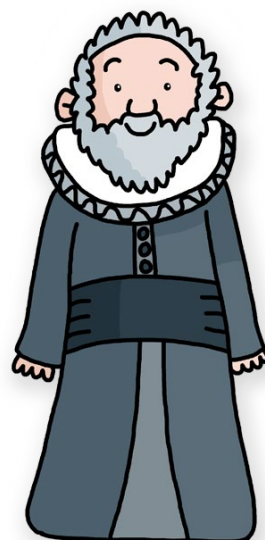


Ambrose Paré

Ambrose Paré was a French barber surgeon whose experience of treating injuries on the battlefield led to improvements in surgical techniques. During one battle, he ran out of hot oil, which was the usual treatment for gunshot wounds and he resorted to using a simple cool salve (type of ointment) which he found worked better. Paré also invented a method of tying off vessels with threads (ligatures). This was less painful and so reduced the chance of patients dying of shock. Paré also designed artificial limbs and improved the treatment of amputations. He published his ideas to let other doctors read about them. Paré eventually became surgeon to the King of France and with his support, his ideas came to be accepted.



The Treatment of gunshot wounds

Source A: An extract from Paré's work on the treatment of gunshot wounds.

The works of that famous chiruigion [surgeon] Ambrose Parey. Pyb S.i.10, Pybus Collection, Newcastle University Special Collections, GB 186

The first discourse (piece of writing) which is dedicated to the reader, reveals and condemns by reasons and examples the method of curing prescribed by John de Vigo, whereby he cauterizes (burns) the wounds made by gunshot supposing them venenate (poisoned).

Activities:

Read Source A.

1. How does Paré describe the traditional treatment of gunshot wounds (as prescribed by John de Vigo)?
2. What does Paré say this piece of writing sets out to do?

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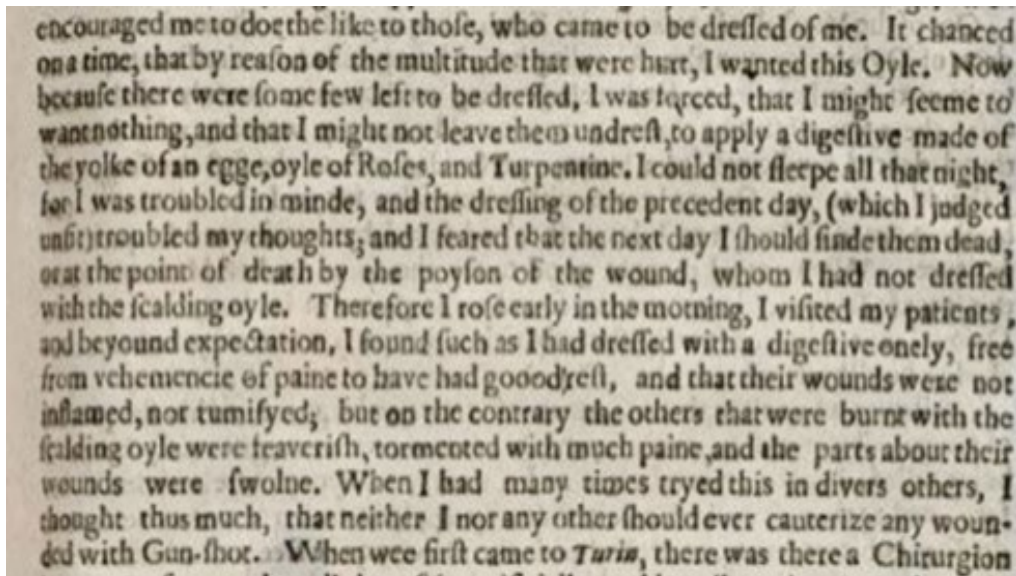


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Source B: Another extract from Paré's work on the treatment of gunshot wounds.



encouraged me to do the like to those, who came to be dressed of me. It chanced on a time, that by reason of the multitude that were hurt, I wanted this Oyle. Now because there were some few left to be dressed, I was forced, that I might seeme to want nothing, and that I might not leave them undrest, to apply a digestive made of the yolke of an egge, oyle of Roses, and Turpentine. I could not sleepe all that night, for I was troubled in minde, and the dressing of the precedent day, (which I judged unfit) troubled my thoughts, and I feared that the next day I should finde them dead, or at the point of death by the poyson of the wound, whom I had not dressed with the scalding oyle. Therefore I rose early in the morning, I visited my patients, and beyound expectation, I found such as I had dressed with a digestive onely, free from vehemencie of paine to have had good rest, and that their wounds were not inflamed, nor tumified; but on the contrary the others that were burnt with the scalding oyle were feaverish, tormented with much paine, and the parts about their wounds were swolne. When I had many times tryed this in divers others, I thought thus much, that neither I nor any other should ever cauterize any wounded with Gun-shot. When wee first came to Turin, there was there a Chirurgion

The works of that famous chiruigion [surgeon] Ambrose Parey. Pyb S.i.10, Pybus Collection, Newcastle University Special Collections, GB 186

It chanced on a time, that by reason of the multitude that were hurt, I wanted this oil. Now because there were some few left to be dressed, I was forced, that I might seem to want nothing, and that I might not leave them undressed, to apply a digestive made of the yolk of egg, oil of roses and turpentine.

I could not sleep all that night for I was troubled in mind, and the dressing of the preceding day (which I judged unfit) troubled my thoughts; and I feared that the next day I should find them dead, or at the point of death by the poison of the wound, whom I had not dressed with the scalding oil. Therefore I rose early in the morning, I visited my patients, and beyond expectation, I found such as I had dressed with a digestive only, free from vehemence of pain to have had good rest, and that their wounds were not inflamed, not ramified (spread); but on the contrary the others that were burnt with the scalding oil were feverish, tormented with much pain, and the parts about their wounds were swollen.

When I had many times tried this in diverse others I thought thus much, that neither I nor any other should ever cauterise any wounded with gunshot.

Activities:

Read Source B.

1. Why did Paré have to try a new method for treating gunshot wounds?
2. What was the new treatment he tried?
3. How did the soldiers treated with the new treatment respond?
4. What did Paré conclude from his experiments?

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Artificial Limbs

Source C: A drawing of artificial limbs,



The forme of an hand made artificially of iron.

The figure following showeth the back side of an hand artificially made, and so that it may be tyed to the arme or sleeve.

The works of that famous chiruigion [surgeon] Ambrose Parey. Pyb S.i.10, Pybus Collection, Newcastle University Special Collections, GB 186

Activities:

Study Source C:

1. What does the top image show? What material was it made out of? What problems can you see with this?
2. What does the bottom image show? How was this prosthetic limb attached to the arm or sleeve?

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