

SCIENCE

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MSS. intended for publication and books, etc., intended for review should be sent to Professor J. McKeen Cattell, Garrison-on-Hudson, N. Y.

BEFORE AND AFTER LISTER¹

LECTURE I, "BEFORE LISTER"

ON July 1, 1861, I entered the service of the State of Massachusetts as assistant surgeon of the Fifth Massachusetts, and on July 4 was sworn into the service of the United States in the shadow of yonder capitol. On August 1 I was honorably discharged and resumed my medical studies at the Jefferson Medical College. Strange as it now seems, when assistant surgeon I was not yet a graduate in medicine. As an evidence of the loose way in which medical and military matters were then conducted, I was actually appointed without any examination whatever.

After graduating in March, 1862, I again entered the service in May, after an examination, and was ordered to the Eckington Hospital in the then outskirts of Washington. Shortly afterwards I was ordered to fit up two churches as hospitals and to have them ready in five days. It was 5 P.M. on a Saturday afternoon.

People sometimes imagine that a practising physician can be transformed into an army surgeon merely by putting a uniform on him. I was not lacking in ordinary intelligence and was willing to work, but I was utterly without training. To get those two churches ready as hospitals I had to have beds, mattresses, sheets, pillow-cases, chairs, tables, kitchen utensils, knives, forks, spoons, peppers and salts, all sorts of crockery and other necessities for a dining-room, all the drugs, appliances and instruments needed for two hundred sick and wounded men; I needed orderlies, cooks and the endless odds and ends of things which go to make up a well-organized hospital. I did not know how to get a single one of these requisites. As to drugs, I did not know whether

¹ Two lectures before the U. S. Army Medical School, Washington, D. C., April 27 and 28, 1915.

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