

"Finally, that most terrible of fighting, the man-hunt, will be facilitated by smokeless powder. This is the kind of combat in which the advance posts are opposite each other and neither is ready to begin. They watch keenly, and whenever a cap or helmet appears from bush or wall, the enemy, like the beast from its lair, springs forth to kill. In such warfare the best natured men are as wild beasts, and the blood freezes in the veins to hear from one of them after shooting his man: 'There! he keels over like a rabbit.'

"At Gravelotte St. Privat there were 5,000 dead and 15,000 wounded. Two thirds of the latter were only slightly wounded, and were carried off by railway. For the severely wounded, when we calculate that two porters with one stretcher made the trip of 500, 600, and 700 paces ten times during the eight hours of the battle, we find that for the Germans alone 500 stretchers and 1,000 porters were necessary. We have left out of all consideration here the French, for whose severely wounded the Germans, as victors, had to care. This, at least, doubled the requirements, so that 2,000 porters and 1,000 stretchers were needed.

"This shows how entirely impossible the whole stretcher service is: The War department answers always that it is impossible to increase the size of the trains with wagons, and peasants' wagons are often impressed temporarily. I remember at Worth that I saw a peasant's wagon full of wounded, the rifles and shakos hanging over the side so it looked like a gamekeeper's cart with the rabbits strung along the box. When the War Department contends that an increase of the train would load down the army beyond the possibilities of quick move-

ments, I can only answer that new matter has been and is constantly added to the train, as, for instance, the telegraph wagon, the balloon apparatus, etc. Why, then, should the wounded be always neglected when the train is increased?"
—*Times and Register*.

DENTAL ASEPSIS.

There is reason to suspect that Listerian dogmas have not permeated yet the dental department of surgery, and that there is room for improvement in relation to the antiseptics of the instruments employed in the dental art. We do not go so far as to advocate the extraction of teeth under the carbolic spray, but there are undoubtedly some very tangible risks involved by negligence in this respect, foremost among which is the possibility of transmitting syphilis and blood-poisoning. The mouth is itself the perfect model of an incubator for the spores of bacteria, fulfilling all the requirements as to heat and moisture, besides providing suitable media for their development. The dentist therefore cannot be too scrupulously careful in providing for the freedom of his hands and of his instrument from "misplaced matter," alias dirt. Nothing is more likely to secure for him the confidence and esteem of patients than an ostentatious observance of the laws of surgical cleanliness. For this reason we are disposed to advise the methodical use of antiseptics. Not, indeed, that they are essential to cleanliness, but because the antiseptic method, when conscientiously carried out, ensures that purity which is indispensable for perfect safety. The best agent for the sterilization of instruments is probably boiling water, which places any marauding microbes *hors de combat*. It has the premier advantage of being easy of application and of not damaging the steel. "Antiseptic dentistry" would make a good war-cry, but unless all dentists practice this, they will have fallen short of their mission.—*Medical Press and Circular*.