

Services of the New-York Volunteer Surgeons at the Battle of Williamsburgh.

NEW-YORK, July 15, 1862.

S. Oakley Vanderpoel, M. D., Surgeon-General of the State of New-York.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, members of the corps of volunteer surgeons, of the State, who were detailed by you to report themselves at Fortress Monroe, in anticipation of a battle at Yorktown, but who had no opportunity to make their services available until after the battle of Williamsburgh—Dr. TRIPLER ordering us to report to headquarters at Williamsburgh—beg leave to announce to you the great satisfaction of their mission:

At Fortress Monroe we reported to Dr. CUYLER, and were agreeably received and expedited on our journey. At Williamsburgh we reported to Dr. TRIPLER, and were cordially greeted by him and his assistant, Dr. SMITH.

Our services were needed; and we were immediately assigned to the charge of nearly all the wounded in Williamsburgh. These were congregated in William and Mary's College and the different churches, or scattered about in private dwellings or shanties.

The rebel wounded, to the number of seven or eight hundred, were nominally under the care of their own surgeons, some of whom were prisoners, and others of whom had come under a flag of truce for the purpose of attending to their wounded; but from neglect, and the destitution of resources, little regard had been paid to their comfort or to the dressing of their wounds. On our arrival the services of the rebel soldiers were at once dispensed with, and they were sent back to Richmond, and the medical officers of our own army were enabled to join their respective commands, so that we had almost the exclusive care of the wounded.

Our work was constant and laborious. a number of capital operations were performed, broken limbs for the first time placed in splints, balls extracted, and a general air of order and cleanliness established.

Our visit was a humane one, but has added much to our surgical experience. Our services elicited the surprise and gratitude of the wounded rebels; and independent of any surgical aid afforded, were, we believe, useful in a moral point of view, in showing the wounded prisoners that we still regarded them as our fellow-countrymen, and bore toward them no feelings of hate or hostility. ●

On leaving Williamsburgh we accompanied five hundred of the wounded rebels to Fortress Monroe, leaving one of our number, Dr. DAVID L. RODGERS, in charge of those that remained. Dr. RODGERS is still on duty at Williamsburgh.

We are under great obligations to Drs. TRIPLER and SMITH. They were ceaseless in their activity. Possessing, in addition to medical skill, that energy, system and business capacity, without which the operations of an army must be delayed, by the disorder which, to a greater or less extent, is consequent upon every battle, they provided for the disabled, sent those that could be removed in safety to the transports in the river, promptly brought order out of confusion, and yet had time to appreciate our services, and to consult for our comfort.

While admiring their efficiency, we would, through you, offer our thanks to them for the courtesy and kindness which have rendered our excursion to Williamsburgh agreeable, useful and memorable.

Very respectfully, yours,

(Signed,)

JAMES R. WOOD, M. D.
JOHN O. STONE, M. D.
E. KRACKOWIZER, M. D.
DANIEL AYRES, M. D.