Diagnosis and Remedy Chart for The Great War

Patient Symptoms	Diagnosis	Treatment	Anticipated Outcome/Recovery of Patient	Possible Contagion/ preventative steps to stop contagion
#1: High fever that disappears after 5 days; reoccurs every 10-12 days	Trench Fever	Bed rest for up to 3 months	Full recovery; but number of casualties hurts war effort	Until 1922, the organism responsible for the fever is not isolated; the unsanitary conditions in the trenches led to this malady
#2: bruising on skin, weakness, and general fatigue. Calf pains and gum bleeding	Scurvy- Vitamin C deficiency	Administer lime juice or add fresh citrus fruits to diet	Full recovery, if no loss of teeth has occurred	Not contagious but vitamin C is necessary in the diet to prevent symptoms
#3: Fever, coughing, blood-streaked mucus in sputum	Pneumonia, lung damage from mustard gas, Tuberculosis	Bed rest, moving to a mountain climate (TB)	Many felt TB could be cured with rest and higher altitudes, most patients died from pneumonia and mustard gas poisoning, although they could linger on for months, even years after breathing gas	TB is very contagious, professionals set up individuals in TB hospitals or wards; pneumonia, both viral and bacterial are extremely contagious, close proximity to other patients could lead to more cases; bed rest often leads to pneumonia in immobile patients
# 4 high fever develops in a recently wounded soldier, wound stinks and wound appears to be “eaten away” and is larger than original area	Gangrene	Amputation of limb, if wound is on arms or legs; torso wounds continue to wash with boric acid, salt packs are applied to the wound in Russian hospitals	Most amputations increase the risk of death when more of the patient’s body is removed, i.e. full leg amputations have a greater risk of death than removal of a foot, etc.	Unsanitary surgical tools are a common culprit but antibiotics have not been discovered yet; cleaner hospitals mean less chance of infection

Follow-Up Questions on Medical Chart

1. What were the standard treatments for venereal disease in WWI? What was wrong with the mercurial suppositories?

The treatments were sometimes worse than the disease, at least in its initial stages. Mercury is a known toxin today and exposure can be fatal, in large enough doses. The treatments didn't really cure the infections and sterility, passing on the infection to others, insanity (Syphilis), and stillbirths were common in the time before STDs could be adequately treated.

2. Skim through Major Moss' Military Training Manual. What errors can you find in Maj. Moss's booklet? Describe five areas where he is incorrect in his teaching.

"Chancroids and Clap" are not plants; they are symptoms of disease. Brushing your teeth won't prevent illness. Tea and coffee are poor substitutes for drinking water. Mops do keep dust down, but not necessarily germs, if you don't use them with a disinfectant. What in the heck is "brain fever" anyway?

Getting drunk doesn't mean you will have sex and catch a disease; it can increase the likelihood of intimacy, if the soldier doesn't drink too much!

3. Examine the statistical charts on deaths in WWI. What nation suffered the greatest number of casualties? Which nation suffered the least? (Check the % data in the far right column.) How might this data explain reactions to the treatment of the losing nations at the war's conclusion?

Russia suffered the greatest casualties on the Allied side, Austria-Hungary for the Central Powers. The U.S.A, by percentage, had the lightest casualties. Nations that lost the greatest number of soldiers had severe feelings of mistrust and hostility toward the enemy. This helps to explain the rationale used by France to demand heavy reparations from Germany, the enemy she had in common on the Western Front. Russian soldiers committed many war crimes against German civilians in the last days of WWII; this was in retaliation for

German behavior toward Russians in both WWI and WWII. Had Russia remained in the first war and the imperial family retained power, Russia probably would have demanded similar treatment in reparations from Germany. Austria-Hungary escaped the brunt of this only because the empire collapsed and lost most of its territory at the conclusion of the war.

4. What were some of the more unusual causes of death in the war? Did everyone die immediately from gas exposure? If not, then what do you think the quality of life was like for injured soldiers and what possible consequences could there be nationally for countries bringing home several thousand disabled veterans from the war? List three.

Some soldiers were disabled for the remainder of their lives; not everyone immediately died from poison gas. If exposed soldiers lived, they were often bedridden and incapable of most daily routines, including holding jobs. Governments were faced with caring for the disabled in veteran hospitals and had to provide some type of compensation for their wounds. The bills had to be staggering for European nations. Not only were these men's lives ruined, they probably were emotional and financial burdens on their families. If a man had been a prominent physician, scientist, philosopher, etc. before the war, society lost whatever contributions he would normally make to his nation because of his disability.

5. The Spanish Flu was a pandemic that spread throughout the world at the end of WWI. More people died from this influenza than from warfare. What possible links can you think of to the rapid spread of the virus and the war?

The Spanish Flu led to the deaths of millions of civilians. The spread of the disease can be directly attributed to the mass mobilization of men and associated personnel in the war. Infected soldiers were brought home by the thousands, thereby exposing their families and neighbors to the disease.