

# What Is Shell Shock?

Any series of physical phenomena as, for instance, earthquakes, storms, etc., which are comparable in magnitude to the events of the war would probably precipitate characteristic mental disorders. Dr. Southard in this encyclopedic work on psychiatry and the war emphasizes the importance of shell explosion as a physical event in the etiology of the war neuroses, but finds that there is little justification for the creation of a separate disease entity under the term shell-shock and places the majority of these cases in the psycho-neurosis group.

He has abstracted from the psychiatric literature of all the warring countries 589 case histories. A significant section of the book is devoted to psycho-therapeutic measures in these cases. The very comprehensive bibliography includes over two thousand titles.

*Shell-shock and Other Neuropsychiatric Problems*, by E. E. Southard. Monograph No. 3 of the Psychopathic Department of the Boston State Hospital. W. M. Leonard, Boston.