were made by the Governor-General and the Commander-in-Chief to find the doctors for the battle of Waterloo, and with a similar result. They came too late.

"I have in my possession a report from a medical officer of the Company's service on the state of the wounded three months after the battle of Waterloo, which I am bound to publish. It would be what might have been said of the state of the wounded in Portugal and Spain during the first four years of that war. The official statistical returns of the sick and wounded during the first Burma war, show a loss of 48½ per cent.; those, if published, of the war in China will, I understand, be no better. The cause is well known— the remedy is in great part attainable. The evil remains.

"I am, therefore, in the hope, and confidence, that the boards of the University of Edinburgh in the field of education, and the science of military surgery, may agree to the proposal I have been induced to make to yourself, and to your associates, to connect your board with the military hospital in Edinburgh, and introduce such examinations as may be necessary into the educational system of the Edinburgh University, as to the efficient service of the army, and the health of the nation, on whose indomitable valour alone can dependence be placed in the hour of danger. By them the victory must turn to the utmost advantage. Old as I am, closely bound to the memory of my old brother officer General Wetherall. Two of these distinguished officers long held the chief command of the troops in Scotland; one has been the president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and all have had the best opportunity of knowing what has been done, but I have repeated this important question upon what has been done, but upon what has been lost.

Notwithstanding the energetic, the unfaltering, the admirable exertions of your correspondent Mr. Guthrie, and others, there still lingers on the field of bygone experience which I hold to be yet imperfectly cultivated; and I trust that we are not going to enter upon another and a novel field of professional improvement without being in every way prepared to turn it to the utmost advantage. Old as I am, I am devotedly seconding by a succession of leading articles in THE LANCET,, and other professional journals, and by the united efforts of men devoted to the collection and diffusion of the accumulated experience of the army and navy surgeons.

Robert Peel, the patron of my chair at the time I was appointed to it, and in a series of energetic letters, he has urged the establishment in the other metropolitan cities, London and Dublin, of lectureships similar to the one I hold. In this I have been ably seconded by a succession of leading articles in THE LANCET[, and other professional journals, and] by the united efforts of men devoted to the collection and diffusion of the accumulated experience of the army and navy surgeons.

But let not this matter rest upon medical testimony alone, I appeal to the opinion of numerous general and field officers, from whom I have been honoured with communications. I mean the men who, while ready to acknowledge the professional services of their medical officers generally, lament their want of information on many points of military hygiene. Amongst these I will first mention the name of Sir De Lacy, Evans, who brought this subject forward in an energetic appeal to the House of Commons, during the last session of Parliament. I hope I may also be permitted to mention the names of the Earl of Cathcart, Sir Thomas Brisbane, Sir Neil Douglas, and my old brother officer General Wetherall. Two of these distinguished officers long held the chief command of the troops in Scotland, another has for many years been the president of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and all have had the best opportunity of knowing what has been done. But I have repeated this important question upon what has been done, but upon what has been lost.

I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

GEORGE BALLINGALL.
Varying causes have been assigned as producing sciatica,—viz., disorder of the stomach and bowels; inflammation and disease of the sciatic nerve; syphilis; gout; obstruction and distension of the detrusor; tumours or accumulations in the course of the nerve; effusion of fluid into the sheath of the nerve; irritation and disordered state of the kidneys; and rheumatism, either acute or subacute.

The best writer upon the subject of sciatica was Cotunnus, physician to the Emperor of Austria, who published a treatise at Vienna in the year 1770, entitled, "De Fiscicadis," and of which an English translation appeared in 1775. His ideas depended mostly upon the irritation of the nerve—opinion which appears to me to be erroneous, inasmuch as having been frequently consigned in cases of sciatica which had previously been treated according to this notion, and having likewise had ample opportunities of forming an opinion, I am convinced that the cause most productive of this complaint is irritation of the nerve within the pelvis, either from loaded colon or caecum, or from tumours formed within that cavity, and acting mechanically upon the nerve in that situation. And I would here venture to suggest the propriety of bearing this in mind, as I firmly believe that was cases of sciatica treated generally according to these views, it would be found that the exception would form but a very small minority indeed.

When the causes are so various, we cannot feel surprised that the treatment proposed should be varied also. And accordingly we find Cotunnus advised cupping, leeches, followed by issues and blisters; Dr. Wilson advises bleeding, honey, milk, and quinine; Dr. Oaken has given diuretics, and acetate of potash; Dr. Belcombe, of York, gives acetate of potash with infusion of senecio, and advocates the employment of acupuncture; Mr. Kyoud, of the Meath Hospital, Dublin, punctures the limb in the course of the nerve; and introduces ten grains of morphine with one dram of crotonate; whilst Dr. Grases recommends opium in large doses. The following cases may prove interesting:-

Case 1.—Mrs. W.—the wife of a clergyman residing in Essex, consulted me six years ago for sciatica in the right leg, of nearly two years' duration. Her sufferings were most intense, and she was worn almost to a skeleton by their duration and want of rest. She attributed the attack to cold caught by getting wet through, and had during the previous two years been treated accordingly by colchicum and colonel and opium internally, whilst locally she had been cupped, blistered, and counter-irritated by various applications, such as veratria, tannin, antimony, quassia, and other medicaments. She had entirely left her, and the sensation of bruising was so much diminished that she described it as more like numbness than anything else. She assured me she had not been so well for months. Her tongue was cleaner, abdomen softer, she could straighten her leg she could scarcely refrain from calling out. She had entirely left her, the only easy position being that of sitting; that when she endeavoured to stand upright or to walk across the room without pain, and had only taken her morphine once on the preceding day; her pulse was weak and her skin cold and clammy. I ordered three grains of the sulphate of quinine every four hours, and the morphia to be discontinued entirely. Under this medicine she rapidly recovered; the sensation of numbness disappeared, and she returned home cured after being in London for a fortnight.

Case 2.—Mrs. G.—residing at Brook-green, consulted me for lumbago and sciatica of the right leg. She had suffered for three months, and had been told it depended upon rheumatism, and was treated accordingly by cupping, blisters, warm bath, colchicum, &c., but without experiencing any relief. I prescribed the croton-oil pills as in the preceding case. She took them twice, and was cured.

Case 3.—The Rev. E. C.—consulted me for sciatica of the right leg, of two months' duration, but very severe. He is a strong man, and of robust constitution, but continued to present scybalous matter, I prevailed upon him to repeat the pills at night, assuring her that when they performed half the scybalous matter, and the acrid discharge in her morphia once on the preceding day; her pulse was weak and her skin cold and clammy. I ordered three grains of the sulphate of quinine every four hours, and the morphia to be discontinued entirely. Under this medicine she rapidly recovered; the sensation of numbness disappeared, and she returned home cured after being in London for a fortnight.

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