

War the United States lost 968 by battle and 5,000 by disease. In the Boer War twice as many perished by disease as by the wage of battle. In the Crimean War disease caused three out of every four deaths.

The mortality in this war is very high. In the recent first and second Balkan Wars it has been estimated that the death rate from all causes was 140 per 1,000 engaged in the war. It will run much higher in this war. Australia has sent 76,000 to the front, and recently it was stated that over 3,000 had been killed, and over 9,000 wounded. Of the wounded at least 2,500 will die, giving a total of 5,500 or 7.88 per cent., as the result of about four months campaigning on the Dardanelles. This would be a mortality rate of over 200 per 1,000 for a year's operations. Up to 21st August Britain lost by killed in action 75,957, and the wounded numbered 251,058; and a fourth of these will die. This would raise her death losses up to 140,000. During the year from 10th August, 1914, to 21st August, 1915, there would not be more than an average of 500,000 engaged in France and Belgium. This would yield the terrible death rate of 280 per 1,000.

THE VALUE OF BONE PLATING IN ARMY SURGERY.

Dr. H. S. Souttar, one of the surgeons in the Belgian army, writes of his experiences as follows:

"Among all the cases which came to us certainly the most awkward were the fractured thighs. It was not a question of a broken leg in the ordinary sense of the term. In every case there was a large infected wound to deal with, and as a rule several inches of the bone had been blown clean away. At first we regarded the cases with horror, for anything more hopeless than a thigh with six inches missing is difficult to imagine. After some hesitation we attempted the method of fixation by steel plates, which was introduced with such success by Sir Arbuthnot Lane in the case of simple fractures. The missing portion of the bone is replaced by a long steel plate screwed to the portions which remain, 'demonstrating,' as a colleague put it, 'the triumph of mind over the absence of matter.' The result was a brilliant success, for not only could the limb be handled as if there were no fracture at all, to the infinite comfort of the patient, but the wounds themselves cleared with great rapidity.

"We were told that the plates would break loose; that the screws would come out; that the patient would come to a bad end through the violent sepsis introduced by the presence of a 'foreign body' in the shape of the steel plate. But none of these disasters happened, the cases did extremely well, and one of our most indignant critics returned