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U. S. War Dept - S. B. C.

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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT
OF
GUNSHOT WOUNDS.

CIRCULAR No. 9.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE, *July 1, 1863.*

The accompanying tables have been compiled by Surgeon J. H. Brinton, U. S. V., from the various reports received at this office, for the periods to which the tables refer.

They are believed to possess great statistical value, and are now published for the information of the medical officers of the army, and of the profession at large, in a separate form, in advance of more extended details illustrative thereof.

The Surgeon General desires to express his gratification at the promptness exhibited by the majority of medical officers in making the valuable reports embodied in these tables.

Covering, themselves, a period of only four months, they are to be considered, in addition to their intrinsic value, as an earnest for the future of still larger and more valuable contributions to the literature of surgery.

W. A. HAMMOND,
Surgeon General.

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON CITY, D C.,
July 1, 1863.

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GENERAL: In obedience to your instructions, I have the honor to submit the following tables of gunshot injuries treated in the U. S. A. General Hospitals during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862. These figures are obtained by the aggregation of the consolidated tabular statements of nearly all of the army general hospitals in the United States for the months specified. The number of hospitals represented in the tables is one hundred and sixty-seven. Reports from others, obviously inaccurate, have been excluded as unreliable.

The statistical results thus collated are founded on the exhibit of the first edition of the "tabular statement of gunshot wounds," adopted by the Medical Department in September last. Previous to that month, the surgical statistics of the war are absolutely worthless. The only information procurable is such as can be derived from an examination of a mass of reports, all of which present merely certain figures, under the vague and unsatisfactory heading "Vulnus Sclopeticum." The adoption of the new "report of sick and wounded" was an experiment; and although as first issued, it was somewhat imperfect, it is believed that the results already arrived at possess considerable professional interest.

In the statements now presented I would direct your attention to the existence of certain unavoidable deficiencies. I would also state that steps have been instituted to correct these; and I can confidently assert that if medical officers will hereafter devote more care to the preparation of their reports, future consolidations will prove of far greater value to surgical science than those now submitted. It has been found impossible, in the present tables, to account in every detail for the entire number of cases (20,930) of gunshot injuries treated. I have therefore arranged separate tables, each of which is complete in itself. Thus, in table number 2, (fifteen hundred and forty-five) amputations have been reported, whilst in table number 4 I have been able to account for but 1,342; but these are accounted for fully and correctly. The same remark will apply to the statement of excisions. 1626

Nor have I been able in the present exhibits to separate the results of the primary and secondary operations; the necessary data for this purpose were not heretofore in the possession of the Medical Department. Such alterations have, however, been made in the form of the blank issued to medical officers as will, it is hoped, correct this omission for the future.

The results of the injuries of the different thirds of the thigh were not obtained by the issue of the first edition of the sick report. This omission has been already supplied for the year 1863, and also for all cases in the present tables remaining under treatment on the first of January last.

The constant transfer of patients from one hospital to another has been one of the greatest difficulties encountered in the preparation of these tables, and the utmost caution has been necessary to avoid duplication of cases. I believe, however, that this obstacle has been overcome, and I do not think that any important errors exist in the results now offered to you.

As the subject of gunshot fractures of the femur is one of such great practical importance, I have extracted from the April reports, now in process of compilation, the statistics of these injuries for the first quarter of 1863. These I have appended in a foot note to the first table. I would also state that all cases reported as "remaining under treatment January 1, 1863," have been taken up and accounted for in the reports of the quarter ending March 31, 1863, now being compiled.

Fuller information as to the comparative results of operative and conservative surgery will, it is believed, be obtained from the working of the recently adopted "Medical Descriptive List" system. Tabular statements containing only figures must unavoidably fail to accomplish this important end.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN H. BRINTON,
Surgeon U. S. V.

Brigadier General WM. A. HAMMOND,
Surgeon General U. S. A.

No. 1.

Tabular statement of gunshot wounds treated in the U. S. A. General Hospitals during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862; showing the number returned to duty, furloughed, deserted, discharged, died, and remaining under treatment January 1, 1863.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS—SEAT AND CHARACTER.	Total number of cases.	Returned to duty.	Furloughed.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Died.	Prisoners exch'g'd.	Remaining under treatment Jan. 1, 1863.
<i>Flesh wounds.</i>								
Of head.....	1,090	396	37	29	107	30	4	487
Of neck.....	459	166	15	6	45	21	6	200
Of trunk.....	2,190	686	76	50	220	91	12	1,055
Of external genitals.....	163	49	5	2	24	9	.....	74
Of upper extremities.....	4,972	1,750	186	144	594	63	16	2,219
Of lower extremities.....	3,817	1,338	241	37	248	78	.....	1,875
<i>Wounds of cavities.</i>								
Of brain.....	44	.....	2	.....	3	32	.....	7
Of lungs.....	495	.....	17	7	112	192	4	163
<i>Other wounds of thoracic cavity...</i>	114	.....	5	.....	46	18	.....	45
Of stomach.....	19	.....	1	.....	6	5	.....	7
Of intestines.....	72	.....	2	9	4	43	.....	14
Of bladder.....	31	.....	2	.....	6	16	.....	7
<i>Other wounds of abdominal cavity.</i>	104	.....	4	.....	36	15	.....	49
<i>Gunshot fractures.</i>								
Of cranium.....	176	.....	9	.....	43	59	.....	65
Of facial bones.....	405	72	19	3	72	27	.....	212
Of clavicle.....	132	17	2	.....	27	7	8	71
Of scapula.....	199	37	4	.....	24	7	.....	127
Of humerus.....	575	38	36	6	177	69	6	243
Of forearm.....	728	101	40	8	160	18	3	398
Of femur.....	749	9	13	4	113	238	.....	372
Of leg.....	967	61	29	9	156	140	.....	572
Of ribs.....	113	14	6	1	25	11	.....	56

No. 1.—*Tabular statement, &c*—Continued.

GUNSHOT WOUNDS—SEAT AND CHARACTER.	Total number of cases.	Returned to duty.	Furloughed.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Died.	Prisoners exch'g'd.	Remaining under treatment Jan. 1, 1863.
Of vertebræ	48	1	2	-----	7	22	-----	16
Of other bones	997	204	35	18	202	48	-----	490
<i>Wounds of joints.</i>								
Of shoulder joint.....	269	-----	12	8	61	41	10	137
Of elbow	241	-----	6	7	78	21	6	123
Of wrist.....	161	-----	7	1	48	11	-----	94
Of hip.....	146	-----	3	1	14	56	-----	72
Of knee.....	427	-----	13	5	54	166	-----	189
Of ankle.....	282	-----	8	7	82	37	-----	148
Of other joints	161	19	8	-----	58	2	-----	74
Contusions and injuries by spent balls.....	532	173	4	12	28	8	12	295
Miscellaneous	52	18	7	-----	17	6	-----	4
Total	20,930	5,149	856	374	2,897	1,607	87	9,960

Gunshot fractures of femur treated in the U. S. A. General Hospitals during the months of January, February, and March, 1863.

	Total number of cases.	Treatment.				Returned to duty.	Furloughed.	Discharged.	Died.	Remaining under treatment April 1, 1863.
		Amputation.	Excision.	Simple dressing.	Treatment not stated, probably simple dressing.					
Upper third....	103	22	9	53	26	-----	1	25	24	53
Middle third....	143	46	1	83	13	1	2	41	26	73
Lower third....	137	35	3	85	14	-----	9	38	25	65
Total.....	383	103	6	221	53	1	12	104	75	191

NOTE.—Of the 383 cases included in this table, 75 were received into hospital during 1862, and are embraced in table No. 1, under the caption "remaining under treatment January 1, 1863."

Tabular statement exhibiting the Treatment of the gunshot wounds received in the U. S. A. General Hospitals during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862.

Seat and character.	Total number of cases.	Amputations.	Excisions.	Simple dressing.
GUNSHOT WOUNDS.				
<i>Flesh wounds.</i>				
Of head.....	1,045	-----	-----	1,045
Of neck.....	455	-----	-----	455
Of trunk.....	2,178	-----	-----	2,178
Of external genitals.....	159	-----	-----	159
Of upper extremities.....	4,972	132	-----	4,840
Of lower extremities.....	3,806	11	-----	3,795
<i>Wounds of cavities.</i>				
Of brain.....	33	-----	-----	33
Of lungs.....	495	-----	-----	495
<i>Other wounds of thoracic cavity.....</i>	71	-----	-----	71
Of stomach.....	11	-----	-----	11
Of intestines.....	67	-----	-----	67
Of bladder.....	28	-----	-----	28
<i>Other wounds of abdominal cavity.....</i>	99	-----	-----	99
<i>Gunshot fractures.</i>				
Of cranium.....	163	-----	5	158
Of facial bones.....	374	-----	10	364
Of clavicle.....	128	-----	6	122
Of scapula.....	191	-----	3	188
Of humerus.....	568	198	63	307
Of forearm.....	722	120	48	554
Of femur.....	749	269	27	453
Of leg.....	949	299	60	590
Of ribs.....	93	-----	1	92
Of vertebræ.....	40	-----	-----	40
<i>Of other bones.....</i>	952	312	38	602
<i>Wounds of joints.</i>				
Of shoulder-joint.....	266	23	35	208
Of elbow.....	240	34	39	167
Of wrist.....	158	23	14	121
Of hip.....	155	-----	8	147
Of knee.....	242	104	11	127
Of ankle.....	349	52	8	289
<i>Of other joints.....</i>	164	39	5	120
<i>Contusions and injuries by spent balls.....</i>	484	5	-----	479
Miscellaneous.....	23	5	-----	18
Total.....	20,429	1,626	381	18,422

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Tabular statement exhibiting the character of the Missiles in cases of gunshot wounds treated in the U. S. A. General Hospitals during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862.

Seat and character.	Total number of cases.	Round leaden bullet.	Conical leaden bullet.	Shell.	Round shot.	Other missiles.
GUNSHOT WOUNDS.						
<i>Flesh wounds.</i>						
Of head.....	1,049	367	453	165	22	42
Of neck.....	435	194	205	24	.....	12
Of trunk.....	2,072	633	1,189	186	26	38
Of external genitals.....	152	51	89	4	1	7
Of upper extremities.....	4,636	1,621	2,566	307	32	110
Of lower extremities.....	3,461	878	2,307	229	26	21
<i>Wounds of cavities.</i>						
Of brain.....	32	8	22	2	.....	.....
Of lungs.....	394	153	227	3	2	9
<i>Other wounds of thoracic cavity.....</i>	69	30	35	3	.....	1
Of stomach.....	13	7	6	.....	.....	.....
Of intestines.....	47	20	24	1	1	1
Of bladder.....	20	6	14	.....	.....	.....
<i>Other wounds of abdominal cavity.....</i>	81	25	50	6	.....	.....
<i>Gunshot fractures.</i>						
Of cranium.....	148	30	79	25	3	11
Of facial bones.....	353	115	197	22	9	10
Of clavicle.....	119	31	69	9	2	8
Of scapula.....	181	51	105	18	5	2
Of humerus.....	529	110	371	28	5	15
Of forearm.....	661	169	447	33	4	8
Of femur.....	539	107	378	38	6	10
Of leg.....	767	205	442	80	19	21
Of ribs.....	102	25	66	6	.....	5
Of vertebræ.....	39	16	21	1	.....	1
<i>Of other bones.....</i>	910	259	524	56	17	54
<i>Wounds of joints.</i>						
Of shoulder-joint.....	208	74	109	19	2	4
Of elbow.....	229	68	142	13	2	4
Of wrist.....	156	39	102	6	4	5
Of hip.....	124	27	87	5	2	3
Of knee.....	144	57	78	6	1	2
Of ankle.....	271	81	164	12	2	12
<i>Of other joints.....</i>	140	29	88	9	4	10
<i>Contusions and injuries by spent balls.....</i>	440	59	124	141	28	88
Miscellaneous.....	33	9	18	6	.....	.....
Total.....	18,554	5,554	10,798	1,463	225	514

No. 4.—*Tabular statement of Amputations performed in the U. S. A. General Hospitals, and their results, during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862.*

LIST OF OPERATIONS.	SIDE OF BODY.		FOR WHAT PERFORMED.		PERIOD OF OPERATION.		Total.	RESULTS.						Remaining under treatment, January 1, 1863.	Secondary operation necessary; result not given.
	Right.	Left.	Gunshot wounds.	Other causes.	Primary operations.	Secondary operations.		Returned to duty.	Furloughed.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Died.	Second operation necessary.		
AMPUTATIONS.															
Fingers.....	213	158	259	9	62	190	371	88	16	7	106	2	2	152	.....
Wrist.....	4	4	8	.....	4	4	8	.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	4	.....
Forearm.....	30	47	77	.....	14	48	77	1	2	.....	35	10	1	29	.....
Elbow.....	4	3	7	.....	1	6	7	.....	.....	.....	1	2	.....	4	.....
Arm.....	85	88	166	7	38	123	173	2	3	.....	82	40	1	46	.....
Shoulder.....	17	20	37	.....	7	30	37	.....	.....	1	15	13	*1	8	.....
Toes.....	22	25	40	7	12	29	47	6	1	1	15	1	.....	23	.....
Tarso-metatarsal (Lisfranc's).....	2	1	3	.....	.....	3	3	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	1	.....
Medio-tarsal (Chopart's).....	2	3	.....	.....	2	3	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	1	.....
Ankle joint (Syme's).....	14	8	22	.....	5	17	22	.....	.....	.....	5	3	.....	3	.....
Leg.....	110	114	216	8	51	153	224	.....	.....	1	48	70	8	105	.....
Knee.....	12	10	22	.....	1	21	22	.....	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	8	.....
Thigh.....	68	51	117	2	20	95	119	.....	1	.....	14	62	10	39	3
{ Lower third.....	55	74	129	.....	48	81	129	.....	.....	.....	10	65	2	53	1
{ Middle third.....	35	29	61	.....	18	42	64	.....	.....	.....	5	45	1	14	.....
{ Upper third.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hip.....	16	16	31	1	.....	8	32	3	1	.....	10	.....	.....	15	.....
Other amputations.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total.....	690	652	1,197	34	291	855	1,342	100	25	11	350	336	30	516	4

* Axillary artery ligated for secondary hemorrhage—patient died.

Tabular statement of Excisions performed in the U. S. A. General Hospitals, and their results, during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862.

LIST OF OPERATIONS.	SIDE OF BODY.		FOR WHAT PERFORMED.		PERIOD OF OPERATION.		Total.	RESULTS.						Remaining under treatment, January 1, 1863.
	Right.	Left.	Gunshot wounds.	Other causes.	Primary operations.	Secondary operations.		Returned to duty.	Purloined.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Died.	Second operation necessary.	
EXCISIONS.														
Wrist.....	14	7	21	.....	3	18	21	2	.....	4	.....	.....	.....	15
Elbow.....	25	20	45	.....	5	40	45	1	.....	12	8	.....	1	23
Shoulder.....	26	25	51	.....	8	41	51	.....	.....	14	10	.....	.....	26
Jaw.....	8	8	16	.....	3	12	16	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	11
Ankle.....	5	3	8	.....	1	6	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Knee.....	4	5	9	.....	1	9	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Hip.....	7	9	16	.....	2	13	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Continuity of long bones.....	102	53	111	1	17	131	155	6	1	25	13	.....	1	104
Other excisions.....	26	24	49	1	7	43	50	2	10	1	36
Total.....	217	154	326	2	47	313	371	6	7	69	56	3	228

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Extraction of balls during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862.

LIST OF OPERATIONS.	SIDE OF BODY.		FOR WHAT PERFORMED.		PERIOD OF OPERATION.		RESULTS.						Prisoners.	
	Right.	Left.	Gunshot wounds.	Other causes.	Primary operations.	Secondary operations.	Returned to duty.	Furloughed.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Died.	Second operation necessary.		Remaining under treatment, January 1, 1863.
Extraction of balls and other foreign bodies	351	253	604	.....	86	451	312	18	1	69	11	2	179	14
Total	351	253	604	.....	86	451	604	18	1	69	11	2	179	14

Tabular statement exhibiting the results of thirty-five cases of Trephining, performed in the U. S. A. General Hospitals, from September, 1862, to March 31, 1863.

OPERATION.	Number of cases.	FOR WHAT PERFORMED.			PERIOD OF OPERATION.		RESULTS.		
		Gunshot wounds.	Other causes.	.....	Primary operations.	Secondary operations.	Recovered.	Died.	Under treatment April 1, 1863.
Trephining	35	30	5	.....	3	32	5	28	2

NOTE.—In the five cases which recovered, the operation of trephining was performed after gunshot injuries. Four of the operations were secondary, and one was primary.

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No. 8.
Tabular statement of vessels ligated in the U. S. A. General Hospitals during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862.

LIST OF OPERATIONS.	SIDE OF BODY.		FOR WHAT PERFORMED.		PERIOD OF OPERATION.		Total.	RESULTS.					Remaining under treatment, January 1, 1863.	Secondary operation necessary; result not given.
	Right.	Left.	Gunshot wounds.	Other causes.	Primary operations.	Secondary operations.		Returned to duty.	Deserted.	Discharged.	Died.	Second operation necessary.		
LIGATION OF VESSELS.														
Of common carotid	1	1	2	.....	1	1	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of external carotid	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of thyroid	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of subclavian, third portion .....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of subclavian, " .....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	3	3	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of axillary	8	7	11	1	.....	11	15	1	1	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of brachial	5	3	5	2	.....	2	4	1	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of radial	1	1	2	.....	.....	2	4	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of ulna	4	.....	3	1	.....	1	2	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of external iliac	18	20	38	1	.....	2	35	.....	.....	26	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of femoral	3	.....	3	.....	.....	3	3	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of popliteal	2	1	3	.....	.....	2	2	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of anterior tibial	1	.....	1	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of posterior tibial	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of external plantar	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Of internal plantar	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Internal jugular vein.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	49	37	75	8	5	70	86	2	1	11	42	3	28	2

* This patient has since been discharged the service, cured.

Miscellaneous operations performed in the U. S. A. General Hospitals during the months of September, October, November, and December, 1862.

LIST OF OPERATIONS.

	SIDE OF BODY.		FOR WHAT PERFORMED.		PERIOD OF OPERATION.		Total.	RESULTS.		Remaining under treatment, January 1, 1863.
	Right.	Left.	Gunsbot wounds.	Other causes.	Primary operations.	Secondary operations.		Furloughed.	Died.	
Varicose veins.....	1				1		1			1
Tenotomy.....	2			1	1		2			2
Drilling for false joint at radius.....	1		1		1		1			
Strangulated oblique hernia; inguinal, fourth day.....	1				1		1	1		
Excision of musculo-spiral nerve.....		1	1				1			1
Laryngotomy.....	1		1				1			
Tracheotomy.....	1		1				1			
Other operations—amputations on the field.....	6	2	8				8	5		3
Trephining of tibia.....	1		1				1			1
Total.....	13	4	13	1	3	4	17	1	8	2

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