



Medicines for the Union Army: The United States Army Laboratories During the Civil War (Pharmaceutical Heritage Pharmaceutical Care Through History)

Dennis B Worthen, Greg Higby

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It wasn't only combat that killed during the Civil War! Among white Federalist troops alone, there were 1,213,685 cases of malaria, 139,638 cases of typhoid fever, 67,762 cases of measles, 61,202 cases of pneumonia, 73,382 cases of syphilis, and 109,202 cases of gonorrhea between May 1, 1861 and June 30, 1866. (Statistics for Negro troops covered less than three years of the Civil War period.) Preventative medicine at the time had little more to offer than quinine and a few disinfectants. There was no real understanding of the germ theory of disease. But *Medicines for the Union Army: The United States Army Laboratories During the Civil War* shows that in the evolution of the army's Medical Department from incompetence to general efficiency during this time, and in the vastly improved organization and supply system designed by William A. Hammond, Jonathan Letterman, the medical purveyors, and others working under the Surgeon General, there was evidence of a great achievement. In *Medicines for the Union Army* you will come to understand the medical purveying system of the time and its problems, and you will witness the birth, growth, and remarkable achievements of the Federal government's pharmaceutical laboratories at Astoria, New York, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. *Medicines for the Union Army* will inform and enlighten you about these laboratories, including:

- the funding and transportation obstacles faced at the Astoria lab
- the processes by which raw materials became drugs ready for distribution
- drug testing and inspection methods
- the bottling of "medicinal whiskey" and wine at the labs
- the people whose work laid the foundation for modern drug production and distribution methods
- the contents of the medical supply cases (panniers) and wagons in use at the time . . . and much more!

Medicines for the Union Army: The United States Army Laboratories During the Civil War brings to light the groundbreaking achievements of unsung American heroes working to preserve life while the country was in bloody turmoil. No Civil War historian should be without this volume!

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