ROGER KERSHAW

Title

'For King and Empire: Services Rendered'
Opening up access to the records held in MH 106 (First World War Representative Medical Records of Servicemen) at The National Archives.

Summary

A rich source of underused, un-catalogued data relating to those treated at Casualty Clearing stations and Field Hospitals mainly on the Western Front and elsewhere, regardless of nationality.

Abstract

MH 106 files comprise a representative selection of several types of medical records from various theatres of war. They were brought together by the Medical Research Committee and the British Museum during and immediately after the 1914 to 1918 War for use in statistical studies of the treatment for injuries sustained, and diseases contracted, by British troops. The records in this series are a representative selection of the original collection. The records include admission and discharge registers from hospitals and casualty clearing stations, field ambulances, an ambulance train and a hospital ship. There are also medical sheets, selected to illustrate the diversity of diseases contracted, injuries received and treatments prescribed and medical cards relating to individuals in selected regiments, together with means of reference to the various types of record and volumes containing information on the provenance and use of the original collection.

Following enquiries from the public, efforts to locate the rest of this collection, or to confirm its fate, have proved unsuccessful. It is believed that the remainder of the records were destroyed before the Second World War.

These under-used records provide an invaluable resource for medical historians, medical researchers and family historians.

Using case studies, this lecture will cover:
- The range of prevalent diseases
- Health in the trenches – diseases spread and exacerbated in environments altered by warfare
- A closer focus on specific diseases, wounds and regiments
- Self-inflicted wounds
- How the records link up with the War Diaries and Trench Maps

Audience
Beginner to Intermediate