

MEDICINE IN WW1

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MEDICINE AND TREATMENTS

Alexis Carrel and Henry Drysdale Dakin created the Carrel-Dakin chlorine-based antiseptic which was an effective way to disinfect traumatic wounds.

Shrapnel destroyed men's skin and faces and the wounds needed new surgical procedures. Wounds would be sewn together without thinking about how much skin was lost. So when the scar healed it was tight and pulled the face into a grimace. Harold Gillies noticed the disturbing facial wounds and in 1917 the world's first hospital dedicated to facial injuries was built. Gillies improved skin grafting so it was easier to transfer pieces of skin to the injury. With his improvement of skin grafting and the use of x-rays he made a big impact on plastic surgery and how it is today.

Shell shock which today we sometimes refer to as PTSD was caused by constant severe traumatic events like concussive blasts or the stress they experienced on the battle field. People tried electric shock to treat shell shock.

INJURIES AND DEATHS

Some injuries were, loss of limbs, shell shock, diseases, wounds, gas injuries - burned skin, lungs, throat etc

Over 41,000 men had their limbs amputated during World War One.

Reasons for death were, Infections, fractures, tetanus, artillery wounds, diseases (such as- typhus, malaria, influenza, meningitis, pneumonia, and yellow fever) poison gas, diphtheria, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, malnutrition, Spanish flu.



WHO DEALT WITH THE WOUNDED?

CAMC NURSING SISTERS

Stretcher bearers had the difficult job of collecting the wounded from the battle field during fire.

Thousands of women became nurses and worked hard to save the lives of thousands. In the Canadian army, more than 2,800 nurses served. They were the first women in the army to make as much money as men. While they didn't work on the front lines, they were quite close.



MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS

- Blood transfusions
- plastic surgery
- artificial limbs
- cleaning wounds so they don't get infected
- new methods for fixing broken bones
- x rays
- anesthesia

