Professor Francis de Chaumont's papers re instruction of the Army Hospital Corps

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Papers
relative to
Instruction of
Army Hospital Corps.

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Report of the Professors of the Army Medical School on the training necessary for the men of the Army Hospital Corps in the duties which would be required of them when serving with an army in the Field.

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~~The question having been referred to the Professors of the Army Medical School~~

Colonel Wilbraham, C.B., Commandant, and Inspector General Dr Anderson, Principal Medical Officer, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, having referred to the Professors of the Army Medical School a question as to the steps being taken to cause the men of the ~~Corps~~ Army Hospital Corps at Netley to be instructed in the general duties which would be required of them when serving with an Army

in the Field. The Professors
beg to make the following report on this important
subject.

A War-Office
Circular No. 856, dated ~~[illegible]~~
31st March 1864 describes various
articles of Field Equipment including
the Ambulance wagon, Medical
Store Cart, Canteens, and their
contents, and it gives minute
directions for Packing these contents.
It also gives a description of the
Hospital Marquee, and its several
parts, as well as the circular
Linen Tent, and the modes of
packing them in their respective

Valises.

The directions for packing the contents of these several articles of Field Equipment can only be properly executed after practical instruction and repeated exercises. Equally the knowledge of pitching, striking, and packing the hospital tents; of placing wounded upon the ambulance wagon according to their injuries; the names and arrangement of the instruments and of articles contained in the medical pannier; of attaching the pannier properly upon the pack saddles; and of

other such field duties, can only be acquired by regular instruction. It is a matter of notoriety that on active service, the movement of a whole column is frequently delayed by the want of celerity in the movement of its hospital establishment, and it is difficult to see how such delays can be avoided excepting by the men upon whom the movement of the establishment depends being trained in a regular system of ambulance drill.—

No such training is carried on at present at

Nottey, nor do the means of carrying it out exist. The necessity for it appears to be urgent, for without it, on taking the field the men must be at first inefficient for their duties and there will in all probability be considerable injury and waste of public stores, until the men have become by experience acquainted with their uses and method of packing them for transportation.

Extract from Report

It appears to have been contemplated, and indeed to have been one of the

It is impossible to speak of the instruction of the men as regards Field Duties however, without referring to their instructions in all the other matters laid down in the Report on the organization of the Army Hospital Corps.

Not only on the one hand are the subjects in which Privates of the A.H. Corps are ordered to be trained, in many instances of a kind requiring considerable careful attention and intelligence for their acquisition, and of vital importance to the Soldiers upon whom they are to attend such as management of helpless patients, resuscitation from drowning, a general knowledge of the human body, observations of the sick, as regards the symptoms of their diseases, so as to give

Report on the Removal of the Army Medical School from Chatham to Netley 1863. Page 5

inducement for the removal of the Head Quarters of the Army Hospital Corps to Netley that there should be a systematic training of the men at the place where the Army Medical School was about to be fixed. An uniform system of training* was also recommended in the Report of the Committee upon the Army Hospital Corps which met in November 1860. This Committee indicated the subjects on which the men should be instructed and among others, named the use of ambulances when practicable, and of the medical field equipments which may be issued to regiments**

* Report, page 8 art. 28

** Report, page 3.

an intelligible account of the patients' medical history between the visit of the medical officer &c., but, on the other hand, the class of men from whom the Privates of this corps are taken is one totally inexperienced in such matters. It is only reasonable to suppose that such men would much more easily acquire a knowledge of sapping, of the use of a rifle, or of any other simple mechanical occupation, yet ~~which~~ while regular instructors and a course of systematic instruction are established for training men in these and all such occupations, no code of instruction has yet been issued nor organized plan adopted for the training which ~~the~~ men of the Army Hospital Corps are ordered to undergo, so ~~to~~ as to ensure a uniformity of system throughout

the service. Such training instruction as has been given, has been given by officers engaged in other duties, and at such intervals of leisure as could be obtained in the course of the ordinary daily occupations in which the men were habitually employed.*

We do not think that this can ever prove to be satisfactory, but believe that a system corresponding with the system of instruction adopted in all other educational establishments in the public service is essential for efficiency.

We believe that the following should be the principles of the system.

1st There should be a responsible medical officer specially appointed to superintend the instruction of the men of the A.H. Corps,* there should

* In 1863 Assistant Surgeon C. Mackinnon volunteered to instruct the men of the A.H.C. at Kelly in a general knowledge of anatomy, minor surgery, & such an amount of pharmacy as might make the men more efficient in their ward duties. Professors Maclean & Laymore, joined with Dr Mackinnon drew out the syllabus of a course of instruction to insure the end in view. Several sets of men went through this course of instruction, & at the close were examined by the P.M.O. and Professors Maclean & Laymore. The acquired ~~progress made~~ knowledge gained by the men was considered to be ~~very~~ as far satisfactory, but at the time when Assist Surgeon Mackinnon was becoming familiar with the method of teaching he was ordered away to India. Dr Mackinnon took with him the syllabus he had been using. During the present year 1864 Dr de Chaumont, at the request of the P.M.O, has been training the men in the subjects taught by Dr Mackinnon. An account of this instruction is appended by Dr de Chaumont.

* Or ~~secondarily~~ in the

be under him not less than two non-commissioned officers Instructors. Neither the officer, nor non commissioned officers should be removed until trained successors ~~were~~ are ready to take their places -

2 - That the Medical officer should prepare a general code of Instructions for the approval of the Director General. That he should afterwards, as a first duty, thoroughly instruct the non-commissioned Instructors in this code (This code of Instruction should not only contain a list of duties to be performed, but should also, like the Infantry Sergeants' manual, answer the purpose of teaching the men the manner of performing them.

The Code of "Instruction pour les Infirmiers-Majors et Infirmiers des Hôpitaux Militaires" by M. Dubois, Director of the Military Hospital of Instruction at Metz, which has been adopted by the French Ministry of War, and a translation of a considerable portion of which code will be found in the appendix to the Report of the Royal Commissioners on the Sanitary ~~state~~ of ~~the~~ Army, may serve as a text, to be adapted to the organization and system of the British Army Hospital Corps.)

3 That all ~~the~~ Hospital Attendants, Ordt men of the Medical Branch of the A. H. Corps and ~~all~~ Regimental Hospital Sergeants as opportunities occur should be then

successively trained. They should be sent in classes of not more than 20 at a time, and the whole time of the men should be given to the course of instruction they have to go through. Such the Apothecaries & men of the Surveyor's branch of the Aid Corps who it may be intended to employ in charge of the Hospital Equipment in Field Service, in assisting in packing and unpacking Canteens, hospital tents &c should pass through the training in Field duties

Are not all men of the Surveying branch of the A. H. C. liable to be employed in field duties, & should they not therefore be equally instructed?

4. That at the conclusion of each course regular reports of the efficiency of each man should be furnished by the Officer Instructor to the Director General and certificates given of the men who have become acquainted with the

Why not train every man (Surveying) for medical & field duties on the service? E.P.

duties.

5 That the knowledge of men returning from Foreign service should be refreshed by ~~fresh courses of~~ renewed instruction, and that all available men of the Corps who have passed through the course should still from time to time be made to go through their exercises in the packing and unpacking of the Medical Store Carts, Canteens, use of stretchers, pitching and striking hospital tents, and other field occupations, so that these duties may be performed with the same precision and regularity as the other duties of soldiers are required to be performed when troops are on active service.

6. That for this purpose a complete set of Field Equipment, including the Medical Store cart and its contents, ambulance waggon and its contents, and all other articles of Field Equipment, with a shed or other proper provision for their protection should be placed at Retley, and that a convenient spot of ground should be appropriated to the training exercises in the use of these stores and vehicles —

[illegible] by J. A. J. McC. on the Instruction [illegible] given to the Orderlies (refers to [illegible] Page

I have the honor to report, for the information of the Professors of the Army Medical school, that at the end of March 1864 I undertook, at the request of Inspector-General Dr. Anderson, P.M.O. at Nelley, to instruct the orderlies of the Medical Branch of the Army Hospital Corps in the points laid down in the circulars dated 31st January, and 1st March 1864. ~~[illegible]~~ During four months to the end of July *above 60 men, in classes of about 21 to 25 went through the course of instruction. Each class took five or six weeks, two, and sometimes three, lessons being given each week. As I had other duties to attend to, and as the men were often required in the wards, or to assist at the disembarkation of invalids, the instruction was necessarily more or less desultory and irregular.

* Some of these were made to go through more than one course, their progress not being satisfactory —

The following were the subjects taught:

1st. A general knowledge of anatomy, including the names of the Regions of the body, the principal bones, vessels and viscera &c.

2d. The modes of arresting haemorrhage & several points of minor surgery.

3d. The application of bandages, trusses, splints & other appliances. Treatment of fractures & reduction of dislocations.

4th

4th The preparation & application of blisters, poultices, fomentations &c –

5th The management & nursing of patients, administration of stimulants, medicines &c –

6th The names & uses of the chief surgical instruments &c –

7th The modes of resuscitation from drowning

8th The uses of the Barometer & thermometer –

9th The ventilation, cleaning &c of wards –

10th Some points of physiology, such as the rates of the pulse & respiration: – also the observations of the sick as to sleep, appetite, expectoration &c – and the appearances & names of the most common kinds of eruptions.

No field instruction (beyond general directions for the carrying of wounded &c) could be given, for want of appliances for the purpose –

At the end of each course the men were examined, and a report of the progress made by each sent in to the Inspector-General –

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Staff Asst. Surgeon
Assistant to the Professor of
Military Hygiene

Synopsis of Instruction for the Army Hospital Corps.

The course has generally extended over 7 to 10 weeks, according to the number attending, - and to the interruptions occurring from time to time - The lectures were at first twice & latterly thrice a week - The hour found most convenient was 11 a.m. —

1st Lecture

1. The circulars (pp. 596-7 Blue book vol. v 1863) were generally read:- the objects of the course explained:- men warned to be attentive, as upon the report at the end of the course depended their being retained in the corps: also pointed out that they must be examined before being promoted. The pamphlet containing the anatomical names &c was distributed. —

2d Lecture
3d "
4th "
5th "

2. Four (or more) lectures were devoted to giving men the names of the principal parts of the body, (as laid down in the pamphlet), and demonstrating them on the lay-figure. [It would however be well to take longer for this - I was always pressed for time & had to go over everything much faster than was desirable]

6th Lecture

3. A lecture (at least) was devoted to haemostatics - particularly the use of the tourniquet

tourniquet. —

7th Lecture — 8th do — 9th do —

4. Generally each man was made to apply the tourniquet himself to the lay-figure; also to put on the strap & pad. Here also the use & mode of applying trusses was explained & gone over practically.

10th Lecture 11th do

5. By this time the men were supposed to have made themselves so far acquainted with the anatomical names:- so that a couple of lessons was were devoted to examining them individually -

12th Lecture

6. Instructions in the management of helpless patient, as to feeding, administration of medicine, stimulant &c cleanliness &c — Also the mode of carrying the wounded off the field:- particularly enjoining them to break step while carrying a stretcher &c

13th Lecture

7. Instructions for the application of poultices, blisters, mustard plasters, leeches injections, liniments - Also minor dressings for wounds, sores &c —

14th Lecture 15th do

8. Making & rolling bandages & lining splints - different forms of bandage & modes of applying them. Each was made to apply the bandage & splint to the lay-figure —

16th do

9. The modes of resuscitating the apparently dead

dead, from:
1. Drowning
2. Cold
3. Drink.
4. Opium or other narcotics
5. Chloroform –

Generally I distributed copies of the Royal Humane Society's instructions.

17th Lecture

10. Explanation of the uses of the thermometer:
1. Temperature of wards –
2. Temperature of Baths –
3. Temperature of the human body –

Other meteorological instruments are hardly required & be referred to –
General principles of ventilation –
Explain system in the R.V. Hospital –
& also others in use elsewhere –

18th Lecture

11. Observations of the sick as regards:
1. Secretions & excretions –
2. Expectoration – dividing sputa into
1. Mucous 3. Bloody
2. Purulent 4. Rusty.
3. Skin – sweating – eruptions divided into:
1. Change of colour (erythema &c)
2. Macular (typhus &c)
3. papular (Lichen &c)
4. vesicular (chicken pox &c)
5th. Pustular (Itch &c) –
6. Scaly (Psoriasis &c)
4. Pulse – rate in health & disease
5. Breathing – number of respirations
** Relation of pulse to respiration

6. Appetite – intelligence – sleep.

7. State of wounds or sores –
   a. Healthy or healing
   b. Indolent or weak
   c. Unhealthy – including sloughing & phagedænic –

19th Lecture
20th do

12. Names of the surgical instruments in general use:
   a. in capital case
   b. in pocket do
   c. in tooth do
   d. in cupping do –
   &c &c –

21st & onwards

13. Examination on the course –

I kept a roll & attached a numerical value to the answers, & also to the manner in which each applied the bandage, tourniquet &c – At the end I summed them up & reported according to each individual –

The number of men in a class was from 20 to 30 – but as there will be some time hereafter – a smaller number may be found more convenient –

It is the duty of the Captain of orderly to furnish a nominal roll of each set of men – and to provide a non-commissioned officer to call over the roll each morning & report the men present – also to call the men to

attention

attention on the arrival of the officer-instructor.

Examination of men for promotion.

The rules laid down at p. 596 of the Blue book (1863) serve as guides -

In arithmetic, after some simple questions on the ordinary ~~[illegible]~~ rules, I generally gave them some imaginary averages of sick to work out - or from a given amount of different articles of food to provide so many diets, stating excess or deficiency & so on - I also made them apply bandages, tourniquets &c - and name & explain the uses of instruments -

N.B. The actual verbatim papers of each examination have to be sent in - Of course rests with the Director-Genl to accept or reject a man - but if any man was manifestly unfit I dismissed him on my own responsibility & did not forward his papers at all - Indeed if he failed signally in the earlier part of the examination I stopped it & sent him away -

F. de Chaumont

24th/7bg 1861

§ 13. Training of the Brigade Sanitary Detachments. ~~Qualities~~ Character of the men to be selected.

§ 14. Kind of Instruction of Drill, Examination. Order of march of the Sanitary Detachments

Part 2. The Sanitary Corps.

§ 15 Their Organization.

§ 16 Peace & War Establishments. Division of each Sanitary Company into five Commands.

§ 17 Strength per Company in ~~Ambulances~~ Conveyances, Horses, & Equipment.

§ 18. Temporary fluctuations regarding the ~~strength~~ numbers of ambulance horses, &c.

§ 19. Accoutrement & Equipments of the Corps.

§ 20 Administration.

§. 21. Commanding Officer of Sanitary Company. His Power of inflicting punishment. His relation to the chief surgeon of the Company.

§ 22. The Chief Surgeon of the Sanitary Company.

§ 23. Official relation of Sanitary Company to the higher military authorities.

§ 24. Recruiting for the Sanitary Corps. Necessary qualities for Sanitary Soldiers. Removal of unfit ones.

§ 25. Distribution of Sanitary Companies.

§ 26. Special duties of officers & others in peace

§ 27. Training of Sanitary Soldiers.

§ 28. Detachment of Sanitary Companies in War

§ 29. Attachment of mounted orderlies to the Sanitary Companies in the field, & their duties.

§ 30. Special duties in the field.

§ 31. The Sanitary Train, its organization, strength, military position & duties.

Chapter III. The Sanitary Establishments of the "first group"

(in

(in the first line of surgical assistance) & their duties on the Battle field.

Part 1. The Brigade Sanitary Detachment & the place of help.

§ 32. Its duties from the line of battle to the place of help.

§ 33. Patrolling

§ 34. The Field Surgeons on the place of help.

§ 35. The Sanitary Train Detachment on the place of help.

§ 36. The Place of Help itself. Its ~~[illegible]~~ selection.

§. 37. Its preparation.

§. 38. Reception of the Wounded, their transfer to the bandaging place.

§ 39 Removal of the place of help to front or rear.

§ 40. Distribution of Ambulances.

§ 41. Official Correspondence.

Part 2. The Duties of the Sanitary Company on the Bandaging Place.

~~[illegible]~~ § 42. Constitution & Distribution of the Company.

§ 43 Its place during engagement.

§ 44 The Bandaging Place. Its selection

§ 45 Its preparation for the reception of wounded.

§ 46. Duties of the Field Surgeons

§ 47 " " " Officer Comd. Sanitary Company.

§ 48 " " " Officers & men.

§ 49 " " " Officer Comd. Sanitary Train.

§ 50 Reception, Transport & Registration of Wounded.

§ 51. Transfer of Wounded to the Hospitals in rear. Measures to insure comparative comfort. Escort. Return of Ambulances.

§ 52. Clearing or Removal of the Bandaging Place.

§ 53. Exploration of the battle field & burial of the dead.

§ 54. Official correspondence.

Part 3. The Sanitary Reserve.

§. 55 Its purpose, organization, strength & equipment.

§ 56. Its administrative & disciplinary positions.

Part 4. The ~~[illegible]~~ Corps Ambulance (the connecting

link

link between the bandaging place & the field hospitals)

§ 57. Definition, Purpose, Duties & Functions of the Corps Ambulance.

§ 58. Organization, Strength & Official position.

§ 59. Duties of the personnel.

§ 60. Administration & management.

§ 61. Distribution.

§ 62. Selection of the proper place for the establishment of the Ambulance.

§ 63 Internal arrangements of the Ambulance

§ 64. Functions of the Ambulance during an engagement.

§ 65. Medical ~~Care~~ measures respecting the reception of severely wounded & exhausted, & the ~~transport~~ further conveyance of the transportable ones.

§ 66. The Administration of Restoratives, & the Issue of Refreshments.

§ 67. Transport to the Hospitals in rear.

§ 68 Direction & Movements of the Ambulance. Burial of the Dead

§ 69. Official Correspondence.

Chapter IV. The Sanitary Establishments of the 'second Group'.

Part i The Field Hospitals

§ 70. Purpose, Strength & Equipment of the Field Hospitals. Medical Comforts, Conveyances. Dispensaries.

f. Modes of Applying the Several Kinds of Bandages.

g. Assistance at Operations

h. Rules relative the Transport of Sick & Wounded.

i. Special Duties of Sanitary Soldiers when acting as Hospital Nurses.

k. Signs of True Death; Modes of Restoring the Apparently Dead. Interments.

§ 5. Requisites for Carrying out the Instructions in the Sanitary Duties.

a.