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# WOUNDS BY GUNSHOT.

## A LARGE PROPORTION OF THEM DO NOT KILL

**Remarkable Recoveries of Soldiers from Hurts Caused by Bullets—Kansas City Physician Gives Instances from His Experience in Philippines.**

Dr. Ernest F. Robinson, formerly head surgeon in the second reserve hospital, is now settled in Kansas City. Dr. Robinson during his service in the Philippines, it is said, operated on more gunshot wounds than any other surgeon. He gives an account of some of the most wonderful wounds as follows: "There is something mysterious, almost weird, in the direction and course of a bullet. Certainly it often seems that the missile is directed by a strange and unseen force other than the man behind the gun, his eye and trigger. "Probably there is no braver individual on the face of the earth than the American soldier. He is not a coward. He is more often a fatalist. He never believes he is going to be shot. It is always the other fellow who is going to be hit. In a crude sort of way he is a philosopher. He says to himself: 'If I and the bullet reach the same place at the same time I will suffer for it, but I am going to be there just a little ahead,' and he generally is. So he goes into battle conscious of his danger, yet with a courage born of faith in his own lucky star. And so his faith or that unseen power called luck protects him. "The most remarkable gunshot wounds I have ever seen have been received by those very men who knew not fear. After the fight at Zapote River the hospital was crowded with victims of gunshot wounds, chiefly Mauser. One poor fellow, a corporal, was struck while in the act of firing. The bullet struck his left hand and went through the forearm. It then struck the gun barrel and ricocheted to the right, passing through his neck, pierced his shoulder, emerging at the back through the shoulder blade. It had thus produced four wounds of entrance and four of exit, and had passed through his hand, arm, neck and chest, and despite all this the plucky fellow had walked back to the dressing station, absolutely refusing to be carried. He recovered without incident. "The wound of the Mauser is generally clean and generally antiseptic. "There were quite a number of gunshot wounds of the head involving the brain substance that recovered. Peter Dunn, of the Twentieth Kansas, was perhaps the most startling example, yet his case was by no means unique. A poor fellow of the Montanas was shot directly through the head, destroying completely the sight in both eyes. No more pitiful condition could be imagined than he as the transport sailed through the golden gate into home and God's own land. To bear and feel and know that he was home at last, yet to know that his home he would never see—death almost seemed preferable. "In a fit of despondency because he had not received a commission the sergeant major of the Thirty-sixth United States Volunteer Infantry one day placed a forty-five-caliber revolver at the third interspace, just one inch to the left of the sternum, and pulled the trigger. The ball passed directly through the left shoulder blade. How his heart escaped is a mystery. A knife, nor even a needle, could have been passed through in this locality without producing instant death and yet the boy recovered. Medical men whom I had told of the case would not believe such a wound possible without causing death until they had seen it. His organs were all in their normal position, as was shown by a careful examination, yet the bullet had passed through the chest. The most plausible explanation for this would seem to be that the boy's heart was in his mouth when he was shot. "Speaking of remarkable wounds, Gen. Funston probably has the most remarkable wound on record. During his campaign in Cuba a Mauser bullet passed directly through his chest from side to side, penetrating the lungs and passing through the tip, or apex, of his heart, yet it did not kill him. The explanation of this is that the ball grazed or passed through a portion of the muscle wall of the heart without penetrating it or causing shock sufficient to produce death. To-day the heart can be distinctly felt to pulsate beneath the scar. "The stout and hearty bugler of light battery F of the Fifth Artillery is now serving with his battery in Gen. Chaffee's division in China. At Pantan bridge he was just sounding the advance when he fell to the ground. He had been struck in the right shoulder. The surgeon hastily tore open his shirt and found a huge black and blue mark, but nothing more serious. Within a few moments he was back at his post. Not an hour later he suddenly placed his hand to the same shoulder, remarking to his captain, who stood near, 'I'm shot this time.' The captain leaned over and picked up a spent Remington ball that had just fallen to the ground. But the bugler's troubles were not over, nor his fated shoulder out of the range of fire. Before the morning was over he was shot through the same shoulder, not two inches from the spot where he had been struck twice before. This time the ball passed directly through his chest and he nearly lost his life. "It is true, as the soldiers say, 'when you try to stop 'em you wish you were home.'"—Kansas City Journal.

**WHAT MODERN SAILORS FEAR.**  
Not Winds Nor Seas, but an Explosion in the Boiler Hold.  
"Boiler explosions are the terror of the seafaring man," said an old-time deep water captain to a New Orleans Times-Democrat reporter. "Such a thing is bad enough on dry land, but imagine a catastrophe of that kind at sea! In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred it means the absolute wiping out of the craft itself and every soul on board. "The average landsman would be greatly shocked in looking over the maritime records to see how many vessels disappear each year and leave absolutely no clew to their fate. They run well up to the hundred mark, and such a mystery is not to be explained away by storms. A Chinese typhoon may swoop down like lightning out of a clear sky and tear a ship to pieces, but some floating wreckage is sure to tell the tale. A boiler explosion, on the contrary, will blow a hole as big as a railroad tunnel right through the center of the hull, and the stricken vessel simply goes down like a shot. There is no time to unfasten a boat from the davits or cut loose a spar. "In the opinion of seamen that is the story of at least 90 per cent of the ships that leave port and are never heard of again. Luckily the modern system of marine boiler inspection is extremely strict and thorough, but it is impossible to absolutely prevent carelessness and fraud, and often enough, no doubt, the fault lies with the engineer. "There is an old story of a drunken Scotchman who mistook the thermometer for the steam gauge and 'cussed out' the stokers because he couldn't get the pressure above 80. That yarn will hardly hold water, but I've seen cases almost as bad. I am glad to say, however, that during the past ten years there has been a steady diminution of the number of vessels which 'mysteriously disappear.' That is due, beyond all question, to the increased stringency of boiler inspection and the greater strictness of examinations before a license is issued to engineers. Nevertheless there is still considerable room for improvement in both branches." THE LOVE OF WORK.  
It Seems to Be Characteristic of American People.  
Discussing the causes of the failure of a co-operative colony in Georgia, a New York newspaper makes this declaration: "Most persons do not like to work. If most people do work it is because they would starve if they didn't." Neither of these assertions is susceptible of proof. The vast majority of people in this world find a certain amount of work absolutely essential to their happiness and to their peace of mind. Without it discontent would bring with it not only danger of wrongdoing, but complete dissatisfaction that would make life a miserable and morbid failure. Those who are the idlers in this world are the unhappy people in it, and, fortunately, their number is not so large that they count for much in the world's daily record. Nor is the second statement made by the New York paper any more correct. The declaration that most people who do work do it because they would starve if they didn't finds a contradiction in the lives of America's greatest millionaires, the majority of whom are among the country's hardest workers, observes the Baltimore American. These men are as regular at their daily tasks as a bank clerk, and though they have fortunes at their disposal find their greatest pleasure in keeping up those strict business methods which enabled them to build those fortunes. They surely do not work because they would starve if they didn't. They work because of sheer love of work, because without such work they know that their lives would be a burden to them. Hatred of work is fortunately possessed by very few people. The idlers in the world are very scarce. Work may have come upon the world as a punishment, but it has surely proved one of its richest blessings.

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