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Harriet Martineau
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England and Her Soldiers

In the preface to this 1859 book Harriet Martineau (1802–76) tells the reader that this 'is not a work of invention' or a 'fancy-piece' and thereby sets the tone for a study that is partly historical and partly sociological. In the writing of the book, Martineau collaborated with another prominent nineteenth-century figure, Florence Nightingale. They wished to gain political support for improvements in military hygiene and health care. Martineau draws on Nightingale's experiences when nursing wounded soldiers during the Crimean War and builds it into a strong narrative that describes the conditions that soldiers experienced in the barracks, in hospitals and on the field. Martineau also focuses on the administration of hygiene and health care in general, and makes practical recommendations as how to improve these areas, by legislation if necessary, so as to ensure the future good health of Britain's armed forces. For more information on this author, see http://orlando.cambridge.org/public/svPeople?person_id=martha

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HARRIET MARTINEAU



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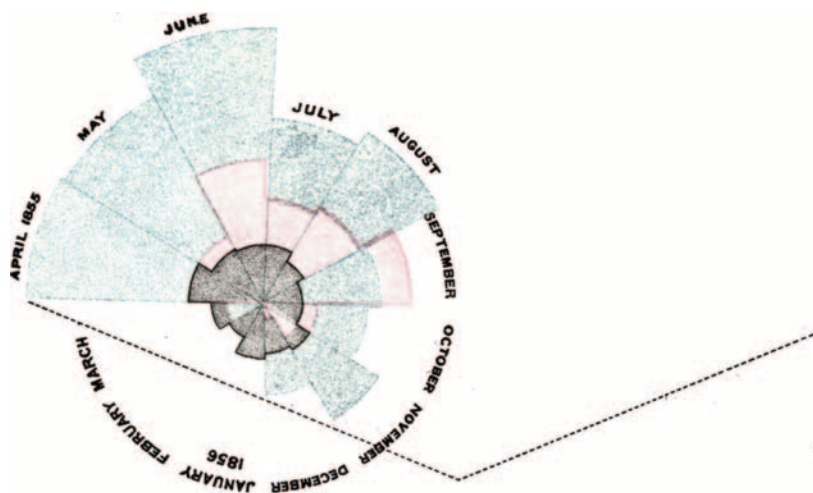
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2.
APRIL 1855 TO MARCH 1856.

DIAGRAM OF THE CA IN THE ARMY



The Areas of the blue, red, & black wedges are each measured from the centre as the common vertex.

The blue wedges measured from the centre of the circle represent area for area the deaths from Preventible or Mitigable Zymotic diseases; the red wedges measured from the centre the deaths from wounds; & the black wedges measured from the centre the deaths from all other causes.

The black line across the red triangle in Nov. 1854 marks the boundary of the deaths from all other causes during the month.

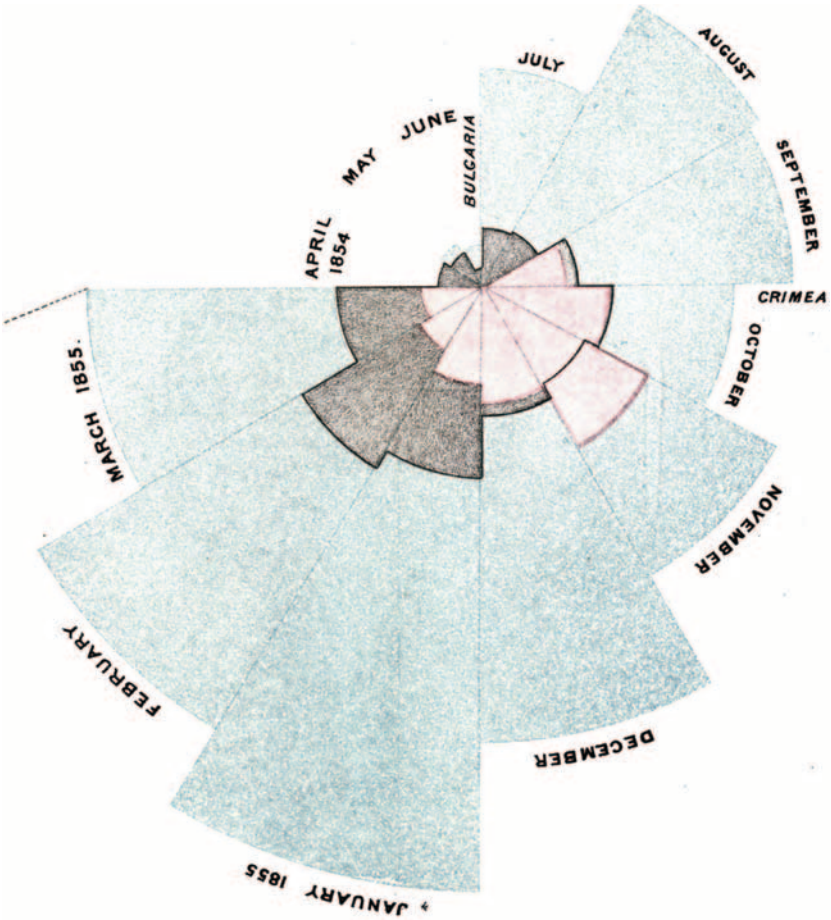
In October 1854, & April 1855, the black area coincides with the red; in January & February 1855, the blue coincides with the black.

The entire areas may be compared by following the blue, the red & the black lines enclosing them.

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USES OF MORTALITY
IN THE EAST.

1.
APRIL 1854 to MARCH 1855.



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ENGLAND AND HER SOLDIERS.

BY HARRIET MARTINEAU.

"Let me speak proudly.—Tell the Constable
We are but warriors for the working day;
Our gayness, and our gilt, are all besmirched
With rainy marching in the painful field.
There's not a piece of feather in our host
(Good argument, I hope, we shall not fly),
And time hath worn us into slovenry;
But, by the mass, our hearts are in the trim."
KING HENRY V., Act iv. Scene 3.

"I know already by your forwardness, that you have deserved rewards and
crowns; and we do assure you, on the word of a prince, they shall be duly
paid you."
QUEEN OF ENGLAND to her Soldiers, 1688.

WITH THREE ILLUSTRATIVE DIAGRAMS.

LONDON

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1859

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P R E F A C E.

THIS book is not a work of invention. It is no fancy-piece, but “an ower true tale,” as it would be easy to show. The materials are for the most part contained in the Reports of various Commissions, and in the Evidence on which those Reports are based; and the largest amount has been supplied by the latest authorities,—especially the Report and Evidence on the Sanitary Condition of the Army, communicated last year.

The Statistical Statements are illustrated by three diagrams showing the Sanitary State of the Army during the War in the Crimea, for permission to use which I am indebted to the Publishers of “A Contribution to the Sanitary History of the British Army,” in which they originally appeared.

It cannot be necessary to explain at any length the inducements to prepare this volume. We sustained a fearful misfortune in the last war: we were taught by a duplicate experience the causes of the loss of our soldiers, and the means of preserving our forces in future: the war has been over nearly three years: there has been no sufficient reason for any

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PREFACE.

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it may suffice to rouse the public to claim the complete fulfilment of the programme of reform, laid down by the Royal Commissioners, approved by the authorities at the War-Office, and assented to by all rational persons who have considered the particulars.

There is now a general expectation of war in Europe: and when there is war in Europe, each nation must stand on its defence. We have lavished life, means, and hard money, for very poor results, as regards the maintenance of an adequate military force. We now see how we may maintain an adequate military force at a much smaller cost in every way; and to do this, all that is necessary is such a vigorous expression of the national will as may overcome the obscure resistance in official quarters which always impedes reform in any department of the State. If this will is exerted in time, our national destinies are secure. If not, we shall slide back into the mismanagement, helplessness, and doomed condition from which the bitter experience of the Crimean war should have roused us beyond relapse. I here offer my small contribution to the national safety in the form of a popular presentment of the case.

For the form and construction of the book, I am, as I have said, responsible. The material I have accounted for. I need only say further that the correctness of the technicalities has been secured by the revision of one whose knowledge on such points

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makes all safe. Except in regard to these technical expressions, the responsibility of the work as a book is wholly my own.

I believe the story it contains to be altogether true. I believe the inferences and suggestions of the Royal Commissioners to be of vital importance to our national welfare. Thus believing, I could not but offer the facts, inferences, and suggestions in the most popular form in which I could invest them, hoping that they would work strongly on the national judgment and will.

It has been a grave work,—too stern to admit of the indulgence of passionate emotions, such as swept like a torrent over the national heart when the calamity was at its height. In such a story as this there are many incitements to grief, indignation, shame, and compassion, pride, admiration, even hero and heroine worship; but the substantial character of the material, and the gravity and urgency of the use to be made of it, have been an admonition to me to repress all weakening emotions, to avoid both censure and praise, and to be as impersonal as possible, in regard both to myself and to those whom, in their efforts to save our national armies, I would honour and serve.

THE KNOLL, AMBLESIDE :
April 9th, 1859.

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