sick and their fruit. Typhoid fever was not epidemic at Camp Thomas, and its spread was not rapid until within two weeks. It was spread from detached feet of infection and not from one focus. I am convinced, after a little investigation, that the water-supply from natural springs and the pipe-line at Chickamauga was good and did not contain the typhoid germ. It was not in the army rations. I believe that it was first introduced by the hucksters; that troops arriving brought soldiers infected at home or in other camps, and that it spread from one to another in other ways than through the pipe-line or commissary department. But were the doctors responsible for its introduction? Not at all. Were they responsible for its expansion? They fought it as well, probably, as they could in army life and under the difficulties attending camp practice. In the hospital which I had the honor to command, out of more than 900 patients we had 14 deaths from all causes, probably 8 from typhoid fever. The mortality in the Second Division, 1st Army Corps, was certainly not excessive.

The Red Cross Society, the National Relief Association and the United States Government provided more than enough. The combination was lavish. Some things I would have liked to have had more of. Wine, brandy and whisky were shortages, but of everything else to eat and to wear in a sick-bed, I had an abundance. On the 26th of August, I turned over a surplus of nearly half a ton of materials to the Red Cross Society, and to the citizens of Camp Thomas, and the day following we moved to Knoxville. As I left Camp Thomas, I received a check from the Red Cross Society at Pittsburg, Pa., for $500.

The hospitals and camps have been full of blooming liars, who have filled the newspapers with the most alarming stories of cruelty and neglect. And for the sake of justice they must be met and denied. Cots and lumber were hard to get about August 10, but we soon broke the blockade and got well enough. At Camp Thomas or Chickamauga Park the Sternberg Hospital was not open. It is designed with the expectation of reaching 1000 beds. It is a field hospital. The quarters are the army hospital tents and wooden barracks. The beds are iron, mattresses hair, mosquito canopies over all, and trained female nurses are in attendance. The world has never seen such a field hospital. Hundreds of soldiers will there find more luxury than they ever knew at home, yet the day when the public press will put the Sternberg Hospital in the crucible will likely arrive.

Let the noble fathers and mothers of this Nation know that the medical profession have been as devoted to their sons on the historic field of Chickamauga in this war as were our forefathers to the Nation's sons during the Civil War. It has been God's mercy in prolonging my good health and love of country and giving me the ability to say that I witnessed the devotion to duty of the surgeons in the Civil War and in this war upon the same field of Chickamauga. The soldiers of this war have had their trials, but I can call upon my comrades of the Civil War who are out again now to say whether the following assertion is true or not: The soldiers, sick and well, at Chickamauga Park, have had a picnic as compared with the soldiers at Camp Thomas in the month of August.

The park is infected now and will be rapidly abandoned, as it should be. The sink problem has been mentioned by the newspapers. It is a very difficult one to discuss. The problem in ordinary soil, with plenty of help and good tools, is easy enough. But in Chickamauga Park conditions of soil prevail which make it very difficult to construct a sink with ordinary labor and tools. The soil is tough clay deposited in a bed of rocks of all shapes and sizes. The clay stratum is deep. It is possessed of poor absorbing qualities, and if the rain fills the sink with water it holds it like a barrel. To get a sink a few feet deep is of little consequence. It is necessary that the depth of the sink be 12 feet, and for working space, it is therefore necessary that they be 5 feet in width and 12 feet long. Such a sink requires many reliefs of labor. After completion it must be surface-ditched; when to this you add the ditching of nearly three acres of ground for a hospital site, one may gain some idea of soldiering.

To the regimental commanders of the Second Division, First Army Corps, I return many thanks for the large details of men to aid me in putting the grounds of the hospital in good hygienic condition. When I left the hospital site on the morning of the 27th of August, the entire plant having been delivered for shipment at Rossville, the grounds were ready for a picnic, not a shed of anything being left unburned, not a sink being left other than in a perfect state of innococuousness, all being filled, and banked with lime and earth. If your readers have had some of the deceptions removed from their minds and will kindly turn their wrath from the medical officers of the army, I will be well repaid for the time spent upon this communication.

THE RETURNING ARMY.

BY N. SENN, LIEUT.-COL. U. S. V.

CHIEF OF THE OPERATING STAFF WITH THE ARMY IN THE FIELD.

The war is over and the heroes who freed the Western Continent from Spanish despotism are returning home. The first war of invasion on our part has been a short, decisive one. Only four months have passed by since the Chief Executive issued the first call to arms, and more than we expected has been accomplished. The outside world, which has sneered too long at our fighting strength as a nation, has been convinced that it is dangerous to trifle with Americans in matters of war. In less than two months after war was declared we had more than two hundred thousand men in the field, eager and anxious to face the dangers of active warfare. Less than one-half of this army took part in the invasion. The enemy's navy was entirely destroyed; not a single ship that came within range of our guns escaped. The proud Spanish fleet is a total wreck in American waters, a source of pride to our navy and a significant object lesson for all foreign nations. Santiago fell before our victorious army; Porto Rico yielded after a few skirmishes and Spain accepted our terms of peace without much argumentation, after the hopelessness of her cause had been demonstrated by our invincible army and navy. Peace has been restored, and the returning soldiers of the volunteer army will soon return to citizenship and resume their ordinary vocations of peaceful life.

What a contrast between the invading and returning army! This contrast has reference not only to size but also to appearance. Thousands have died from wounds and disease. Yellow fever, dysentery, malaria and typhoid fever have been and continue to be our most formidable enemies. We had no great
difficulty in silencing the Spanish guns, but we have been less effective in preventing the origin and spread of these, the greatest terrors of camp life. We can calculate with some degree of precision the loss of life sustained in battle, but it is impossible today to estimate the ultimate damage inflicted by disease. The naval forces scored the greatest victories with little loss of life; they escaped disease and its consequences, to a large extent, and were subject to little or no privations. The invading armies suffered the brunt of privation and discomforts incident to an active campaign. The troops in camps who were denied the privilege of taking part in the invasion of Cuba and Porto Rico had their share of deaths, sickness and hardship. It is safe to say that not half of the soldiers engaged in this short war are in a fighting or working condition on their return home. It is a sad sight, indeed, to witness the disembarkment of a transport arriving from Cuba or Porto Rico. Every one of the vessels brings from fifty to one hundred and fifty disabled men requiring medical treatment. All of the men left on the outgoing transports in good health and cheerful mood; all who arrive show the effects of the campaign. Many have died in our new possessions, many have been consigned to the sea on their way home, others have reached the shore in a dying condition. The crowded transports, the inadequate provisions for proper food, have made the voyages to and from the seat of war a source of hardship instead of health and pleasure. The emaciated forms, the sunken eye, the hollow cheek, the pale, bronzed faces, the staggering gait, show only too plainly what can be done by disease, a tropic climate and improper food in disabling an army in a few weeks. In this respect our experience is a repetition of that of our enemy. It is well known that the Spanish army lost 50 per cent. of its fighting force from the same cause in two months after landing in Cuba. The Spanish surgeon I met inside of the lines of the enemy, four days before the surrender of Santiago, when we delivered to him, under a flag of truce, sixteen wounded Spanish soldiers, informed me that when his part of the army reached Cuba the men were all in good health, and that now many were sick and none well. He drew a sad picture of how their ranks were thinned out by yellow fever, malaria and dysentery. The outbreak and spread of typhoid fever in our home camps, so early during the campaign, is responsible for more deaths and suffering than any other cause. Many of our soldiers carried the infection with them to Cuba and Porto Rico, and were taken ill on the transports or soon after landing. It is much more difficult to keep typhoid fever out of the army than yellow fever. The yellow fever which our troops in Cuba encountered was of a mild type. Comparative few died and most of the cases recovered after an illness of but a few days. Typhoid fever runs its typical course of three weeks or more, little influenced, as far as time is concerned, by medication. It is a disease which, above all others, requires careful nursing. The necessary attention to typhoid-fever patients in nursing and treatment is a matter difficult to obtain, even in a well-equipped hospital with all needful appliances. The management of such cases in field hospitals is necessarily attended by many difficulties which tax to the utmost the experience of the medical staff and nursing corps. Considering the limited resources at our command in the treatment of this disease, in our home camps and our new possessions, it is surprising that the mortality has not been greater. The Sisters of Charity and the trained female nurses from different cities, have done most satisfactory work in our home camps, crowded with typhoid fever patients. Many a soldier on his recovery from the disease will feel grateful for their faithful services.

Camp Wikoff.

Camp Wikoff is now a great hospital. It is located on Montauk Point, L. I., a narrow strip of land surrounded on both sides by salt water. The country is hilly and treeless and the sandy soil is covered with a scanty growth of grass. Between the hills are cup-shaped depressions with a marshy soil, which after rains are filled with stagnant water. These diminutive marshes threaten danger in case of a prolonged encampment. They are undoubtedly, all of them, the natural breeding-places of the plasmodium malariae. They will soon become contaminated with the fecal discharge from hundreds of typhoid fever cases, as many of the sinks drain directly into them. I am told that the water-supply from the artesian wells, while not ample, is otherwise satisfactory. The small railroad which terminates here from New York, monopolizes the whole business of transportation, as this exclusive right was made conditional in securing the ground for camp purposes. This is greatly to be regretted, as steamer communication could be readily established, which would facilitate the present unusually large passenger and freight business between the camp and New York. Politics and personal interests have figured conspicuously in the management of the present war. Departments have been severely criticised, when a thorough investigation would often reveal a power behind the throne. If we had steamer traffic between here and New York we would not have to wait for days for the so much needed supplies. The little railroad has had sufficient influence in cutting off competition and in increasing correspondingly the value of its stock, and we here are suffering the consequences of this Judas Iscariot bargain. The whole little peninsula is a tented field. Regiment after regiment is arriving, day after day, seriously testing the quartermaster's department. All the troops that came from Cuba must land here to comply with the quarantine regulations. A detention hospital has been established near the landing, to which all suspects are consigned for the required length of time. Near the hospital a large disinfecting plant has been erected. So far no cases of yellow fever have been imported. The general hospital contains at the present time (August 26) nearly one thousand patients and all the sick in the camp will swell the number to 1500. The landing of so many sick in such a short time has brought about an over-crowding which, with the present facilities and resources could not have been prevented. Colonel Forwood, Assistant Surgeon-General, selected the camp site, and was the first man on the ground. His immense military experience, gained during the War of the Rebellion, fitted him in an admirable way for the difficult task imposed upon him. Colonel Forwood is an authority in military surgery and endowed with excellent administrative talents. His work here will be the crowning effort of his life. He has worked night and day since he has assumed his duties here. He is a friend of the soldier and will not leave a stone unturned to be of service to him. He has executive charge of the hospital construction, and his work.
was much admired by two staff surgeons of the German army, Drs. Steinbach and Wildemann, and by Lieutenant-Commander Tomatsuri of the Japanese navy, who came from New York to the camp with me. As they expressed themselves, the field hospitals here were the best they had ever seen. Colonel Forwood is ably assisted in his arduous duties by Majors Heitzmann, Brown, Nancrede and Wing and a large staff of acting assistant-surgeons. The writer, on his arrival, was placed in charge of the surgical work. An operating tent was erected and placed in working order with the assistance of two Sisters of Charity and Acting Assistant-Surgeon Greenleaf. The tent is floored and divided into four sections. The front part is the operating-room, with two side tables two feet in width the whole length of the room. The tables are covered with rubber cloth. An army operating-table and a few stands constitute the balance of the furnishing of the room. The next section is open on the sides to allow a free current of air and serves as an office. The next compartment is the preparation-room, fitted out with formaldehyde and sterilizers and sufficient shelf accommodations. The last section is used as a storeroom for dressings, splints, antiseptics and drugs necessary for the treatment of surgical cases.

Gen. Joseph Wheeler is in command of the camp, and although debilitated by the campaign and disease, he attends to his duties with a regularity and devotion which have characterized his whole military career. The sick are being cared for at the present time by fifty Sisters of Charity and sixty trained female nurses. One of the things that was greatly admired by the foreign military surgeons was the efficient work of the hospital corps. They were charmed with the way in which the patients were handled and the gentlemanly conduct of the litterbearers. Less praise was bestowed on the military bearing of the men in camp, from the highest officers to the ordinary private. The military spirit seems to have been fully subdued in the enemy's country. The sentries move about sluggishly and seldom deem it worth while to come to a "present arms," no matter who may come within saluting distance. Men walk about in clothes showing only too distinctly the absence of whisk-broom or brush since they left Cuba. Guns, bayonets and scabbards have become rusty and show an entire lack of proper care. All drills are suspended and the whole camp presents more the appearance of a picnic ground than a military post. Officers and men are evidently impressed with the idea that their work is done, and while away their time in a way requiring the least amount of energy and exertion possible. In this respect our troops form a strong contrast with the German army when it entered Paris, after one of the most bloody wars and after a prolonged siege full of hardships and privations. On that occasion every soldier was in a condition to go on parade and to pass with credit the inspection of the most exacting officer. Such looseness of discipline as seen here at this time is not calculated to inspire the outgoing army with the proper military spirit that should be maintained and cultivated under the most adverse circumstances. Strict military bearing is also sadly lacking among the medical officers—a source of disappointment and surprise to the corps of acting assistant-surgeons, who entered the service with the full expectation that the reverse would be the case.

Camp Wilkoff, Montauk, N. Y., Aug. 27, 1868.

Unrest, criticism and grumbling are the accompaniments and heritage of every war. These symptoms of war fever have been unusually well developed during the war just ended, and they will be discussed for a long time after the treaty of peace has been signed. After an uninterrupted reign of peace for more than thirty years, the war cloud that came upon us so suddenly and unexpectedly provoked a commotion among the people unparalleled in degree and extent since the War of the Rebellion. All eyes were turned in the direction of the seat of war, and the contents of our enterprising and prolific newspapers were devoured with an eagerness unknown in any other country. It is strange that with all this great national unrest the current of commerce and business pursued its natural course. While our troops were engaged in war in foreign lands, the tilting of the soil, the harm of industry and the ordinary vocations of life continued as though harmony and peace reigned universal. The American never forgets that patriotism is not limited to the battlefield. The conscientious performance of duties at home, the fireside, the farms, the workshops, the manufacturing and business places, is one of the things essential in the successful prosecution of a war. This fact was recognized by our people, and the result has been that the prosperity of our country has suffered little, if any, during our first war of invasion. Criticism is a part of human nature. It is seen everywhere. It affects the educated as well as the ignorant, it extends from the cradle to the grave, it involves one sex as much as the other, it moves the well as much as the sick, it infects the pulpit as well as the stage, and it comes to the surface in the army from the commanding general down to the lowest of all privates. It is amusing to listen at a camp fire to the remarks made from all sources as to how the campaign should be conducted. The average private discusses the most complicated strategical problems with an ease as though he were repeating the multiplication table or the Lord's prayer. The generals high in command ease their conscience by criticizing their subordinate most unmercifully for any thing having the slightest resemblance to the criticism of the average private. Wise as well as ignorant men, a thousand miles away from the seat of war, have their convictions as to what should be done and are free to express them. Criticism increases in severity and extent in proportion as confidence is weakened and undermined. As we live in a free country criticism finds a fertile and productive soil everywhere and anywhere. The unbridled liberty of the press encourages and fosters it. Like swearing and other vices it is engendered by environments. Just and wrathful criticism is legitimate; criticism the outpouring of impure selfish motives is baseless. Our energetic, enthusiastic press is entitled to a great deal of credit in giving to the public the war news so promptly and completely, often at an enormous expense and severe danger to life. The American reporter has no equal in any country for obtaining news regardless of cost and risk. The reporters not only culled the news, but often took a hand in supplying the sick and wounded with fruit, tobacco, and delicacies. How quickly the reporters sniffed the latest news, I learned in Porto Rico. I arrived from Arroyo in the harbor of Ponce, August 13. Rumors of peace were rife for a number of days.