

## **Gervase Markham**

### **Reactions of Wounded Soldiers**

If they were alive they were very, very thankful, thankful to be alive and now they were going to be looked after. They would be thankful, if it was a bad wound they would now be going back to England. This is a very real situation in troops, they're prepared to do their job to fight and to risk a wounding, what they don't want is to be wounded in the testicles, for example, or to have something that will be very painful. A wound in the arm or the leg means that you're out of action for the time being, you're going to be safe for the next month or two, and though you may be prepared to come back again but at least you're safe for the time being, and this is a very imminent and pressing thing in terms of so if you're brought back on the stretcher and you're not able to walk. It was what in the first place was called a 'Blighty' number. There's an awful lot of talk about soldiers raring to go and being full of fight and all that sort of thing, but what the fighting soldier really wants is to get through the battle without being painfully wounded or being killed. Of course if he's got a slight wound and is out of action well that's, for most young soldiers, a great thing to be thankful for.