Gunshot Wounds with Mauser Bullets.

From the accounts published of the wounds inflicted on our troops by the Mauser bullets it may be inferred that it is, so to speak, a humane bullet, usually occasioning but little pain or hemorrhage in traversing the body and limbs of the soldier. This may be adduced in its favor in contrast with the vastly more destructive effect of the old spherical bullet of bygone wars, or the big Snider bullet of more recent times. The special features of the Mauser bullet wound probably owe their character to its greater velocity and smaller diameter than the other projectiles, with consequently less strain upon the tissues through which it passes. There may be a modulus of elasticity inherent in the human tissues, which is exceeded by the passage through them of the more slowly moving and more bulky old round bullet, which causes them to give way and be torn and disrupted from their connections beyond the immediate track of the projectile. This collateral action would give rise to extreme pain, and cause laceration of blood vessels and nerves beyond those actually cut by the foreign body in its track. On the other hand, the swifter, less bulky and more pointed bullet would probably glide through the tissues under the modulus of their inherent elasticity, thus leaving them in a condition to close again after the passage of the projectile, and so sealing up the track from bleeding. This unimpaired elasticity would allow the nerves and blood vessels to resume their normal positions without being torn or overstretched, and would account for the diminution of pain and hemorrhage following wounds by the Mauser and similar gunshot missiles. The aseptic character of these rifle wounds may possibly be explained by there being less air and *débris* driven in front of the pointed and narrower bullet. Waves of air are seen in instantaneous photographs to precede the missile like a buffer, and the wave of air following the base of the ball would in a great part be shut off by the sphincter action of the elasticity of the penetrated tissues. Under the above circumstances grave shock to the system would be minimized in consequence of the lightning-like transit of the bullet through the body, provided it does not endanger the integrity of nerves or blood-vessels.—*Medical Press.*

"What happens to be the matter with your father?" inquired the doctor, as he hastily put his clothes on.

"He's got the lumbago," replied the boy. "I think that's what maw says it is."

"Pain in the small of the back, I presume," said the doctor.

"No, sir; he hain't got no small of the back. My paw weighs 284 pounds."—*Charlotte Medical Journal.*