Health and Medicine

1. Outline how causes of disease and illness have changed between C.500 and present day.

16 Marks + 4 SPAG

1. Outline how patient care has changed between C.500 and present day.
2. Outline how attempts to cure illness has changes between C.500 to present day.
3. Outline how attempts to prevent illness and disease have changed C.500 to present day.
4. Outline how public health has advanced from C.500 to present day.

6a: Describe two main features of medical advances in tending the wounded on the Western Front. [8 marks]

Paragraph 1 – Field ambulances and stretchers7

1. One of the main issues for wounded soldiers was **delays in being found and recovered** from No Man’s Land with some men waiting over a week. As advancing troops were not allowed to stop and care for the wounded, **stretcher bearers would attempt to recover the men and carry them to the nearest regimental aid post** for treatment.
2. There were **16 stretcher bearers per battalion** and on major offensives they would go forward with the soldiers instead of waiting until nightfall so that wounded men didn’t have to wait so long for treatment.
3. **Field ambulances were mobile medical units** allowing for the quick transportation of wounded men to **nearby tents and derelict buildings** for treatment.
4. They **served as dressing stations and operated a system of triage** to quickly establish the severity of a soldier’s wound. This enabled soldiers to be treated quickly and efficiently offering the best chance of recovery.

Do the same for paragraph 2: The role of the nursing corps

1. The **number of nurses rapidly grew** during the course of the war from just 300 in 1914 to 10,000 + 15,000 unpaid volunteers in 1918.
2. **Major offensives** such as the Somme in 1916 demanded an **increased need** for nurses as the high numbers of wounded required life saving care and treatment.
3. Nurses played a key role in **Casualty Clearing Stations and base hospitals** where they assisted with **pain relief, and the cleaning and bandaging of wounds**. This included the use of **antiseptics to prevent infection** and ensuring wherever possible the cleanliness and hygiene of wards.
4. Due to the mass scale of wounded soldiers and the severity of injuries caused by new weapons, nurses had an essential role in caring for the wounded. Their importance saw nursing become a **recognized and respected profession.**

6b: **Explain how the environment of the western front was significant in bringing about change in the methods used to combat illness and disease in the 20th Century? 12marks**

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| Describe the changes in conditions/ environment of WW1 | LINK – How did the conditions lead to developments | LINK – How was your development significant? |
| * Before WWI combat took place mainly in the form of cavalry with close contact fighting.
* However, Germany had created new technologies such as machine guns, field artillery, gases, grenades etc. Long distant, attrition warfare, defensive warfare. STALEMATE.
* As a result, soldiers’ injuries were more severe and different to previous wars fought. 22 million men were wounded either physically or mentally. Over 60,000 British soldiers suffered bullet wounds to the head and the eyes, and over 41,000 men had to have limbs amputated. Shrapnel wounds were most feared and the biggest cause of casualties.
* Conditions in the trenches were poor, and as result infections were a major reason for death from injury. Bullet and shell fragments carried other materials such as mud which would instantly infect the wounded soldier. Men also suffered from trench fever (Jul 1917- Jul 1918 – 15% British soldiers were medically unfit). Soldiers also suffered from trench foot, frostbite and body lice.
 | * Plastic surgery: Queen’s hospital, Kent, treated 2000 soldiers injured in the Battle of the Somme. New techniques included rebuilding of noses with bits of bone taken from the rib.
* Amputations: to avoid infections like gangrene which were deadly, amputations regularly took place and the war years saw considerable advances in the development of artificial limbs and moving joints.
* Vaccinations: tetanus and typhus (32 out of 1000 deaths caused by tetanus) dropped down to 2 out of 1000. Routine vaccines post-war.
* Portable x-rays: Marie Curie developed the mobile x-ray. Located bullets and fragments making it easier to treat. 1916 standard military medical equipment.
* Aseptic – by 1914 aseptic surgery was standard procedure in every British hospital. However, very hard on the battlefield. Trial and error overcame the difficulties. Saline solution, carbolic acid, keep the wounds open and clean them with solutions, cutting away infected tissue, hydrogen peroxide etc.
 | * Medical knowledge is improved as a direct result of WWI – plastic surgery now being a regular procedure for burns victims, acid attack victims and combat injuries.
* Improved medical knowledge – the system of evacuating the wounded became more efficient (triage system)and more organised (M on the forehead is a standard practice in warfare and natural disasters)
* Development of life saving technology – portable X-Rays and blood banks and blood transfusions. Standard medical practice = reduces loss of life after major incidents such as stabbings and car crashes.
* New surgical techniques – more surgeons perform more surgeries, get more practice and therefore save more lives. Surgeons become specialists in certain procedures.
* Fighting infection – tetanus and typhus are now standard vaccinations for both the general public and military personnel
* Aseptic surgeries on battlefields and preventative measures such as regular checks for trench foot development of the gas mask in WWII and the development of penicillin also in world war II.
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