

**HEART DISEASE
AND ANEURISM IN
THE ARMY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649476701

Heart Disease and Aneurism in the Army by W. E. Riordan

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Cover @ 2017

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P R E F A C E .

IN presenting this little book to the profession, and more especially those my brother officers to whom the subject is naturally of far more immediate importance and interest, I trust its shortcomings and omissions will be leniently dealt with; for I am living far away from the sources of our knowledge—merely interesting myself by occupying spare moments during the year, while stationed at Port Royal, Jamaica, Barbadoes, and Demerara, where there are no advantages and little opportunities of acquiring information, that would tend to elucidate many points in connection with our subject. Thus thrown very much upon my own resources, I have endeavoured, under these difficulties, to bring the matter forward, and express my views as to the cause of origin of a class of diseases from which the British soldier suffers excessively, and which must be considered as worthy of most serious consideration, both as regard the army and the state.

If it should appear to anyone that I have been rather abrupt in setting aside the opinions of others, while endeavouring clearly and tersely to establish my own views, they may rest assured that no such disrespect was ever intended.

W. E. RIORDAN,
Surgeon-Major.

BRITISH GUIANA,
6th February, 1873.

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DISEASE OF THE HEART AND ANEURISMS IN THE ARMY.

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THAT sickness should occur to a greater extent among our troops than amongst the civil male population of the soldier's class and age, although the former may be better housed, clad, and fed, is not at all remarkable, when their conditions of service are taken into account, especially such incidental conditions as those in connection with tropical service; and as regards mortality, although from all causes collectively the soldier's mortality is not, as far as we can judge, above that of the civil population, still it appears the soldier ages quicker, gets worn out sooner, and dies comparatively more rapidly as years advance. Moreover, whenever found incapable of performing further military duties, he is invalided from the service, and "some uncertain addition ought to be made to the mortality on this account."

If affections of the circulatory system were proportionally high