

Feb 7th, 9:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Medicine and World War I

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9:00 -10:00 AM (Room, 1311)
Medicine and World War I
Chair: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite
Department of History

The Impact of Nurses during World War I

By **Sarena Khosla** (Research Mentor: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite)

During the First World War, many women served their respective countries by becoming nurses or nursing aids, but nothing could have prepared them for the atrocities of the war. Unsanitary conditions, new diseases and infections, limited supplies, inadequate working venues, lack of training for the specific situation, and difficult terrain were only some of the impossible conditions that these nurses faced. In surgical stations and field hospitals located on the Western Front nurses confronted the challenges of a new technological warfare and worked alongside male surgical technicians and doctors to save lives and comfort the dying.

Trench Foot

By **Rosario Villagra** (Research Mentor: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite)

World War I brought attention to ‘new’ diseases that certainly pre-dated the war but occurred with greater frequency because of the conditions generated along the Western Front. Trench Foot became a problem in the winter of 1914, a disease often called “chilled-feet” or “frost-bite feet.” The disease attacked the toes of soldiers causing swollen legs up to the knees, often ending in gangrene and amputation. It resulted from soldiers standing in cold and dirty water for long periods of time. Fighting Trench Foot became a major preoccupation of medical personnel during World War I.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and World War I

By **Ricardo Burgos-Feliz** (Research Mentor: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite)

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is described as any traumatic event that a person has witnessed or experienced. First recognized in 1678, PTSD first became better understood during and after World War I. During the war PTSD was known as “Shell Shock” and “war neurosis” due to the shock from incoming enemy shells disturbing the brain and causing concussions. Horrible sights generated from artillery fire left many men unsettled for the rest of their lives. This paper looks at the history of PTSD and World War I noting that warfare often generates scientific advancement with regard to healthcare.

Cholera and World War I

By **Lauran Henderson** (Research Mentor: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite)

Vibrio Cholerae Infection is a bacterial illness in the intestine that causes acute and voluminous diarrhea. The disease is spread through contact with infected fluids and death can occur in a matter of hours. Cholera was widespread in the muddy trenches in World War where strict sanitation was required but impossible. Cholera was reported in Austria-Hungary, Germany, Russia and Turkey during the war.

The Pandemic of 1918: Spanish Influenza I

By **Cameron Foster** (Research Mentor: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite)

The Spanish Flu, a virus subtype H1N1 strain and otherwise known as the Influenza of 1918, has been called by some scholars a “biological holocaust” because it killed over 50 million people between 1918 and 1920. Interestingly enough, it is also referred to as the forgotten pandemic as it seems to have been overshadowed by the horrors of World War I. This paper examines the impact of the Spanish Flu on World War I.

The Pandemic of 1918: Spanish Influenza II

By **James Cain** (Research Mentor: Dr. Annette Finley-Croswhite)

The Spanish Influenza had a lasting effect on the culture of the world because of the sheer number of deaths caused by the disease. However, the impact that the disease had on the United States and Europe was substantial in other ways as well. It caused changes in medical practices and disease control in America and Europe influencing contemporary practices with regard to epidemic outbreaks still in place today.