

Paper Reference(s) 1HI0/11
Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

History

PAPER 1: Thematic study and historic environment

Option 11: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present AND

The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Thursday 18 May 2023 – Morning

Sources Booklet

**DO NOT RETURN THIS BOOKLET WITH
THE QUESTION PAPER.**

Sources for use with Section A.

SOURCE A: From the diary of a surgeon on the Western Front, 29 April 1915. He was a pioneer in new techniques of dealing with head injuries. Here he is describing an early attempt at brain surgery with the use of a magnetised nail to remove metal fragments.

Several unsuccessful trials this morning to extract a shell fragment from a soldier's brain. Finally, we decided to try using a large wire nail as a magnet.

A crowd in the X-ray room and corridor watched as we inserted the nail into the brain. Slowly we extracted the nail – nothing on it! Sighs and groans. I tried again. More sighs, and people began to go out. A third time – nothing. But then I decided to try just once more. And there it was, a little fragment of steel attached to the tip of the nail! Much emotion from everyone!

SOURCE B: From an account by Gwynedd Lloyd, written in 1915. Lloyd was a civilian volunteer, working at a General Hospital on the Western Front, and had experience in treating injuries. Here she is describing the use of a new liquid solution to treat infected wounds.

We had to mix the liquid solution in large amounts. Tubes were inserted into infected wounds. We used a big syringe to inject this solution into the tubes every three hours so that it would wash round the wound. Even at night, we had to wake the men up to do this. It was very painful for the patients but the infection often started to decrease.

Unfortunately, if the infection was very bad, the wounded limb might still have to be amputated or sometimes the man died.

Nevertheless, we did manage to save a great many lives through this treatment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Source A taken from <http://www.vlib.us/medical/Cushing/journal02.html>

**Source B taken from The Imperial War Museum book of
The Western Front By Malcom Brown © Pan Brooks, 1991**