

**Typescript copy of an article in The Times, 8 November 1898, re training and recruitment in the Army Medical Service**

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Extract from "The Times" of 8th Nov., 1898.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has addressed a memorial to the Secretary of State for War stating that the college, wishing to encourage its licentiates to regard the Army Medical Service more favourably than they have done in recent years, has had under consideration the regulations for admission to the service, and, after discussion at a meeting of fellows of the college, has committed to the president and council the duty of respectfully bringing to his lordship's notice its opinion in regard to certain changes which it deems necessary. First, in regard to the conditions of admission to the service the present regulations for the competitive examination do not appear well adapted to secure the best men. Too much importance seems to be given to the elementary subjects, and too little to the practical and clinical work which now occupy the latter years of professional study. It is therefore urged that the compulsory part of the competitive examination should be limited to those subjects with which the student is mainly concerned in his last two years of study - namely, surgery and medicine; surgery to include operations on the dead body and the application of surgical apparatus; medicine and surgery to include pathology and hygiene, and the examination at the bedside of patients, medical and surgical. Further, it is represented that the non-existence of a system of "study leave" in the Army Medical Service is a serious impediment to the efforts of the ordinary medical officer to keep abreast of the progress of medical science, and the memorial says it is essential that the army medical officer should have a period of leave afforded him for practical study, and that some advantages should be accorded him in recognition of such further study. Finally, the view is expressed that if improvements on the lines indicated were introduced the Army Medical Service would be better fitted to attract young medical men of talent and to attain to that state of high efficiency which it is alike the duty and interest of the country to secure.

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