

Civil War Health and Medicine

A. The bloodiest war in American history [statistics on mortality rates produced by Wounds and disease]

B. The state of medicine and medical care in 1861

C. Disease and mortality (2 out of 3 die of disease)

1. Common diseases
2. Common treatments for disease
3. Disease and battle-readiness

D. Battle scenes, battle wounds, and battle memories

1. E. P. Ellis (Co. 1, 13th Mississippi) at Malvern Hill, July 1862
2. Sgt. Jonathan Stowe (Co. G, 15th Massachusetts) at Antietam, September 1862
3. Joshua Chamberlain (20th Maine) at Fredericksburg, December 1862

E. Battlefield surgery [see slides]

1. “A deadly invention”: the Minie ball
2. Wounds produced by Minie balls
3. Surgeons and their tools
4. Surgical procedures
5. Infections and mortality

F. Medical innovations [see slides]

1. Ambulance service
2. Surgery
3. Hospitals
4. The U.S. Sanitary Commission
5. Nursing care

G. The war’s impact on medicine