantly sending in reports and keeping their eyes on the preservation of the health of the troops generally.

When I ~~arrived at~~ <sup>left</sup> the War office a considerable difference was made in <sup>the</sup> ~~that~~ organisation and I found that the Sanitary Committee was not an integral part of the force. I found the Sanitary Committee not in existence <sup>when I returned</sup> in any regiment and I asked <sup>Lord Kitchener</sup> ~~originally~~ to re-establish it. I re-established one for France which has been working ever since and ~~that~~ <sup>when</sup> the Gallipoli question arose I established one for that. They have been working in the Eastern Mediterranean Gallipoli, Salonika,

and in Egypt ever since the operations began they have had a great deal of experience in these things matters now. I sent them to Mesopotamia to inform me of the condition of things when I began to be responsible generally. Up to this time I have been simply supplying <sup>Mesopotamia</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> Army with the Articles asked for but there is more direct responsibility now and I want ~~clear~~ <sup>definite</sup> information as to the conditions. Up to now we have been speaking about personnel ~~personally~~. I do not know whether you are going to take me over the sanitation post.

1315 Chairman You get no direct reports from the Chief Medical officer in Mesopotamia

1 No. He is under the Commander-in-Chief

1316 General Sir Neville Lyttelton Is he an Indian Officer  
1 No. ~~He~~ He belongs to the British Army

1317 Chairman: Do you think it a satisfactory arrangement that the whole of the communications should go through the Commander in Chief and not direct

A: No. I think that every Director of Medical Service in the field ought to be in direct communication with me

1318

Q. Let us follow the process. Supposing that things are not right; supposing ~~that~~ the Chief Medical Officer reports on them does that go to the Commander in Chief at Simla?

A. He does not report to the Commander in Chief at Simla; he reports to the Commander in Chief in the Field

1319

Q. And who would probably make a report that might not be received for a long time

A. I might not get it all

1320

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: It would be practicable I suppose to carry out your suggestion by reporting to the Commander in Chief in the usual way as I presume must be done, a copy of the report being sent to yourself.

A: Yes

1321

Commander Wedgwood: In that case possibly each party might think that the other would deal with it, and might pigeon-hole it

1322

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge: What I put to you is not altogether unknown - certainly it is not in the Naval service

A: It is not provided for

1323

Lord Hugh Cecil: Would it be possible to take over the whole control of the medical side of the Expedition in London and work it entirely from England or would that be impossible

A: I think that would be impossible. The D.M.S.

must be responsible for ~~the first~~ <sup>his</sup> part of it.  
~~It is impossible now~~

1324

2 I did not mean ~~to~~ to eliminate the D. M. S.  
Would it be possible for him to ~~work~~ to work under  
you or under the War office in London and  
eliminate India altogether

It certainly. We have arranged, and quite properly I  
think, to supply whatever India cannot supply.  
She appeals to India in the first place for his  
requirements ~~in~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~regardless of~~ other Departments do the  
same and the War office supplies whatever India  
cannot supply. You must remember that I am  
quite prepared to supply everything to Mesopotamia

1325

2 Direct

Direct - every single thing

1326

General of Donoughmore It is a very small per centage

1327

~~The~~ <sup>Very</sup> Chairman <sup>with regard to</sup> France, do you supply direct the wants  
of the Indian Contingent

Yes, everything - everything that <sup>comes under me</sup> I supply I mean  
Commander Wedgwood I <sup>more economical for us</sup> <sup>at present</sup> <sup>if possible</sup>

1328

to get certain things out of India  
I should think it is. I do not for a moment  
say that the present system is not a good  
system as regards supply but it is not right  
that the Director General in London should not  
be aware of every single thing that is happening  
to the Forces in Mesopotamia if <sup>the</sup> Director General  
has any responsibility connected with it. If he  
has nothing to do with it then ~~he~~ <sup>he</sup> does  
not <sup>matter</sup> ~~care~~ of course

1329

Chairman and all the expenditure is practically  
defrayed from the Imperial Revenue

~~Commander Wedgwood all expenditure is defrayed~~

10

from Imperial become  
~~whether~~ <sup>whether</sup> the supplies <sup>bought in</sup> ~~are from~~ India or  
 at ~~some~~ <sup>some</sup> ~~place~~  
 Yes

27

1330 2 Everything in excess of the normal  
 Yes

1331 Earl of Darnley The reason for bringing in India  
 at all is that ~~regard~~ <sup>it is</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>within</sup> a week of the  
 base

Yes, and I think it an excellent arrangement with  
 regard to supply. Such a case supply in a very  
 short time but it takes us at least 6 weeks

1332 Lord Hugh Cecil There would be another officer under  
 you in India if the whole control were in  
 your hands, who would be in constant  
 communication with you. It would not make any  
 difference to the place where the drugs were  
 ultimately bought or required

A That part of it is quite right but I should  
 know whether there is a deficiency of anything,  
 whether it is being met by ~~all~~ ~~the~~ other depart-  
 ments, whether ~~it~~ <sup>he</sup> is supplied with all he wants  
 or whether he has any difficulties. I should know  
 all that but I do not know, he has to get over  
 the difficulties at best he may. There is no  
 medical authority superior to his own and he has  
 no means of letting the medical people know  
 whether he is being treated fairly or unfairly  
 The remedy is to hand over everything connected  
 with the sick and wounded to the medical  
 branch of the Army - everything

1333

Sir Archibald Williamson Including transport  
 & Everything

1374

Earl of Donoughmore Once a man is hit he ~~is~~ <sup>would be</sup> handed over to you and it <sup>would be</sup> your business to see to him

Yes. Transport for medical purposes is not to be used for other purposes under the Geneva and Hague Conventions. We ought to be responsible for beds and everything. You will find it very difficult to get anyone to agree about that

1335-

Let Archibald Williamson take <sup>the question of</sup> water: you have a camp and some of the people are all right and some are sick. Would you suggest that you should supply water for the sick and others. <sup>should</sup> supply it for those in health

No. The supply of water is a matter for the engineers and purification is for us. We are now dealing ~~very liberally~~ with the purification of water in Mesopotamia. We are building four very large barges for water purification. We have been supplying France for a long time. These are very nearly completed and will soon be sent out

1336

I see they in England

Yes. I think <sup>that</sup> the members of the Commission might see them

1337

Lord Robert <sup>Hugh</sup> Cecil Some officers must determine in what order the transport is to go for example up a river - whether a particular ship shall go at a particular time

Yes ~~if~~

1338

If ~~if~~ the medical authorities were supreme over their own supplies would not there be a tendency for the transport authorities <sup>to put</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>keep</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~officers~~ <sup>to</sup> ~~find~~ <sup>find</sup> the medical body <sup>to</sup> ~~be~~ <sup>put</sup> ~~always~~ <sup>always</sup> behind the Munition boat

I would make the medical people supply their own

1374

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If ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> medical authorities were supreme over their own supplies would not there be a tendency for the Transport <sup>authorities</sup> to ~~put~~ <sup>put</sup> ~~keep~~ <sup>keep</sup> the medical body ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> boat always behind the Munition boat

1338

I would make the medical people supply their <sup>own</sup>



28  
SE. 26  
1339

own boats and so on, but the order in which the boats <sup>should</sup> be dispatched from ~~place~~ up a river must rest with the transport authorities

2 Would not there be a danger of the transport authorities regarding the medical service as independent and distinct, <sup>and</sup> treating it badly in the order of starting the boats

1340 A They always do that now  
Commander Wedgwood It is the same <sup>as in the case of</sup> ~~with~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~travelling~~  
Company

1341 A Yes nobody cares  
General Sir Neville Lytton It depends upon what orders the Commander in Chief <sup>would</sup> ~~give~~ <sup>give</sup>. If he <sup>were</sup> ~~said~~ <sup>said</sup> that the medical authorities <sup>were</sup> ~~are~~ to be attended to first they would be

1342 A But he does not  
Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge The Commander-in-Chief must come in

A Yes. Instead of the Ordnance supplying beds blankets, sheets and coats and so on, the medical people <sup>should do</sup> ~~are doing~~ it just as they supply drugs, instruments and dressings.

1343 Earl of Donoughmore These things have the red cross on them and cannot be used for anything else  
A No

~~And you see what interference~~  
~~is there~~

1344 A Sir Archibald Williamson: With regard to food <sup>what have you to say</sup> <sup>2</sup>  
A That is admirably seen to by the Army Service Corps

1345 Chairman Do the medical officers in responsible positions in Mesopotamia belong to India  
A India and Britain. Surgeon General Treloar belongs to the British Service

1346

Q Who is the head medical man in Mesopotamia  
A Surgeon General Doherty

1347

Q He is under the Indian ~~Director~~ Medical Director  
General?

A He is under the Director of medical services in  
India, not the Director General. It is perhaps  
wrong to say that he is under the Director of  
Medical services in India. The whole of the  
Expedition in Mesopotamia is under the Commander  
in chief in India, the Commander in chief <sup>in India</sup> being  
responsible to the Army Council. The Commander in  
Chief in India is advised by the Director of  
Medical services on all medical matters. The  
Commander in Chief in Mesopotamia is advised by  
the Director of medical services in Mesopotamia.  
The War office is taking over the Mesopotamian  
Expedition, and a change is going to be made  
so the Commander in Chief in India gets his  
instructions from the ~~Command~~ Army Council the  
Adjutant General in Mesopotamia will be the  
head of the Medical Department in Mesopotamia  
in the future

1348

Coal of Duvourmore The English system will come in  
there

A The English system will come in. ~~There~~ <sup>mentioned</sup>

1349

Chairman: There are two Surgeon Generals <sup>mentioned</sup> in this  
Report. ~~He~~ <sup>Surgeon-General Hathaway and Surgeon-General Baptie</sup> they employed ~~by~~ <sup>the</sup> War Office  
A Yes. Surgeon General Hathaway <sup>of the Western Command</sup> is now  
the D.G.M.S. ~~to a certain extent~~ <sup>in</sup> ~~command~~ in  
England and Wales and Sir William Baptie  
is inspecting for me in England. He inspects  
various ~~scattered~~ camps and hospitals especially ~~conspicuous~~  
~~especially~~ connected with recruiting and invaliding  
and so on.

29

435

1350

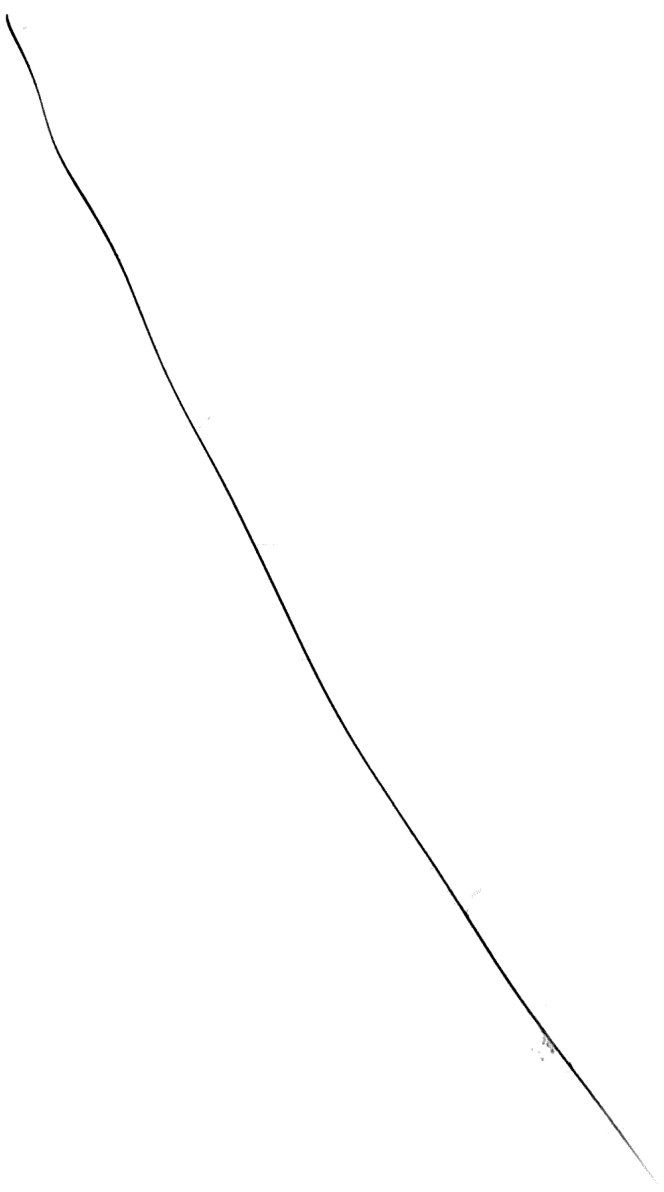
2 Have you discussed at all the Mediterranean Commission with Sir William Baptye.

A Yes, considerably and with Surgeon-General Hathaway ~~from~~ ~~him~~ ~~very~~ slightly.

1357

Carolof Doughmore <sup>Sir William Baptye</sup> ~~he~~ came home ~~for~~ very early

A I asked the Commandant in chief to let me have him for the Eastern Mediterranean <sup>when</sup> the Gallipoli troubles <sup>were on</sup>. He has been out of England for 15 or 16 months



Chaplin

Admiral

Wheeler & Snel

1352

Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge is Surgeon General Macneice  
in England?

a He is at home

1353

Lord Hugh Cecil: Surgeon General Macdonald<sup>(?)</sup>.

a He is in India. <sup>Both had just gone to India before</sup> <sup>two or three months when</sup> <sup>before</sup> the War broke out.  
He was D. M. S. I asked the Commander in Chief  
to let me leave him for the Eastern Mediterranean  
because I wanted him there. we had three separate  
commands - Egypt, a separate command; Malta,  
a separate <sup>command,</sup> and Gallipoli. a separate <sup>command.</sup>  
I wanted the three medical systems co-ordinated,  
~~and I handed him over that field.~~

1354

Earl of Donoughmore: <sup>He is</sup> Chief of the three

a Yes. we call him the P. D. M. S - the principal  
Director

1355

Chairman: ~~Do you think that~~ <sup>Both</sup> those gentlemen ~~you~~  
mention are censured in this Report

a Yes.

~~I look at the second sentence of 177.~~

When he came home I sent out Surgeon General  
Macneice to succeed him. <sup>Surgeon General</sup> Macneice  
was invalided from India ~~they are~~ and

then I got Surgeon General <sup>Macdonald(?)</sup> ~~Donnell~~ from  
France to go out as D. M. S.

1356

Lord Hugh Cecil: He is in India now

a Yes

1357

Chairman: You appointed <sup>Surgeon General</sup> Macneice you say.

a ~~Yes. It was a separate service.~~ He succeeded  
<sup>Baptie.</sup> Surgeon General. We appointed him with the concurrence  
of the India Office.

1358

Q Are all these three medical officers on the  
English establishment

a Yes

30

1359

Lord Hugh Cecil When you speak of the D. M. S. in India, you always mean the <sup>official</sup> ~~officers~~ on the British Establishment appointed by you at Mys, and the India Office.

1360

Sir Archibald Williamson: You recommend, and the India Office appoint?

~~at the consent.~~

1361

Lord Hugh Cecil: Substantially the appointment lies with the War Office

a Yes, substantially

1362

Earl of Donoughmore: I do not know if ~~this~~ is a fair question to ask: From the statement you have put in, and what you have told us, obviously you have been very busy in supplying the personnel for Mesopotamia. Have you felt justified in forming any opinion as to whether those increases have been necessitated by deficiencies, so to speak, before you took over, or solely by the fact that the force in Mesopotamia has been always growing, and the medical provisions ~~have~~ <sup>has</sup> had to increase pari passu with what we may call the military provisions.

a I cannot say that I have considered the matter at all carefully, but my impression has been that these things have been necessitated because of the growth of the force which was originally a very small force, ~~if~~ <sup>if</sup> I remember rightly. It has grown to the size mentioned just now in that letter.

1363

2 It has been growing all this year

a It has been growing

1364

2 You have not been forced to catch up deficiencies which you found when you took over.

a No, not that I am aware of.

1365

Admiral Sir Appun Bridge: Are the deficiencies to a ~~large~~<sup>great</sup> extent due to the absence of reserves of medical stores in India? I mean directly they ~~attempted~~<sup>began</sup> to increase the force did they exhaust all the reserves they had.

a I fancy it must be so; otherwise I do not quite understand how it comes that these enormous demands are sent in <sup>by telegram</sup> ~~in September~~ <sup>from</sup> India ~~and~~<sup>or</sup> why the India Office sends a ~~pressing message~~<sup>special messenger</sup> with a letter by hand asking us for enormous quantities of stores.

1366

2 If they started with insufficient reserves it would account for a good deal for the want of articles that has been experienced in Mesopotamia. That seems to me to be a bottom fact. ©

a I do not know how true it is, but I always understood that there was never any deficiency of drugs, instruments or dressings at Basra, but that there was grave deficiency up the river, and they could not be obtained. I do not know whether that is true or not. I understood that there were ample supplies <sup>of material</sup> at Basra.

1367

I've ought to find that out. It would be possible? a I ought to be possible to find out what they had at Basra from their books, at any given date. There ought to be no difficulty about getting the books of the Stores Depot to show from day to day what they had.

8. 1368

General Sir Neville Lytton: ~~It is~~<sup>Does</sup> not the fact that they went for a year without applying to you to make up stores, indicate that they had a certain reserve and used it up

a Yes I should father so. As a matter of fact with the exception of these large and startling demands

the Indian Store Department has been supplying India all the time, and Mesopotamia. We have given them ~~a~~ a good deal, but only a tithe of what they use.

31

1369

Sir Archibald Williamson: Does the Indian Department go on buying goods for Mesopotamia.

- a They buy goods for India
- 2 And for Mesopotamia

1370

a not especially. We are only called on by India to supply when India herself cannot supply. The medical Store Department and the India Office supply India <sup>supplies Mesopotamia</sup> and when she runs out she asks us.

1371

- 2 When buying a lot of <sup>the same</sup> ~~some~~ stores for ~~and even~~ would it not be a good thing to buy <sup>through</sup> ~~from~~ one <sup>source</sup> ~~hand~~ instead of <sup>through</sup> ~~from~~ two sources.

a I think so. The Indian system has been entirely separate

1372

- 2 If you ~~cannot~~ go into <sup>the</sup> market for chloroform for instance, and the India Office goes into the market for chloroform, you <sup>may</sup> ~~ought~~ be ~~bidder~~ <sup>buying</sup> against each other

a I do not know <sup>whether we buy against each other</sup> ~~whether we buy against each other~~.

I do not know ~~how the Indian Store Department use the contracts.~~ The position under the contracts.

9

x

1373

Earl of Doroughmore: <sup>with regard to the India Stores Department.</sup> Have you heard any rumours of shortage of ~~some~~ Sun helmets in Mesopotamia

a no

1374

- 2 I only put it to you because it has been rumoured in the press. Now I gathered from what you stated about the sanitary conditions that diet would come under your purview

a certainly

1375

- 2 Is there any selection of tropical diet as is

I may call it, as opposed to home diet. ~~But~~  
 We hear that ~~of~~ bully beef is still the staple ration  
 in Mesopotamia. Is that so

Q Certainly, up the river

1376

2 Is that desirable in your opinion

A ~~No~~ It would be better to give them an abundance  
 of vegetables. People in India <sup>and hot climates</sup> ~~can eat~~ ~~clams~~

~~Europeans~~ eat a very considerable amount of  
 meat

1377

2 Europeans

A Yes. The soldier does

1378

2 ~~Is~~ Is it good for him

A It is good for him, especially on active service.  
 I regard the question of the food of troops on  
 active service as far more important than  
 the question of Sanitation or chlorination  
 of water or anything else. If you feed an army  
 well it will not get sick, but if you do not  
 feed it it will. It does not matter what you do  
 about inoculation, sanitation or anything else,  
 it will go sick if it is not fed well. I am  
 accustomed to say that I look on the Army  
 Service Corps as the real sanitary officers  
 of the Army. All our troops are well in France,  
 partly on account of the efficient inoculation  
 and partly on account of the very fine sanitary  
 system, but mainly because they are extremely  
 well fed. I always get alarmed when I hear  
 of any attempt to cut down soldiers' rations,  
 even if there may be a case made out  
 with regard to waste

1379

2 The Army Service Corps supply but are you  
 not concerned with what is supplied. For  
 instance are you asked whether bully beef is



a good thing for the soldiers or not

Q If any question about ~~the~~ soldier's rations comes up for consideration it is sent to me, and we consider the constituents <sup>of the</sup> ration and so forth. We have been doing that lately with regard to the Mesopotamia ration.

32

1380

Q I wanted to know that. There has been discussion in respect of whether the inexorable law that the soldier must have meat once a day is wise or not in a place like Mesopotamia.

A ~~It may~~ <sup>He should</sup> have <sup>meat</sup> ~~improved~~. Of course it would be very much better to have fresh meat instead of constant bully beef, of which they get very tired. They often do not eat it and therefore go without food.

1381

Q It is healthy even in such a climate

A Yes. In the very hot weather with that ~~comparatively high~~ <sup>highly</sup> temperature there is a nasty gummy liquid, and it is not very appetising.

1382

Admiral Sir Cyrrian Bridge: But it is quite healthy

A Yes. I am told that it becomes very liquid in the tin in Mesopotamia, and it is not appetising when you keep on having it.

"

1383

Earl of Donoughmore: Do the figures with regard to the health of the troops strike you as abnormally ~~high~~

A Yes, in Mesopotamia. They telegraph periodically their reports. I will give you the figures

1384

Q We should like those

A The telegrams that I get are the same as I get from all the fronts, of the preventable diseases like dysentery, typhoid, cholera and so forth. I get the number of vacant beds and so on.

1385

Q Can you let us have them

a Yes I can let the Commission have those. I have only lately begun to get them from Mesopotamia

1386

Chairman If you would arrange to give us the total number on the books we should be obliged

1387

a I can arrange to give the figures that I have  
Lord Hugh Cecil: The number of men, the number of beds and the percentage of sick people.

a I do not know whether I can give you the percentage of sick people, because we do not know the strength from day to day.

1388

Chairman: If you would give us the numbers we can work it out for ourselves

a The information I get by telegram is the same as I get from all fronts, and I can give you that.

1389

Lord Hugh Cecil: The number of men and the number of hospital beds.

a I can arrange ~~with~~ that in future that shall <sup>be telegraphed</sup> with the other information, certainly.

1390

2 You have spoken of the Regulations. What are the Regulations that govern these matters

12

a In India there is a very large volume of Medical Regulations, and there are many volumes of Army Regulations in India - ten or twelve volumes. They state amongst other things, that you

1391

2 shall have all <sup>the</sup> medical services and so on.

a Yes. In our own Army at home we have a book called "War Establishments". It gives the medical establishments amongst all other establishments

1392

2 Is there efficient equipment no equivalent book

in India  
a <sup>I should think there</sup> There must be a War Establishments book

in India but I would not be quite certain about that

33

1393

The Secretary: We have it.

1394

Lord Hugh Cecil: You told us that there were Indian medical stores in this country

a Yes. There is an Indian Medical Store Department and an Indian Stores Department for all stores, not only medical stores.

1395

2 On the face of it that sounds like duplication. Why is it necessary to have Indian stores in England as well as in India.

a The people here are the people who purchase and send out the stores

1396

2 They are the agents of ~~the~~ Indian Government really

a They are agents of the Indian Government

1397

2 In respect of these despatching reports that are still <sup>current,</sup> ~~coming~~ is it in your power to take any steps to find out how much truth there is in such reports.

13

a Yes; I could send telegrams, and I have done so from time to time. When reports come to me I ask whether they are true or not. A little while ago I was told by an organization in London <sup>that</sup> ~~of~~ the Hospitals at Kurrachee in India were disgraceful. We telegraphed to the Commander in Chief and received an answer from him to say that the Hospitals in Kurrachee were very good. We can always ask whether it is a fact that at these places these things are happening

1398

2 There is no official in the nature of an Inspector General in Mesopotamia whose only duty it is to go about and see how things are going on, and report to you

a No

1399

2 That has never been the practice

22

a No, never

1400

2 It would seem to be rather a convenient arrangement to have somebody whose business it is not to do things but to see that other people are doing them

a It is a very difficult question. One might say a very great deal about the relation of the medical Service to the rest of the Army. <sup>Many</sup> ~~a few~~ years ago Lord Herbert of Lea after the Crimean War placed the medical Department of the Army in an inspectorial position. He decided that the Director General of the Army Medical Services ~~but outside of the other~~ <sup>should</sup> ~~give~~ <sup>report</sup> annually ~~report~~ to Parliament direct, even though there is a Commander-in-Chief. That went on for many many years, but that has ceased. He used to report direct to Parliament ~~that~~ <sup>on</sup> everything connected with the Army, and was ~~directly~~ <sup>directly</sup> responsible to the Secretary of State for War, and was responsible ~~directly~~ <sup>direct</sup> to Parliament for the care of the sick and wounded, and for the health of the Army. That has all been abolished by the Esher, Fisher and Clark Report on the Reorganization of the War Office and the position of Director General is a totally different position now, and <sup>so is his</sup> ~~is~~ the first Department ~~is~~ necessarily all through. <sup>fundamentally</sup>

1401

2 Without going ~~for the moment~~ <sup>into</sup> it, is it possible to have what has been done temporarily done permanently; That is to say somebody whose function is merely inspectorial ~~and~~ to report

a: to you. He should report the Quartermaster General if there are not beds and blankets, and if there is not food. He should report to me <sup>on</sup> ~~of~~ drugs ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~not~~ <sup>dressings</sup> and instruments and ~~personnel~~ <sup>if there</sup> ~~that is to~~ ~~say~~ ~~the~~ ~~Quartermaster~~ ~~General~~ ~~who~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ no beds and blankets, <sup>it</sup> ~~is~~ no food telling me there are none. I have no power to remedy these

1402

things to there  
 2 Whoever he reported to might be a person whose business it was to ~~report~~ inspect and report  
 a He ought to report to the Commander in Chief of the Forces.

1403

2 The people actually occupied in carrying out administration may <sup>be so</sup> ~~keep~~ occupied that they cannot ~~have~~ think ahead, or <sup>they may get accustomed to</sup> ~~cannot have a particular~~ defects, to which they may get accustomed. You want a fresh eye very often.

a Yes

1404

2 There is no provision for that  
 a No. We have in England at the present time in connection with the very large amount of ~~work~~ work we are doing a very large number of Inspectors going round ~~at the present time~~.

1405

2 But not in France or Egypt for instance.

a No

15

1406

Commander Wedgwood: <sup>Babbie is</sup> Sir John ~~Babbie~~ inspecting

a Yes. We are coming constantly across difficulties and troubles and I send him off to inquire into them, and the recruiting question is constantly being inspected and there is a lot of work of that kind

1407

Mr Lodge: would it not be well to send out an Inspector to Mesopotamia to see how things are, if you had the power.

a <sup>want to</sup> I ~~will~~ make myself clear about that. I could send out an Inspector to Mesopotamia to tell me whether they have enough drugs, instruments, doctors, dressings and nurses; but <sup>I have</sup> nothing to do with whether they have blankets or sheets. That is for the Quarter Master General.

Wheeler

Lord

1408 Lord Hugh Cecil Although they are ~~for~~ <sup>for</sup> hospitals  
 & Gen. I want you to understand the position  
 1409 Chairman You want somebody with power to report  
 all round

a It is no good telling the Quartermaster General  
 that there are no nurses in a hospital and  
 it is no use coming to me and telling me there are  
 no beds.

1410 Mr Hodge A private letter came to you which  
 alarmed you and on your own <sup>initiative</sup> ~~the Commander~~  
 in chief <sup>you took</sup> ~~to take~~ certain action with a view of  
 remedying matters ~~you took certain action with~~  
~~a view of remedying matters.~~ Could you not go  
 a step further by sending out some one as an  
 inspector to find out what the condition of the  
 hospitals is, and to make a general report to  
 you with a view of allaying the ~~general~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~worry~~  
 in this country, ~~is~~ the feeling that things are  
 little, <sup>if anything,</sup> better than they were

a It would be for the Army Council to send  
 somebody out to ~~see~~ report on the work of  
 the Medical Branch, the Quartermaster  
 General's Branch, ~~the~~ Pay Branch, the Ordnance  
 Branch and the whole thing. My telegram  
 to the Commander in chief was "We are  
 fully prepared to afford <sup>you</sup> ~~him~~ every assistance  
 with medical supplies <sup>and establishments for</sup> ~~to~~ ~~supply~~ in Mesopotamia."  
 I only offered him what I could give -  
 medical supplies and establishments

1411 2 That is not quite the point. ~~Have you come~~  
~~to the conclusion that~~ <sup>At the present moment</sup> there is a feeling of  
 all over this country that things in Mesopotamia are  
 really <sup>little</sup> ~~if anything~~ better than <sup>they were</sup> formerly. It would  
 not be within your province to send

35  
 A somebody out generally to enquire as to that?  
 A No it would not. It would be for the Army Council to do that. ~~I think that it would~~  
 I do not for a moment suggest that ~~be a very good thing to do~~  
 I do not think so, <sup>but it</sup> is not for me to do it.

1412

Q I quite understand  
 + I could get information as to whether there are enough doctors, are you commissioned officers, ~~of~~ ~~the~~ Nurses and Dressings

1413

Q Could you ask the Sanitary Commission that you have sent out about it.

A I telegraphed to them a few days ago to send an interim report as soon as possible by cable. They only go into questions connected with the preservation of the health of the men. They do not meet all your points

1414

Q But they can give you valuable information

A Certainly; their report will be very valuable.

1415

Commander Hedgwood: You have read the Vincent Bingley Report

A I have

1416

Q They make certain recommendations in sections 59 and 60. Have you any knowledge whether those recommendations have been paid any attention to

A May I look at the Report (The Report was handed to the witness). A little while ago we had a meeting at the War Office with the Secretary of State for War about the provision of transport, and it was there stated that nothing could be <sup>supplied</sup> settled in the way of transport till the end of October, and ~~with~~ <sup>that</sup> the big steamers that are being built

could not be supplied  
 built / you may have a supply for six months  
 That meeting was held about a month ago:  
 Actually in Mesopotamia, at that time, there  
 was one hospital steamer, the "Sik King", and there  
 were ~~200~~ three undergoing repairs. There were four  
 ordered by the India Office, and now building,  
 and six ordered by the War Office and now  
 building. We were informed at that meeting  
 that those boats could not be supplied for  
 six months.

1417 Lord Robert <sup>Hugh</sup> Cecil All the boats?

1418 Sir Archibald Williamson: Being built on this side

On this side

1419 Commander Wedgwood None are being built in India  
 No, I think not. They are building at home.  
 Certain small craft Seine boats, Thames  
 boats and boats from America and barges,  
 we were told could not be got out there  
 before the end of October. They might be  
 got to Aden but could not be sent from  
 Aden to Basra during the Monsoon  
 because they would sink. 50 have already  
 sunk going from India. I have always  
 understood that the defects cannot be  
 completely remedied in Mesopotamia until these  
 boats go out, and therefore we must not  
 look for any very great improvement until  
 the end of October

1420 Mr Hodge. Had not we in this country  
 hundreds of flat bottomed boats that might  
 have been sent out for river purposes

A That I do not know

1421 Commander Wedgwood Do you think that any of  
 the



the recommendations of the Vincent Bingley Report have been attended to at all in India

36

1 I do not know

1422

2 In view of the Commander in Chief's Minute ~~on it~~ <sup>it</sup> does not sound <sup>or seem</sup> as if they had paid much attention to the Report

a No, I should think not

1423

2 It was drawn up for the benefit of the Indian Government, not for the benefit of the Government here.

1 Dube. It was a pity that there was no Dodge or that Commission. They made one or two errors. For instance they speak of paucity of doctors in the hospitals and they give three or four instances, but I do not think there is a paucity except in one case where it must have been very hard work. They have <sup>mistaken</sup> ~~estimated~~ the difference between actual establishment and authorized establishment. For instance they <sup>speak of</sup> ~~say~~ <sup>of</sup> ~~an~~ <sup>an</sup> independent general hospital for 1000 patients with 15 medical officers and 19 medical subordinates ~~the assistant surgeons with 19 sub-assistant surgeons~~ instead of 22 and 40 respectively. That looks like a tremendous shortage. It is assumed that ~~very weak~~ <sup>that</sup> 1000 beds require

22 medical officers and 40 subordinates but that is not the case. 22 medical officers and 40 subordinates for 1000 beds would be vastly in excess of the requirements I should think in India as at Home. At Home we keep our reserves in the hospitals. The establishment is not the establishment you require for the number of patients

22

for

for which the hospital is designed. The establishment allows you to extend the hospital from 1000 <sup>beds</sup> to 2000 and it allows you to send out people from the hospital to battalions replace casualties. Take for instance France. That is neat and therefore the difficulty is not so great as at a distance. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> July in the first six weeks <sup>of the</sup> push we had 750 casualties amongst doctors killed and wounded - Battalions cannot go without medical officers for 24 hours; they have to be instantly supplied.

These were all regimental ~~men~~ medical officers and medical officers with field ambulances. They are supplied from the excess establishments of the hospitals. When the thousand bedded hospital was sent out or ought to have been sent out with 22 and 40 respectively the large numbers were not for treating the sick. ~~The reinforcements are in the hospitals.~~  
 It goes on: "On the 15<sup>th</sup> June the British General Hospital had 635 sick with 6 Medical Officers and 8 Assistant surgeons instead of 7 and 10 respectively" (I do not consider this insufficient) "The Indian General Hospital had 1671 sick and wounded with 13 medical officers and one assistant surgeon with 19 Assistant Surgeons". That is ample. It is very well supplied indeed. They ought to have had 7 and 10. They say that that is a grievance but it is not a grievance. A medical man would have put them right about that. They did not understand

with Admiral Sir Cyprus Bridge were the higher figures  
 28 78 general to