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The Ashantee War: The Dress Of Our Troops

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etc., while it finally constitutes of itself one of the most effective means of restoration from apparent death, more especially if faradism be applied to the phrenic nerve, for the purpose of producing artificial respiration. Where there are several victims, as from shipwreck, railway accidents, etc., it would have the additional advantage of enabling the attendants to distinguish at once the dead from the living. The doctors, would, therefore, be in a position not to lose precious time with the dead, but might concentrate their attention on those who could still be benefited by it. After great battles, the faradic test would probably prevent many a premature burial. In newly born infants, who do not give signs of life, electro-bioscopy would be of the greatest value. It may also allow the authorities to accelerate the burial of the dead, or any operations to be performed with deceased persons, such as embalming, *post mortem* examination, etc., in case it should be inconvenient to wait for the ordinary delay. During epidemics, and amongst the poor, an earlier interment than is now prescribed by law would often be most advisable.

Professor Rosenthal, of Vienna, has recorded an interesting case of trance detected by faradisation in a hysterical woman whose death had already been certified by a country practitioner. It had been found that a looking-glass held to the mouth of the woman did not show any moisture, and that melted sealing-wax dropped on the skin caused no reflex movements. Rosenthal, who was accidentally present, found the skin pale and cold, the pupils contracted and insensible to light, the upper and lower extremities relaxed, the heart's impulse and the radial pulse imperceptible. Auscultation, however, showed a feeble, dull, and intermittent sound in the cardiac region. No respiratory murmurs were audible. All the muscles of the face and the extremities responded well to the faradic current. Although the patient had been apparently dead for thirty-two hours, he thereupon informed the relations that she was only in a trance, and recommended that attempts at resuscitation should be perseveringly followed. On the following day he received a telegram, saying that the woman awoke spontaneously twelve hours after his visit, and gradually recovered her speech and movements. Four months afterwards the patient called upon him, and informed him that she knew nothing of the commencement of the attack of lethargy in which she had been; that she had afterwards heard the people about her talk of her death, but had been utterly unable to give the slightest sign of life. Two years afterwards, she was still alive and tolerably well.

ANÆSTHETICS.

XXIV.—ETHER v. CHLOROFORM.

WE extract the following from a leader in the *Philadelphia Medical Times*.

As the death-roll of chloroform (shall we say murders?) grows day by day; as even English coroners and English magistrates are becoming restive under the slaughter of the people; as doctor after doctor, having claimed that his method of using chloroform was safe, is forced to own by bitter experience that he is not, after all, so much more skilful than his fellows; as these things are so, it seems to us (*Philadelphia Medical Times*) strange that any one should still come forward and practically say, "I hold the giant powers of chloroform for evil, as it were, in the hollow of my hand; its fatal spirit is bound at my bidding; no death should occur when I direct." In view of the various events in the history of chloroform, which must be in the memory of all our readers, it seems to us nonsense to assert that deaths from it can be avoided by any precautions or by any skill. The great difference between the two anæsthetics lies in the circumstance that chloroform kills suddenly, unexpectedly, and unpreventably; whilst the ether death is a slow one, and can be avoided, unless in the very rarest of instances. The unrecorded, unnumbered dead from chloroform, our experience leads us to think, are a much greater multitude than is commonly believed. So far as we know, no case of death from chloroform occurring in this city has been recorded; yet we have known of the occurrence of several within a comparatively short time.

CITY OF DUBLIN HOSPITAL.—The vacancy in this institution, occasioned by Mr. Stokes's promotion to the Richmond Hospital, will shortly be filled up. There are but few candidates looking for the appointment, as the hospital is not a first-class one, and the gentleman appointed must give the sum of £500 for the privilege of being elected, an amount which is always paid to the outgoing surgeon. There are two names mentioned as candidates, Messrs. Edward Collins and Josiah Smyly, the former of whom will in all probability be selected.

THE ASHANTEE WAR.

THE DRESS OF OUR TROOPS.

[BY A CORRESPONDENT.]

FROM what we have seen of the intended uniform for the Gold Coast campaign, we think it is admirably suited for the climate as well as for the season of the year during which our troops are expected to serve there, viz., from December to March. The only fault we noticed, which may, perhaps, be fanciful, is, that the material is not well shrunken before being made up; and, as all articles of dress will, for the sake of putting on the soldier-like aspect, require to be frequently washed, the clothes, which now seem to fit well and with ease, may not, after a few weeks' wear, suit at all. For our own part, we believe that not only was the blue serge which was worn in the expedition of 1864 suitable, but it appears to us to be a more lasting uniform than this Elcho grey now issued.

The helmet is quite sufficient for the protection of the temples and back of the head, especially if a pugree be worn. In this climate "sun-stroke" is of rare occurrence; why it should be so, we are unable to say. If the helmet were made of harder felt, it would last longer, and, after being worn for a while, it would more readily take pipe-clay, which would have the effect of reflecting the heat and rays of the sun. The Norfolk jacket, from the room it affords to the neck and upper part of the chest, is a great improvement on the tight-fitting tunic and stiff leather stock, which, we think, must have been the cause of producing much disease amongst soldiers—but more especially amongst recruits—subject to severe and constant training. We welcome this amelioration in the soldier's dress. From the protection it affords to the stomach and abdomen, it will, no doubt, have the effect of lessening the prevalence of bowel affections. In consequence of the malarious and porous nature of the soil, covered as it is with large cotton-trees, some of which are 100 feet in height, it will be advisable to wear flannel shirts or under vests, as they will protect the body against being suddenly chilled, and also be a preservative against attacks of prickly heat, boils, and malaria.

The knickerbockers worn by the West Indian troops looked handsome, and, from the great ease they afforded to the hips and knees, answered their purpose very well. We never heard that they produced that irritation of the thighs which usually results from long marches. Shoes, with good strong and wide soles, such as will not readily bend under the foot when walking over rough ground or the roots of trees, and with wide toes, will be found far more comfortable than boots; they can be put on with greater readiness. Shoes made of canvas will be found the coolest; they can be pipe-clayed, and will not harden as quickly as leather. It may be said that they will take in sand; but the only places where this objection could be urged against their use will be found to exist in certain parts only of the sea-board. In the interior of the Fantee territory, there is no sand. Dr. Parkes says the objects of clothing are to protect against cold and warmth; all other uses will be found to resolve themselves into one or other of these. In page 347 of his work on hygiene, he states:—"Looking not only to the comfort of the soldier, but to the work and force required of him, it is a great mistake to have the tunic otherwise than exceedingly loose." A war of this kind will tax all the ingenuity of the most experienced commander. In this climate, the soldier's life will be one of *ennui*; here he will have little or no occupation other than his drill, which can only be practised morning and evening; his duties will be of so uninteresting a nature, that they cannot be increased without wearying him. No doubt, there will be some civilian-like labour, such as drawing water and the erection of temporary huts, stockades, etc.; but, while he is occupied as a soldier, he will have to pay attention to his duties, and at all times be prepared to show clean accoutrements and clean arms. We desire to see our soldiers with good wind and good muscular development, but we desire to see such a result produced by a slow and steady growth, and not at the expense of permanent ill-health. Let such be the product of such measures as will have the effect of improving rather than weakening the functions of the heart, brain, and lungs.

Whatever may be the result, this war will either confirm or disprove the remarks made by an astute observer in the *Saturday Review*, 20th March, 1869, who says:—"If the English army is bad at marching, it may be owing to the want of training, or the absurd system of dressing and weighting the private soldier, or, if these causes are not sufficient, to some radical incapacity in the class from which the army is recruited."

We hear that the *physique* of both the regiments under orders for the Gold Coast is excellent. We say this more advisedly of the 23rd (Welsh) Fusiliers; from the character of the men, from the climate

in which they served previously to their arrival in this country, we should suppose that, if the word "fit" was ever applicable to the condition of any regiment, it is so in this instance.

ASSOCIATION INTELLIGENCE.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH.

A MEETING of this Branch will be held at the County Infirmary, Gloucester, on November 25th, at 6 P.M.

The following subjects will be discussed.—Water and its Impurities; Disinfectants and their Uses; The Medical Inspection of Dairies.

Dinner at the Bell Hotel, at 8.30 P.M.

Gloucester, November 1873.

R. W. BATTEN.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: PATHOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL SECTION.

THE second meeting of the Session will be held at the Birmingham Midland Institute on Friday, November 28th.

VINCENT JACKSON, } *Honorary Secretaries.*
ROBERT JOLLY, }

November 18th, 1873.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST KENT DISTRICT.

THE second meeting of the Session will be held at the General Hospital, Maidstone, on Friday, December 5th, at 5 P.M.; GEORGE HENRY FURBER, Esq., in the Chair.

Dinner will be provided at the Mitre Hotel, at 7 P.M.

Papers have been promised by John M. Burton, Esq., on Aneurism and on Empyema; by Matthew A. Adams, Esq., on Dewar's and McKendrick's Experiments Demonstrating the Correlation of the Function of the Retina and Galvanic Electricity; by Dr. Monckton, Cases and Commentaries; by William Hoar, Esq., Cases and Commentaries.

A proposition will be made to hold an united meeting of the West Kent and East Sussex Districts, annually, at Tunbridge Wells.

FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, M.D., *Honorary Secretary.*

Rochester, November 17th, 1873.

SOUTH-EASTERN BRANCH: WEST SUSSEX DISTRICT MEETINGS.

THE second meeting of the year was held at the Half-Moon Hotel, Petworth, on October 7th. The Chair was taken by H. BOXALL, Esq., of Wisborough Green, and fourteen members were present.

Owing to a variety of unforeseen circumstances, and the unavoidable absence of the Honorary Secretary, no papers were submitted to the meeting, and it was unanimously resolved that on this occasion it should partake of a social character.

By the kindness of Lord Leonfield, the members were allowed to inspect the magnificent collection of paintings and statuary at Petworth House, as also the large range of stabling and the dog-kennels. The County Gaol was also visited and inspected by some of the members.

On the proposition of Mr. HODGSON (Brighton), seconded by Dr. WITHERS MOORE (Brighton), Worthing was selected as the place of meeting for the spring of 1874, and it was unanimously resolved that Mr. W. J. Harris be requested to take the chair on that occasion.

New Members.—Seven new members were added to the Association and the South-Eastern Branch.

The Dinner was held at the Swan Hotel, where twenty-nine members and their friends assembled, under the presidency of Mr. Boxall.

CUMBERLAND AND WESTMORLAND BRANCH: AUTUMNAL MEETING.

THE autumnal meeting of the above Branch was held at the George Hotel, Penrith, on Wednesday, October 29th. The President, Dr. ROBERT TIFFEN, of Wigton, took the Chair, and there were present eighteen members and visitors.

New Members.—The following members of the Association were elected members of the Branch: 1. Robert Buntine, Esq., Brough, Westmorland; 2. Percy Butler Stoney, Esq., Holborn Hill; 3. Thomas Allan Wotherspoon, M.D., Brampton; 4. Thomas Garret Horder, Esq., Nenthead, Alston; 5. Reginald Dudley, Esq., Kirkoswald. The following gentlemen were elected members of the Association and Branch: A. Lindsay, M.B., Shap; W. Watson, Esq., Temple Sowerby.

Extension of Branch.—The Secretary, Dr. BARNES, brought forward a proposal to extend the limits of the Branch, so as to include members of the profession residing in the adjoining border counties, and moved that a Committee be appointed to make preliminary inquiries, and report to next meeting on the feasibility of the plan. The proposal, if carried out, would necessitate an alteration in the rules, and a change in the name of the Society. In place of its present designation, the title of "Border Counties Branch" was suggested. The motion was seconded by Dr. MACLAREN; and, after some discussion, was carried unanimously, the following gentlemen being nominated a Committee, viz.—The President, Dr. Maclaren, Dr. Campbell, and the Secretary.

Public Health Section.—Dr. PAGE proposed the formation of a Public Health Section in connection with the Branch. The motion was seconded by Dr. BARNES, and, after considerable discussion, was carried by the casting vote of the Chairman.

Papers.—The following papers were read.

1. A case of Catalepsy treated with the Bromide of Potassium. By J. S. Leland, L.R.C.C.P. & S.E., Kirkby-Stephen.

2. On some Tumours successfully removed in private practice. By D. M'Gregor, L.R.C.C.P. & S.E., Penrith.

3. On the working of the Public Health Act, especially in Rural Districts. By David Page, M.D., Kirkby-Lonsdale.

4. On a Case of Elephantiasis Arabum. By Thomas Sayer, M.D., Kirkby-Stephen.

5. Notes of a Case of Hyperpyrexia in Acute Rheumatism successfully treated with the Cold Pack. By Stewart Lockie, M.D., Carlisle.

6. On the Effects of Guarana on Headache. By the President.

Discussions followed the reading of all the papers.

Dinner.—After the termination of the business, the members and their friends to the number of eighteen dined together under the presidency of Dr. Tiffen; Mr. Greaves of Penrith occupying the vice-chair.

BIRMINGHAM AND MIDLAND COUNTIES BRANCH: PATHOLOGICAL AND CLINICAL SECTION.

THE annual meeting of the above Section was held on Friday, October 31st, 1873; present, FURNEAUX JORDAN, Esq., in the Chair, and forty-six members.

Report.—The following report of the Secretaries was read and adopted. The Secretaries present with much pleasure the fourth report of the Pathological and Clinical Section. The session which has just passed has in every way been most successful, for it has alike fulfilled the hopes of its promoters, the good wishes of its friends, and the sanguine expectations of its officers and members. The meetings have been well attended, some of them even crowded, and the exhibitors of specimens and living cases have been most active. A feature of the session has been the reading of short papers, either upon pathological subjects or cases of clinical interest. The Society has always been pleased to receive these notes, and they have generally called forth much discussion, and great practical utility as well as enjoyment has resulted from them. The Section now numbers 133 members. At the October meeting, Dr. Jolly was unanimously elected one of the secretaries, to fill the vacancy occasioned by Dr. Foster's resignation. Early in the session, the Secretaries were instructed to draw up a series of laws for the guidance and conduct of the monthly meetings; these were submitted to the consideration of a special meeting, which finally, after a few slight alterations, accepted and passed them. In conclusion, the Secretaries trust that the future of the Section will be as useful and bright as the present is and the past has been, and they feel sure that to accomplish this no effort will be wanting either on the part of its friends, members, or past and present officers.

The Treasurer's Report, showing a balance of £24 : 5 : 1, was read, audited, and adopted.

Officers.—On the motion of Mr. FURNEAUX JORDAN, seconded by Mr. WATKIN WILLIAMS, and supported by Mr. OLIVER PEMBERTON, Mr. Manley (West Bromwich) was elected President for the ensuing year. Dr. Russell was re-elected Treasurer, and Mr. Vincent Jackson and Dr. Jolly were re-elected Secretaries.

Communications.—I. Mr. Hugh R. Kerr exhibited a man, aged 43, upon whom Excision of the Ankle-Joint for injury had been successfully performed.

2. In the absence of Dr. Bell Fletcher, Dr. RICKARDS brought forward a case of Aortic Aneurism, probably of the transverse part of the arch. The patient, a painter, aged 28, had enjoyed uninterrupted good health until the middle of the past summer, when he had a severe fall backwards, in which he felt a twist of the body. This accident