

**RECORDS OF THE ASSOCIATION
OF ACTING ASSISTANT
SURGEONS OF THE UNITED
STATES ARMY. A. D. 1891**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649510948

Records of the Association of Acting Assistant Surgeons of the United States Army. A. D. 1891
by W. Thornton Parker

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W. THORNTON PARKER

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EDITED BY W. THORNTON PARKER, M. D.,
Recorder A. A. S.

SALEM, MASS. :
SALEM PRESS PUBLISHING AND PRINTING CO.
1891.

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PREFACE.

These records of the Association of Acting Assistant Surgeons of the United States Army have been collected for publication as a memorial of *some* of the worthy members of the Medical profession "who have borne the burden and heat of the day." They are published not in the spirit of boasting, but as a deserving monument of honorable professional standing and faithful military service. Most eloquently they answer any imputation of inferiority in professional attainment, and surely no fair minded member of the general profession of medicine can hesitate after reading them to manfully confess that these men deserved better treatment. As a matter of fact the army medical department must acknowledge that great injustice has been done to worthy medical men in forcing acting assistant surgeons to endure humiliations which have never been lessened, but which on the other hand are so grievously wrong that it is indeed a wonder that such men have been willing to serve at all.

Among military men with such hearts as Custer's, the acting assistant surgeon was always welcome and honorably treated, and among many of the regular army surgeons, professional courtesy and kindness have been liberally extended, but for many years the office of the surgeon general was controlled by subordinate authority, which overpowered and neutralized the honorable intentions of those nominally in command. There was no one to withstand the evil influence, and so little by little justice

was lost sight of, and humiliation continued, until it reached its present miserable position.

The Association was formed with the fond hope that even at this late date something of justice might be attained, and while many gallant officers of the regular army have warmly approved of the efforts they have made for reasonable recognition, no help from the army medical department could be secured. As a protest, and as an illustration of the wrongs they have endured these records are presented, and it is hoped that this little book may be an eloquent plea for the justice which has been so long delayed. With all its mistakes and imperfections it is respectfully submitted by

THE RECORDER.

Salem, Mass., July 24, 1891.