

# The Miracle of Reconstruction

By Marian Bonsall Davis



PATIENTS LEARN SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE AND RESTORE INJURED MUSCLES AT SAME TIME

**R**ECONSTRUCTION is the great word in the world now.

It is a new kind of story in this new kind of times—nations bereft of their youths, thousands of the maimed slowly returning to their own countries. Here, in Washington, at Walter Reed hospital under the command of Col. E. R. Schroeder and his staff, our own story is brought home in a way that is a threefold miracle to those who are watching the "re-making of some crippled or disabled boy. Granted, it is a great many crippled young men to see at one time, there at Walter Reed; a tragedy of war to make the simplest soul bewildered. But look again, and again—week by week, or month by month—then you see the beginning of this miracle of remaking which is being wrought there by the doctors, surgeons, educators and psychologists of the medical department of our army. Indeed, sometimes it is a miracle of "life more abundant" growing out of seeming helplessness.

This may be an illustration of it, and how it is threefold. Here is a boy who went overseas as one of our defenders. He could not read or write, but he could do the things that soldiers do, and endure the things that soldiers endure. He could count off the seconds before the order came to charge a German trench, and then when the order came he could go over the top, and he did—for all of us here at home; and he was struck by one of the shells that were blasting at him as he charged, and he fell.

When the stretcher-bearers found him they saw that his was an amputation case. Perhaps you have seen in the movies, prepared by the medical department of the army, how these stretcher-bearers, privates in the medical corps, make the skillful tourniquet, the emergency splint of rifle and grass for such a boy as this one, how they rush him to the nearest dressing station, and how he is taken back to his field and then base hospital. If you have not, undoubtedly you will soon have the opportunity, for the film will be sent broadcast.

There is another film that shows part of the threefold miracle for the returned men at Walter Reed, but only part: (1) the film can show you how such a boy can make one arm or one leg do the work of two; (2) it illustrates graphically how he is trained to a more interesting and well-paid trade than he had before the war, and his amputation—but (3), the film alone, of course, cannot show you the "life more abundant" which he feels coming through the training of his mind, as he learns to read and write and life reveals new wonders and new opportunities.

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Major B. T. Baldwin, S. C., U. S. A., with his assistants, has provided opportunities of advancement for all of these men. While a few words might explain in general what it is that works this miracle of what the surgeons call "reconstruction," it has taken the evolution of all the centuries to develop the knowledge which these surgeons and psychologists now possess.

The process of reconstruction begins with the distinctly physical treatment, medical or surgical, massage, and the various kinds of physiotherapy. This is followed or carried on in conjunction with that occupational reconstruction which develops new muscular control and power in the partially paralyzed limb or in the stump, while it is at the same time teaching a new trade or occupation through that very exercise; and in the third place it is, simultaneously, clearing and training the mind.

It is a process slow, patient, full of the wonder of rebirth. There is one workshop there at Walter Reed where the once almost helpless fingers of one returned boy have been forming, very gradually, a silver necklace of great beauty—the hands and the mind of that boy becoming the hands and the mind of an artist as he has worked. Curious, that through being injured there should come a life more interesting, more significant, more creative.

On the ten-acre farm and in the seven modern greenhouses at Walter Reed cruelly crippled men are finding life immeasurably enhanced through their work with growing things. Sometimes men who could call only a few flowers by name see in them now their loved vocation for the future.

By every means known to modern science the minds of those others who have been clouded by shock or wound are helped to find themselves again, to take hold of the opportunities waiting for them there; there is scarcely a man so disabled that there is not waiting for him through these hospital opportunities a definite advancement in life—if only his family, the public, the country at large will understand.

Let the following list of subjects and occupations which are being taught under the administration of Major Baldwin show how definitely this statement is true. Then let us go with these same crippled boys to the theater and see a strange sight, remembering that these are opportunities that they carry in their minds:

"You will be enrolled in one or more of the following," says a bulletin addressed to them:

Academic Department—Bookkeeping, civil service, commercial arithmetic, commercial English, commercial law, English, foreign language, history, mathematics, penmanship, salesmanship.



TURNING THE CONVALESCENCE PERIOD TO GOOD ACCOUNT

Agricultural Department—Elementary agriculture, elementary horticulture, general farming, greenhouse management, ward gardens.

Autogenous Welding Department—Complete process and demonstrations.

Automobile Department—Shop and repair work, text book and demonstration.

Cinematograph Department—Film repairing, motion picture machine operating.

Commercial Department—Stenography, stenotype, touch system typewriting.

Electrical Department—General electrical courses, Morse (wire) telegraphy, radio (buzzer) operation.

Engraving department—Commercial engraving, jewelry engraving.

Jewelry and Fine Metals Department—Chasing, enameling, handmade jewelry, jewelry repairing, repousse, silversmithing.

Mechanical Engineering Department—Designing, estimating, drafting, tracing, blueprinting, gas engines and operation, steam engines and boilers.

Orthopedic Appliance Department—Manufacture and repair.

Printing and Linotype department—Hand composition, linotype operating, press work.

Physical Education Department—Athletic sports, callisthenics, gymnastics, military drill.

Shoe Repairing Department—Leatherwork, shoe repairing.

Sign Painting Department—Lettering, poster designing.

Woodworking Department—Cabinet making, general carpentry, pattern making wood carving.

This bulletin announces, furthermore, that there is the opportunity of special duty in various departments of the post; and that the man's war risk insurance compensation will not be interfered with in any way by his attendance in any of these departments.

A short time ago the American Red Cross, which is in charge of the recreational features of the hospital, arranged for a special performance of "Atta Boy," the uproariously funny musical show acted and produced by the soldiers of Camp Meigs. One may look twice at this contrast:

The stage of a Washington theater presents a solid phalanx of young soldiers, ranged row upon row from floor to top, ready for the opening chorus; all in the very pink of condition—lithic, muscular, eager for the action which sudden peace (which of course they thought premature, since they wouldn't get over) denied them. But the jolly chorus swings out with a zip, round and full and stirring.

The audience across the footlights is made up also, row upon row—of crippled and disabled men, who have had the great adventure, and come home with bodies which may seem at first to be broken; some of them with minds which at first may seem dulled—and these are just as young in years as those across the footlights.

Yet, looking twice, one sees them, on both sides, youth triumphant—the one side singing joyfully its sparkling nonsense, the other side—the one that has gone through fire—roaring with laughter, the one-armed men applauding ingeniously with their programs on the arms of their chairs. They howl at the awkward-squad jokes, and all of black-faced Capt. Frank Tinney's jokes, and the "God save the weasel and pop goes the queen" joke, and most of all at that song which well deserves to be immortal, of father—father who thinks war such a fine thing for a young man, but has for himself a valet, and now is in the proposed last draft. The house rocks with the chorus singing of his plight:

"... Father will be with us soon,  
He will be forty in June . . ."

That is, almost all are laughing—the effects of gas and shell are not in all cases entirely cleared away. Clearing them away is what the doctor psychologists are doing at Walter Reed. For, oh, this story does not underrate the suffering. Fumes of ether as one passes the operating room; the man with the double amputation still white of face; the first steps on the artificial legs—these things are hard and sharp reality.

But if in the wards you see boys who have lost an arm or leg, as soon as the nurse's back is



SOLDIER PATIENTS AT WALTER REED FIND NEW INTEREST IN RAPE KNITTING

turned trying to play leap frog; or the boy whose face was so drawn the last time you saw him now all interested concentration as he sits up in bed clicking away at the Morse code on his telegraph instrument; as at half past eleven in the morning you see the crowd of convalescent patients surging merrily into the Red Cross building, which is their clubhouse—then you see double; then you know that the mutilation of the body may not always be too great a price to pay for some compensations of the spirit.

The medical department of the army, as it works through Walter Reed, is and will be bound up with the hopes of thousands of men and their families. Working with these army doctors and surgeons is the American Red Cross, helping to complete the bridge between the families and the men during their separation, through its communication service, its various hospital services, and in all kinds of ways through its home service, from buying buttons or "pricing" a certain kind of spiral puttees on some boy's request, to arranging for his war risk insurance, or perhaps hospital treatment for some member of a man's family in a far-away town.

In the convalescent house there is the great open fireplace, with its crackling fire, books, flowers, games, music. Every week one of the Washington theaters sends out several of its acts. After classes the men pour in, some of those who have lain so helpless weeks before, now in wheeled chairs engrossed in some handwork, yet eager for the music and the fun. Others come to say "good-by" before the visit home. You would not guess that this boy had ever lost a leg, or that an artificial arm could become so dexterous as some you see here.

A leaf from the Red Cross entertainment book is interesting. These events, planned from the outside, are arranged through application to the recreational staff of the Red Cross at the post. Here are characteristic items: Seventy boys to Keith's theater and supper; one hundred boys to Mount Vernon; three boys to birthday party for Sergeant—; forty-five on sight-seeing bus tour, and so on and on.

"Why, sergeant, where is your new leg I thought you were so proud of?" one of the workers calls to a boy on a crutch. "I loaned it to Jim. He had a pass to go to town," he answers.

A boy, wearing carefully wrapped puttees, comes along in a wheeled chair. "Did you find out about those other puts?" he asks "the Red Cross lady." "Yes, and there is only one pair in town and they cost twelve dollars." "I guess we'll have to go without," he says; and there follows an interested conversation about a package to be addressed to a girl back home.

A young boy who had lost one leg and one foot was having attached for the first time the artificial leg on which, with a crutch, he soon was going to try to walk. To support himself he had one arm around his army surgeon, the other around the Red Cross man. He was making great bravado, though his face was white. When the apparatus was attached he asked to sit down. The surgeon and the Red Cross man helped him into a chair. With a long sigh he settled the "new" leg firmly on the floor and then flung what was left of the other leg over it. Though the beads of sweat were still on his face he looked up pertly with his head cocked. "Gee!" he said, "if you hadn't crossed your legs for eleven months you'd know how I feel."

These men are of those who have given "their breasts a bulwark and their blood a moat." They have given too great a thing to need any kind of sympathy except the supreme one of understanding. The medical department of the army and the Red Cross make a cycle of effort—social, human, physical, mental. In this work of reconstruction there may be found, literally, life more abundant. As these men leave hospital and uniform, and come back to the familiar-strange civilian world, the public will take up its part; and each man will be, if he utilizes the opportunities open to him, and society does not exploit him, an independent asset in place of a dependent or a charity liability.

## How Could It Be?

Lateman wanted to buy a clock—that is, a reliable clock—and he made the shopman show him a good many before he decided on one.

"Now, sir," said the salesman, "this clock will last you a lifetime."

Lateman looked dubious.

"Why, how can that be?" he asked. "I can see for myself that its hours are numbered!"

## IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By Rev. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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### LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 2

#### THE GIVING OF THE MANNA.

LESSON TEXT—Exodus 16:1-36.  
GOLDEN TEXT—Give us this day our daily bread—Matthew 6:11.  
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL—Deut. 8:1-20; John 6:29-51.  
PRIMARY TOPIC—God's gift of food.—Ex. 16:1-15.  
JUNIOR TOPIC—Daily food in the desert. Memory Verse—Matt. 6:21, 25.  
INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—Our daily dependence upon God.  
SENIOR AND ADULT TOPIC—Poverty and providence in our day.

I. Lusting for the Flesh Pots of Egypt (16:1-36).

1. Murmuring against Moses and Aaron (vv. 1-3).

As they journeyed from Elim into the great wilderness they became conscious of the scarcity of some of the things they had enjoyed even in Egyptian slavery. Only a few days ago they were singing God's praises for their wondrous deliverance at the Red Sea (Ch. 15). Now at the beginning of their privation they are murmuring. They utterly lack spiritual perception. They were a free people on the way to their own land. What did it matter, with such a prospect, though they were a bit hungry?

This complaining showed a base ingratitude and was most dishonoring to God. Unthankfulness is a sign of heart corruption (Rom. 1:21).

2. God's answer to their murmurings (vv. 4-12).

(1). He promised to rain bread from heaven (vv. 4, 5). His purpose in this was to teach them that "man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord." (Deut. 8:3). The manna was given by God, but the people must gather it. (2) He promised to give them a vision of his glory (vv. 6-10). This served as a warning and an encouragement. Despite their murmurings against him he invites them to come near unto him. Wonderful grace that sinful, ungrateful men should be permitted to come near to God! (3) Flesh and bread promised (vv. 11, 12). God answered the cravings of the people by giving them quails and manna to eat. How gracious is our God!

II. Quails and Manna Given (16:13-15).

At the appointed time God gave the Israelites the promised food. He first allowed them to feel their need, to show that man's highest need is to believe God and rely upon him for all needs (Deut. 8:2, 3; Matt. 4:3, 4). He then displayed his glory, showing that he was able and willing to supply their need if they would obey him.

1. In the evening the quails came up (v. 13).

Since they desired flesh he gave them flesh to eat. This is an example of the patience and long-suffering of God. How he caters to the whims of his vacillating children!

2. In the morning God gave the manna (vv. 14, 15).

The Israelites did not know what it was. They exclaimed: "What is it?" Moses told them it was the bread which the Lord had given them to eat.

III. The Responsibilities of the Israelites (16:16-31).

1. They must gather a certain ration daily (v. 16 of v. 4).

This was to test their faith. They must look to him for their daily bread (Matt. 6:11).

2. Every man was to gather for himself (v. 16 of v. 20).

The manna typified Christ (John 6:33, 37). As each man was to gather for himself so each one must appropriate Christ for himself.

3. The manna must be gathered fresh every morning (v. 21).

This was to be done early, before the sun was up. Christ, our manna, should be taken each day, and the first thing in the day (John 6:57).

4. They must not gather in excess of one day's supply (vv. 18, 20).

That which was in excess of the day's supply became corrupt. Christians should make use of the gifts bestowed by God. God's graces are only good when put to use.

5. The manna must be eaten to preserve life.

They were in the wilderness, so could only live by eating of the food which God gave. In the wilderness of this world only those who feed upon Christ, the true manna, have eternal life (John 6:50, 51).

6. Due consideration should be given to the Sabbath day (vv. 23-31). A double portion was to be gathered the day before.

IV. Manna Kept as a Memorial (16:32-36).

This was to be kept as a reminder of God's favor in supplying them with bread in the wilderness for forty years.

Help From Nature Study.

The study of nature is well pleasing to God, and is akin to prayer. Learning the laws of nature, we magnify the first inventor, the designer of the world; and we learn to love him, for great love of God results from great knowledge.—Leonardo da Vinci.

Think First Upon God.

In the morning, when you awake, accustom yourself to think first upon God, or something in order to his service; and at night, also, let him close thine eyes.—Jeremy Taylor.

Plenty of exercise, fresh air, regular hours—is all the prescription you need to avoid Influenza—unless through neglect or otherwise, a cold gets you. Then take—at once



Standard cold remedy for 20 years—in tablet form—safe, sure, no opiates—breaks up a cold in 24 hours—relieves grip in 3 days. Money back if fails. The genuine has Red Top with Mr. Hill's picture. At All Drug Stores.

**Bring Your Friends Along**

I am well pleased with EATONIC, and I surely do not just what it says it will. Know I can recommend it highly, because my customers come back for more and not only praise it, but bring or send their friends for it. An old gentleman 87 years old says, "I would get indigestion so bad, though I would die, would have to get a physician and be in bed from one to three days; in July I got EATONIC and have not had a spell since, nor a physician and I know EATONIC has kept me well." J. E. PROCTOR, Drugist, Wooster, Ohio.

After meals eat one **EATONIC** FOR YOUR STOMACH'S SAKE

Removes Heartburn, Indigestion, that full feeling, almost instantly, drives gas out of body and the bloating with it. All Drugists.



Couldn't Be Otherwise.

"Were the British soldiers happy when they started for France?"  
"Happy? They were in transports."

Important to Mothers

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, that famous old remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Fletchall*

In Use for Over 30 Years.  
Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria

The Movie Business.

"I hear your star is demanding another raise." "Yes; she heard in some way that we are finally making a profit."

Cuticura Soothes Itching Scalp

On retiring gently rub spots of dandruff and itching with Cuticura Ointment. Next morning shampoo with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Make them your every-day toilet preparations and have a clear skin and soft, white hands.—Adv.

Resourceful Doughboy.

I have seen a doughboy with a command of the French language embracing three words, and two of them were *vin ordinaire*—I have seen such a doughboy make himself thoroughly at home in a French family, entering their life like a brother. He was able to make them understand whenever he wanted anything he was able to glean all their family history, and he imparted a lot of information about the United States that would have done credit to an old stock salesman. What's more, he told stories to the children, learned all about Suzanne's affair with a soldier, and taught grandpa to shoot dice for five centimes a throw—one cent.—George Pattullo, Saturday Evening Post.

Knew All About It.

It was young Mrs. Robinson's first Christmas party, and she was suffering all the usual terrors of the inexperienced hostess. However, the cook rose to the occasion splendidly, and, so far as the dinner itself was concerned, Mrs. Robinson was wellighted.

The only fly in the ointment was Jane, the new parlormaid; she was slow, clumsy, and her waiting was bad. But, in addition to these faults, she insisted on keeping her mouth wide open.

This so got on Mrs. Robinson's nerves that at last she exclaimed: "Jane, your mouth is wide open!" Jane withdrew her gaze from the ceiling, and said, looking down with a cheery smile:

"I know it is, ma'am; I opened it myself!"



Save Sugar by eating Grape-Nuts as your cereal dish

This standard food needs no added sweetening for it is rich in its own sugar, developed from wheat and barley by the special Grape-Nuts process of cooking.

"There's a Reason"