

The French bullet (Fig. 9) is composed of an alloy of copper and zinc (no lead core) with probably a thin plating of copper or nickel. It is the longest military bullet used by any nation and is of the type called a "boat-tail" bullet. The rear end is slightly pointed, to give the bullet less air resistance during flight.

Doctors attached to the German field hospitals report that the French bullet is very humane, causing a clean-pierced, quick-healing wound that is not generally dangerous unless a vital organ is perforated.

When you analyze the statements of some doctors that the pointed military bullet turns over in its passage through the body, then weigh the statements of the German doctors in regard to the "non-tumbling" of the extremely long and pointed French bullet, which certainly has the most reason for turning over—then, and not until then, are you in a position to realize that wounds are just as they happen to come; generally brought about by fate, located by luck and decided by the health of the body, taken together with a doctor's care.

This French bullet cannot be "dum-dummed," as it has no lead filling. It might be made flat or split pointed or even made hollow pointed, but either change would cause more trouble than it was worth, as the shattering effect of the lead filling is missing.

The muzzle velocities of these three bullets are approximately as follows: French, 2,400; British, 2,500; and German, 2,900 feet per second. Of the three the German bullet should not tip over as easily as either of the other two, but with its extreme velocity and its lead filled jacket, it ought to be the most dangerous military bullet used by any nation in the world.

In all wars it has been noted that some cruelty "talking-point," in reference to projectiles used, has been brought up for the purpose of obtaining sympathy. The "dum-dum" bullet is not legal and can be objected to, while the shrapnel shell, with its much more frightful wounds, is passed by just because its use is allowable.

If a man is not killed outright by a "dum-dum" bullet, he has a fair show for recovery, as the lead filling or bullet jacket will not generally cause blood poisoning. But when a jagged strip of copper several inches long, from the rifling band of the shrapnel, or a piece of brass pipe from the powder tube, lodges inside the body gangrene will set in in short order, especially if the man falls on the field, where he can not be immediately removed to the field hospital.

Pieces of steel or iron, with saw edges and smutted with acid gases, bronze fuse points and round lead balls that have been