

Material for 3.30-5pm Workshop, **Women Surgeons and Male Nurses in Wartime**, convened by Claire Brock and Holly Furneaux

This workshop will focus on gender and medicine, exploring the significance of the gender of practitioners and representations of the relationships between medical professionals, volunteers and patients. To prepare for this discussion, please read the following two pieces:

1) Extracts from Walt Whitman's *Specimen Days and Collect*
Available in The Project Gutenberg EBook of Complete Prose Works by Whitman
<http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/8813/pg8813.txt>

We'll look at the section 'Back to Washington' to the end. This is all of interest to the session, but if you only have time to look at a few short sections please focus on:

- * Back to Washington
- * Hospital Scenes and Persons
- * Some Specimen Cases
- * My Preparations for Visits

The following questions could provide some starting points for our discussion:
How does Whitman represent his work in the hospitals and his relationships with patients? What do you make of his treatment of bodies? How does Whitman's role compare to that of medical professionals here?

2) Extracts from Flora Murray's *Women as Army Surgeons* (1920) at:
http://xdl.drexelmed.edu/viewer.php?object_id=001126&t=default.

From Part II: The Women's Hospital Corps in London

Chapter II: First Days of Endell St Hospital, pp.137-159

Chapter III: Medical and Surgical Work, pp.160-177

This text is extremely rare, and I'm afraid the quality of the reproduction is not brilliant. The pages can be made clearer by making them bigger. Please think about these questions:

- i) how Murray represents the work of the woman surgeon.
- ii) the interaction between the women surgeons and the male patients.
- iii) the reaction of the authorities or outsiders to the work of the woman surgeons.