

SURGERY'S PART IN THE WAR

Conclusions Drawn by Army Doctors from the Study of Bullet Wounds.

ROENTGEN RAYS SUPPLANT THE PROBE

Wounds Through Head and Heart Not Fatal—Fecund Action of Bullets—Operations of Lieutenant Colonel Senn and Associates.

NEW YORK, Aug. 19.—Dr. William M. Gray of the hospital ship Relief found time the other day to talk of the part that surgery has played in the present war and the influence of new scientific appliances as tested by practical experience in the hospital of the wounded men easier. Dr. Gray is the microscopist at the Medical museum at Washington and was detailed by this institution for surgical work in war with special reference to the diagnosis of gunshot wounds by the Roentgen rays.

"One thing this war has taught," he said, "is that the probe in all its forms has gone out of use. No more searching blindly in a man's body for the bullet, no more danger of blood poisoning from the introduction into the wound of instruments of search. The fluoroscope tells us instantly where the projectile has imbedded itself and we have only to cut it out as if it were there before our eyes. The ingenious electric probe and all similar devices have been left behind. In future battles, therefore, skiagraphy will be attached of necessity to the medical corps and the work of the surgeons will be materially assisted by their precise indications. We took out bullets by the probe on board the Relief and almost without exception they were located by the X-rays."

The surgeon exhibited the apparatus for producing the X-rays and the operating table where the skiagraphs are made. These stand amidships in an open space ranged about with hospital beds. The patient is stretched out here, the X-ray beam adjusted over the wound like this (see illustration), the plate put under the limb or part where the wound is, and the thing is done. The plates are developed almost instantly. In many cases we saw hours of waiting, but not infrequently we saved the soldier's life."

Then he went on to tell of a remarkable case where a man was wounded in the right shoulder by a Mauser bullet, which plowed its way on around the chest walls under the deep muscles and lodged in the right arm, shattering the humerus. "Here was an odd condition, a wound in the right shoulder, but no bullet, the bone of the left arm broken, but no wound. How long do you suppose it would have taken to find the bullet by probing? It took us one minute to find it with the X-rays. Here it is in this picture, you see it there quite plainly." He handed over a skiagraph, reproduced herewith, that shows the fractured humerus and the imbedded bullet, as if they were in the same plane. "This is a matter of a few cuts and the bullet was out."

Bullets Through the Body.

"Did the bullet do no harm, doctor, in going through the body?" "Apparently not," he said, "we have had more remarkable cases than that of Mauser bullets passing through the body and doing no harm. One man was shot through from side to side, with both lungs traversed, but he had no symptoms, even any bleeding. There was just a small red spot where the bullet went in and a small red spot where it came out. If his leg had not been cracked by another shot, he would not have been in the hospital. We had two cases on the ship shot through the intestines, but showing no symptoms, one of them was shot through the liver and kidneys, with no symptoms, and one very remarkable case where a bullet entered the left chest, passed through the right and out of the abdomen, went through the air for a foot or so, and landed in the right thigh, about half way to the knee."

Another case, which caused some discussion among the surgeons, was that of a man shot through the breast on the left side, the bullet entering about an inch or two below the nipple, and passing out at the back, shattering the shoulder blade. The point of exit showed that the bullet took an upward course, which made it certain that it passed very close to the point of the heart. Indeed, it is an odd case, whether it did not actually pass through the heart. The doctors are agreed that it passed through the pericardium, or covering of the heart, and Major George H. Torney, the surgeon in command of the Relief, is inclined to believe that the heart itself was penetrated.

"It is conceivable," he said, "that a man may live as this one did, even though a bullet has gone through his heart. We must suppose that both walls of the heart were just as it was drawn together in the closest contraction. It is very likely that if the same bullet had come when the heart was on the other beat, and therefore dilated and softer, it would have done so badly that both walls would have ensued."

Dr. Gray explained that most of the operations were performed at night, as the days were crowded full receiving the wounded. "Even so, we were not rushed," he said. "The average we had three or four operations each night, sometimes as many as six. You see, the emergency work was done on the field before we received the wounded. We had plenty of time to work carefully."

"Did you use ether?" "It is better on shipboard, as it is not so inflammable as on land, and we had no deaths from the anaesthetic."

"Did you have to operate in bad weather?" "No, we were fortunate in having a smooth sea; it would be impossible to operate in a storm; the patients would have to wait."

cadavers with such a splashing and plowing and splintering as to cause them to be looked upon as most formidable engines of carnage. And yet in real warfare, when practically tested upon the bodies of our men, these bullets have by no means shown the viciousness expected of them.

Mauser Bullets Don't Mangle. "You know they told us," said Dr. Gray, "that the Mauser bullets would make a small hole where they entered the body, but would come out through a hole big enough to put your fist in. Well, nothing of the sort has happened in cases under our observation. On the contrary, the hole of exit has often been quite as small as the hole of entry. Take that case I mentioned of the man shot through from side to side, there was no difference in the size of the two holes, and both were very small."

"Then they told us, and seemed to prove it by experiment, that the impact of a Mauser bullet against large bones or against the skull would cause a fibrillar splintering of the bone or cranium. I remember a case where a doctor, for sake of experiment, fired Mauser bullets into a human leg only a few minutes after its amputation, and the bullets did certainly shatter the bones in a most alarming way. But in practice, under Spanish fire, the Mauser bullets have shown less shattering power than our own Krag-Jorgensen bullets. Mauser bullets fired into the skulls of



SKIAGRAPH TAKEN ABOARD THE "RELIEF" SHOWING THE COURSE OF A BULLET FINALLY LODGING IN THE ARM.

cadavers splintered them into fragments, but Mauser bullets fired into the skulls of live Americans in many cases made only two clean holes.

"And did the men live, shot through the brain?" "In one or two cases they did, but most of them died from the poisoning of foreign matter brought into the brain with the bullets. As far as the bone-shattering went, they might have recovered."

"Have you any theory, doctor, to account for this difference between what was expected of the Mauser bullets and what was actually done by them?" "I can only suggest that the trouble may have been with defective ammunition used by the Spaniards. Perhaps the bullets were not really driven against us as hard as is supposed. You see, Mauser bullets are counted upon to kill at 3,000 yards and most of our men were wounded at distances varying between 500 and 1,000 yards. Very few were wounded under 50 yards, for the simple reason that when we got as close as the Spaniards ran, it is rather odd, but true, that Spaniards wounded under the same conditions as our men usually



LOCATING BULLETS BY X-RAYS ON BOARD THE "RELIEF" FROM PHOTOGRAPH.

show worse wounds. This is one of the puzzles of the war that experts will have to work out.

Effect of Bullets. Lieutenant Colonel Senn, chief of the operating staff with the army in the field, has been with the Relief, and sails with her again. Dr. Senn explains the fact that so large a proportion of bullets as 90 per cent remained in the bodies of the wounded on the assumption that many of these bullets, by force striking the bodies, in which they lodged, had been impeded or deflected in their course by stones, brush, underbrush, etc., in the field. This would seem to be indicated by the bent or flattened condition of many bullets found imbedded in soft tissues. Dr. Senn sees no reason to doubt that the modern elongated bullet will become encased in the body as readily, perhaps more so, than the old-fashioned leaden bullet. All patients treated by him for gunshot wounds in the spine, where the spinal cord was seriously damaged, have died or will die in the near future. As to chest wounds, he found an astonishing number where the sufferers lived long enough to reach a hospital or the coast, and, what is still more surprising, he says that, barring severe hemorrhage, the patient's symptoms were mild, some of them being confined to bed for only a few days. All of these chest wound cases were treated on the expectant plan—that is, by dressing the external wound or wounds, in no instance was the pleural cavity opened for the purpose of arresting the hemorrhage.

"It is well known," said Dr. Senn, "that during the war of the rebellion men had a better chance for life when a bullet passed through the chest than when the chest was opened and the ball remained. The same remains true now, although not to the same extent, as the small caliber bullet is less likely to carry with it into the chest clothing or other infectious material.

"No further doubt remains in regard to the difference in the mortality from gunshot wounds inflicted by large and small caliber bullets. The cases treated on board

the Relief appear to prove that the danger incident to gunshot wounds in the chest from small projectiles consists in complicating injuries, involving the heart and large blood vessels, and that in the absence of such injuries the progress is favorable.

"Another conviction that has been strengthened in me by my recent experience in Cuba is that not infrequently cases of penetrating gunshot wounds in the abdomen will recover without active surgical interference. For years I have maintained, as the result of clinical experience and experiments on the cadaver, that a bullet may pass through the abdomen on a level with and above the umbilicus without producing visceral injuries demanding active operation. On the other hand, if a bullet traverses the small intestine area, it is probable that from one to fourteen perforations will be found. In this case death is almost certain to ensue, and did ensue in every such instance in our Cuban experience, despite surgical operations."

CLEVELAND MOFFETT. OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM.

"The Star Spangled Banner" Versus "America." It is quite true, writes Hafford Pyke in the New York Commercial, that the music of "The Star Spangled Banner" was taken from the old English song called "Anacreon in Heaven," but this is of no consequence



LOCATING BULLETS BY X-RAYS ON BOARD THE "RELIEF" FROM PHOTOGRAPH.

whatever. The important thing to consider is whether a national air is universally understood and accepted as such. If it is, then its origin need not concern any one. This is the chief ground for objecting to our use of the music which we sing to "America." When it is played in a mixed assembly, no one is ever quite sure whether it is intended for "America" or for "God Save the Queen," or for the Prussian national air, or for the Danish national air, or for what; since it is used by several countries, and is, therefore, extremely confusing. On the other hand, when "The Star Spangled Banner" is played anywhere in the civilized world, no human being ever takes it for anything other than "The Star Spangled Banner," while not one person in a million has ever heard of "Anacreon in Heaven."

There are just three possible selections for anyone to consider in determining what ought to be the national anthem of the United States. In the first place, there is "Yankee Doodle," which, as a tradition tells us, was picked out by the American commissioners who signed the treaty of Ghent in 1815. These gentlemen ordered it to be

played by the bands which were chosen to render the British and American national airs at the celebration of the centennial of the war of 1812. The music of "Yankee Doodle," although English in origin, is in fact characteristically American, for it is brisk, dashing, rollicking, inspired and full of devil-may-care recklessness. Yet it is, in the first place, not quite serious enough in its character; and, in the second place, there are no words to go with it which anyone would be willing to sing on an occasion of any dignity whatever. So I think that "Yankee Doodle" is ruled out.

"Hail Columbia" is thoroughly American alike in its music, its words and its history, yet unfortunately no one knows the words, no one ever sings it and no one ever gets to sing it. It is indeed, properly speaking, a march and not a song; and it was originally so written. Therefore, it also is practically unavailable.

"The Star Spangled Banner," however, is open to none of these preceding objections. Its music is martial, dignified and stirring; its words are wholly admirable and they embody our American devotion to the flag which is to our country the symbol of all that is dear to us and of all that we are proud of in our country, in its history and in its great achievements. Moreover, it is universally sung and will continue to be sung. The only objection to it is that it is not readily managed by the average person, its lowest note being rather too low and its highest note rather too high for the compass of the untrained voice. Nevertheless, it is the one song which our country has produced that appeals to every American with equal power and that is in every way fitted to rank with any of the national anthems of the earth; and so I think that the choice of it which now appears to be made finally made for an instinctive popular decision is a very judicious, discriminating and permanent selection.

American champagne are fast driving out the imported article. At the head of the list is Cook's Imperial.

FERTILITY OF THE ARID WEST

A Region of Surprising Productiveness When Properly Irrigated.

WHY NOT TRY ANNEXATION THERE?

What Uncle Sam Might Do with His Own by Adequate Laws and Encouragement—Interesting Problems at Home.

Now that annexations of territory are under consideration, and the utility of various tropical islands a matter of current discussion, writes Prof. F. H. Newell of the geological survey in the Independent, it should not be forgotten that the United States government already possesses a princely domain which, for all practical purposes, is still as legitimate a subject for annexation as any new country in the world. One-third of the area of the United States is owned by the general government, or about two-thirds of the territory between the 100th meridian and the Pacific coast. The greater part of this immense area is, in its natural condition, worthless for agricultural purposes, and hence does not furnish homes for our growing population. And yet this land is the most fertile in the world, and water, the only thing which it lacks, can be supplied. The farm lands of the east, and of the humid regions of the world generally, besides being more or less exhausted by constant cultivation, have for ages been washed by constant rains, in the South where freshets have not robbed the soil of its mineral salts, fertility has for centuries been accumulating, with the result that today, under proper irrigation, four acres of land, producing from three to five crops a year, can be made to support as many as 100 in the other farm lands of the world 100 acres is often insufficient. A small piece of our arid land, devoted to semi-tropical fruits, garden vegetables and forage plants, under irrigation produced wonderful results.

Fertility of Irrigation. In nearly all of the arid region irrigation is not only feasible, but has been proved profitable to the private grower. The land for \$ per cent dividends, but in the same sense that a lighthouse, the dredging of a harbor or the improvement of a river is profitable, it would pay the community or the government to open this great area for agricultural use and so make it comfortable home of millions of prosperous people. Irrigation is one of the simplest processes in the world and its fundamental methods have changed little since the time of the Pharaohs. It is a simple and gradual use throughout the year of the floods which come at a particular season, usually in May and June, and go to waste. Artesian wells are in some instances successfully employed, but the main reliance is still upon the continuing flow of the surface water. Although the system itself is so old, modern science knows comparatively little of the relation of water to the development of vegetable life or why we apply water to the soil. It is known, for instance, that water can be supplied to potatoes to make them small but that many in a hill, or by a different application of water they may be made few and large. Water given in quantity to grain at a certain stage will make the crop run to straw. Similar observations in the case of fruit trees are equally familiar, and the subject suggests upon individual experiences rather than scientific certainty. An accurate knowledge of water effects will form the basis of the intelligent practice of irrigation, and this is the one thing which the west is making experiments in this line, under the direction of Dr. A. C. True, and from them important results may flow.

Our land laws are not the most favorable to the development of irrigation. The plot is in the hands of the speculator, who is adapted to humid country, where one quarter section is as well watered as another. But where the rivers are few it may happen that one quarter section will embrace all the water obtainable for 100 sections. The control of the water-hold is master of the situation, and those who come after him get nothing, because water in the arid regions is the foundation of value, and without it land is valueless. The water-holders, therefore, land should be divided in reference to its water rights, and thus give every settler a chance at its reclamation.

Developing the West. In the early days of the republic, when times were hard, the men who felt crowded in the east, or who preferred the larger venture, packed up their goods, took a four-horse wagon and started "out west," to the Ohio reserve or to Indiana; but these conditions have wholly changed. Although there is plenty of public land left, most of it is useless until by the united effort of a large number of individuals or of the government, a water supply is provided. The Mormons went out to Salt Lake, and by community effort have accomplished wonders; but even opportunities of that kind rarely exist. The sources of water supply are few, and the expenditure of hundreds of thousands, and often millions of dollars. Such outlays would be well repaid, however, if undertaken by the government in a systematic fashion, when the sociological benefits to the public are incalculable. Irrigated lands tend to produce a splendid civilization. Where land is so fertile that little of it is needed for one pair of hands, a closely settled community of small proprietors generally grows up. People live near enough together to enjoy the advantages of good schools, churches and those wholesome associations which flow from community life, and, at the same time, be free from the depressing influences of the great city. What conditions could be more favorable?

A Problem of the Present. Irrigation is beginning to receive some share of the public attention that is its due. The seventh congress, which will be held in Cheyenne in the autumn, promises to attract more interest than any of its predecessors. Governor Mount of Indiana has sent forth, in a recent letter, the bearing of the subject upon the welfare of the nation in words which I cannot do better than to quote. He writes: "Two important problems are before us—the unemployed and our arid lands. A policy that would furnish to the idle remainder of the unemployed army, and to our desert places, would prove a boon to our country and a blessing to humanity. A policy that would relieve the congested cities and supply their crowded inmates with homes, the would develop manhood and courage, furnish employment for the unemployed, and would seem sufficient in itself to have caused such untoward results. The case is different with the poor emigrant, who feels that all the home ties are hopelessly severed. "Nostalgia, or homesickness, is merely a form of melancholia, and is, in all the instances, more than one factor usually acts as a cause—hence the necessity for knowing the heredity and antecedents of the patient. The enforced absence from home may simply act as an exciting cause; there may be deep-seated causes, such as grave constitutional defects, that act as the real basis for the disease. This is especially true in cases in which the reason is permanently lost or life itself sacrificed. Some races, or peoples, are supposed to be especially liable to the disease, and the inhabitants of mountainous countries, for instance, are said to suffer unduly. Hence the Swiss are said to furnish many examples. So also rustic

time immemorial by irrigating their lands by water taken from the Gila river. In early times these Indians were of great value to the whites in protecting them against the Apaches, but as population increased the whites began to take up the water of the Gila river, until they finally succeeded in getting control of it all, leaving the poor Indians literally high and dry. He can no longer keep up his farming, and although the government is spending large sums on his education, he is left without substantial means of support. Some one has aptly said that the coming of the whites has changed the Indians from a condition of self-supporting savagery to that of dependence on government rations and petty thieving under civilization. The practical problem is to get back the water that used to flow in that river. This can probably be accomplished by building a good-sized dam at a point above the reservation and there holding the stream at flood. Congress has appropriated \$20,000 for an investigation of the question and preliminary examinations have been made. It will probably cost \$100,000 to construct the dam, which would have to be done by the government or some community effort. But this is something which must be undertaken if we are ever to utilize the beautiful lands of southern Arizona.

STONEWALL JACKSON'S COURIER.

Wounded Sixty-Seven Times and Decayed by the War. Major Lamar Fontaine, who arrived in the city yesterday morning, relates the New Haven Register, is probably one of the most interesting veterans of the confederate army. He is the only representative of the famous Stonewall Jackson county, Mississippi, and during his stay in this city will be the guest of Captain John Millidge on Trinity avenue.

Major Fontaine has been a soldier nearly all his life, and the story of his adventures in all parts of the world sounds like fiction. He served in the Russian army during the Crimean war, and at the siege of Sebastopol with the iron cross of honor for daring bravery during the battle. At the time of the memorable charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava Major Fontaine was sixteen miles away, but could hear the guns and see the smoke of that famous battle.

After leaving the Russian army he traveled about the world in company with his uncle, but was living in the south at the opening of the civil war, and enlisted as a private in the Tenth Mississippi Rifles, but was later transferred to Company K, Eighteenth Mississippi regiment. While a member of this regiment, in August, 1861, he wrote the well known poem, "All Quiet Along the Potomac," which has since been widely copied all over the world.

He began his war work with the confederate army as scout and courier for General Stonewall Jackson. He served in the same capacity with Generals Stuart and Johnson, and briefly with General Lee. He took part in twenty-seven pitched battles, fifty-seven skirmishes and over 100 individual skirmishes in which blood was shed. Although he was but a private in the ranks, he was at one time intrusted with a carte blanche order on the treasury of the confederate states. He was known in all the branches of the confederate service as the best marksman with rifle or revolver in the army. He was wounded sixty-seven times, and thirteen times his lungs were pierced. Five times in the course of the war he was reported as dead. On two occasions he was able, with the aid of mirrors, to look into apertures in his flesh and watch the beating of his own heart.

Major Fontaine has kept a complete diary for nearly forty years, and this in itself is an unusually interesting work, comprising a number of volumes and containing much valuable information. He also has many accurate reports signed by prominent officers of the confederate army bearing testimony to his remarkable marksmanship. "Yes," said Major Fontaine last night, "it would seem as though I had spent the most of my life on the battlefield. My life has been rather eventful in every way, and I think that I have had a few interesting experiences. "These documents I have saved all through the war, and while they may be interesting and valuable, I care for them only for the sake of my children. It will be something to leave them when I am gone, and I have managed to preserve them in good condition for the last thirty years."

Major Fontaine is a man of distinguished appearance, and wears a complete uniform, which was made especially for him to be worn at the reunion of veterans. He is a civil engineer by profession, and is engaged in business with his two sons at Lyon, Miss.

DEATHS FROM HOMESICKNESS.

A Medical View of a Rare Form of Disease. Two deaths from nostalgia, or homesickness, in the American army at Santiago have been reported by General Shafter to the War department. Both of these cases, remarkable to say, occurred in the same regiment, the Second Massachusetts volunteers. We presume, says the Philadelphia Medical Record, that the diagnosis in these cases was carefully and accurately made by the military surgeons, yet we should like more light on this interesting and important subject.

The daily reports show that the troops at Santiago are suffering much from the climate and various infections, especially typhoid, malarial and yellow fever, and this fact should remind us that the profound psychoses are not infrequently associated with or caused by some form of infection. Typhoid and malarial poisons especially have been noted in this role and so strictly scientific diagnosis it would be well to be sure whether any obscure form of either of these diseases is present in such cases.

The fact that two cases occurred in the same regiment points possibly also to the influence of imitation or suggestion. In all the psychoses, especially hysteria and the mind forms of insanity, this factor is now well known to be sometimes active. We need only recall the cases of folie commune that have been put on record. In these instances a mental disease has been known to be communicated from a patient to another highly susceptible person. In one instance three sisters were involved, the first having imposed her delusions upon the others. Epidemics of hysteria are too well known to need more than mention.

It is, however, that the two cases in the army at Santiago were so rapidly fatal can probably only be explained on the theory that the patients were possibly much reduced physically by exposure and infection. The mere separation from home and what promised to be a long and arduous expedition hardly seems sufficient in itself to have caused such untoward results. The case is different with the poor emigrant, who feels that all the home ties are hopelessly severed.

Nostalgia, or homesickness, is merely a form of melancholia, and is, in all the instances, more than one factor usually acts as a cause—hence the necessity for knowing the heredity and antecedents of the patient. The enforced absence from home may simply act as an exciting cause; there may be deep-seated causes, such as grave constitutional defects, that act as the real basis for the disease. This is especially true in cases in which the reason is permanently lost or life itself sacrificed. Some races, or peoples, are supposed to be especially liable to the disease, and the inhabitants of mountainous countries, for instance, are said to suffer unduly. Hence the Swiss are said to furnish many examples. So also rustic

are more prone to suffer than the inhabitants of towns. The observation of nostalgia among soldiers is by no means new or recent. Harlan Larrier, the eminent military surgeon of the Napoleonic wars, wrote on this subject in his surgical memoirs. In our own country observations were made in the late civil war. Calhoun wrote on nostalgia as a disease of field service, and Peoria noted this affection among the soldiers of youthful enlistments. It is a remarkable fact that the somewhat extensive literature of nostalgia is almost entirely French. Many monographs have been written in that language on the subject. The American, English and even German literature is comparatively meagre. This will seem to be a proof to some readers that the French have more of the "mal du pays" than other nations have—just as they are said to have more of the other psychoses. But to our mind it is rather an indication that they have greater literary activity among the curiosities of medicine.

THAT HOBSON KISS.

The Feminine Part of it Delighted with Letters and Telegrams. The kiss of the hero of Santiago has made Miss Arnold the arbiter of fashions, the director of the latest fads, reports the New York Herald.

Dressmakers are begging her permission to name new garments in her honor. Milliners crave the privilege of calling their latest "shaps" of hat by her name. Shoe dealers are in a goodly way engaged on a novelty in dancing slippers, so known as the Emma Arnold. A composer is at work upon the Hobson-Arnold waltz. Poems have been inspired by her. The Hobson kiss, a new barroom drink, is a blend of the famous gin rummy, tribute to a Missouri congressman. A famous cologne, valued at \$2,500, is no longer known as Goldstut, but as Emma Arnold.

A New York dressmaker wrote at length of her having just returned from Paris, where she attempted to revive the severe garb, as the polonaise had been a fashion failure. "But with your help, Miss Arnold, it can be made a go in New York and my fortune and reputation will be established. I know from the pictures of you that have appeared in the newspapers that you will look a dream in a polonaise. Will you give me your permission to name it the Emma Arnold polonaise?" Another modiste, casting about for a "catchy" title for a new blouse, promised her a half dozen of her best specimens of the garment if she would lend them the luster of the name now famous throughout America.

A Remarkable Rescue. Mrs. Michael Curran, Plainfield, Ill., makes the statement that she caught cold, which she treated for a month by her family physician, but grew worse. He told her she was a hopeless case of consumption and that no medicine could be of any benefit. Her husband, Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, which she bought a bottle and to her delight found herself cured. She continued its use and after taking six bottles found herself sound and well; now does her own housework and is as well as ever was. Her husband, Dr. King's New Discovery, at Kuhn & Co's drug store. Large bottles 50 cents and \$1.00.

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