

A considerable effort was needed for the extraction of this mass, and on examination it was found to enclose a fragment of the shell eight centimetres long by five broad, about twelve millimetres in thickness, triangular in shape, and weighing 181 grammes. Enveloped in a sheath of clothing, this formidable missile had penetrated the adductor muscles of the thigh, hollowing out a conical tunnel nine or ten centimetres deep, and extending as far as the descending ramus of the ischium. The moment the foreign body was removed blood of a dark colour gushed forth in profusion from two sources, but the prompt application of a pair of forceps immediately controlled the flow. It then became possible to examine the wound more leisurely. The femoral artery occupied the central axis of the cavity, and, though denuded anteriorly for a considerable distance, was otherwise uninjured. The femoral vein, lying behind the artery and in close contact with it, could only be partially examined, but no attempt at isolation was made. Its walls had been partially divided by the fragment of shell, but the aperture was completely closed by the forceps. Protruding from the cellular tissue at the lower angle of the wound was a long, slender, ribbon-like structure—the lower end of the internal saphena vein, which had been entirely severed. The upper end was effectually closed by a second pair of forceps. Under the circumstances M. Commandeur decided to apply no ligatures, except in the case of the lower end of the saphena, and that more as a matter of form than from conviction of its necessity. The after-history of the case is one of unbroken success. The temperature never exceeded 101·2° F., and after the seventh day it became normal. The forceps were allowed to remain *in situ* till the fourth day, when they were removed without trouble. Cicatrisation was slow owing to the great loss of substance, but eventually the patient regained the complete use of his limb. The only circulatory complication was when he first began to walk. For four or five days slight œdema was then present, but it caused no inconvenience and did not recur.

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR.

We alluded last week to the Medical History of the Crimean War, by Dr. Paul Myrdacz. The subjoined table, taken from *Archives de Médecine et de Pharmacie Militaires* for January, 1896, gives the results of that writer's investigations into the losses which occurred in the course of the campaign.

Table showing the Sickness and Mortality during the Crimean War. (The figures refer exclusively to casualties at the seat of war itself.)

Army.	Strength (successive).	Killed in action.	Wounded.	Died from wounds.	Sick.	Died from sickness.	Died from accident, missing, &c.	Total losses.
French ¹ ...	309,268	8,250	39,868	4,354	196,430	49,815	7,752	70,171
English ¹ ...	97,864	2,755	18,283	1,847	144,390	17,225	345	22,172
Italian ² ...	21,000	12	167	16	21,896	2,166	—	2,194
Total... ..	428,132	11,017	58,318	6,217	362,716	69,206	8,097	94,537
Russian ³ ...	324,478	21,000	92,381	14,671	322,097	37,454	2,288	73,125

These statistics are interesting, though manifestly incomplete in some respects. The information afforded is doubtless correct as far as it goes, but the table would be more

satisfactory if it bore reference to a single period only. The difficulties in the way of a compilation of this kind after the lapse of so many years must be very great, but we should think that even now it would be possible to produce a more exhaustive record of the casualties that owed their origin, directly or indirectly, to the siege and fall of Sebastopol. According to Chenu and other authorities, the French losses exceeded 95,000, but in this estimate are included the deaths of invalids in France and elsewhere. The British losses were also much greater than would appear from Dr. Myrdacz's table, but presumably the fatal cases at Scutari are not allowed for in that record. As regards the Russians, Chenu says that from first to last, and inclusive of their operations against the Turks, no fewer than 630,000 men perished. Altogether, the bills of mortality may probably be set down as follows: British, 30,500; French, 95,500; Sardinian, 4000; Turkish, 40,000; Russian, 630,000; total, 800,000—a terrible, and, as the event proved, quite unnecessary holocaust.

A BRUTAL PROCLAMATION.

THE determination of Spain to retain possession of Cuba is one with which a colonising people like ourselves may easily sympathise, and, as the Spaniards have a proverb, "War with all the world, but peace with England," we are not the nation which would be likely to be biased in our consideration of the methods adopted by the Spanish Government for the settlement of Cuban affairs. Cuba was in revolt from 1868 to 1878—indeed, it was not reported tranquil till 1880—and during the succeeding ten or twelve years continual efforts were made to persuade the Cubans of the sympathy of many Americans, if not of the American Government, with them, should they choose to attempt further revolutionary measures. It has been reported that the insurrection of 1868-78 was only suppressed by the exercise of a severity that amounted to reprehensible cruelty, for an account of which we refer our readers to a work entitled "The Book of Blood," which purports to be an authentic record of the policy that was adopted by modern Spain to destroy the independence of Cuba. This book gives a list of the political executions and transportations to penal settlements, and also of the prisoners whose fate has never been known, and constitutes a shocking record of inhumanity. We have nothing to do with the political side of the question, but with such a record—uncontradicted, we believe—against the Government we are justified in commenting upon any methods pursued towards the insurgents which seem to us contrary to the ethics of civilised war. We have received from a correspondent in Havana the text of one of the orders of the General-in-Chief of the Army of Operations, which runs as follows:—

"Finding that in this insurrection a great part of the inhabitants of the country sympathise with the rebels, helping them with information and doing other services for them, and it being of the greatest importance that existence should be rendered difficult to these people by making them lack the means of subsistence which they draw from the towns, it is hereby forbidden to sell provisions or any clothing to women and children, and the same shall only be sold in small quantity to men, paying great attention that the salt sold them should be in quantity proportional to the provisions they obtain. I charge that much attention be paid to the fulfilment of this order, and that it be carried out with all severity, especially in the last-mentioned detail."

This order appears to us unworthy of a historic European nation unable to control rebels by the sword. It would seem that Spain seeks to discharge her vengeance upon their wives and children, trying to win back her lost districts by subjecting these helpless ones to privation. There is a particular sting contained in the last sentence of this order. Food in Cuba keeps badly and becomes rapidly unpalatable

¹ From April, 1854, to June, 1856. ² From May, 1855, to June, 1856. ³ From September, 1854, to October, 1855.