

Part Fifth.

MEDICAL NEWS.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, EDINBURGH.—The following gentlemen passed their final examination for the degree in Medicine at the sittings held on the 19th December 1889, and were admitted L.R.C.P. Ed. :—John Forrest Dickson, Oregon, U.S. America ; Richard Pryce Mitchell, London.

MEDICAL MAGISTRATE.—Matthew James Turnbull, M.D., F.R.C.S. Edin., of Tweed View, Coldstream, Berwickshire, has been put upon the Commission of the Peace for that county. An admirable example to other counties, for a wise, experienced medical man is most suitable for such work.

We have received from Messrs STERN, of London, the following preparations of Pumiline :—(1.) "Pumiline Essence," which is a fine specimen of the essential oil of the leaves of this pine. (2.) "Pumiline Liniment," which is a mixture of this oil with olive oil and chloroform, and which is a liniment we can highly recommend. (3.) "Pumiline Ointment." This ointment contains the essential oil, and also contains lanoline, oleate of zinc, ceresin, and olive oil. This is a very valuable ointment for abraded surfaces, etc. (4.) "Pumiline Soap." This soap is made with lanoline, and is valuable as a disinfectant soap, and is specially well suited for delicate skins. (5.) "Pumiline Jujubes." Each jujube contains one minim of the essential oil, and will be found specially useful in affections of the mouth and throat. (6.) "Pumiline Extract." This extract is meant for medicating baths, and will be found useful in many skin affections.

We have pleasure in commending these preparations to the favourable notice of the profession.

CORRESPONDENCE.

WIND INJURIES FROM GUNSHOT: CASE OF DR SAMUEL ALEXANDER PAGAN.

(To the Editor of the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*.)

SIR,—There has been a large amount of correspondence lately in some London newspapers on the effects of what is popularly known as the "Wind of a Cannon Ball." Until these letters appeared I had supposed that the notion of a shot having the power of inflicting injury by simple passage through the air near the body of a person, without actual contact, had disappeared from the minds of laymen, as it has long done from the minds of surgeons. Sir Robert Rawlinson, K.C.B., gave a description, in the *St James's Gazette* of the 26th ultimo, of the superficial wounds inflicted upon his person, and of the damage done to the clothes he was wearing, by the glancing contact of a 42 lb. Russian steel shot; and if his description did not

suffice to prove that the shot was unaccompanied by any potent influence of the nature of wind-pressure for harm, I do not imagine that any illustration of a similar kind would be likely to do so. The revival of the topic has, however, led me to refer to some correspondence of mine which took place a quarter of a century ago with the late Dr Pagan of Edinburgh, a great part of whose external ear was shot away at the battle of Waterloo without any grave lesion of the deeper structures; and as certain stories used to be told regarding the treatment of Dr Pagan's wound which were by no means calculated to do justice to the surgeons by whom he was attended, and as I believe no accurate account of the case exists in print,¹ it has occurred to me that the correspondence may now be worth publication. At any rate, I place the correspondence at your disposal in case you think it of sufficient interest to be recorded in the *Edinburgh Medical Journal*.—I am, Sir, yours, etc.

Army Medical School, Netley,
December 1889.

THOS. LONGMORE,
Surgeon-General R.P.; Prof. of Mil. Surgery.

The following is part of a letter written from Edinburgh in the year 1864 to a friend at Netley, and is only inserted to show some of the stories then current, even among friends of Dr Pagan, respecting his wound:—

“MY DEAR —, I dined with Professor Syme yesterday, and knowing him to be an intimate friend of Dr Pagan, I took the opportunity of inquiring about his wound. Dr Pagan, at that time a Lieutenant in a foot regiment,² was standing talking to two other officers on the field of Waterloo, when a round shot took off his ear and killed both the officers with whom he was conversing.”

“Dr Pagan was very little injured by the wound, no head symptoms following. A portion of the ear was recovered, and unfortunately sewed on the wrong side uppermost. So much for the military surgery of that day.”

The following two letters are from Dr Pagan himself:—

EDINBURGH, 27th May 1864.

MY DEAR SIR,—I was very glad to hear from you this morning, and though my memory has not improved by age (now above 70), I shall endeavour to give you a short account of my narrow escape at Waterloo, and of the nature and effects of my wound. Late in the afternoon of the 18th—our third day—we were standing or sitting as ordered between the charges of the French cavalry, when a ricochet shot plunged into the company I was commanding, and committed a good deal of havoc. An officer of our grenadiers had

¹ Dr Hennen, in his remarks on “Injuries of the Ear,” refers to Dr Pagan’s case, though without mentioning his name, in the following terms:—“I have met with a case where the external ear was completely removed by a cannon ball, and yet the sense of hearing is as acute as ever.” The last part of the statement is not strictly correct, as Dr Pagan’s letters show. See *Principles of Military Surgery*, by John Hennen, M.D., etc. 3rd edition. London, 1829, p. 352.

² The 55th Infantry regiment.