

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 of his company with a note, asking what was to be done with him, as his coat was not to meet; "that he spoilt the company, and could not do the drill." I saw at once the oversight I had made in passing him at all, but I had no resource but to make 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 supplied with a larger coat, must practise extension movements, 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 own 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 remark, that the man was not good looking, and had an indented 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 well afford to admit a man to form a contrast. This seemed to please him, and he accepted the recruit. To have a regiment, as the Emperor of Russia has, of all *pug-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 few other unpleasant and by no means elegant looking customers; so that, when the General inspected the regiment, he congratulated the Colonel on the fine body of men he commanded, and me 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 purchase in 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 militia surgeons to compensation for their services and the sacrifices made by them, and awarded a gratuity 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 Crimea, 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 then, 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. In this statement, I give those 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, out of the 300 recruits last inspected, 105 can neither 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 labouring population shows the necessity of adult schools, both military and civil. Men in the public service have time to

attend school and receive instruction, and, in my opinion should be compelled to do so, either during the day when their duty is over, or in an evening. Regimental libraries (or village lending libraries), recently established with the best intentions, are of little use without readers. It is painful, and discreditable to those in authority, to reflect on the amount of ignorance existing amongst such a fine body of men as are now serving their Queen and country. Means ought to be taken to improve their minds as well as their bodies. By intellectual cultivation, crime would diminish, the good conduct list would be rapidly augmented, and promotion more readily ensured.*

[ERRATA. In Mr. Ikin's last paper, page 2, col. 1, top line, read "*these*", instead of "*this*". Also, at page 2, col. 2, read "a guard-book for keeping in regular *series*," instead of "*lines*".]

CASES OF LITHOTRITY.

By WILLIAM THOMAS BELL, Esq., Great Grimsby, late House Surgeon to the London Hospital.

SUMMARY. *Failure of Operation from Impaction of a Fragment of Calculus: Lithotomy one year afterwards: Recovery.*

WILLIAM Willson, aged thirty-two, agricultural labourer, of light complexion, sandy hair, good stature, and well formed, although worn down by his sufferings, came under my care in October 1853, with well marked symptoms of calculus in the bladder. I sounded him, and readily detected a stone of considerable size. His bladder symptoms were severe; for which I ordered him to keep his bed, and prescribed the following medicine.

℞ Sodæ bicarbonatis gr. lx; tincturæ hyoscyami ℥lxxx; spiritus ætheris nitrici ℥ss; tincturæ opii ℥xxiv; aquæ cinnamomi ℥viiss. M. Fiat mistura cujus capiat cochlearia ii magna 4tis horis.

I also ordered a hip bath at night, and a ten grain suppository of compound soap pill, and the bowels to be regulated with castor oil. He soon improved under this treatment; so much so as to fancy the stone did not exist. In about ten days I performed lithotripsy, and had some difficulty in retaining my hold of the stone from its polished surface and hardness; at last it was freely broken up. After three operations at moderate intervals, a fragment became impacted in the prostate gland; evidently a broad flat piece, because a good sized catheter could be passed over it into the bladder without much difficulty; for its removal I tried every possible means that could be thought of either to extract it, break it, or push it back into the bladder. This proved tedious, and the poor man's funds became exhausted. He went home, a distance of twenty miles, to try to raise funds to complete his cure. He commenced work, which he followed as long as he could. There was a stricture just below the glans penis, dilated with bougies; this proved an obstacle to the passage of fragments, requiring interference to remove them. A good deal of stone was passed after the third operation.

A year afterwards, in Jan. 1855, he again returned to me with his former symptoms. Upon sounding him, I distinctly felt the fragments of stone in the prostate. After he had had a few days rest and aperients, I performed the lateral operation of lithotomy while he was under the influence of chloroform, and removed a large quantity of broken calculus, including some large pieces, with the forceps and scoop, and by frequently syringing out the bladder with tepid water. The portion from the prostate came out during the operation. The day after the operation he had a little shivering and sore throat; most probably from cold caught during the operation. Independently of this, he had not one bad symptom; he made a good recovery in a month. I have seen the patient quite recently, two years after the operation; he remains in perfectly good health.

* The number of crimes recently so common has been attributed to disbanded militiamen, as well as to ticket of leave men. I am glad to contradict this as far as the 4th West York Regiment is concerned; for, on inquiry made at the Borough Gaol, I find that only five prisoners from the 4th West York have been sent since May 1st, 1856, and these for desertion before disembodiment, or for unlawfully enrolling in other regiments. Not one prisoner for felony has been received.

* In a previous note, I stated that 33,000 volunteers replenished the line; it should have been 38,000.