

because his duty has to be discharged at the imminent risk of his life without the excitement which ordinarily impels men directly engaged in battle. Upon this subject we cannot forbear making the following extracts :

If exposure to hardship and danger is to be the ground upon which rank is to be conceded to officers of the army or of the navy, we think the claim of the medical officers may be easily determined. The medical officers are exposed to the same hardships on the march or in cantonment as the officers of the line; and while the latter have to incur the hazards of battle only occasionally, perhaps but once in a campaign, the former may be said to be doing battle daily, being constantly subjected to the dangers of pestilence by their exposures to the contagions and infections of crowded and unwholesome hospitals. We have not the statistics before us upon which to base a positive statement, but we entertain little doubt that, were the facts known, it would be found that in proportion to the number employed in any campaign, the number of deaths, or of invalided in the medical staff, by the ordinary casualties and exposures of the service, is greater than in any other department.

But as compared with the quartermaster or subsistence officers, the hazards of the medical officers are undefinably greater. The services of the first are never required on the field; while the surgeons are expected to accompany their respective regiments until the action commences—and then only to retire to some position of comparative, but not absolute safety. The instances upon record in which medical officers have been wounded and killed upon the field of battle, when in discharge of their appropriate duties, are numerous. In savage warfare very little respect is usually paid to any theoretical distinctions between combatants and non-combatants; and in civilized warfare the distinction is by no means constantly observed by an excited and disorderly soldiery.

Surgeon Dunigan writing from the Crimea during the siege of Sevastopol, states, "already one medical officer has been killed and two or three wounded. The first Mr. O'Leary, Assistant Surgeon of the 68th Regiment of Light Infantry, was actually cut in two by a cannon-ball while in the act of assisting a wounded seaman. It is only to be wondered at that more casualties have not occurred among the medical officers, for during the heat of the fire they are constantly called from place to place, running along the batteries, through the line of fire, in quest of the wounded. During the second bombardment this peripatetic system was very trying and fatiguing, for the soil was heavy and tenacious from the torrents of rain that then deluged the trenches; and instances occurred where officers boots drew off while running along to assist the wounded **** "On the whole," he remarks, "this trench duty is very trying and hazardous; and in performing it, the medical men run the same dangers, if not more, certainly not less, than the executive officers, who are generally stationary in a battery, while the medical officer as ubiquitous as possible, is rushing in all directions to succor the wounded."

Dr. Jarvis, surgeon in the U. S. Army, in a letter dated Oct., 1846, describing the attack upon Monterey, says—"The nearest and only shelter that presented itself to me for the wounded, falling every moment under a most destructive fire, was a quarry-pit, four or five feet in depth, and the same in breadth. Several of these were contiguous, and to them I directed the wounded to be carried. By stooping we were protected from the shots, which, however, became every moment thicker, owing to the fact that our troops had by this time advanced within range of the enemy's fire, and the moment they perceived a party of men bringing the wounded to us, they directed all their guns upon it. I had already performed one amputation and was preparing for a second, when two or three fugitives rushed into the wounded that lay there crowded together, saying that a large body of lancers were approaching. So little credit did I attach to their report, which I ascribed rather to their fears than to the actual presence of this dreaded description of troops, that I never raised my eyes to observe them, which circumstance doubtless saved us all. Had I been discovered, all would have been massacred, as in their headlong fury they would neither have delayed to ascertain our cha-