

ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY AMPUTATIONS IN
GUN-SHOT WOUNDS.

COMPILED FROM "SURGICAL NOTES" TAKEN ON THE FIELD BY
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Case 225.—D. H., æt. 24, Priv. Co. D., 6th Reg't., Ky. vol's, Infantry. Right arm shot off by cannon-ball, in battle of Shiloh, April 6th, 1862. On examination I found the shaft of the bone carried away, leaving nothing but the head and upper end of the humerus. In ten hours after he received the injury, reaction was established and chloroform administered. I amputated at the shoulder joint. After the operation he reacted well under the use of stimulants, and I sent him to the "General Hospital" at Corinth, Miss., and notwithstanding the use of tonics, stimulants and full diet, he died about the 10th day after the operation, of pyemic fever.

Case 562.—C. B., Private C. S. N., æt. 24.—Left fore arm shot off about five inches from elbow joint, by cannon-ball from Federal gun-boat, in battle with Confederate Ram, "Arkansas," at Vicksburg, July 1862, after the vessel landed near one of the shore batteries, immediately above the town. He was borne to a sheltered spot in a ravine, and upon examination I found the pulse feeble, skin cold and covered with a clammy perspiration. For a space of about four inches from the point at which the limb was severed, I noticed that the skin and integuments were very much blackened—apparently scorched, and presenting very much the appearance that I had noticed in soldiers who have been injured by the explosion of a shell. I thought at first he had been manning one of our shore batteries, and that the wound was caused by a fragment of shell from the enemy's mortar boats. I amputated without using chloroform, before recovery from the "shock," by the circular operation, at the lower end of the humerus. By the administration of grain doses of opium every eight hours, reaction was pretty fully established in the course of twenty-four hours. He was then sent to the General Hospital at Jackson, Miss. The treatment consisted in stimulants, full diet, and cold water dressing. He recovered in six weeks.