WORLD TO BENEFIT
BY WAR MEDICINE

New Methods and Discoveries Will Save Lives
Henceforth—Some Marvels of Up-to-date Surgery

This war has taught us how to save more lives than we had ever realized before. This is a statement made by Major George A. Stewart of the War Demonstration Hospital of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, who believes that the agonies and suffering of the great war will come benefits to humanity that will compensate to a large extent for the losses of the world.

Medicine and surgery have taken giant strides during the years of the war, and the progress by which this has been born are truly marvelous in scope and accomplishment. In the estimation of Major Stewart, medical science has reached such a stage that mankind will be able to live longer than a hundred years from today.

"The countries improved practices, both in medicine and surgery, made in this war have advanced our science half a century in forty years," says Major Stewart. In surgery, the values and technique of "clotting"—the use of some combination of substances to stop bleeding—have become a reality. The use of Dakin fluid and its applications in the treatment of infected wounds, has been found to be very effective. Dakin method of treating infected wounds is the most important contribution to surgical technique since the beginning of the war.

But this is only one of the countless other epoch-making methods that have arisen since the beginning of the war. The name "Dakin" is synonymous with successful surgical treatment for burns that was so successfully administered in the American Hospital for the Wounded at Conception by Miss Elsie de Wolfe and other nurses. The method proved a godsend for aged soldiers suffering from a variety of wounds.

"Dakin" fluid, a new type of antiseptic, is being applied upon gauze and bandages and burns, relieving the patient of the pain and enabling physicians to apply and remove bandages without the use of a tourniquet. The "Dakin" method is now in general use and has been found to be very effective.

"Out of forty-five patients in the War Demonstration Hospital suffering from pneumonia we returned thirty-five to the front. Pneumonia is now the chief enemy. It often follows pneumonia, and influenza has been highly fatal. There has been an unusual amount of pneumonia in New York this year of a very serious type. But the death rate has been lessened by the modern treatment with "Dakin" fluid. "Dakin" fluid is a new type of antiseptic that has been found to be very effective.

"Other wonderful advances have been made, for, in X-ray work, knowledge of the gas bubbles which causes a form of gas gangrene, in the treatment for prevention or care of and diseases as typhoid fever, lockjaw, pneumonia, tetanus, bubonic, etc. These lessons will save far more lives in the long run than the war has cost."

Nor is Major Stewart the only one to report to this effect. "In our estimation of the combined death rate during the war has been about one-half that of the war," he said recently. "We have been able to do this because of the general health of the country and the efficiency of the medical staff."

"One of the most remarkable inroads into the tragedy of war has been the discovery of a new type of antiseptic which has been found to be very effective in the treatment of wounds. This antiseptic has been found to be very effective in the treatment of wounds."

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