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THE SYSTEM OF TRAINING MEN IN THE FIRST AID TO THE WOUNDED, WITH PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS.

Ambulance Lecture by Surgeon Lt. Col. Codd, R.C.D.
Delivered Feb. 19th, 1897.

The history of the system or methods of attending to the sick and wounded in the British army goes back to 1745, and even earlier than that. In that year Sir John Pringle, their Surgeon-General, organized a system for regimental field and general hospitals.

The first appointment of medical officers and establishment of hospitals in the field was in the Peninsular war — they were under the control of Sir John McGregor, P. M. O.

At this time there were no ambulance corps, in fact, the assistance to the wounded in any way must have been of a very primitive nature—the improvements since, as you will observe as I proceed, are very great, and of a most modern nature.

In the year 1812 a corps called the "Royal Wagon Train" was organized for conveying the sick. This was also used for commissariat purposes, which proved unsatisfactory in regard to helping the sick and wounded, and was disbanded in 1833.

In 1854, at the outbreak of the Crimean war, a hospital conveyance corps, which consisted of non-effective men, such as pensioners, convalescents and servants, was organized, but these men were not properly trained and proved unsatisfactory, and were disbanded.

There were other methods organized for assisting the wounded, but none appeared to work very satisfactory.

In 1855 the first medical staff corps was organized, but this again was apparently badly trained for the purpose and was also employed for general hospital purposes. This did not fulfill the requirements and was done away with after a three months' trial.

In connection with hospital training and nursing, I must not omit to mention the valuable services of Miss Florence Nightingale, who offered her services to the War Office to proceed, with a staff of thirty-eight nurses, to the Crimea. This offer was accepted, and she and her assistants did most noble and valuable work, which was recognized throughout England and France by a subscription of £20,000 to found the Nightingale Home for training nurses. Miss Nightingale was, I believe, the first English lady who entered upon the work of hospital nursing which has become so popular.

This same year the Army Hospital Corps was organized. This was the real commencement of the ambulance system. The members were trained for three months in hospital duties before joining the corps.

Then, in 1858, there was a Royal Commission, under Sir Sidney Herbert, to report on the general sanitary state of the army, and to organize the medical service, as well as to establish a practical medical school for training of medical officers, which all medical officers had, and have