

In the recent war in South Africa in which, thank God, British arms and British pluck have, as they always must, in a righteous cause, prevailed, we have learnt almost all we know of the effects of modern gunshot wounds. Mr. Treves, who went out at the request of the British Government to South Africa as consulting surgeon to the forces, and who, in the battles of Colenso and Spion Kop, was actively engaged in attendance upon the wounded, has placed on record a number of very remarkable gunshot wounds inflicted by the Mauser bullet. Writing from Frere Camp he says: "The great majority of the wounds are by Mauser bullets, some few are due to fragments of shell, and a still less number to shrapnel. The Mauser bullet is a very merciful one, and in no instance have I met with a case in which the head of the bullet had been cut off, as asserted by some. The damage done by the Mauser depends mainly upon the range. At fifteen hundred to two thousand yards it penetrates like a needle. At five hundred yards or less, it will smash a femur or humerus to fragments. When a bone is fractured, the bullet, if retained, is generally found to be much distorted or broken up into many fragments. The shell generally peels off the leaden core. As an instance of the fine hitting of the Mauser, I may mention a case (from the armored train) in which the bullet went through the middle phalanges of the ring and little finger, making four small wounds which healed nicely and kindly. The two bones were fractured, but the man recovered, with sound union and mobile joints. On the other hand I have seen a fracture of the humerus in which the bone was broken into twenty-three small fragments. Many gunshot wounds of the thigh heal by first intention."

*Abdominal Wounds.*—The point of entry of the Mauser is very small, often, as Tommy says, like a bug-bite; it is not difficult to overlook. The point of exit also is often very small, but it is more apt to be slit-like. Several patients have been shot through the abdomen without inconvenience following. In some of these the bowel has been penetrated, as shown by blood in the motions. The hole made in the bowel by the Mauser is very fine and can be closed by from three to five Lembert sutures. Several penetrating wounds of the liver and kidneys have been followed by no symptoms. One distinguished officer had a shrapnel bullet pass through his liver and kidney. He had a little collapse, and beyond some temporary tympanites and hematuria, he had no trouble of any kind.

*Bullet Wounds of the Head and Spine.*—In several instances the bullet has passed through the brain without causing marked symptoms, and perfect recovery has followed. For example, a bullet entered near the vertex, passed through the brain, hard palate and buccal cavity and escaped at the root of