

Cambridge University Press
978-1-108-06988-5 - The Soldier's Manual of Sanitation: And of First Help in
Sickness and when Wounded
Charles Alexander Gordon
Frontmatter
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It is sobering to realise that as recently as the year in which *On the Origin of Species* was published, learned opinion was that diseases such as typhus and cholera were spread by a 'miasma', and suggestions that doctors should wash their hands before examining patients were greeted with mockery by the profession. The Cambridge Library Collection reissues milestone publications in the history of Western medicine as well as studies of other medical traditions. Its coverage ranges from Galen on anatomical procedures to Florence Nightingale's common-sense advice to nurses, and includes early research into genetics and mental health, colonial reports on tropical diseases, documents on public health and military medicine, and publications on spa culture and medicinal plants.

The Soldier's Manual of Sanitation

This joint reissue comprises two works on military medicine, providing instruction on the treatment of ailments common to soldiers, and methods for preventing their occurrence. The title work, written by Charles Alexander Gordon (1821–99) and published in 1873, is followed by *A Guide to Health for the Use of Soldiers* by fellow surgeon R.C. Eaton (1842–1902), which first appeared in 1890. Intended to be read by infantrymen and officers, both works offer succinct and practical advice on topics ranging from malaria to drunkenness. The texts take slightly different approaches in their presentation of advice: Gordon adopts a crisp and formal style, while Eaton incorporates instructive medical facts in his brief yet fluent explanations. Together, the works provide an effective exposition of problems and practicalities that would assume tremendous significance decades later in the trenches of the First World War.

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*And of First Help in Sickness
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AND OF

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ADAPTED FOR

OFFICERS, NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS, AND PRIVATES
OF THE ACTIVE FORCES,
MILITIA, YEOMANRY, AND VOLUNTEERS, FOR HOME
AND FOREIGN SERVICE,

FOR PEACE AND FOR WAR.

By DEPUTY SURGEON-GENERAL

CHARLES ALEXANDER GORDON, M.D., C.B.

“ Mon bien le plus précieux, c'est la santé du soldat.”
TURENNE.

LONDON:
BAILLIÈRE, TINDALL, & COX,
KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND.

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INTRODUCTORY.

MANUALS of various kinds, specially intended for use by the soldier, are published in the several countries of Europe, and among them instructions given, more or less detailed, in regard to the best means of preserving health, decreasing the risks of sickness, and of affording some measure of aid to their comrades when attacked by illness or wounded in battle. I have accordingly been induced to frame the following brief directions, in the hope that they may reach the hands of non-commissioned officers and private soldiers in our own army, whether of the active or auxiliary services. I have endeavoured to adapt them to the varying conditions of our army, and it only remains to be seen how far they may be considered useful to those for whom they are particularly intended.

C. A. GORDON.

April, 1873.