

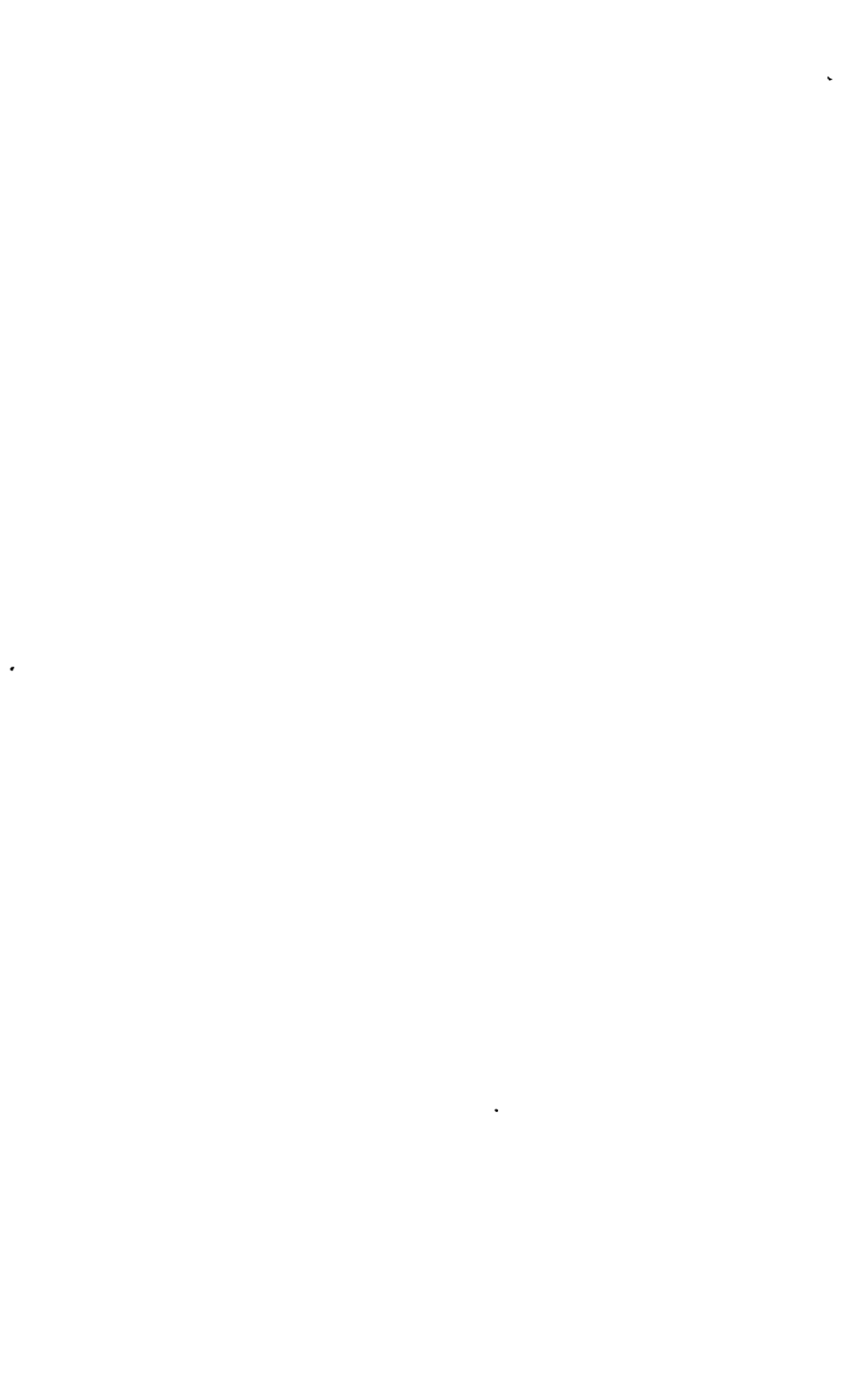
**THE OFFICIAL HISTORY
OF THE
AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL
SERVICES
IN THE WAR OF 1914-1918
VOLUME II
THE WESTERN FRONT**

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I. MAJOR-GENERAL SIR NEVILL R. HOWSE, DIRECTOR OF
MEDICAL SERVICES, AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE, 1915-19

Aust War Memorial Collection No 41189

Frontispiece

THE
AUSTRALIAN ARMY MEDICAL
SERVICES

IN THE
WAR OF 1914-1918

VOLUME II

BY
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With 212 illustrations, maps, and graphs

AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL, CANBERRA

1940

Printed and Bound in Australia by
Halstead Press Pty Limited,
9-19 Nickson Street, Sydney

Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for
transmission through the post as a book

Obtainable in Great Britain at Australia House and from all
booksellers (sole agent for wholesale distribution—The Official
Secretary for the Commonwealth of Australia, Australia House,
Strand, London, W C 2), in Canada from the Australian Trade
Commissioner, 15 King Street West, Toronto, in the United
States from the Australian Government Trade Commissioner,
International Building, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York; and in New
Zealand from the Australian Trade Commissioner, D I.C. Building,
Wellington

PREFACE

WHEN the first volume of this history was published, the whole history was envisaged as a two-volume work. Before the second volume was completed, however, it became evident that if the medical experiences of the A.I.F. in the War of 1914-1918 were to be of full benefit to the nation the difficult and costly problems of repair and pensioning must be part of this history; and the clinical issues involved in the post-war problems of "attribution" and treatment called for much study and space. The writer found himself unable to confine the results of this study within the covers of a single volume. He was accordingly permitted to transfer those chapters, together with others on certain technical aspects of surgery, gas warfare, influenza, and venereal disease, and on the Dental, Nursing and Massage Services, and the R.A.N. and R.F.C.—already partly complete—to a final volume. The present volume deals solely with the experiences of the 1st A.I.F. at the main theatre of war and some of its implications.

Apart from the narrative chapters, a particular study has here been made of the problems of siting and working the machinery of evacuation, from front line to general hospital and back; of prevention of disease and promotion of health—the statistics (which, however, are mostly deferred till the next volume) being based on a classification not hitherto adopted, it is believed, in military medical history; and of the influence of the determination by its medical director to keep the 1st A.I.F. an "A.I." force. The comparison made in *Appendix No. 9* of the evolution and methods of the medical services of the chief nations engaged in the war may also prove useful. To members of the A.A.M.S. who contemplate active service *Appendices 3* and *4* are commended as a goldmine of exact information regarding medical duties in the field as these were laid down for the B.E.F. and interpreted in the Australian Corps at the zenith of its efficiency.

In the authorised scheme of this work it was assumed that the detailed technique of the *regional surgery* of war wounds belonged to text book and manual rather than to history. This argument does not, however, apply to the evolution, during the war, of the *general surgery* of war wounds, and treatment of wounded men. Similarly, on the "medical" side, the therapeutic and diagnostic problems of disease in the war did not differ essentially from those of peace and are not studied here. But the machinery for their *prevention* did, and this has been made the subject of particular examination in three special chapters.

The passages in small type are mainly concerned with exposition or discussion of military or technical matters; this method is intended to provide more detailed information than would otherwise have been possible, and to make the perusal of these passages in some degree optional to the reader. Each of the technical chapters is introduced by a synopsis of the matters dealt with.

By far the most important source of the information on which this volume is based has been the records supplied by the Australian War Memorial—war diaries, personal records, official files from the overseas registries and so forth. Often, unfortunately, it has been impossible to show by actual quotation the value of admirable memoranda by members of the Service. The files of the *Medical Journal of Australia* and the *R.A.M.C. Journal* also have been of service. Of the various medical histories of the war, official and other, most use has been made of the *British Official Medical History*, from which, by special permission, a number of diagrams have been reproduced. That comprehensive study of the medical problems of the war, the vast American history, stands alone in having an international outlook, as do the German volumes in their system and completeness. An official French medical history has not been published.

For assistance by information and advice the writer is deeply indebted to so many friends and other helpers that mention of them all would be impossible and acknowledgment to a few invidious. For other assistance his personal thanks are due, first, to Mr. A. J. Withers, who throughout the production of this and the first volumes, has been retained by the Gov-

ernment as his assistant; to him chiefly fell the task of providing the general and replacing the unhappily destroyed clinical statistics, and in the next volume his name will be linked with the author's in connection with the chapter on statistics. Mr. J. Balfour, of the Official Historian's staff, has devoted nearly a year of labour and care to ensure that, so far as possible, the volume should be free from error. That Miss M. Ordish, who has translated my MS into typescript, has earned an expression of my gratitude, my friends will readily admit.

As the reader will doubtless observe, the final revision of this volume was complete before the present war began.

A. G. B.

CANBERRA,

10th January, 1940.

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