

tached, causing a severe lacerated and contused wound, which heals but slowly. If it strike bone it crushes and destroys it. If fired at longer ranges it makes a clean drilled hole in bone, and if it strike soft parts only a very small wound is made, there being little difference between the wound of entrance and that of exit, which bleeds but little unless an important vessel is injured. In the case of the soft-nose or dum-dum bullet the wound is much more severe, for even where the soft parts only are injured the expansion of the lead causes great destruction of parts and a huge wound of exit, the wound of entrance being small. When it strikes bone it pulverizes and disintegrates it. If the range is very long, 2,000 yards or more, the soft-nose bullet "mushrooms" and causes an extensive flesh wound. It has been alleged that poisoned bullets were used. I have seen many of these so-called poisoned bullets. They are simply green with verdigris, which in all probability is burned off in the rifle while the bullet is in transit through the barrel. I have heard of no case where poisoning by a bullet could fairly be said to have occurred. It has been charged that explosive bullets have been used. I very much doubt the fact. The explosive character of Mausers at certain ranges has already been referred to. It is probably this which gave rise to the statement. When a Mauser bullet strikes a hard substance at a short range the impact is terrific and causes the bullet to fly into a thousand pieces. Besides Mauser rifles the Boers made use of many thousands of Martini-Henrys. As is well known, the bullet is a heavy one, and where wounds are inflicted they are in striking contrast to those inflicted by the Mauser. Great destruction of soft parts or bone follows, necessitating amputation in many cases. It is remarkable how few amputations have been performed during this war. Dr. Kendal Franks told the writer that in his experience not more than twenty amputations had been done in 3,000 cases, which must be attributed to the character of the wounds and to the conservative spirit of the surgery of the day. I had the opportunity of examining a good many Boer wounded and found that the bullet of the Lee-Metford rifle inflicted a wound very similar in character to that of the Mauser. It is not necessary, therefore, in this place to say anything more on that head. The effect of shell-fire was interesting, if not destructive. The Boers say it is no good and only makes one keep one's head down. The lydite shells are not nearly so destructive as was supposed. When they strike soft ground they do not explode. When they strike a rock they explode with great violence, but our friends the enemy were so cleverly entrenched that but few were injured by them. I remembered seeing one man stained a bright yellow from head to foot and apparently not much the worse for it. They said