TREATMENT OF GUNSHOT WOUNDS
BY EXCISION AND PRIMARY SUTURE.

By COLONEL H. M. W. GRAY, A.M.S. (T.C.),
CONSULTING SURGEON, BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.

The number of cases of gunshot wounds to which treatment by excision and primary suture is applicable affords ample justification for attempting to make the method more widely known and popular. I began this method of treatment of certain lacerated "farrow" wounds in November, 1914, and was so impressed by its utility that I have since then urged that it should be carried out whenever possible.

The advantages claimed for its use are:
1. Healing by first intention is assured in the vast majority of properly selected cases.
2. Much time is thereby saved. Some wounds, which would otherwise require months to heal, are soundly united in the course of ten to fourteen days. The soldier is thus available for duty again at a much earlier date.
3. The preservation of intact muscles and of attachment points given by the medical officers and nursing sisters, etc., is greatly reduced.
4. Much pain is avoided.
5. The amount of dressings required is reduced to a minimum, and in this way expense is lessened.
6. Complications which may arise from the presence of aseptic wounds are avoided.
7. A more slight scar is obtained.
8. Because of the absence of contraction which would accompany formation of a large cicatrix, there is less impairment of function in the part concerned.
9. In the case of head injuries, excision of the wound, especially in some, apparently trivial, injuries, provides a means of ascertaining, with greater certainty than by any other method, whether depressed fracture or injury to the brain exists.

Healing by first intention may be procured in practically all cases in which the surfaces of the new wound can be brought into accurate approximation without much tension. In rare cases, when the wound is deep, approximation in the depth has to be dispensed with and drains are introduced for a short period—until one is assured that aseptic healing will occur. In some cases it is necessary to adjust and fix the parts of the body adjacent to the sutured wound so that the fullest relaxation is secured.

The mere length of a wound is no bar to operation. Some wounds have had from forty to seventy minutes to heal. This may be due in part to the force of the wound and in part to the circumstances surrounding it. It is often important to prevent any infection of the wound. In such cases, the adjacent parts of the body have been sutured so that the wound will be held closed by the surrounding parts.

The time required for the first healing of a wound is largely dependent upon the amount of suture used. In wounds that are not very deep, one or two sutures are sufficient. In deeper wounds, a larger number of sutures are necessary. The number of sutures required will depend upon the size of the wound and the amount of tension that is present.

The time required for the first healing of a wound is largely dependent upon the amount of suture used. In wounds that are not very deep, one or two sutures are sufficient. In deeper wounds, a larger number of sutures are necessary. The number of sutures required will depend upon the size of the wound and the amount of tension that is present.

The time required for the first healing of a wound is largely dependent upon the amount of suture used. In wounds that are not very deep, one or two sutures are sufficient. In deeper wounds, a larger number of sutures are necessary. The number of sutures required will depend upon the size of the wound and the amount of tension that is present.

The time required for the first healing of a wound is largely dependent upon the amount of suture used. In wounds that are not very deep, one or two sutures are sufficient. In deeper wounds, a larger number of sutures are necessary. The number of sutures required will depend upon the size of the wound and the amount of tension that is present.

The time required for the first healing of a wound is largely dependent upon the amount of suture used. In wounds that are not very deep, one or two sutures are sufficient. In deeper wounds, a larger number of sutures are necessary. The number of sutures required will depend upon the size of the wound and the amount of tension that is present.