

CENTRAL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT LABORATORY.  
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.  
A.P.O. 721.

Jan. 25th. 1919.

FROM: J.H. Clark, 1st Lt. M.O.R.C.  
TO: Capt. B. Jablons, Dept. Wound Bacteriology, C.M.D.L.  
SUBJECT: Statistics and Wound Bacteriological Records.

Attached find statistics compiled from wound Bacteriological Records. After studying upwards of 2000 of these charts, the following statistics have been gathered with great difficulty.

The task of filling out these charts is, in the first place Herculean and impossible, even when adequate help is provided, during a rush. This is not intended to be a criticism of the men doing the work but of the impracticability of the method for routine ~~work~~ procedure.

The following are the data most frequently lacking;

1. Date: when wounded.
  - of entrance to hospital.
  - when operated upon.
  - of bacteriological examination.
  - of closure, with results and causes of failure.
2. Location of wound
3. Identification of Bacterial flora.
4. Accurate diagnosis of gas gangrene, etc.

Statistics to be of value must be accurate. Considering that the above mentioned data, which are very often lacking, are essential for accuracy, I feel that the value of these statistics ~~is~~ is very slight, and that the time expended in gathering them, could have been put to better advantage.

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