Orders should be codified periodically, and issued in printed form to every medical officer in the Army. Another reform advocated is the formation of a board of reference for serious complaints made by a medical officer. Finally, Sir James calls for a Royal Commission, and suggests that a certain number of the medical commissioners should not be Government nominees, but be elected by medical officers who have served for substantial periods abroad. The recommendations of a Royal Commission may be far removed from those put forward by Sir James Barrett, but the author asks that whatever the answer "the issue should not be evaded or camouflaged." We again congratulate the authorities upon allowing so outspoken a book as this to be published. The sign is of good augury for the future of the Royal Army Medical Corps.

Panel Ophthalmic Practice

There appeared in a recent number of the *Lancet* an article dealing with the question of Panel Ophthalmic Practice. The author, Dr. Freeland Fergus, holds very strong views on the necessity for a much higher standard of qualification for those who intend to devote themselves to ophthalmology than at present obtains. In this he has our whole-hearted support as numerous recent notes in our pages can testify. When, however, he proposes that all panel patients should be examined by whole-time highly-qualified ophthalmic surgeons at some 800 to 1,000 new centres and that special hospitals should be built to accommodate them we fail to see how the cost could be met. In addition to the money difficulty it would be scarcely possible to find the necessary surgical and nursing staff. We can hardly agree with his suggestion that a competent surgeon could not examine adequately more than three children in the course of two hours. At that rate of work the whole medical profession of the country would hardly suffice for the working of his scheme.

The Teaching and Examination of Medical Students in Ophthalmology

The General Medical Council have had under consideration the report of the Council of British Ophthalmologists on the teaching of medical students. They have recommended "that every student should be required to attend a course of practical instruction in ophthalmology of not less than ten week's duration, and that no student should be admitted to the final examination unless he presents a certificate to the effect that he has attended such a course regularly and that his work in connection therewith has