

titioner doing orthopaedic work, and what is of value is daily being utilized. The services of a trained masseuse or masseur are always available; they take no responsibility for the diagnosis of the condition, but they do the mechanical work which is prescribed by the practitioner, so that as far as that element of the case is concerned it seems to me that with the one we have all of the advantages and none of the disadvantages.

I thank your Lordship very much for your attention.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS AT THE FRONT.

HERBERT A. BRUCE, M.D.

I was asked to say something, your Lordship, with regard to medical conditions at the front. From an observation of the injuries and wounds occurring in the present war the question arises: How would these injuries be treated by men who are not versed in the practice of surgery? What chance, for instance, would a man have with a hemorrhage from one of his blood-vessels if a surgeon were not at hand? If he had a serious injury to one of his limbs, crushing the nerves, muscles and bones, and was suffering from pain and shock, what help would one of these irregular practitioners, who do not believe in drugs, be able to render such a man? What condition would that poor fellow be in?

And then we have the very extensive injuries to the brain, necessitating trephining of the skull, and provision for drainage. What help could such a patient hope to obtain from a man who had not a first-class knowledge of surgery? Again, injuries to the spinal cord, such as are produced by projectiles of various forms—bullets, shrapnel—where the projectile has penetrated the cord, surely in a case of that sort surgery has been able to demonstrate its value. Again, I would ask what help could these poor, unfortunate fellows hope to obtain, under these circumstances, from any of the forms of treatment that we designate as “irregular”—osteopathy, chiropractic, and so on?

At the front one of the most serious conditions that surgeons are called upon to treat is septic wounds—wounds that have become septic in consequence of infection. Now in order to