



MEDICINE AND PATHOLOGY

EDITED BY

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WITH A GENERAL PREFACE
TO THE SERIES

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



LONDON

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

1952

First Published 1952

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PUBLISHED BY HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased from

York House, Kingsway, LONDON, W.C.2 423 Oxford Street, LONDON, W.1
P.O. Box 569, LONDON, S.E.1
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2 Edmund Street, BIRMINGHAM, 3 80 Chichester Street, BELFAST

or from any Bookseller

1952

Price £2 10s. od. net

*Printed in Great Britain under the authority of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
by John Wright & Sons Ltd., at the Stonebridge Press, Bristol.*

HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR

UNITED KINGDOM MEDICAL SERIES

Editor-in-Chief

SIR ARTHUR S. MACNALT, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

GENERAL PREFACE

BY SIR ARTHUR SALUSBURY MACNALTY

K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.

Editor-in-Chief

MEDICAL histories of wars meet more than one necessity. Primarily they are of value to the medical profession and medical administrators because they record discoveries and progress in medicine and surgery made under the stimulus of warfare, relate how problems of medical administration in theatres of war were met and solved, and detail mistakes and errors for the profit of those who come after. Apart from their technical features these histories should be of interest to the statesman, the lay administrator, the general historian, the student of economics and the general reader. For they show that war is not restricted to strategy and tactics, that epidemic disease and the measures taken to combat it may also mean victory or defeat, while efficient hospital treatment may reduce the wastage of man-power from wounds or disease.

The value of medical history is accentuated if it is official, for it then possesses many sources of information which are inaccessible to the unofficial medical historian.

The first official medical history of a war was British. This concerned the Crimean War, was produced through the initiative of Sir Andrew Smith, Director-General of the British Army Medical Department, and was published in two volumes in 1858. The first volume deals with the medico-military matters of individual corps; the second volume (two parts) treats of the history of diseases and those of wounds and injuries. Subsequent medical histories of war have appeared in this and other countries (see list of references on page XV). 'The Medical History of the First World War, 1914-18', with Major General Sir W. G. Macpherson as Editor-in-Chief, was published in twelve volumes during the period 1921-31. It is mainly a history of the Royal Army Medical Corps in the last war. Its lessons and experience proved of great value to the Medical Department in connexion with administrative and other action in the Second World War.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR IN RELATION TO MEDICAL HISTORY

Previous official medical histories have dealt mainly and sometimes exclusively with the organisation and advances in medical knowledge in an historical setting in relation to armies in the field. In other words they have quite properly been military medical histories.

The Second World War was unprecedented in that it affected the civil population much more than wars had done in the past in Great Britain. It was also remarkable in that a large standing army was maintained in this country for a considerable length of time, so that Service medical problems and those of the civilian population were closely intermingled. The war also produced a number of new features in medical, public health and social history, for example, movements of population from urban to rural areas through official or unofficial evacuation, and an entirely new Emergency Medical Service with, for the first time, administrative association of municipal and voluntary hospitals which received both civilian and Service cases. It experienced the effects of intensive air-raids presenting problems in medicine and surgery which, if not entirely new, had never before been seen on so extensive a scale, and there were many medical problems in connexion with industry, munition factories, nutrition and so forth.

It is obviously desirable that these great and unprecedented events should receive permanent record in official medical history in order to assist the growth of knowledge and to inform future generations.

It is important also to prepare material and to record events while they are fresh in the memory, for they will be forgotten if left entirely to the retrospective historian.

ORGANISATION OF THE MEDICAL HISTORY

There was a War Cabinet Committee for the Control of Official Histories of which the President of the Board of Education was Chairman. After the war this committee became the Cabinet Committee for the Control of Official Histories with the Secretary of State for the Home Department, the Right Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P., as Chairman. It was early determined that an official medical history should be part of the organised plan set up by this committee. The War Cabinet, with the considerations in mind which have already been detailed here, laid it down that this history must be on a co-ordinated basis, including not only the medical side of the three fighting Services, Navy, Army and Air Force, but also the medical civilian services.

On March 10, 1941, an interdepartmental conference recommended that an Editorial Board, composed of representatives of the medical departments of the Fighting Services and of other Government Departments concerned, should be appointed to direct the work, and that Sir Arthur S. MacNalty, formerly Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and Board of Education, should be the Editor-in-Chief.

The President of the Board of Education, the Right Hon. R. A. Butler, M.P., became the first Chairman of the Editorial Board and guided its initial deliberations. He was succeeded in February, 1942, by Sir Cyril Flower, C.B., V.P.S.A., then Deputy Keeper of the Public

Records Sir Cyril Flower is a member of the Advisory Historical Committee on Official Histories, so that he keeps the Medical History in close association with all the histories of the war.

The Editorial Board had in its initial membership the Directors-General of the Medical Services of the Navy, Army, Air Force, and the Emergency Medical Services of the Ministry of Health; the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health; the Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health for Scotland; Professor J. M. Mackintosh, Glasgow University; the Secretary of the Medical Research Council and Dr. Janet Vaughan; Brigadier General Sir James E. Edmonds, Secretary of the Historical Section of the Offices of the War Cabinet; Colonel J. S. Yule, Offices of the War Cabinet; Major General L. T. Poole, War Office; and the Editor-in-Chief. W. Franklin Mellor, formerly a member of the League of Nations Health Organisation, is Secretary of the Board.

The Directors-General concerned appointed medical representatives to collect material for the History; these gentlemen, with the approval of the Editorial Board, were subsequently designated as Service Editors of the History. The Directors-General may be regarded as Supervising Editors of the Official Medical History for their respective Services.

The Editorial Board meets about twice a year. At their first meeting they appointed an Editorial Committee constituted as follows:—

The Editor-in-Chief (*Chairman*).

Surgeon Commander J. J. Keevil (*Admiralty*).

Colonel S. Lyle Cummins (*War Office*).

Wing Commander R. Oddie (*Air Ministry*).

Dr. J. Alison Glover (*Board of Education*).

Dr. A. Sandison (*Ministry of Pensions*).

Professor J. M. Mackintosh (*Department of Health for Scotland*).

Dr. F. H. K. Green (*Medical Research Council*).

W. Franklin Mellor (*Secretary*).

Subsequently, Colonel S. Lyle Cummins resigned and was succeeded by Brigadier F. A. E. Crew, F.R.S., and Major R. N. Hunter. Dr. Charles Newman and Lieutenant Colonel C. L. Dunn of the Ministry of Health, who were Assistant Editors at headquarters, joined the Committee later.

In the course of time, although the original constitution and representation on the Editorial Board and Editorial Committee remained as before, certain alterations and additions were made. For instance, Dr. James Boyd, Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health and Local Government Board, joined the Editorial Board when the Government of Northern Ireland associated itself with the work in 1942.

The present membership of the Editorial Board and of the Editorial Committee is given on pages xvii and xviii.

THE WORK AT HEADQUARTERS

The central organisation of the Official Medical History, which was at first accommodated in the Ministry of Health in Whitehall, gradually expanded as its work, responsibilities, records and indispensable staff increased. New offices of the History were first situated in Caxton House, Westminster; then at 25 Victoria Street, S.W.1; later in Universal House, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W.1; and lastly at 14 Berkeley Street, W.1.

From 1942 to 1947 Charles Newman, M.D., F.R.C.P. acted as Editor of the Clinical volumes, but resigned on being appointed Dean of the British Postgraduate School, Hammersmith.

The headquarters staff at 14 Berkeley Street comprised the Editor-in-Chief, the Secretary, three Editors, Lt. Colonel C. L. Dunn, C.I.E., I.M.S. (ret.)—E.M.S. volumes; N. G. Horner, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., formerly Editor of the *British Medical Journal*, and V. Zachary Cope, B.A., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S.—Clinical volumes; two research assistants (Mrs. Kathleen Webster and Mr. A. W. Cubbage), a secretary shorthand typist (Miss N. Jensen), a shorthand typist and one copyist. The function of the central office was to exercise general supervision of the production of the History by the Editor-in-Chief; to assist in co-ordinating the historical research work of all the Government medical services and to be responsible for the actual preparation of the volumes relating to the Civilian Medical Services, with the exception of that on medical research for which the Medical Research Council accepted responsibility. In each of the Fighting Services an editorial staff, working under the direction of the Director-General of Medical Services, was set up in 1941 and has undertaken the important task of preparing the naval, military and air force medical histories.

It will readily be appreciated that much of the work of the Medical History was done through personal visits, interviews and outside inspections and conferences, and the Editorial Committee when it met had to consider the results of this spade work.

At the central office of the History conferences and interviews were held and all those writing on medical problems of the war were welcome. In this office a centre of documentation dealing with the whole field of war-time medical work was assembled, but all the material on war-time medical problems was not housed in this department. Much was filed throughout the various Government Departments and elsewhere, but the liaison effected with the various Services and bodies assured that all the material collected would be available for the Official Medical History.

Close attention was paid to medical literature. Much has already been written on medical problems during the war. Articles and papers of interest were collated and indexed. Advantage was taken of the very complete organisation set up by the Medical Research Council whose publication *Bulletin of War Medicine* provided an invaluable synopsis of war-time medical literature. The first editor, Sir Harold Scott, enlisted authorities in every branch of medicine, surgery and kindred subjects as abstractors for this Bulletin and helped in countless ways. *War Medicine* issued by the American Medical Association and the *Bulletin of Hygiene* published by the Bureau of Hygiene and Tropical Diseases also provided valuable data. All available medical publications (English and foreign and those of friend and foe) were scanned for material. Without this detailed scrutiny the History could not achieve its full purpose.

THE SCOPE OF THE OFFICIAL MEDICAL HISTORY

The full list of subjects to be published in the Official Medical History of the Second World War is as follows:—

Edited by

The Civilian Health and Medical Services	Sir Arthur S. MacNalty, K.C.B., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S.
The Emergency Medical Services	Lt. Col. C. L. Dunn, C.I.E., I.M.S. (ret.)
Medicine and Pathology	V. Zachary Cope, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S.
Surgery	V. Zachary Cope, M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S.
The Naval Medical Services :	Surgeon Commander J. L. S. Coulter
(1) Administration	D.S.C., R.N. Barrister-at-Law
(2) The Campaigns	
The Army Medical Services :	Professor F. A. E. Crew, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.P. Ed., F.R.S.
(1) Administration	
(2) The Campaigns	
The Royal Air Force Medical Services :	Squadron Leader S. C. Rexford- Welch, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
(1) Administration	
(2) Commands	
(3) Campaigns	
Medical Research	F. H. K. Green, C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., and Major General Sir Gordon Covell, C.I.E., M.D., I.M.S. (ret.).
Medical Statistics	

In the assembly of material for official records of this kind many difficulties and delays were encountered; and the small editorial staffs at the central office and in the Fighting Services have accomplished no mean task in making considerable progress during the war years and afterwards, despite the many setbacks inseparable from an enterprise of this kind.

The Fighting Services. The Fighting Services will give an account of the organisation of the Services before the outbreak of hostilities and of their growth and functioning during the war. They will describe the medical aspects of the campaigns; those problems relating to combined operations or those common to two or all the Services in various fields of medicine being dealt with by all three Services in collaboration. Medical problems peculiar to the Services will be treated at length in these sections in order to bring out the lessons of the war and, in particular, to put war-time experience at the disposal of new entrants to the Services.

A great deal of material has been collected and classified in the Service Departments. Each Service drew up a synopsis of contents of its contribution, and experts in naval, military and aviation medicine were asked to contribute. Arrangements were made for experts working on subjects wholly or partly common to all the Services to consult together, in order to avoid overlapping as far as possible. Contributors were asked to submit progress reports, as of course final monographs could not be written until the war was over and its medical experiences gathered in. Progress reports or interim monographs ensured that changing experience was recorded while memory was fresh, and, at the same time, furnished a record of the evolution of ideas and of changing problems and technique. Editors and narrators in the Service Departments put this material into preliminary form for inclusion in the History.

The Civilian Aspect. The Medical History will describe the state of the national health at the beginning of the war and the expansion of the Health and Medical Services to meet war conditions and their functioning and development during the war. Material for this section has been contributed by the civil Ministries working in collaboration, each one describing its growth and the changes in organisation and administration. Some problems, such as evacuation, have been treated by more than one Ministry, and here co-ordination has been necessary to give a balanced account. Subjects dealt with include the Emergency Medical Services, their organisation and work during the war and the functioning of the medical and medico-social services throughout the country. Special attention is given to such problems as those arising out of the planning and working of the evacuation schemes, the Civil Defence Services, shelter life; to problems of war-time nutrition and to all those medical and medico-social changes and developments which the war forced upon the nation for good or ill. I should like here to acknowledge the great help we have received from Medical Officers of Health and their staffs in these subjects. The war-time movements and changes in type of disease, and the adjustment in public health measures and medical technique to deal with them will be detailed. The migrations of the civil population to meet war-time requirements and their

consequences and lessons in the field of industrial medicine will be described. These are some of the problems and subjects dealt with in the civilian volumes of the History.

Technical Subjects. The technical volumes will cover the whole field of scientific and practical advances in every subject which has a bearing on disease and injuries as they occur in war-time. Other subjects, such as war-time medical education, the social aspects of the war in relation to disease, the rehabilitation of the sick and wounded, etc., will also find their appropriate places. There will be statistics in the text of the contributions and a special volume will be devoted to this important subject.

THE WORK OF THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The duties of the Editorial Committee were many and various. It supervised the collection of material for the History, kept the various Government Departments in touch with one another, prevented overlapping and unnecessary waste of effort in the collection of material, advised on detailed planning and the scope of the History, and on the selection of contributors. It had power to co-opt experts from time to time on special subjects, consulted with special investigation committees set up by other bodies, especially those of the Medical Research Council, and initiated inquiries and research through and in collaboration with these bodies.

An important task of the Committee was the collection of material. With this end in view, Government Departments gave their active collaboration by furnishing reports, circulars, memoranda and other official documents relating to medical administration as well as to technical and clinical subjects. The chief Government Departments collaborating were, in addition to the Fighting Services, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour and National Service, Ministry of Supply, Ministry of War Transport, the Department of Health for Scotland, Ministry of Pensions, and the Ministry of Home Security. Close touch was also maintained with the many bodies and persons whose work had any bearing, directly or indirectly, on matters of interest for the Medical History. Among these may be mentioned the Medical Research Council, the British Medical Association, the Central War Emergency Committee, the General Medical Council, the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, Royal College of Physicians, Royal College of Surgeons, Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Royal Society of Medicine, the British Council, etc. The Colonial Office supplied information relating to the Colonial Forces and to Malta, Hong Kong, Malaya and other countries involved in the war. Certain of the Allied Governments set up in the United Kingdom during the war gave information to the Editorial Committee as regards the work of their Medical Services. For this information we are indebted to the Foreign Office and to the Chief Medical Officers of these Governments.

COLLABORATION WITH THE COMMONWEALTH COUNTRIES
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In 1941 the Chief Medical Officers of the Commonwealth Governments were informed of the proposed official Medical History and they promised to co-operate by supplying data concerning their Medical Forces stationed in this country. Furthermore, at an early date, close liaison was established with the Editorial Committee on Historical Records of the National Research Council of the United States of America, which was then collecting data for the United States Medical History of the War. There was a mutual exchange of experience and information through the good offices of Professor John Fulton of Yale University, Surgeon-General Parran and Dr. K. B. Turner of the American Embassy. Owing to the many and pressing claims of the Campaigns upon the medical officers of these Governments, it was not until after the conclusion of the war that closer collaboration with all the respective medical historians was secured. By 1946, Official Medical Histories of the Second World War were also in preparation in the Commonwealth countries and in the United States.

In that year a permanent Official Medical Historians Liaison Committee of the Commonwealth Countries was set up with the approval of the Foreign Office, the Commonwealth Relations Office and the Governments concerned. This Committee acts as a central agency for the exchange of narratives and provides facilities for the historians to meet in order to review progress, consult together on technical questions and propose solutions of such problems as relate to the accuracy and correlation of data, avoidance of overlap as between one History and another and methods of presentation. Thus, for the first time, official Histories in the English-speaking world are being prepared in collaboration and in the light of free interchange of experience and opinion. The labours of this Committee will be reflected in all the Official Medical Histories. Thanks to its work, the various national Histories, when published, should be as accurate and complete as is reasonably possible, and the events in which several or all of the Allied Forces took part should be correlated and rightly interpreted.

The members of the Liaison Committee were :—

Alan S. Walker, M.D., F.R.A.C.P.	Australia
W. R. Feasby, B.A., M.D.	} Canada
Surgeon Captain A. McCallum, M.A., R.C.N.	
Lt.-Col. J. G. Thomson, I.M.S., later succeeded by	} India and Pakistan
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Donald O. Wagner, M.D.	
Surgeon Captain Louis H. Roddis, U.S. Navy	
W. Franklin Mellor (Secretary)	

The Committee held meetings in Ottawa (1947), Oxford (1948), Canberra (1949), and Delhi (1952). Its valuable work, and the part played by the Secretary in its initiation and in the carrying out of its technical work have been the subject of commendation in official Commonwealth communications to the British Government.

The clinical volumes, of which this is the first, deal with those problems of injury and disease which confronted medical officers in the various theatres of war; they record the many advances in our knowledge and the application of this knowledge to the prophylaxis and treatment of disease and in countering the results of injury.

It has been generally accepted, and statistics fully bear out the view, that in no previous war have the Medical Services been so efficient or the confidence of the fighting man in those Services so great or so fully justified. Excellent organisation and improved transport played a large part in the improvement but there is no doubt that notable advances in therapeutics and in methods of surgical treatment also contributed a great deal to this desirable result.

The story of how the problems arose, how the solutions of the problems were achieved and how the new knowledge was applied in the various branches of medicine and surgery will be found in the clinical volumes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is only fitting that I should conclude my general introduction to the Official Medical History of the Second World War by acknowledging the services rendered by the editorial staff.

The preparation of the Official Medical History could not have been attempted, much less accomplished, without collaboration over a very wide field. To utilise the innumerable sources of historical material, to enlist the help of many experts and advisers on a vast range of medical problems and to distil wisdom from these sources of knowledge for future use is the task of the associate editors. I should therefore like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Editorial Board, to record an appreciation of their loyal help and important contributions to medical history.

The organisation of this work at the centre and within the Fighting Services, despite many difficulties, has been of a high order. This organisation owes much to the personal qualities of the Secretary who, in addition to his work on behalf of the Editorial Board, actively widened the basis of collaboration in historical research to include the Commonwealth Countries and the United States of America, an innovation which was warmly approved and officially implemented in these countries and which has proved its worth by assuring the greater accuracy and value of all the Official Medical Histories of the Second World War.

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