

The great field hospital for the Bavarians was the Chateau de Bazeilles. Three thousand of them were collected there on the 2nd of September, distributed in the buildings and under the trees and sheds. The ground was literally saturated with wound secretions while a great number of men and horses had been buried in extremely shallow graves about the gardens and immediate neighbourhood. A second country house close by was nearly as overcrowded, and as pestilential.

The Meuse was in a fearful state from the number of corpses of men and horses drowned there, or thrown in to be got rid of. It was indeed only wonderful that more disease was not engendered, for the stench in the town and the neighbourhood was terrible and dangerous. The English surgeons suggested the lighting of great peat fires, but the authorities were paralysed, and nothing was done.

For days before and during the battle of Sedan the French soldiers had been fearfully underfed, while enduring the greatest physical strain in a prolonged fight, ending in a disastrous and most depressing defeat, which told much upon the chance of cure. Where amputation of the lower limbs took place, few patients recovered; "of thirty-four cases of operations of the knee-joint, all were fatal."

Diarrhoea and dysentery were very troublesome, causing directly and indirectly many deaths. In the Caserne d'Asfeldt this was increased by using the water of a well into which the dead bodies of three Zouaves had been thrown. And it was curious what a dislike we entertained for water for sometime after the discovery of the bodies. Grievous loss of life was occasioned by the transport of the wounded; often in common country waggons without even straw for the patients to lie on, "the system of the Prussians being to order removal as soon as possible, in many instances before any idea could be formed of the case." Frightful hardships were sometimes undergone from the want of horses to forward these long lines of miserable sufferers on their way. In one case four hundred peasant waggons, filled with wounded, were left out all night, without shelter, wet through, after travelling two days from the field of battle near Metz.

As at Sedan the number of wounded increased hour by hour, the Protestant pasteur offered his church as shelter for twenty-five men. He then sought up and down the town for bedding materials, but scarcely anything could be either bought or borrowed. The state of the streets was almost indescribable; a perfect hail of shot, shell,