

'Girdner, JH'

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GIRDNER, J. H.

74/75

H.M.M.

26 January 1915.

Dear Sir,

I desire to thank you for your very kind letter of December 31st 1914 giving us an account of your Telephonic Bullet Probe.

From the description you kindly sent me, it differs to some extent from those that we have in this Museum. We should much like to have an example of your instrument to place with the others that we have on exhibition, especially if you should have one illustrating your early experiments on the subject.

I have pleasure in sending you a copy of the guide-book to this Museum, which I trust will interest you.

Thanking you very heartily for your kind letter, and the trouble you have taken in the matter,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

C.J.S.T.

J.H. Gardner Esq., M.D.,
47 West 71st Street,
New York.

JOHN H. GIRDNER, M.D.
47 WEST 71ST STREET
NEW YORK

TELEPHONE 1609 COLUMBUS
CONSULTATION HOURS
9 TO 12 M.
AND BY APPOINTMENT

December 31st, 1914.

C. J. Thomson Esqr
54 Wigmore Street
London, W.

My dear Sir-

I have a letter from Dr. Kenneth W. Millican of the London Lancet enclosing a letter from you to him in which you express a desire for facts regarding Girdner's Telephonic Bullet ~~Probe~~ *It is not patented.* Probe. After much experimenting I perfected the device in 1887. The instrument was first presented to the profession and the public in February 1887 at The New York Academy of Medicine when I read a paper on The Locating of Foreign Bodies etc, and showed the probe and demonstrated its workings. I never heard of Longmore's electric bullet finder until I read of it in Dr. Millican's letter, and yours to him, mentioned above; in fact I did not know that any similar instrument existed at the time I made my probe. Girdner's Telephonic bullet Probe consists of a specially made receiver. From one of the binding posts of this receiver is lead a suitable insulated flexible conductor about four feet long. At the free end of this wire is attached an alluminum bulb (see enclosed drawing). At the free end of the wire from the other binding post is attached, by a suitable device, an insulated alluminum probe. This completes the instrument. It is used as follows: place the alluminum bulb in the buccal cavity of the patient, ~~the receiver to~~ ~~the receiver to~~ The surgeon then places the receiver to his left ear while with his right hand he passes the probe into the wound. No sound is heard in the receiver until the missile is touched by the probe, then a distinct clicking or grating sound is heard in the receiver indicating beyond all doubt that the end of the probe is in contact with the missile. There is no response in receiver if the probe rubs against bone as no current is established until the metallic missile is touched.

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It will be observed that there is no electric battery or extra-
neous electric current of any kind connected with this device.

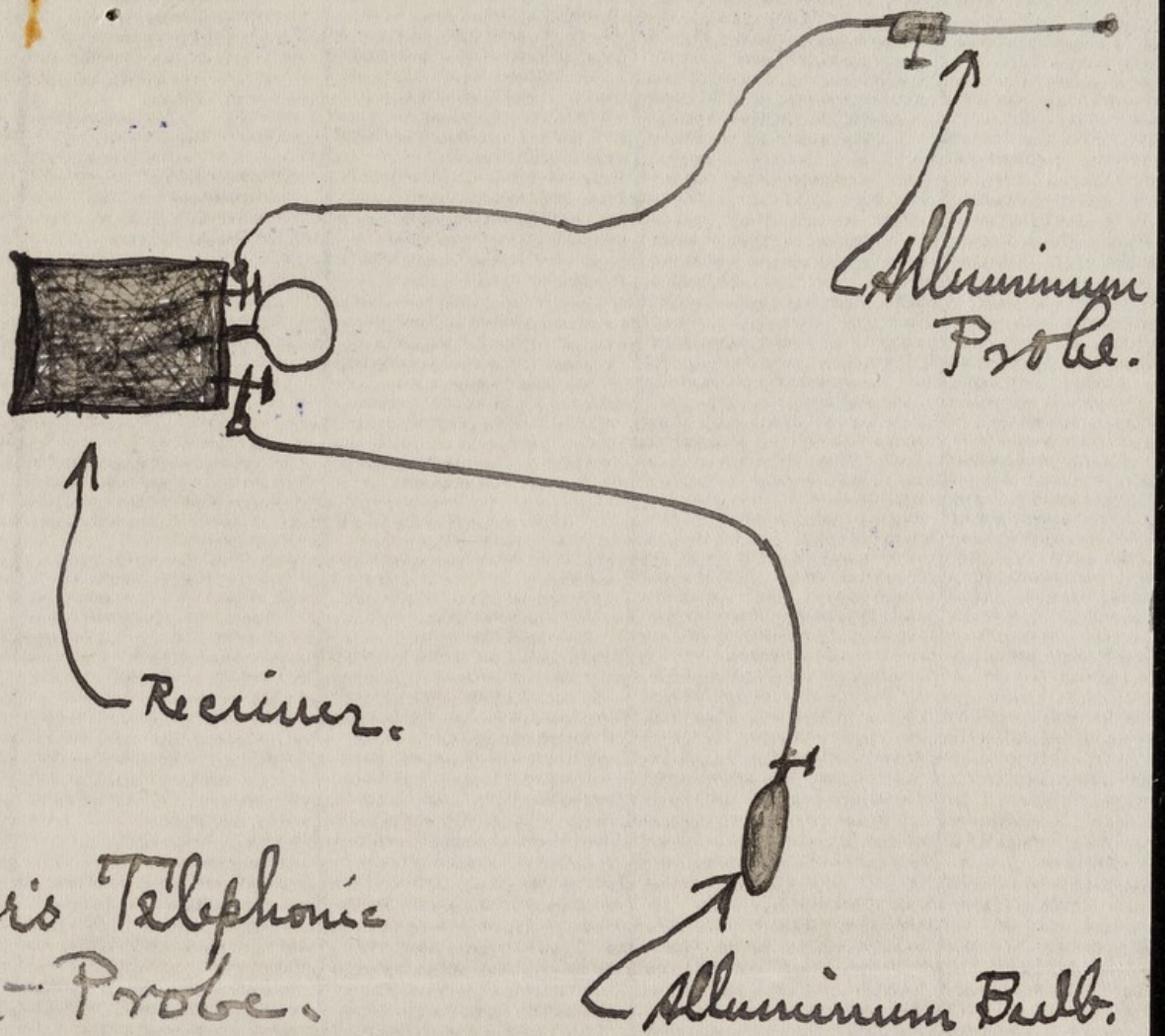
The current is obtained from the body of the patient, in other ##
words, each wounded man furnishes from his own body the electric
current necessary to operate the bullet probe and determine accur-
ately the location of the missile which rendered him hors de com-
bat. This probe is, I believe, the only instance in the history of
electricity where a current is taken from the human body and used
for a practical purpose. The probe and the metal bulb must always
be of the same metal and different from the metal probed for. I
have chosen aluminum for probe and bulb as it differs from all
the metals likely to find a lodgement in the human body and is not
at all likely to ever be used for bullets shells etc.,.

The aluminum bulb can be placed in the rectu^m or vagina as well as
in the buccal cavity if it is found more convenient, good electri-
cal contact is the requirement, this may ^{even} be obtained by wetting #
the hand and grasping the bulb firmly. #####

George Tiemann & Co, of No. 107 Park Row New York City furnishes
probes for the United States Army and Navy and you can get relia-
ble instruments from him. If I can be of any further service# in
the matter let me know. Will you do me the kindness to convey my
very kind regards and best wishes to Dr. Kenneth W. Millican.

Very truly yours,

John H. Gardner



Girdner's Telephonic
Bullet Probe.