

SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 8.

OFFICE OF SANITARY COMMISSION,
Treasury Building, Washington, July 13, 1861. }

To his Excellency the Governor of the State of

Sir,—The Commission of Inquiry and Advice, in respect of the sanitary condition of the United States forces, appointed by the Secretary of War at the instance of the Medical Bureau of the Army, ask the attention of your Excellency to the enclosed series of inquiries, and request that you will have the kindness to cause a reply to them as soon as may be found convenient.

The object of the Commission in asking for this information, is simply to gain the means of forming a more exact estimate than would otherwise be practicable, of the condition, prospects, and requirements of the forces to be in the field this summer, and thus of advising with the State authorities, as well as the General Government, as to changes of the Regulations and other measures necessary to be taken, to guard against pestilence, and to mitigate the suffering from illness and wounds, to which the defenders of our nationality will be subject.

Confidently anticipating for this purpose the approval and co-operation of your excellency,

I have the honor to be,

Most respectfully,

FRED. LAW OLMSTED,

Resident Secretary.

1. How many regiments from your State are now in the field, and how many are encamped or quartered within the State? What number of officers and men compose each regiment?
2. How many regiments and companies from your State have been formally accepted by Government?
3. What proportion of the officers in each regiment have received a military education, and what proportion have had actual experience in the care and management of men in the field?
4. How many surgeons and assistant-surgeons are attached to each regiment? What proportion of them have had a regular medical education? By whom and when were they appointed? Have any of them been subjected to a preliminary examination as to professional competency before appointment? By whom, and under what State law or regulation?
5. Have any nurses, male or female, been assigned to any of the regiments: if so, how many?
6. Have any military hospitals been established by your State since the breaking out of the present war? Describe their site, capacity in number of beds, and construction, how many surgeons and assistant-surgeons have been appointed to such hospitals, and what means have been taken to ensure their professional competency?
7. What provision has been made by your State for hospital supplies, such as beds and bedding, medicines, dressings, extra articles of food, &c.?

8. Have any rations been supplied by your State to new regiments, before being mustered into the service of the United States? If so, of what did these rations consist, and in what quantities were they furnished?
9. Are there any regular regimental or company cooks in any of the regiments from your State? and if so, on what terms have they been enlisted or employed?
10. Give the date of the acceptance of each regiment, and the length of time during which each was encamped, or quartered within the State, before or after being mustered into the service of the general Government? Where was each regiment encamped, or quartered, before its departure?
11. What provisions have been made in your State for the organization of a State Medical Department for the volunteer and militia forces?
12. Were the recruits in any of the regiments from your State subjected to medical inspection previously to being enrolled? In which regiments was this done? By whom, and with what degree of care were they inspected? Was this inspection by a medical man: if so, by whom was he appointed, and on what evidences of his capacity? Please send a copy of the instructions given the inspecting officer.
13. In what manner were the commissaries of subsistence in the different regiments from your State appointed, and what evidences of capacity and experience were required previous to appointment?

14. In what manner were the quartermasters of the different regiments from your State appointed, and what evidences of capacity and experience were required previous to appointment?

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