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American Gastro-Enterological Association

Committee on Military Preparedness

December 11, 1940.

The Committee on Military Preparedness was created on June 14, 1940, by the president, Dr. Andrew C. Ivy. As at present constituted, it is composed of the following members:

- Dr. Chauncey W. Dowden, Louisville, Ky.
- Dr. John H. Fitzgibbon, Portland, Oregon.
- Dr. Lee Connel Gatewood, Chicago, Illinois.
- Dr. Seale Harris, Birmingham, Alabama.
- Dr. Chester M. Jones, Boston, Mass.
- Dr. Joseph W. Larimore, St. Louis, Missouri.
- Dr. William G. Morgan, Washington, D. C.
- Dr. Victor C. Myers, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Dr. Martin E. Reh fuss, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Dr. Adolf Sachs, Omaha, Nebraska.
- Dr. Albert F. R. Andresen, Brooklyn, N. Y., Chairman, Advisory Committee on Gastro-enterology, American Board of Internal Medicine.
- Dr. J. Arnold Barga n, Rochester, Minn., Secretary, Section on Gastro-enterology and Proctology, American Medical Association.
- Dr. Andrew C. Ivy, Chicago, Ill., President, American Gastro-enterological Association, Ex-officio.
- Dr. John L. Kantor, New York City, Colonel, Med. Res., U. S. Army, Chairman.

On October 15, 1940, a letter was sent to each member of the Association from which the following is quoted:

"The War Department has finally approved a Table of Organization for the General Hospital which calls for a Section of Gastro-enterology in each such 1000 bed institution. This section is to be an integral part of the medical service and is to be directed by a Major with a Captain as assistant, both being specialists in gastro-enterology or internists devoting particular attention to this specialty.

The number of these general hospitals is at present undecided. It is requested that each member of our association volunteer his services if in a position to do so, and nominate physicians desiring these positions who reside in his locality. Such physicians need not be members of this Society but should be able to qualify as officers in the medical reserve of the army. The local members of the committee should be consulted for aid in the selection of proper personnel. The names of those recommended should be sent to the chairman of this committee so that they may be assembled and a list prepared for use by The Surgeon General's Office when the proper time comes."

On November 27, the members of the committee were

circularized as to the certain details of procedure and the following policies were adopted as a result:

1. Any member of our Association who is known to be trained in gastro-enterology is presumably eligible for a commission as Major, Medical Reserve, Chief of a section of gastro-enterology in a General Hospital, T/O 8-507.

2. A physician who is not a member of the American Gastro-enterological Association if approved by the member of the Committee on Military Preparedness, who is nearest to the applicant's home, may be recommended as being competent to act either as Chief of a Section of Gastro-enterology or as an Assistant in Gastro-enterology. In the case of non-members no recommendations as to grades should be made.

3. According to the latest request of The Surgeon General's Office, all data regarding competent gastro-enterologists should be made available to Dr. R. G. Leland, Committee on Medical Preparedness, American Medical Association, Chicago, Illinois. Applications and recommendations will be assembled in the office of the chairman of this committee and sent out at appropriate intervals in compliance with the above request.

A few additional details may be of interest at this time.

4. It should be understood that the War Department is not bound by the recommendations of this Society.

5. As far as now known, hospitals of the type indicated in T/O 8-507 are not yet built or operated, hence gastro-enterologists will probably not be required by the army for some time to come.

6. According to army regulations, the professional organization of each general hospital is left very largely to the discretion of the commanding officer so that it does not follow that every general hospital will require the services of every type of specialist listed in the table of organization.

7. It is requested that all communications with the chairman be in duplicate so as to facilitate transfer of data to the appropriate office of record.

8. Several applications have been received and two requests for actual assignment have been forwarded to date. However, no requests for personnel have been received by this Committee from the War Department. Judging from past experience the pressure may begin suddenly and at any time. It is therefore urged that applications be made as early as possible.—John L. Kantor, Chairman.