

a simple cyst, a tubal pregnancy or pus tube. As long as it remains it is a source of danger and sometimes of suffering, and when the inevitable time comes when its removal is imperative, the operation will be the more difficult and dangerous the longer it is delayed.

8. The removal of both tubes and both ovaries should not be done when only one tube and one ovary is diseased. It is worth while leaving even the half of an ovary for the purpose of preventing the onset of the menopause before the usual time.

Notes on the Medical Services of the British, French, German and American Armies.

BY DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL G. S. RYERSON, M.D.

*Honorary Associate of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England;
Honorary Member of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States.*

I. THE BRITISH ARMY MEDICAL STAFF.

THE late Sir James Simpson, whose remarkable erudition and industry will be the wonder of generations yet to come, wrote an interesting essay on the medical service of the Roman army. Until then nothing was known of it. It may now be said, without affectation, that almost as little is known of the British and other services by the practitioner of to-day. It is to supply this interesting chapter in medical annals that I write these articles. They are necessarily of the nature of compilations from official and other narrations. Up to the end of the fifteenth century military surgeons were in little demand, for it was considered cheaper to levy a recruit than to cure a soldier. During the war of the Revolution there was no regularly ordered system of medical aid, but the wars of the eighteenth century were attended by such bloody battles that surgical aid became absolutely necessary. During Marlborough's campaigns the service began to take on some semblance of order, and we read of regimental mate, hospital mate, regimental surgeon, apothecary to a general hospital, surgeon to a hospital, surgeon-general and physician-general. They served in the navy or army as they might be required—indeed, the combatant ranks of the two services were little more distinct. It is to the administration of Sir John Pringle, the senior medical officer to Marlborough's army, that the system of regimental, field and general hospitals is due. A general hospital was established at Ath, after the battle of Fontenoy, which received 600 wounded, and another at Ghent, a little later, which took 1,500 wounded. It was not until the Peninsular war that an assignment of medical officers and hospitals