

Book Reviews

reached. Tented hospitals were chiefly 400- or 750-bedded; the former were more useful nearer the front but the larger unit could sometimes move very quickly as in the instance mentioned on page 310 when a 750-bedded hospital struck its tents, travelled eighty miles and reopened at the new site within thirty hours—no mean performance.

Disease, as usual, caused a larger wastage than wounds; dysentery, malaria, typhus fever, venereal disease, and psychiatric disorders were the principal maladies. Cutaneous leishmaniasis was seen in Africa but the curative drug was in short supply. Malaria was brought under considerable control but some difficulty was found in getting all the men to take the prophylactic drug regularly. Penicillin became available in the later campaigns and greatly helped the successful treatment of wounds and of venereal disease. Neuro-psychiatric cases were common during severe fighting and early treatment by the psychiatrist enabled a larger proportion to return to the front line.

The results of the surgical treatment of wounds were highly successful as mentioned in the Prologue: 'So well did the Medical Department do its work in the Mediterranean theater that the chances of surviving battle-wounds were 27 to 1: of the 102,000 only 4,000 died'. That is a wonderful record, even when one remembers that many did not live to reach the surgeon.

There is a useful glossary at the end of the volume, and in the text are many very helpful maps.

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