

Supported by Detective Geary and President Milburn, and surrounded by Secretary George B. Cortelyou and half a dozen exposition officials, the President was assisted to a chair, where he sank back with one hand holding his abdomen, the other fumbling at his breast. His eyes were open and he was clearly conscious of all that had transpired. He was suffering the most intense pain, but true to his noble nature his first thought was of others—one other in particular, his wife.

He looked up into President Milburn's face and gasped: "Cortelyou." The President's secretary bent over him. "Cortelyou," said the President, "my wife, be careful about her. Don't let her know."

His next thought was of the cruel assassin who had struck him down. Moved by a paroxysm he writhed to the left, and then his eyes fell on the prostrate form of Czolgosz, lying on the floor bloody and helpless beneath the blows of the police, soldiers, and detectives.

The President raised his right hand, red with his own blood, and placed it on the shoulder of his secretary. "Let no one hurt him," he gasped, and sank back in his chair, while the guards carried Czolgosz out of his sight.

The ambulance from the exposition hospital was summoned immediately, and the President, still conscious, sank upon the stretcher, and in

nine minutes after the shooting the President was waiting the arrival of surgeons, who had been summoned from all sections of the city and by special train from Niagara Falls.

On the way to the hospital the President said to Mr. Milburn: "I am sorry to have been the cause of trouble to the exposition."

Within ten minutes after he received his wounds, stricken with pain as he was, the President had given expression to three thoughts. First, and most natural, that the news should be kept from his invalid wife; second, that the would-be assassin, worthless as his life was, should not be harmed; and third, regret that the tragedy might hurt the exposition and interfere with the pleasure of others.

Six doctors were at the President's side within thirty seconds after his arrival—Dr. E. W. Lee of St. Louis, Dr. Storer of Chicago, Dr. Van Peyms of Buffalo, and Dr. Hall, Dr. Ellis, and Dr. Mann, Jr., of the exposition hospital staff. The nurses were equally prompt, for they had made ready for the task of the surgeons while the ambulance was coming from the Temple of Music.

The President was stripped and placed on an operating table where the surgeons might see his wounds. The first assistance was rendered by Dr. Lee, who was the medical director of the Omaha exposition. The President recognized him





and said: "Doctor, do whatever is necessary."

The hospital stewards were busy removing the President's apparel when Dr. Herman Mynter arrived. The surgeons consulted and hesitated about performing an operation. The President reassured them by expressing his confidence, but no decision was reached until Dr. Matthew D. Mann of the exposition hospital staff arrived. After another consultation Dr. Mann informed the President that an operation was necessary.

"All right," replied the President. "Go ahead. Do whatever is proper."

Dr. Mann performed the operation. His first assistant was Dr. Mynter. His second assistant was Dr. John Parmenter. His third assistant was Dr. Lee. Dr. Nelson W. Wilson noted the time of the operation and took notes. Dr. Eugene Wasdin of the Marine Hospital gave the anæsthetic. Dr. Rixey, the President's personal physician, arrived at the latter part of the operation and held the light. Dr. Roswell Park, who had been summoned from Niagara Falls, arrived at the close of the operation.

The operation lasted almost an hour. A cut about five inches long was made. It was found necessary to turn up the stomach of the President in order to trace the course of the bullet. The bullet's opening in the front wall of the stomach was small, and it was carefully closed with

sutures, after which a search was made for the hole in the back wall of the stomach.

This hole, where the bullet left the stomach, was larger than that in the front wall of the stomach, in fact, it was a wound over an inch in diameter, jagged and ragged. It was sewed up in three layers.

In turning up the stomach, an act performed by Dr. Mann with rare skill, the danger was that some of the contents of the stomach might go into the abdominal cavity, and cause peritonitis. It so happened that there was little in the President's stomach at the time of the operation. Moreover, subsequent developments showed that this feature of the operation was grandly successful and none of the contents of the stomach entered the abdominal cavity.

The anæsthetic administered was ether, and for two and a half hours the President was under its influence. He came out of the operation strong, with a good pulse and steady heart action.

The operation over, arrangements were made to remove the President to the Milburn house before any reaction might set in. The shooting occurred shortly after 4 o'clock and at 7:25 the ambulance backed up to the hospital door to remove the President. The people had been told previously that the operation was over and that the President was in a critical condition. They fell back to a



respectful distance while the body was being placed in an ambulance. All heads were bare until the wagon drove out of sight.

As soon as the President had been removed from the Temple of Music to the hospital, Director General W. I. Buchanan started for the Milburn residence, where Mrs. McKinley was resting. He went to forestall any information that might reach her by telephone or otherwise. The Misses Barber and Miss Duncan, the President's nieces, and Mrs. Milburn were also at the house. Mr. Buchanan informed the nieces as gently as possible and consulted Mrs. Milburn as to the best course to pursue in telling Mrs. McKinley of the tragedy. It was decided that on her awakening from her nap Mr. Buchanan should see her, if, in the meantime Dr. Rixey had not arrived.

Mrs. McKinley awoke at 5:30 o'clock, and, feeling much rested, took up her crocheting. When it became dusk and her husband did not return she began to worry and made inquiries of the family as to the probable reason for his tardiness. By this time Dr. Rixey had arrived, and it was decided that he should break the news to her. As to just how he informed her of the mishap to her husband reports differ.

However, she was informed by Dr. Rixey, the physician who has attended her for some time, who went to her and said simply: "The President has been hurt."

"How was he hurt?" asked Mrs. McKinley.

"Well, a man shot at him and one of the shots took effect, but we do not think he is badly hurt, and we think he will recover."

Mrs. McKinley was excited, but she did not lose her self-control. She immediately asked to be told all the particulars.

"Tell me all," she said. "Do not keep anything back. I will be brave."

And she was brave throughout the long days and nights of worry. She asked to see her husband as soon as he was brought to the Milburn house, but when told that it would be injudicious she became reconciled. As soon as he began to mend she was allowed to see him every day for a short time.

The President was taken to a large bed-room on the second floor. Everything had been quietly arranged for him before his arrival from the hospital. Every medical appliance was within easy reach, the professional nurses were in waiting, and quarters were arranged for the doctors.

The President passed the first night after the shooting fairly comfortably. His temperature increased from 100° to 100.6° between 1 and 3 a. m., and fears were entertained that peritonitis might set in. The doctors chosen to care for the case, P. M. Rixey, M. B. Mann, Roswell Park, H. Mynter, and Eugene Wasdin, were in attend-



ance at the President's bedside all night, watching carefully each symptom.

At 10:40 p. m. the doctors issued this bulletin: "The President is rallying satisfactorily and is resting comfortably. Temperature, 100.4°; pulse, 124; respiration, 24."

At 1:30 a. m. the bulletin read: "The President is free from pain and resting well. Temperature, 100.2°; pulse, 120; respiration, 24."

At 3:15 a. m. the bulletin read: "The President continues to rest well. Temperature, 101.6°; pulse, 110; respiration, 24."

Saturday, the day following the shooting, was one of grave anxiety. The President, while holding his own, was approaching, so the doctors said, a crisis. It was thought that Sunday would decide what effect the shots fired by Czolgosz would be. Dr. Rixey gave it as his opinion that the President would recover. The other physicians refused to commit themselves, saying that they could not make promises until further developments.

An X-ray apparatus was brought from Thomas A. Edison's laboratory with which it was intended to locate the bullet which lodged in the back. It was not used. On Sunday morning at 5 o'clock the physicians issued this bulletin: "The President has passed a fairly good night. Pulse, 122; temperature, 102.4°; respiration, 24."

Sunday proved a rather uneventful day. The anticipated crisis did not materialize. The news was good throughout the day. The President's temperature on Sunday evening was a degree lower than it was during the morning, the pulse was slower, and the respiration easier. Dr. Charles McBurney of New York, one of the most noted surgeons in the world, arrived during the day and held a consultation with the other doctors at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon.

Immediately following the consultation this bulletin was issued: "The President, since the last bulletin (3 p. m.) has slept quietly, four hours altogether, since 9 o'clock. His condition is satisfactory to all the physicians present. Pulse, 128; temperature, 101°; respiration, 28."

The President improved so rapidly on Monday that his friends declared he would be able to attend the duties of his office within a month. The worst danger was regarded as past, peritonitis seemed no longer probable, and the only cause for fear was the possibility of a sinking spell.

The bulletins throughout Monday were hopeful. One said the President had passed a somewhat restless night, sleeping fairly well; and another declared the President's condition was "becoming more and more satisfactory," and adding that "untoward incidents are less likely to occur." One at 3 p. m. stated: "The President's



condition steadily improves and he is comfortable, without pain or unfavorable symptoms. Bowel and kidney functions normally performed."

The last bulletin for the day, issued at 9:30 p. m., said: "The President's condition continues favorable. Pulse, 112; temperature, 101°; respiration, 27."

Mrs. McKinley felt so encouraged that she took a drive during the afternoon.

News from the bedside on Tuesday was more favorable still. The danger point was regarded as past, and fast recovery was the general prediction. The doctors had only two services—aside, of course, from careful watching—to perform. One was to open in part the President's outside wound to remove some foreign substances, and the other was to give him food for the first time. It developed that a portion of the President's clothing had been carried into the wound by the bullet, and this had not all been removed at the first operation. As slight irritation was caused by the cloth, the surgeons removed it. The operation caused no harm, and little annoyance to the patient.

The President felt so well that he asked for some newspapers to read. The request was denied. The President enjoyed the food given him—beef extract. At 10:30 o'clock on Tuesday night the physicians issued this bulletin: "The condition of the President is unchanged in all important par-

ticulars. His temperature is 100.6°; pulse, 114; respiration, 28."

Wednesday was another day full of hopeful signs. The President continued to show remarkable recuperative powers and passed the day without the slightest unfavorable symptom. He was able to retain food on his stomach, and surprised and amused his doctors by asking for a cigar. He was not allowed to smoke, but he was placed in a new bed. He was also given a bath. His highest temperature on Wednesday was 100.4. That was at 10 o'clock in the evening. The highest point reached by his pulse was 120—at 6 a. m.—and his respiration remained normal at 26.

It was on Thursday, just six days after the shooting, that the President suffered a relapse. Everybody was still full of hopes until 8.30 o'clock in the evening, when the physicians announced officially that the President's condition was not so good. The problem of disposing of the food in the stomach was becoming a serious one, and the danger of heart failure increased. At midnight the situation was critical. Calomel and oil were given to flush the bowels and digitalis to quiet the heart. The bowels moved soon afterwards, and the patient improved. The pulse dropped to 120, and the prospect was regarded as brighter.

Shortly after 2 o'clock Friday morning, the physicians and nurses detected a weakening of the



heart action. The pulse fluttered and weakened and the President sank toward a collapse. The end appeared at hand. Restoratives were applied speedily, but they did not at once prove effective. It was then decided to send for the other physicians, relatives, members of the Cabinet and close personal friends of the President.

The full corps of doctors were soon on the scene and all set to work as they never worked before. About 6 a. m. the President rallied and seemed to have a fighting chance. At 6:30 o'clock he was thought to be dying. At 7 o'clock it was announced by Abner McKinley, brother of the President, that he was sleeping quietly, watched closely by his physicians.

At 8:40 o'clock Mr. Milburn told a friend who called to see him that they were encouraged by the developments of the last half hour and that they thought the President had a fighting chance.

About 9 a. m. the following bulletin was issued: "The President's condition has improved somewhat during the last few hours. There is a better response to stimulation. He is conscious and free from pain. Pulse, 128; temperature, 99.8."

The remaining hours of the day were spent in hoping against hope, and in a vain fight on the part of the doctors. Members of the Cabinet and others near to the President, came and went at frequent intervals during the day, deeply moved over the situation.

At 12:30 the following bulletin was issued:

"The President's physicians report that his condition is practically unchanged since the 9 o'clock bulletin. He is sleeping quietly."

At 2.30 in the afternoon this bulletin was given to the public:

"The President has more than held his own, and his condition justifies the expectation of further improvement. He is better than yesterday at this time. Pulse, 123; temperature, 99.4."

At 4 p. m. came this bulletin:

"The President's physicians report that he is only slightly improved. Since the last bulletin the pulse and temperature remain the same as at that hour."

This was followed by another at 5:48 as follows:

"The President is suffering from extreme prostration. Oxygen is being given. He responds to stimulation but poorly. Pulse, 125; respiration, 40."

At 6:15 this was followed by another, reading:

"In spite of vigorous stimulation the President's depression continues and is profound. Unless it be relieved the end is but a question of time."