to say that this case was not complicated with some hepatic affection, as I suspected on his first visit to me—a suspicion somewhat confirmed by his own comment on his complexion than mine, where I noted a complexion of yellow, but has been very yellow," the latter half of the sentence having been supplied by himself and his wife.

It will be observed that all these cases are males, the ages 41, 35, and 39; the deaths occurring, viz., latter end of August, October, and November. In all three vomiting is a well marked symptom. Two of them are accompanied by well marked neuralgia, in that of Mr. T. of the shoulder, in that of Mr. R. by tic-douloureux of the face. May the pain that Wilkins experienced in the commencement of his illness have been pleurisy? The absence of any trace of previous inflammatory mischief about the chest and liver, lends some countenance to the idea. In two out of the three cases the urine is especially described as copious and clear, another fact much opposed to the ordinary condition of this secretion in hepatic affection.

The peculiar interest in the case of Wilkins is the entire absence, under most careful and minute examination, of any other form of disease whatever; whilst that of Mr. T. is hardly less interesting from its complications.

Having said so much on these cases, I will not venture to make any general remarks upon this disease; and the more so, inasmuch as I have not had the opportunity of consulting the actual work of Dr. Addison, but have only read extracts from it.

It may fairly be asked, does the general anaemia depend upon the disease of the suprarenal capsules? or, is the local malady but an expression of the constitutional? The case of Wilkins is a strong argument, far to the latter, and to prove that the local malady is in itself capable of equally producing the vital fluid to the extent of destroying life itself. It is probable that further researches on this interesting subject may lead to the discovery of some important laws respecting the physiological import of not only the suprarenal capsules, but of several other organs, whose use in the animal economy has been hitherto cloaked in mystery.

MEDICAL NOTES ON THE MILITIA.

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No. IV.

HOSPITAL REGULATIONS OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE: WITH REMARKS ON MALINGERING: DESERTION: MILITARY ANECDOTES, ETC.

I STATED in my former paper that the regimental surgeon is responsible for the correct keeping of the medical register, which, according to the hospital regulations, must contain a detailed account of every case treated, except itch. When the Hospital Regulations from the Medical Department visited our hospital, then in the midst. This body, we were told, that the register was not complete, as only a portion of the cases was entered at length, whilst every case ought to have been registered and related by the regulations; and he added, that he himself, whilst a regimental surgeon, never omitted fully to transcribe every case, even when he had a large hospital full, as was often the case on the West Indian stations; and that he had sometimes entered sixty or seventy cases in a day. This certainly was most praiseworthy industry; but, on foreign stations, the diseases, such as yellow fever, etc., often assume strange and peculiar types, worthy of record. I at once admitted that the blame, if any, rested upon my shoulders, as I had taken upon myself to direct the assistant-surgeon to discontinue keeping a detailed account of each case, and only to record the most interesting and severe cases, as it seemed to me a needless waste of time and paper to record every case of ordinary catarrh, mild febrile attack, or gonorrhoea, as all the cases were regularly entered in the admission and discharge books. This was not considered a satisfactory explanation. I was also told I received a long official letter, calling my attention to the omission. Luckily, we had all in order in the hospital, and according to regulation, saving this breach of duty, if it deserves to be so called; so that no fault could be found at the inspection of the hospital, at which Mr. R. knew there was a very long notice of the Inspector's visit. A remark was, however, made on looking over the diet tables, on the generous nature of the diets, the number of extra, beer, wine, etc., which, he said, in the case of the hospital, dryly comprised less than a tenth of the hospital staff. We had only to remember every well ordered public or private establishment, where every officer is supreme in carrying on his own individual department, though responsible to his superior for the result and expenditure of the service.
made) have ceased, and a calm and dispassionate survey of the working and complicated routine of the various public departments can be taken, it is to be hoped the result will be the accomplishment of some of the projects which have been for a long time the subject of discussion. A considerable number of the public offices, it is to be hoped, will be reorganized and the departmental work will be simplified.

I have a few other remarks to introduce, as I foresee dangers arising from the superintendence of the public departments rising to painful reflections in the public mind, to serious public inquiries, and to the animadversion of the most powerful portion of the press. The first of these, in reference to less serious matters, let me add a word on the preservation of medical comforts, such as wine, spirits, and lan- danum. They should be carefully secured, or the consumption in most military hospitals would be amazingly quick and copious. I was unlucky in having in my own regiment, whilst in charge of line regiments, I was more fortunate) two hospital surgeons, each of whom had a morbid taste for tincture of opium as well as for brandy at last; gratifying their tastes beyond all moderation, they were discovered and punished. One of them, however, became maniacal, and threatened to kill both hospital orderlies and doctors. I found him one night, on making unexpectedly the evening visit, sitting mad drunk in his room, which he had lighted up with a number of candles, in full uni-form, a drawn sword in his hand, and his musket, with fixed bayonet, at his side, slouching and defying any one to take or approach him; the orderlies in a state of alarm, and the whole hospital in great excitement. With management and the help of the orderlies, I closed with him, seized his sword and musket, and got the orderlies to knock him down on the bed, and whilst I was almost till I obtained a guard to remove him. Whilst I went away with the sword to see the break and procure help, he got free, having defeated both orderlies; so, when I returned with the guard, I again found him flourishing away with another sword. It appeared the sword just ob-tained was my own, which I had forgotten was left under his charge, and which, in the affray, got damaged; and that the second was his, which he kept hung up in his room, and which I had overlooked. He was secured, and sent to the cells, where he tore to ribbons every article of his dress, and almost smashed the prison door to pieces. On recovering from this attack of drunken mania, I got him discharged as insane, having ascertained he had been so previously; and, as I did not consider him responsible for his actions, he was not severely punished.

My other sergeant, a clever well educated fellow and good accountant, but dreadfully dilatory, was equally given to drink, and had a trick (as we suspected, but never could strictly prove) of diluting the laudanum with water after taking a dose. The source of temptation was removed, and rigidly kept under look. The sergeant was reduced in his rank, if drunkenness or any other evil habit was observed, constantly hung over him, and kept him in something like order; but, finding him such a useful servant, I befriended him as much as I could. He was often discovered in any situation, teaching a hospital sergeant his duties is no joke, and entails endless trouble on the surgeon. When the regiment was disembodied, I had sundry bills for spirits supplied to my ser-gent, who I endeavoured to avoid.

I will here add a few remarks on desertion. It appears from official returns (vide Roberts), that, in the three branches of the service, artillery, cavalry, and infantry, desertion is by far the most frequent in the latter; and that, out of a force of 43,000 in the United Kingdom, an annual loss of 9,000 men by desertion, takes place in the following proportions: showing that, when pay is highest, desertion is least.

In the Artillery 4 per 1,000
In the Cavalry 8
In the Foot Guards 8
In the Infantry 8

With regard to deserting deserters with the letter D, I much question the propriety of this punishment in the case of militiamen, as it tends to render a temporary service unpopular; and it is very questionable whether any severe punishment like this would not be attended by a greater degree of public disorder, and the greater the number of deserters, the less the number who return. We had a few of our deserters branded, three or four; and when the first case of branding was observed, it was confirmed by the General com-manding the district, it made a great commotion; and thus de- tence is read on parade before the whole regiment. From some oversight of the commanding officer of the day, the sergeant charged with the brand to desert the spot. Luckily he had not the means of doing it himself, and declined; and the prisoner was removed to the hospital to have it done there. I was not in barracks at the time but, on going to the hospital next day, I heard what had happened, and inquired at the medical officer of the day if he had been punished. The medical officer said that this was the case in the future, and the assistant was spared such an ignoble duty. Branding is done (not burnt with an instrument or brand, as formerly) with three or four needles tied to-gether, and the letter D is put in the knowledge left arm; a little gunpowder rubbed in, which does better than caustic; in fact, it is the same as tattooing.

In inspecting recruits, I have frequently detected the most iniquitous tricks for making the object the better fit for hard labour punishment. I once certified a deserter as fit for hard labour and confinement in Weeton Prison; and the medical officer there reported he had been sent with a rupture, and he was consequently unfit for hard labour. The governor re ported the case to the General of the district. I received from him, through my commanding officer, a severe official communication, and the request of an explanation of my apparent neglect. I had returned in the fiction that the prisoner, when he had a rupture. I was able to give an explanation, and repeated my own and the assistant surgeon's unqualified opinion that he had no hernia when sent to Weeton, though he might have slighted proper means to have it examined, or under observation for a day or two, to be on the safe side, before giving the certificate; in fact, we knew him to be a bad beggar and malingerer, and he was so entered in the de-faulter book. Hence my explanation was thought satisfac-tory, as I heard no more from the General; but I at once put myself in communication with the surgeon of Weeton Prison, and communicated with him for reporting the case without prejudice. After communicating with my assistant surgeon, a short time afterwards, he wrote a long explanation, stating that the man had deceived him, and that he now felt convinced that he did not suffer from hernia, but was an accomplished rogue and malingerer, and ought to be punished.

With regard to concealing the letter D, a recruit one day presented himself, a strong likely man for the service, with pieces of plaster stuck on different parts of his body, and one under his left arm. On my asking the reason, he said he had been teased with boils; but, on my raising the plaster on the shoulder region, I at once detected the mark of D. In another man, the mark was less discerned, and I thought it covered with a coloured paste; but, unfortunately for him, a little bit was loose, and, applying my finger, "the d — D", as the man termed it, was discovered, or else he would have passed. I returned him, of course, to the health department, and ordered some men to hire false teeth, in order to try and pass the sergeant. One young fellow, by no means bad looking, tried me several times and at different places, both at Leeds Barracks, my own charge, and at some of the neighbouring towns. The last time, he turned up with false front teeth (his own having been broken by an accident), and I had scarcely looked at him and passed him, but, calling to mind his features, I took him close to the window, and discovered the ingenious trick, and was obliged to refuse him. His plea was, that he had previously said "his only chance to become a soldier was to get some false teeth," and he had done so. He had agreed to pay so much for the loan of the teeth for one day, if rejected, to purchase them, if he passed. The poor fellow showed such anxiety to serve his Queen and country, that I really think I ought to have passed him.
powerful, as he had been accustomed to carry heavy weights as a bricklayer's labourer. When the regiment assembled, and the poor fellow got his uniform, he was sent to me by the captain, with a company with a notion of making what was done with him, as his coatee would not meet: "that he spoilt the company, and could not do the drill." I saw at once the oversight he had made in passing him at all, but I had no resource but to do the best of it now, as young officers were constantly wanting their stupid awkward looking fellows to be discharged as unfit for the service, and I would not consent to certify; so I wrote back in reply, "that the man must be submitted to, his large coat, much practise extension, military, be well drilled, and made to stand erect; and that I could not answer for all the recruits being made alike, or having equally good figures." One of our officers, a very clever caricaturist, sketched my friend, and christened him "the doctor's dromedary", and affixed my official note at the bottom of the sketch, which was exhibited at our first public mess, presided over by the late estimable and high minded Lord Beaumont; and the caricature was handed round, much to the amusement of all the party. I was not so foolish or thin skinned as to feel annoyed, but quite the contrary. In fact, in the public service, you must be able to stand up for yourself, and defend your opinion, right or wrong, if you are to have any comfort at all in the discharge of your duty.

A colonel of a flash Hussar regiment of which I had medical charge, once sent a recruit back to me that I had passed, with the comment the man was not good looking, and had wanted nose, and was not fit. I replied, that it was impossible for all his men to have Roman or Grecian noses; and that, as his officers and men were all such handsome fellows, they could not consent to admit a recruit, if he seemed to please him, and he accepted the recruit. To have a regiment, as the Emperor of Russia has, of all pig-nosed men, is certainly a master of taste.

After the incident just named, I took an early opportunity of getting rid of my "dromedary," by recommending him to claim his discharge under the old Militia Act, requiring only fifty-six days service, the operation of which act also enabled us to get rid of a man unpleasant looking and by no means elegant in looking customers; so that, when the General inspected the regiment, he congratulated the Colonel on the fine body of men he commanded, and on the highly satisfactory state of the hospital.

In truth, the regiment did its duty, and furnished more than the average proportion of volunteers to the line, particularly to the Scots Fusilier Guards—so many, that the Colonel, the Duke of Cambridge, wrote to our commanding officer to acknowledge the services of the regiment. Afterwards, one of our young officers got a commission presented to him in the Duke's regiment, and four of our other officers obtained commissions without our first line regiments.

I must now bring these observations to an end. I have only to add that, after some hesitation, the Government admitted the claims of the military surgeons to compensation for their services and the sacrifices made by them, and awarded a grant of twelve months pay, as some acknowledgment due to them. When we bear in mind that, out of 70,000 embodied militia, 38,000* volunteers replenished the line in less than three years, when our army was almost annihilated in the Crimes, by disease and deprivation as much as by the fortune of war, and in its utmost extremity for want of men, it must be admitted that the militia branch of the service nobly fulfilled its mission, and formed them, as it ever has done in its history of former times (as testified by Wellington and others), and will form again, an efficient and patriotic army of reserve, of which Great Britain may feel justly proud.

At the commencement of these observations, I stated that, out of 2,000 recruits first inspected for the militia nearly three years ago, above one-half of them could neither read nor write. Recruits for the line I found to present a still greater amount of ignorance and natural incapacity. In this statement, I give these men credit for being able to read, though, according to their own admission, they can do so only "a little", or "a very little". I have just looked over my recruit register for the last six weeks, and find that of 2,000 recruits last inspected, 100 cannot read nor write. This shows a greater proportion of ignorant men than was presented in the militia three years ago. Surely this evidence of the deplorable want of education amongst the lower orders may serve as a warning to governmental authorities, and to the parents of young men, and to the masters of public schools to contrive to instruct this as far as the 4th West York Regiment is concerned; for, on inquiry made at the barracks where they are stationed, every man of adult age in the district, except with the exception of one that the 4th West York have been sent since May 1st, 1856, and these for desperation before disembarkation, or for unwillingly enlisting in other regiments. Not one prisoner for felony has been received.

* The number of crimes recently so common has been attributed to disinclination amongst the lower orders to work, as well as to ignorance.