

News and Comments.

At this moment it is of some comfort to the dental profession that its humblest civilian member, individually no less than in organized co-operation, can render skilled and invaluable

Helping. service to the State.

As announced in the public press, the Governors of Guy's Hospital have offered the whole of the resources of the Dental Department of the hospital to the War Office for the succour of men offering themselves as recruits who have been rejected on the ground of defective teeth. The treatment will be undertaken chiefly by old Guy's dental men at present practising in the metropolitan area, who will work in relays. The department will be able to provide fifty dental chairs, available for patients for about six hours a day.

Other dental hospitals in London are taking similar action. In addition, one of the special hospitals in London is establishing a department for this purpose.

The Nottingham Qualified Dentists' Public Service have undertaken to treat recruits from August 11, and will commence its public service from August 17.

The Liverpool Dental Hospital Committee decided, at a special meeting on August 14, to treat free of charge the teeth of all recruits between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. daily. Men attending for treatment will be required to produce a note from the recruiting medical officer.

The Committee of the Manchester Dental Hospital met on August 12, and came to a similar decision. The staff will see men between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., and, if necessary, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. also.

West Riding dentists met at Leeds and decided that a list of dentists in each town who are willing to treat the teeth of recruits and reservists without fee should be sent to the local medical officers.

Our Association, mindful of the assistance so gratefully accepted by the Government during the South African War, has already moved by addressing the following circular letter to Presidents and Hon. Secretaries of its Branches; enclosing copies of official letters sent on their behalf to the Admiralty and the War Office, as appended below:

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LETTER, COVERING ENCLOSURES, TO PRESIDENTS AND
HON. SECRETARIES.

British Dental Association,
"19, Hanover Square, London, W.,
August 6, 1914.

"DEAR SIR,—I beg to forward you herewith copies of letters sent to the Admiralty and War Office in response to a petition from members of the Association addressed to the Executive Committee. They in a measure explain themselves, and we hope that you will take immediate action to bring the subject matter contained therein before the members of your Branch.

"Further, it is felt that all members can render material assistance to their colleagues who are absent from their practices, serving their country, by

"(1) Arranging to see their patients for them.

"(2) Helping those members who have been deprived of the services of their mechanics for the same reason.

"I venture to enclose a draft letter for your guidance in acquainting your members with these facts, and we suggest that you should also communicate with such members of the profession within your area, who are not members of the Association, as you may think desirable.

"Yours faithfully,
(Signed) "F. J. PEARCE, *Hon. Secretary.*"

(Enclosures.) (1) LETTER TO THE ADMIRALTY.

British Dental Association,
"19, Hanover Square, London, W.

"DEAR SIR,—We venture to suggest that there is now, on account of the war, an urgent need for a large number of dental surgeons to supplement the civilian naval dental surgeons. We think that their services will be called for in connection with the following:—

"(1) To serve in hospital ships.

"(2) To serve in base hospitals at home.

"(3) To provide treatment for accepted recruits and, if necessary, to render dentally fit recruits refused on account of teeth.

"We wish to emphasize the fact that effective treatment of injuries of the face and jaws is often impossible without the assistance of dental surgeons, who alone have the necessary experience for the construction and adaptation of splints, &c. Such help will be especially needed in the base hospitals abroad and at home.

"Furthermore, it may be pointed out that the everyday practice of a dentist renders him a skilful administrator of many anæsthetics.

"We beg to offer you, on behalf of this Association, the use of its organization in giving effect to the above suggestions, and we are

ready to confer with you at any moment or in any way to place our services at your disposal.

"We are, Sir,

"Your obedient servants,

(Signed) "NORMAN G. BENNETT, *Chairman, Representative Board.*
"M. F. HOPSON, *Hon. Treasurer.*
"F. J. PEARCE, *Hon. Secretary.*"

(2) LETTER TO THE WAR OFFICE.

"*British Dental Association,*

"19, *Hanover Square, London, W.*

"August 6, 1914.

"DEAR SIR,—We venture to suggest that there is now, on account of the war, an urgent need for dental surgeons to serve with the Regular and Territorial Forces at home and abroad. The experiences of the South African War, when large numbers of men were invalided home solely on account of defective teeth, and dentists were eventually sent out, make this a certainty.

"We submit that attention by fully qualified and hospital trained dentists will be called for in connection with the following:—

"(1) To serve in base hospitals of expeditionary force.

"(2) To serve in military hospitals at home.

"(3) To provide treatment for accepted recruits and, if necessary, to render dentally fit recruits refused on account of teeth.

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(3) DRAFT LETTER FOR USE OF HON. SECRETARIES OF BRANCHES
IN CIRCULARIZING THEIR MEMBERS AND COLLEAGUES.

"The Executive of the British Dental Association have communicated with the Admiralty and the War Office to the effect that many members of the Association have intimated a desire to place

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 "Your obedient servants,
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(1) To serve in base hospitals of expeditionary force.

(2) To serve in hospital ships and base hospitals at home.

(3) To provide treatment for accepted recruits and, if necessary,
 to render dentally fit recruits refused on account of teeth.

In these letters, which have to-day been sent to the public press,
 the Executive refer to the fact that not only will dental treatment be
 necessary, but that effective treatment of injuries of the face and jaws
 is often impossible without the assistance of dental surgeons; and,
 moreover, that dentists are skilful administrators of many anæsthetics.

If you should desire to take any share in this movement, and
 will communicate with the Hon. Secretary of the Association, he will
 be glad to inform you of such opportunities as the Admiralty or War
 Office may indicate.

It may be pointed out that, for those who are unable to leave
 home or take part in hospital work, valuable help may be afforded to
 their colleagues who are absent from their practices, serving their
 country, by :—

(1) Arranging to see their patients for them.

(2) Helping those members who have been deprived of the
 services of their mechanics for the same reason."

We are, Sir,
 "Your obedient servants,
 BENNETT, *Chairman, Representative Board.*
Hon. Treasurer.
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OF HON. SECRETARIES OF BRANCHES
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 services of their mechanics for the same reason."

It is very gratifying to learn as we go to press, that in response to
 the above appeal, and also spontaneously, the Hon. Secretary has
 already received so many letters from dentists offering
 their services in various capacities, that it is quite
 impossible for him to reply to them individually. At

present, the Naval and Military Authorities have not advised us how
 our services can best be employed, but as soon as there is any definite
 scheme outlined, members and others, who have offered services, shall
 be notified. In the meanwhile, where there are local hospitals or
 other institutions for public dental service, it is hoped that members
 will place their services at the disposal of any institutions that are
 treating recruits or men rejected on account of defective teeth, or
 may be contemplating such arrangements.

MEMBERS and readers in London wishing to get into personal touch
 with the Royal Army Medical Corps, may, we understand, apply
 to either 3, Henry Street, Gray's Inn Road; Brook
 Hill Road, Woolwich; or 159, Greenwich Road,
 S.E., if more convenient than at headquarters,

Whitehall.