

*THE GREAT WAR EXHIBIT AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE
OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, AS REFLECTED IN
A HANDBOOK BY DR. ARTHUR KEITH.*

Probably no event in the evolution of the present War is of greater scientific value, or more productive of lasting benefit to this and later generations than the remarkable exhibition of War specimens now going on at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, which was thrown open to the public on October 11th last by Sir Alfred Keogh, Director-General of the British Army Medical Forces. A small handbook* to the exhibit describing its salient points and the development of the collection adds greatly to its value, and is written by Dr. Keith, Conservator of the Museum, to whose executive genius the arrangement of the exhibition in its present form is largely due. From it the following facts, which are of great interest to the members of this Association, are gleaned.

The collection on exhibition is a result of the activity of the British Medical History Committee, which was organized in November, 1914, and which from its inception has recognized as one of its first duties "to collect examples of the wounds and diseases suffered by soldiers in the present war; to dissect and examine such specimens in order to fully understand their extent and nature so that the best means for their treatment might be adopted; and to preserve instructive examples so that they might be examined and studied not only by Army surgeons of today, but also by medical men for many generations to come." "Such specimens," in Dr. Keith's words, "are original documents; they constitute an original and reliable source of knowledge for all time", and supply the most valuable basis possible for present and future medical and surgical treatment of the diseases and injuries of war.

* *Republished with a full account of the Addresses given at the Opening of the War Exhibit, in the British Medical Journal, October 20, 1917.*