

SURGEON (from the Oxford English Dictionary)

1. a. One who practises the art of healing by manual operation; a practitioner who treats wounds, fractures, deformities, or disorders by surgical means. In early use often more widely, a medical man, doctor. Now spec. one who holds a licence or diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons or any other body, legally qualifying him to practise in surgery; hence (now rare) = general practitioner. For the relation between surgeon and physician see note and quotes. under PHYSICIAN n. 2b. See also barber surgeon s.v. BARBER n., house surgeon s.v. HOUSE n.1 24. Surgeons' Hall: see HALL1 6.

13.. Guy Warw. (A.) 1659 ilke monk sorgien [Caius MS. a phisician] was, e vertu he knewe of mani a gras; e wounde he biheld stedefastliche. 1338 R. BRUNNE Chron. (1810) 229 His surgien him tolde, if he suld him saue, & his lif holde, reste behoued him haue. c1350 Will. Palerne 964 Alle the surgens of salerne. c1386 CHAUCER Melib. 45 A Surgien by licence and assent of swiche as weren wise. 1426 LYDG. De Guil. Pilgr. 1535 Swych be no goode surgyens, Lechys, nor physycyens. 1551 T. WILSON Logic (1580) 42b, The Surgean can not heale a wound, except the dead fleshe bee cut out. 1567 HARMAN Caveat xii, The Surgien made hym gape, and we could see but halfe a toung. c1618 MORYSON Itin. IV. v. i. (1903) 424 The vniversities..haue yealded famous Phisitians, who in Italy are also Shirgians.

c1400 Melayne 1343 If any Surgeoun myghte helpe thee. 14.. Chaucer's Melib. 39 (Camb. MS.), Surgeons Phisiciens olde folk And ynge. c1440 Promp. Parv. 485/1 Surion, or surgen. 1470-85 MALORY Arthur VIII. ix. 285 She was a noble surgeon. 1471 Paston Lett. III. 3, I have sent hym a serjon, whyche hathe dressid hym. 1511-12 Act 3 Hen. VIII, c. 11 Schedule (1817) III. 31 note, Memorandum that Sowrgeons be comprised in this Acte like as Phisicions. 1596 NASHE Saffron Walden Fjb, No lecture at Surgeons Hall vppon an Anatomie may compare with them in longitude. c1610 Women Saints 120 A Surgeons iron. 1653 in Verney Mem. (1907) I. 576, I must..have the opininn of a surgon and a doctor both. 1726 SWIFT Gulliver IV. iv, I was bred a Surgeon, whose trade it is to cure wounds and hurts in the body. 1843 A. BETHUNE Sc. Fireside Stor. 27 To the young surgeon these invitations were highly gratifying. 1858 Act 21 & 22 Vict. c. 90 40 Any person who shall..falsely..use the..Title of a Physician, Doctor

of Medicine,..Surgeon [etc.]..shall..pay a Sum not exceeding Twenty Pounds. 1877 Encycl. Brit. VII. 665/1 The museum and lecture rooms of the Royal College of Surgeons. 1880-5 SIR J. PAGET Mem. & Lett. ii. (1901) 19 It was decided that I should be a Surgeon meaning a general practitioner.

1537 in Vicary's Anat. (1888) App. ii. 112 [Thomas Vicary] surgiant [to the King]. c1550 Knight Curtesy 274 in Hazl. E.P.P. II. 78 A surgeand by his arte Heled his woundes. 1583 B. MELBANCKE Philotimus Ejb, He..may..wishe for a surgeaunt to sette his necke bone. 1592 Extracts Munic. Acc. Newcastle (1848) 24 Paid to John Colson, surgynthe, for his accustomed fee for helping to cure the mamed poore folke, 40s.

c1460 Promp. Parv. (Winch.) 449 Surion, or suregene. c1500 Lancelot 2724 He..al the surryenis socht, Wich for to cum was reddy at his neid. 1524 Acc. Ld. High Treas. Scot. V. 238 Robert Kynnard, Surrigeane to the King. 1553 Douglas' neis XII. vii. heading, No mannis cure, nor craft of surrigine Mycht heill Eneas, bot Venus medycyne.

b. A medical officer in the army, navy, or air force (on board ship = ship's doctor). surgeon's mate: an assistant to a ship's doctor. surgeon-assistant = assistant surgeon (see ASSISTANT a. 3). surgeon-general: see GENERAL a. 10; also (U.S.), the senior medical officer of the Bureau of Public Health or similar state authority; hence surgeon-generalship. surgeon-major: see MAJOR a. 7.

1591 Garrard's Art Warre 51 Other meane offices, as Drums, Fifes, Surgeans, and the Clarke of the Band. 1599 DALLAM in Early Voy. Levant (Hakl. Soc.) 13 Mr. Chancie..was our fysition and surgin for the seae. 1612 WOODALL Surg. Mate Pref., Wks. (1653) 8 The..trust for..appointing fit..Surgeons, and Surgeons Mates for their ships and services. Ibid. 19 A Surgeons Chest, or..Surgery provisions for Military uses. 1706 G. FARQUHAR Recruiting Officer (ed. 2) IV. ii. 49 In short, the Operation will be perform'd with so much Dexterity, that with general Applause you will be made Surgeon General of the whole Army. 1758 J. S. tr. Le Dran's Observ. Surg. (1771) 67 Mr. Terrier,..Surgeon-Major to his Majesty's Regiment. 1777 Jrnls. Continental Congress U.S. (1907) VII. 162 There [shall] be a physician and Surgeon General with the main army. 1802 JAMES Milit. Dict., Surgeon,..a staff officer, who is chief of the medical department in each

regiment or hospital, &c. Ibid., Surgeon-General, the first or senior surgeon of the army. 1805 Ibid. (ed. 2) s.v., Navy Surgeon, one who is obliged to act in the three capacities of physician, surgeon, and apothecary, on board a ship of war. 1836 MARRYAT Midsh. Easy xxxix, Will you send an assistant-surgeon on board to look after two of my men who are hurt? 1837 DICKENS Pickw. ii, Doctor Slammer, surgeon to the 97th. 1837 LOCKHART Scott I. x. 324 It was discovered that the patronage of the season had been exhausted, with the exception of one surgeon-assistant's commission. 1867 BRANDE & COX Dict. Sci., etc. III. 666 In the Army, the officers of the medical department are classed as follows: Director-general, who ranks as a major general,..surgeon, as major; assistant-surgeon, as lieutenant. Ibid., In the Royal Navy there are the following grades: inspector-general of hospitals and fleets, deputy-inspector, staff-surgeon, surgeon, assistant-surgeon. 1869 Boyd's Business Directory 111 Governor's Staff [N.Y. State]..Surgeon-General, Jacob S. Mosher, of Albany. 1876 VOYLE & STEVENSON Milit. Dict. (ed. 3), Surgeon-Major, a medical officer who is attached to and in medical charge of a regiment. 1886 New York Tribune 16 Aug. (Cent. Dict.), Surgeon-generalship. 1887 Brit. Med. Jrnl. 12 Mar. 604/1 Whether an Admiralty surgeon..can wear uniform, or not. 1894 Outing (U.S.) XXIV. 234/1 In addition to the brigade-surgeon..there are also one surgeon with rank of major and one assistant surgeon with rank of captain for each of the five regiments. 1917 Rep. Surgeon General, U.S. Navy 16 The Surgeon General, as a member of the General Medicine Board, has participated in the work [for the Council of National Defense]. 1973 Philadelphia Inquirer (Today Suppl.) 7 Oct. 4 (Advt.), Warning: the Surgeon General has determined that cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

c. fig.

1535 COVERDALE Exod. xv. 26 Then wyl I laye vpon ye none of the sicknesses, that I layed vpon Egipte, for I am the Lorde thy surgione. 1557 Tottel's Misc. (Arb.) 255 So should not loue so work my wo, To make death surgeant for my sore. 1567 ALLEN Def. Priesthood 220 He..also maketh priestes to be as well the iudges as surgeons of our soules. 1628 EARLE Microcosm., Critic (Arb.) 56 A Criticke..is the Surgeon of old Authors, and heales the wounds of dust and ignorance. 1711 SHAFTESBURY Charac. (1737) II. 84 The solutio continui, which bodily surgeons talk of, is never apply'd in this case, by surgeons of another sort. 1940 L. MACNEICE Last

Ditch 22 Here she stands who was twenty and is thirty. The same but different and he found the difference A surgeon's knife without an anaesthetic. 1962 Daily Tel. 13 Sept. 1/1 Sir Alexander Bustamante said that the Treaty of Rome was a surgeon's knife thrust into the Commonwealth body.

2. = surgeon-bird, -fish: see 3b.

1855 Orr's Circ. Sci., Org. Nat. III. 182 In the common Jacana..the claw of the hind toe is excessively elongated and acute, from which circumstance the name of the surgeon has been applied to it. 1880 GUNTHER Study Fishes 439 Surgeons occur in all tropical seas.

3. a. attrib.: appositive, as surgeon-apothecary, -aurist, -dentist, -masseur, -oculist, -radiographer; surgeon-colonel, -lieutenant.

1776 Pennsylv. Even. Post 16 Mar. 138/1 Dr. L. Butte and Co. Surgeon-Dentists. 1848 DUNGLISON Med. Lex. (ed. 7), Surgeon-apothecary, one who unites the practice of surgery with that of the apothecary. A general practitioner. 1854 MAYNE Expos. Lex. 369/2 They [sc. general practitioners] are also called Surgeon-Apothecaries, because..they are Members of a College of Surgeons, besides being Licentiates of the Apothecaries Company. 1872 GEO. ELIOT Middlem. xlv, Lydgate did not dispense drugs. This was offensive both to the physicians whose exclusive distinction seemed infringed on, and to the surgeon-apothecaries with whom he ranged himself. 1881 Instr. Census Clerks (1885) 27 Surgeon-Aurist. Ibid., Surgeon-Oculist. 1885 Crt. Jrnl. 27 Mar., A surgeon-masseur of considerable repute. 1898 Lond. Gaz. 26 Aug. 5142/1 Whereas We have deemed it expedient to alter the Ranks of the Officers of Our Indian Medical Service: Our Will..is that the following alterations shall be made:Present Ranks. Surgeon-Colonel... Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel. New Ranks. Colonel. Lieutenant-Colonel. 1901 Nature 5 Sept. 454/1 Surgeon-radiographer to the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital, South Africa.

b. Comb., as surgeon-like adv.; surgeon-bird, the jacana; surgeon-fish, a herbivorous, tropical, marine fish of the family Acanthurid, distinguished by sharp spines on either side of the tail; surgeon's knot (see quot. 1968).

1870 GILLMORE tr. Figuier's Reptiles & Birds 302 Called *Surgeon Birds, from the resemblance the claw on their back toe bears to a lancet.

1871 Harper's Mag. July 191/2 The terror of all, the *surgeon-fish,..boldly swims in every quarter, opening and shutting his lancet. 1931 J. R. NORMAN Hist. Fishes v. 97 The Surgeon-fishes..of tropical seas derive their name from the presence of a lancet-like spine on either side of the fleshy part of the tail. 1974 Environmental Conservation I. 72 (caption) A Surgeon-fish..is prominent on right below.

1733 Med. Ess. & Obs. Soc. in Edin. I. 108 By the help of a needle, or a flexible eye'd probe, the *surgeons knot is made with the thread. 1945 Ann. Surg. CXXI. 440 The artery was secured to the tube..by a No. 3 Deknatel ligature tied tightly behind the holding ridge, using a surgeon's knot. 1968 E. FRANKLIN Dict. Knots 27 Surgeon's knot. This is a variation of the reef knot in which an extra turn is taken at the start to help prevent the knot from tending to loosen while being completed. Used by surgeons for tying a ligature and by us [sc. Scouts] for parcels, etc.

1602 2nd Pt. Return fr. Parnass. I. i. 5 *Surgean-like thou dost with cutting heale.

Hence surgeon v. trans., to cure as by surgical art; surgeoncy, surgeonship; surgeoness, a female surgeon; surgeoning, surgery; surgeonless a., without a surgeon; surgeonship, the office or position of a surgeon.

1850 BLACKIE schylus I. 13, I chaunt some dolorous ditty, making song, Sleep's substitute, *surgeon my nightly care. 1869 LD. LYTTON Orval 249 Who will surgeon me This gash?

1792 Dublin Even. Post 18 Feb. 1/2 (Advt.), Wanted, a *surgeoncy in a regiment of infantry. 1804 W. TAYLOR in Robberds Mem. (1843) I. 477 Having accepted a surgeoncy and an ensigncy in the militia. 1893 Times 3 Oct. 7/3 A discussion at St. George's Hospital about a contested election to a vacant surgeoncy.

1729 Indenture of Apprenticeship (Hammersmith Archives: PAF/1/272, Ref. 70), Mary Webb, daughter of John Webb, a poor child of the said parish, apprentice to Anne Saint of St. Leonard's Shoreditch in the County of Middlesex*surgeoness. 1815 M. PILKINGTON Celebrity II. 213 He pronounced the marchioness a very skilful surgeon or surgeoness.

1869 LD. LYTTON Orval 79 Silly lancet, all Thy simple *surgeoning
cures nothing.

1889 Blackw. Mag. CXLV. 555/1 Long voyages in *surgeonless ships.

1885 American X. 291 Who has given 1400 *surgeonships to the Democrats
in the Pension Bureau. 1887 Pall Mall G. 17 Sept. 10/1 The surgeonship of
some local clubs.