

etc. This wound was a little above the level of the lower angle of the right scapula and about midway between the inner border of the scapula and the medium line of the vertebral column. There was a peculiar hissing sound of air at every breath from both wounds. Evidently the wound track traversed the right lung for several inches. Examined the wound very cautiously by finger and also by means of probes. Was fearful lest I should start a severe hemorrhage. Extracted pieces of the bone, fragments of the rifle ball, etc., from the wound track. Irrigated thoroughly from the upper opening with a very hot boracic acid solution; this solution came freely through to the lower wound, bringing blood clots, specks of lead, splinters of bone, etc., freely. Packed firmly with iodoform gauze from upper to lower wound. Hurried on the external dressings, fixing fractures as best we could, and got patient to bed, almost bloodless, and in a nearly moribund condition. Wrapped him in hot blankets, used hot drinks freely. Gave hypodermics freely. Did not use alcoholic stimulants. Patient slowly reacted to the measures adopted and rallied from his desperately shocked condition.

Although patient, when wounded, was a young man about thirty years of age, in splendid physical condition, still I could hardly see how he could recover. I fully expected death in a few days from septic pneumonia, and, for some ten days or so he did have a very rapid pulse, high temperatures and rapid respirations, with abundant purulent discharges from the wound in the back.

From that time on he gradually improved. For the first two or three weeks the wound was dressed twice daily. Irrigated thoroughly each time and packed firmly. Patient made a good recovery, the wounds slowly contracting and closing some weeks later and fractures healing nicely. Has little movement at the right shoulder articulation. Is in ordinary health at present.

The result in this case certainly was excellent, and really about all that could be hoped for, and very different from what I expected.

The question constantly before my mind while treating this case was, "Am I doing absolutely what is best in this case?" Is there anything that can be done, or anything being done, which, if stopped, would give this man a better chance for his life?

Hope opinions will be freely expressed along these lines and shall highly appreciate any views put forward. We shall now consider for a short time some points of interest concerning gun shot wounds of the chest. First, let us look at the causes of these wounds; they are legion, from the so-called toy