

PREFACE

This work is an attempt to describe as briefly as possible the treatment of wounded men from the time of the infliction of their wounds on the battlefield to the time when they leave the base hospital either for duty or for treatment at the different institutions set apart for special kinds of infirmity.

We have endeavoured to describe methods of treatment whereby the stiffness and incapacity which follow wounds may be reduced to a minimum, and which will place severely wounded men under the best possible conditions to benefit from subsequent orthopaedic treatment.

The work embodies the newer and up-to-date methods of wound treatment, and older methods have not been discussed.

The chapter on joints contains photographs of specimens which we have prepared, and which we hope will make clear to the surgeon the nature of the synovial sacs with which he has to deal in the case of infection.

Short chapters on burns, amputations, and diseases peculiar to airmen have been included, as little has appeared in the literature on these subjects.

The general health of the troops while in trenches has been discussed, as we are convinced that prophylactic measures mean everything to the soldier when his day of misfortune arrives.

The treatment of fractures has aimed at rapid sterilisation and early secondary suture in order to produce the minimum of stiffness and disability.

We have not included the later treatment advocated for chest injuries, partly on account of insufficient experience in these methods, and partly because the treatment we have recommended has given such uniformly good results.

A special chapter written by Lieut.-Colonel L. F. Smith, C.M.G., on the part played by malaria and dysentery in complicating wounds has been included, as this complication in the Eastern theatre has been a serious problem. This chapter includes the subject of transfusion of blood, which we have used with success in the case of wounds complicated by gas gangrene infection.