

# **Volume of monthly reports, Jan-June 1856, of the Pathological Board in the camp besieging Sebastopol during the Crimean War**

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1856

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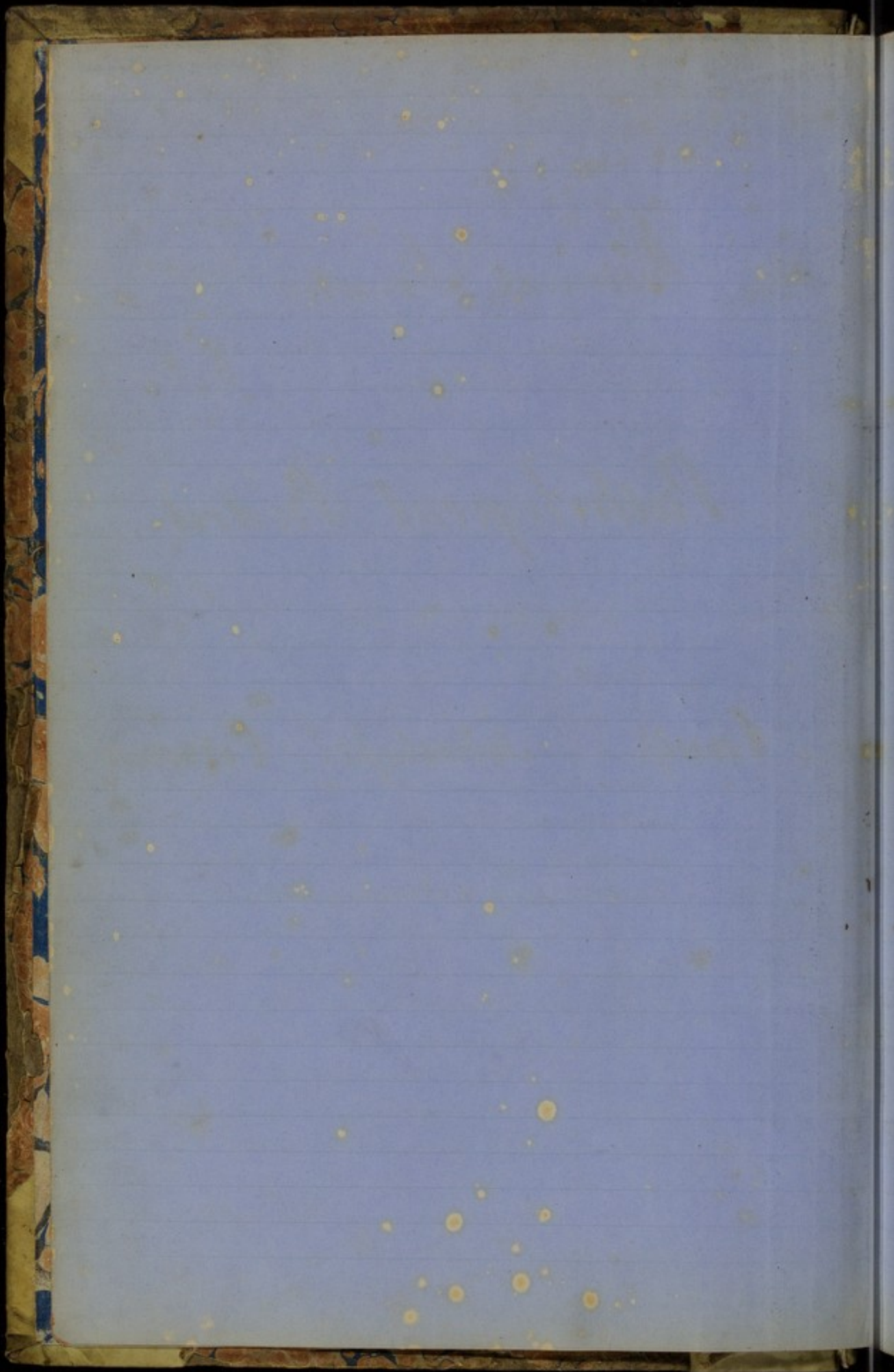


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*Historical Register*  
*of the*  
*Pathological Board*  
*established in the*  
*Camp before Sebastopol, Crimea*  
*Commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January 1856.*







Head Quarters Camp, Crimea  
14<sup>th</sup> December 1855

Medical Circular,

Adverting to the Director General's letter of the 9<sup>th</sup> November 1855. on the Pathological Appearances of Charrhea, I am now by a second letter under date of the 22<sup>nd</sup> November instructed to call the attention of Medical Officers to the Morbid Anatomy of all cases of disease that may occur either at Sea or in the Crimea and the more effectually to carry out the measures in a satisfactory manner for the credit of the Department and benefit of Science the Director General suggests that Permanent Boards should be established with Officers of standing and experience as Presidents and others well versed in Anatomical and Pathological Researches as Members, to make the dissections, record the appearances, and preserve the morbid parts for transmission to England.

Superintending Medical Officers who are Ex Officio Presidents of the Committees within their own Divisions, are invited to forward the Director General's views, and a permanent Executive Board of which Lt Colonel Moxon will be President and Assistant Surgeon Ross 39<sup>th</sup> Regt. and Staff Ap<sup>t</sup> Surgeon Greig Members will be formed in Camp for the purpose of carrying them into effect. At Balaklava a Board will



be formed consisting of the P. M. O. Staff  
Surgeon Matthew 2<sup>d</sup> Lt. and Staff and Surgeon  
Carter and at Lecture D. Linton will be  
pleased to make the necessary arrangements  
to meet the Director General's wishes.

This arrangement is not to preclude  
Regimental Medical Officers making dissections  
themselves when they wish - Only a notice  
of all Deaths must be sent to the Pathological  
Board in order that one of the Registrars  
may attend, enter the Abstract of the Case's  
Case, and record the Morbid Changes -  
As the Research is one on which the  
Director General places much importance  
and as it is one in which the Credit of  
the Army Medical Department is at Stake  
D. Hall feels assured that it will meet  
with the cordial support and assistance  
of every Medical Officer of this Army.

When a man dies Notice should  
be sent to the President of the Pathological  
Board of the District or Division to which he  
belongs and the President will direct one  
of the Dissectors to attend at the hour  
named, and make either the Post Mortem  
Examination or record the appearances if  
the Regimental Medical Officers prefer making  
the Dissection themselves.

Pathological Registers and Instruments will  
be issued on Requisitions made by the President of  
Board and other Instruments will be given by

D. Hall -

(Signed)

D. Hall

Inspector General of Hospitals



Received 31<sup>st</sup> December 1855 and communicated to D<sup>r</sup> Home  
Dalton & Mr Matthews. (Signed) Issue.

Army & Ordnance Medical Department

17<sup>th</sup> December 1855.

Sir,

Alluding to my letter of the  
23<sup>rd</sup> ultimo in reference to the Appointment  
of 2 boards of Medical Officers, one for hospitals  
in the Crimea, the other at Scutari, in regard  
to the health of the Army, I have to inform  
you that I have not yet obtained the  
sanction of the Minister for War to incur  
the expense which will be required to  
provide the Instruments and Apparatus  
necessary to the efficient discharge of the  
duties referred to, but this Circum-  
stance need not delay the contemplated  
operations, as much of the information which  
will be expected from the labours of the Boards  
can be collected without the means necessary  
for a full examination of morbid specimens  
for which the Instruments &c are required.

A Short history of Diseases as they  
appear among the Native inhabitants of the  
localities where the troops have been suc-  
cessively stationed, will be a good introduction  
to that of the Diseases which have affected  
the Troops, this therefore will perhaps be  
found sufficient to occupy the attention of  
the Boards till the arrangements in  
progress here are completed.

The Principal Medical Officer,

Crimea.



The Report of each Board should, I think you will agree with me, contain all that is important to record relative to the Sanitary Condition of the Army since its departure from England, and in furtherance of that desirable object I forward a few suggestions which may be of use to the Officers you employ in the inquiries.

These suggestions are simply intended as hints, and are not to be understood as by any means comprehending all the points to which attention must be directed.

Assuming that the two Boards will be composed of able, zealous Officers, I think the Department and the profession may fairly expect a mass of interesting information, which when amalgamated with that which the Statistical Board in this Office will supply, will enable us to publish a Volume which will prove not only creditable to the Medical Department, but valuable to Medical Science, and most useful to the Medical Officers of future Armies; had a digest of the kind it is now time to attempt been in existence when the present war was commenced, much of what has proved difficult to you, and me, would not have been experienced.

With every prospect that what is so



Valuable and useful may be accomplished by vigorous application on the part of the Officers Specially Employed, and with a hope that a Concurrent ardent and Willingness will be evinced by others not so directly engaged in the proposed investigation, I sincerely trust the Expectations which are entertained will be done more than realized.

The Boards will of course have to depend on the Medical Officers of Regiments for information relative to the Diseases, Injuries and Wounds which have occurred in each Corps during its Sojourn in the East, therefore it will probably be found desirable for you to issue a Departmental Notice inviting them to promote the object in view, and furnish every possible information calculated to further the labours of the Boards.

The information from Regimental Medical Officers will require to be furnished in the form of Reports, and you will give it to be understood that I will recommend the Surgeon or Assistant Surgeon Staff or Regimental who supplies the best Report for a step of promotion -

I shall be glad to hear from you with your opinion in regard to the prospect of the ultimate attainment of the object sought by the proposed measures.

I have the honor to be, Sir

Yours obedient servant

(Signed) A. Smith

Director General.



Subjects Selected for the Enquiry and  
Report of the Boards Selected to inves-  
tigate the State of Health of the Army  
of the East.

Climate of Turkey generally but more Climate  
particularly that of the various localities  
occupied or which have been occupied  
by the Army viz Gallipoli Scutari and  
the neighbourhood of the Bosphorus Tarna  
and Bulgaria the Crimea and other  
Stations held by our Troops

The Physical Character  
of the Country, productions Supply and  
Crispion and quality of food, Water,  
Means of Transit &c.

Endemic Sources of Disease, Epidemic or Diseases  
- Nations their supposed origin, glance at the  
Antient practice of Medicine Any available  
Statistics affecting the increase of population  
the percentage of deaths, hereditary diseases  
the prevalence of Small pox and  
Ophthalmia.

State of each Regiment on landing British Army  
in the Country - if previously healthy or  
otherwise; its Station prior to arrival  
in the East, the average age of its men

If Regiments seasoned by  
Service in the Mediterranean or elsewhere  
have proved more healthy than Corps brought  
from home

Average percentage of Sicks of Corps  
at expiration of 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter after landing.



Average per Centage of Sick at the Ex-  
piration of succeeding Quarterly periods.

General Average from the above  
Circumstances affecting the health of  
particular Corps and the Army generally  
which have led to deterioration of health  
whether arising from  
Disease Influences  
Climate.

Deficient Clothing

Impure Water

Immundities Food

Insufficient Food

Ill Cooked Food

Food taken without Regularity

Want of Fuel

Insufficient Stimulants

Excessive use of Stimulants

Adulterated Quality of Stimulants

Excessive and too long continued bodily  
toil with insufficient sleep.

Drilling at improper hours

Want of Means for ablution of persons <sup>= lines</sup> clean =

Want of Seats

Bad quality of Seats

Over Crowding in Seats

Deficient or otherwise objectionable

Hospital Accommodation

Objectionable Hospital Management, whether from  
the nature, selection of unhealthy sites

Want of bedding.

Deficient supply of Medicines

Medical Comforts.



Deficient supply of Hospital Stores  
Want of amulements -  
Opinions in regard to Means of Transport  
Barrels Ambulances &c.

Quarries those more particularly which Diseases  
have proved the scourge of the Army,  
their origin, mode of propagation, treatment  
and Pathology.

Prophylactic Measures attempted and  
recommended.

General Sanitary Measures adopted  
Measures which ought to have been  
adopted, and reasons why they were  
not put in practice.

Wounds according to the most approved  
mode of Classification - the Consequent  
Operations and the Result - Also the  
improved Rules of practice suggested  
therefrom.

Suggestions for the coming Campaign  
keeping in view that Military Reasons  
may not render any proposed Measures  
unpracticable.

General deductions from the  
Enquiry.

Signed A. S.  
D. General.



# Memorandum

Head Quarters Camp. Review  
2 January 1856.

With reference to the Medical Circular already issued regarding the formation of a Pathological Board in Camp I have now to request that Superintending Medical Officers of Divisions will cause a Death Report of every fatal case which occurs after the 1<sup>st</sup> Instant (31<sup>st</sup> was here inserted by mistake. W.H.) to be sent to the President of the Board at the General Hospital stating the period (an interval of not less than 2 hours to be ~~given~~ named) at which it is proposed that the dissection shall take place an abstract of the case drawn out on a sheet of Paper and signed by the Regimental Medical Officer must be prepared previous to the dissection and handed over to the Member of the Pathological Board present on the occasion for the purpose of being forwarded along with his report of the Morbid Appearance, to the Director General.

2 Medical Officers who have already made Collections of Specimens of disease or of the Effects of Mechanical Injuries are requested to hand them over to the President of the Pathological Museum of the Department. Each Specimen should be accompanied by a short History of the Case or Accident

Signed J. Hall  
J. S.



Instructions for the Guidance of the Senior  
Members of the Pathological Board in the performance of  
their Duties. — Camp 1<sup>st</sup> January 1866

1<sup>st</sup> The Camp will be divided between the Officers  
now selected as the Senior Members of the Pathological  
Board, that an equal portion of duty will as nearly as  
possible devolve upon each, it being understood that  
either in emergency may be called upon to give his assistance  
in the District appointed to the others. Each Member  
will be provided with a Dissecting Case, a Pathological  
Anatomy, a Note book, Stationery, and such other things  
as may from time to time be found necessary for the efficient  
performance of his duties.

2<sup>d</sup> On notice of a death being sent by the Resident  
to one of the Members he will repair at the earliest hour  
of the interval mentioned in the death Report, to the Regiment  
of the deceased, taking with him his Dissecting Case, Note  
Book, and a pair of scissors. In case he may desire to  
bring away specimens of diseased structures, these articles will be  
conveniently carried in a Navvysack, with which will also be  
found of use for the removal of morbid parts deemed worthy of  
preservation.

3<sup>d</sup> When he arrives at the particular Regiment where  
the death has occurred, the Pathologist will repair himself to the  
Medical Officer in Charge of the Corps, whose name will be in general  
attached to the death Report, and in case of his not being at hand,  
one of the other Medical Officers must then be sought for, as it is desirable  
that a body should in no case be interfered with without the presence  
either of the Surgeon or one of the Assistants of the Regiment.

4<sup>th</sup> An abstract of the case (drawn out in fullness and duly  
signed) as ordered by the Inspector General of Hospitals, should be  
invariably returned from the Regimental Medical Officer's specimens



to the dissection being commenced, and preliminary inquiries should also be made as to what complaints the deceased may previously have laboured under, and whether he ever suffered from a Convulsion.

5. In the event of any of the Medical Officers of the Regiment desiring to perform the dissection themselves, they will have a perfect right to do so — the duty of the Pathologist then being to take notes of the morbid appearances as they present themselves; but should no such desire be expressed the Pathologist, Member present will conduct it himself, not as soon after its completion as possible, and always before another dissection is commenced, the condition of the various organs which he has necessarily examined. —

6. It is very desirable that while engaged at the dissection all incidences remarks or discussions on the disease of which the patient is said to have died, or its treatment, as recommended by the last Medical Examination, as well as any allusions as to the terms in which the morbid appearances exhibited by dissection are to be described, should be avoided, as feelings injurious to the will of the Pathological Board might thus be aroused, tending to a kind of spirit the good will of some members of that Department, upon whose support and hearty cooperation its success and efficiency must in a great measure depend.

7. The diseases under which the Patient is returned are having due <sup>will</sup> in general determine the class under which the dissection will be entered in the Pathologist Register. — But in the circumstances when dissection has been revealed in totally different and unexpected forms of death from that to which the fatal event had previously been ascribed, it will be proper to alter the description of the disease accordingly.

8. Not later than the Evening of the day in which a dissection has taken place, a minute detail of the appearances observed, must be entered on the same sheet with the Abstract of the case recorded



from the Regimental Medical Officer, stating in a note at the end  
whether or not any of the morbid parts have been preserved for trans-  
mission to Chatham. A list of both the abstract & dissection  
having been entered in the Pathological Register under the <sup>proper</sup> head  
this document with the following covering be sent to the  
President of the Board, to be forwarded through the Surgeon  
General of Hospitals to England.

9. Should it be found in possible to undertake all the dissections  
occurring on the same day, it will be advisable either to invite the aid  
of the Regimental Medical Officers or to make a selection of such cases  
as are most likely to yield instructive examinations, having  
out, for example, those who have died of cholera or of the  
immediate or remote effects of excessive drinking.  
It is to be considered always preferable to make one dissection  
thoroughly, than many in a superficial manner; and as a  
general rule the condition of all the organs in such subject  
should be examined and their condition accurately noted, as  
to whether they have been found healthy or diseased.

10. In conducting dissections a field of valuable ob-  
servation will be found in examining the existing state of  
organs formerly diseased, and the progress made in  
their return to a healthy structure. It will also be inter-  
esting to note the condition of such parts as may be  
affected with a besetting disease unaccounted for the first one,  
when such present themselves; and valuable preparations  
will occasionally be obtained from those who have at a  
previous period sustained gunshot wounds & fractures  
of the mode of reparation after such injuries.

11. Much care will be required in attaching a distinguish-  
ing label to all morbid parts it is desirable should be preserved  
before placing them in spirits. The jars containing  
them will be safely kept in the General Hospital, and  
as an additional means of arrangement such jars will have



a number painted on it, and a record kept of its  
individual contents.

12. No opportunity should be lost of endeavoring  
to obtain such preparations of the Gunpowder Structures  
received during the Siege as may still be in possession  
of Medical Officers in the Camp, it being distinctly  
understood that such shall be carefully transmitted  
to the Museum as the gift of the individual from  
whom they are received.

(By) Th. Stone

Assistant of the Artillery Board  
in Camp

Approved

(Signed) S. Hall.

S. Genl of Hospitals



Classification of Diseases adopted in the Pathological Register  
kept in Camp.

Page 3	Class A Eber's Diseases including	Remittent Continued Typhoid Eruptive Fevers Erysipelas Paralysis Typhus Malaria Religion Nervosa 1/2
Page 90	Class B	Prunomucosa Pericarditis Laryngitis Aphrodisiacs Tetanus Tetanus Anasarca 1/2
Page 102	Class C	Cyanosis Coarctation Cancer Hepatitis Erysipelas Tetanus Anasarca Stomach 1/2
Page 108	Class D Abdominal Diseases including	Cyanosis Coarctation Cancer Hepatitis Erysipelas Tetanus Anasarca Stomach 1/2
Page 109	Class E Miscellaneous Diseases including	Rheumatism Scorbutus Cerebralis Aegria Morbus Dumkennes 1/2
Page 120	Class F Genital Morbs And Symplicia including	Valvula Sclerotica Spermatum Cancer Aphrodisiac Laryngitis Fractura Amputatio 1/2

(Signed) William Harris M.D.  
President of the Pathological Board  
in Camp.



Observations on the fatal cases which have occurred in the Camp before Sebastopol during the Month of January 1856.

The Pathological Board in Camp was instituted in the beginning of January, but not having become fully organized for a week or ten days afterwards, its proceedings for this month cannot be held as fully comprising all the fatal cases that occurred.

Seventy-eight cases in all have been submitted to Post-mortem examination and of these, if 5 cases of Cholera be alone excepted, not one of the deaths can be considered as having owed its origin to any Cholera, Asiatic, or Asiaticus cause, all being due to the ordinary influence of cold acting on a healthy system, or to the organic diseases of ordinary occurrence in the human frame. - Of these 18 fatal cases - 8 took place in the 1st Division; 8 in the second; 6 in the third; 10 in the fourth; 7 in the Light, and 1 among the Royal Artillery. The large proportion of deaths in the 1st Division was partly owing to three cases of Cholera occurring in the 1st Regt (the only one that during the month suffered from this disease), and partly to 5 cases of Typhoid which happened in Pyramonts (No 1 & 6) locally adjoining that in which Cholera prevailed, & established a certain resemblance to that disease. If these 5 cases be deducted, the 1st Division in the amount of its casualties, will show no great amount of disparity with the others.

In the 2nd Division 7 out of the whole fatal cases were occasioned by Dysentery, while in the Light Division on the other hand but one out of the 7 deaths were due to this cause. In each of the other Divisions, this disease was the one from which the greater number of the casualties arose, as indeed, throughout the whole Camp, 19 deaths out of the whole 128 having



been occasioned by it alone, mixed in order of fatality, ranks  
Consumption & Dysentery which carried off from respectively,  
then Cholera, Diarrhoea, and Ulcers to each of which belong a  
great Apoplexy, & Inflammation of the membranes of the Brain,  
Chorea, & Bright's disease of the Kidney, including indistinctly  
3. And lastly, Bronchitis, Asthma, Catarrhs, & Haematuria,  
each comprising

Before entering on a description of the individual classes  
of disease to which the casualties this month have been owing,  
the complete absence of Miasmatic forces from the list of  
fatal complaints is well worthy of remark, where so many  
human beings are congregated in a small space, & that  
the same which they have occupied now for above a year.  
This satisfactorily shows the great attention that has  
been paid to the destruction, or removal, of all impurities  
or sources of noxious exhalations around the Camp,  
as well as the care bestowed on cleanliness within the tents,  
and it also proves that provided men are well clothed  
& fed, that too handsomely, they may with impunity  
(at least in cold weather) be closely packed together, & sleep  
on floors that are never perfectly dry, while they smother  
wash their bodies, & bathe very frequently, & have any  
convenience for securing their <sup>personal</sup> cleanliness.

The deaths from affections of the Head, have been in all  
4 viz. 3 from Apoplexy & 1 from Meningitis

Hooping - In one (Case 6) sanguineous extravasation was <sup>found</sup>  
at the base of the cerebellum having taken place when the  
Brain was partially under the influence of Liqueur. The Mem-  
branes were in a high state of congestion, while the Brain  
itself shewed an unusual amount of vascularity - In  
the other case (Case 12) where a full & slow pulse was  
remarked gradually to come on together with a  
delirious & comatose state these were the chief symptoms.



Observed during 7 days that the patient was under treatment previous to his death - a large clot was found spread over the whole of the upper portion of the right hemisphere of the brain & the arachnoid, in the neighbourhood here marks of inflammatory action having existed around, probably from the effused clot having acted as a foreign body - In this case small extravasation of blood was also found in the substance of the Cerebrum - of the case of Meningitis, one (Case 24) was returned as Behar P.C. but differing from that disease chiefly in the symptoms being of two months duration, commencing with febrile symptoms at first, & being accompanied throughout by headache of unusual severity & persistence. A fortnight before death stupor came on which was for a time relieved by Mercurolicin, but renewed and passed into coma with dilated pupils & involuntary evacuations. A large amount of serum was found both at the base of the brain & in the Ventricles, that in the latter situation being turbid & containing flakes of lymph. - The other case (Case 27) was one where the disease had <sup>either</sup> run its course in 48 hours, or the man must have performed his duty while labouring under a certain amount of inflammation of the membranes of the brain; He was one morning found insensible by his comrades who slept in the same tent, & being taken to Hospital contained Coma rose & died in 48 hours. Much congestion existed both throughout the membranes & the substance of the brain & here & there on the arachnoid was found patches of "soft & yellow lymph"

Diseases of the chest were found more than a half viz 36. of the whole deaths, that have occurred during the month - of these by far the most common



in point of frequency being Pneumonia, to which  
no less than 19 (though some returned, several other  
times) were found in dissection to have owed their  
deaths. — 4 cases were occasioned by Tubercles;  
5 by Pleurisy, & 1 by Peritonitis. Pneumonia in  
all the 19 cases in which it proved fatal, occurred alone &  
unaccompanied with any other inflammatory affection of the  
chest, in but 3 instances only — once it was found associated  
with Peritonitis; 5 times with Pleuritis; & one less than 10  
times with recent Pleurisy. In 15 of the cases the inflammation  
was found to have been confined to one side, & in the other  
4 it more or less affected both. With regard to the portion of  
the organ chiefly affected, in these 15 single & 4 double  
Pneumonias, together affecting a total of 23 inflamed  
lungs, a most unexpected & unusual fact has been elicited in  
the course of the Post-Mortem examinations, viz. that in 11  
the upper lobe only was the seat of inflammation; in 2  
condensation was confined to the upper & middle lobes; in  
11 where inflammation had affected the whole organ it  
was further advanced above than below; in 5 the whole lung  
was equally affected; & in the remaining 6 the lower lobe  
only, was the seat of the disease. Not the least approach to  
tubercular disease it may be remarked, existed in any of  
these cases, & more extended observation will be required to  
discover a probable cause for the peculiarity in morbid ana-  
tomy here developed. — That reduction of temperature has  
exercised considerable influence in the production of this disease  
seems probable, from the fact, that, out of 12 of the cases the date  
of whose commencement is accurately given, 7 occurred during  
the first week of January, when the mean daily tem-  
perature <sup>never</sup> exceeded, 33°, the highest range of the  
thermometer being 37° & the lowest 18°. These occurred  
on the second week when the mean daily temperatures

} 21. Cases  
instead of 23



was considerably higher, the Thermometer ranging from  
80 to 90, we only began in the third week when it was  
about the same standard, <sup>and</sup> in the fourth week when it  
ranged between 46° & 51. The type of the disease judging  
by the rapidity with which it ran its course would seem  
to have been unusually severe, as 3 cases were only 12 days  
under treatment before passing fatal 3 for 5 days,  
1 for 6 days, 1 for 7 days, 1 for 8 days, the remaining  
seven only being a few or single weeks duration. It is to  
be regretted from the imperfect manner in which the abstract  
of the Cases are made out, that a point of much practical  
utility that namely, of the proportion of those fatal  
Cases which have been treated by blood letting cannot  
be ascertained. In only 2 instances is it stated, that  
general bleeding had been employed, & in 5 others that  
local evacuation had been used; in 5 it is positively  
declared that neither one nor the other had been resorted  
to, & in the remaining 9 nothing being said at all, it may  
be concluded that bloodletting had been altogether dis-  
pens'd with. An objection to active antiphlogistic treat-  
ment undoubtedly exists in the Decays of the Muscular Office  
generally of this army, inasmuch it is probable with the  
common type of debility which characterized all forms  
of disease which proved fatal last winter, but whether  
this impression should be allowed to influence their  
practice now that the circumstances of the soldier have  
undergone such a complete and thorough revolution, when  
his nourishment is so abundant & his duty so light is a  
question that the statistical, resources of the Pathologist  
will best determine.

Further 4 variations of this disease took place, all of them  
in patients who had been admitted originally with acute dis-  
eases viz. two (Cases 14 & 16) with Typhus, one (Case 13) with Pleurisy,



Case (Case 58) with Typhus, from these diseases their  
Recovery was slow, their recovery imperfect, & Anaptyosis  
occurred, & the symptoms eventually indicated confirmed  
Typhus, advancing, when the disease was clearly marked, so  
rapid that removal from their Sick Hospital became impossible.  
All of these suffered more or less from Diarrhoea, but in only  
two was ulceration of the intestines found, a circumstance  
somewhat unexpected, when ulcers in the bowels are so  
often found in Cases where scarcely a symptom existed during  
life to indicate their presence.

Pneumonia - the two fatal cases of this affection had a duration,  
the one case (59) of 18 days, the other (Case 51) of 21; in both the  
two sides were affected, serious effusion at least on one side varying  
from 12 to 16 pints. The occurrence of inflammation in the second  
side, seems to have been the immediate cause of death in one,  
while that of acute Bronchitis to all appearance - terminated the  
other. Bronchitis of this one case (Case 51) alone proved fatal, &  
that under circumstances somewhat peculiar, on the third day  
of his residence in Hospital, he was seized with vomiting, cold  
stomach, great prostration, & imperceptible pulse, & died  
within 48 hours afterwards. On dissection in addition to the  
existence of general bronchial inflammation, there was found  
induration of the Spleen to a considerable extent, without  
however any accompanying marks of inflammation, but  
whether this had caused the fatal event, or whether it was  
due to an imperfectly developed attack of cholera, is not so  
very clear. The complete absence of Diarrhoea makes the  
former view probable while the existence of cholera  
at the very time in a Regiment closely adjoining seems  
rather to favour the latter view.

The Abdominal Affections which were 9 in all, com-  
prised, 2 of Cholera, 3 of Diarrhoea 2 of Bright's disease  
of the Kidneys, & 1 of acute.



The <sup>frequency</sup> of this class of disease, even, compared with  
its frequency & fatality last winter, is well worthy of records  
as showing how much good feeding, warm clothing & moderate  
exposure have to do in preventing an epidemic from this  
class of ailments. The danger that at present threatens, is  
not so much a recurrence of the ~~cholera~~ <sup>cholera</sup> affecting  
of last year, as an increase of inflammatory <sup>cholera</sup> ~~cholera~~ <sup>cholera</sup> ~~cholera~~  
plains, the result of a plethoric state, engendered by the  
over liberal supply of food & drink, taken in conjunction  
with the greatly increased physical exertion undergone of the men.  
Cholera cases. This disease was in the camp during  
January, <sup>seen</sup> confined to the 4<sup>th</sup> Division, & then to a single regiment  
the 16<sup>th</sup> but why it has clung to this particular Corps or  
deserve investigation with all the circumstances connected  
with it, still leaves it impossible to determine that the  
subjects of these fatal attacks were not unusually dissipa-  
ted men, is proved by the fact, that two out of the three  
were laymen. That recent arrival in the country had  
not predisposed them to its action, is equally clear from one  
of the three having been a year in the country & the other two  
six months. That temperature had exercised little or no  
influence in its production is also manifest from two of the  
cases having happened, when the thermometer stood steadily  
<sup>below</sup> the freezing point, the other when it varied from 45° to 55°  
The regiment occupies three kinds of huts 1<sup>st</sup> old wooden huts  
holding about 24 men each - 2<sup>d</sup> excavated stone huts the  
floor of which is about three feet below the level of the  
ground, & lastly - New wooden ones recently received from  
England. No regularity exists in the way these various  
huts have been erected, being scattered about in clusters of  
2 or 3 together. One row of ~~three~~ <sup>two</sup> old wooden & a single  
excavated stone hut, stands together about 20 yds distant  
from any others & in these all the cases of cholera have



occurred, consisting of 8 which have been fatal & 1  
which has recovered - These tents are equally distant  
from dust-heaps, latrines, and other probable sources  
of miasmata as the others are, & the ground in their neigh-  
bourhood is much drier than it is in many <sup>other</sup> parts of the camp.

Dysentery - proved fatal in 2 cases - In one (Case 59)  
it merely terminated in long courses of sanguinolent symptoms by  
which the patient was eventually worn out, slight ulceration  
of the large intestine having been found after death, together  
with organic disease both of Liver & Spleen. The other two  
were in some respects peculiar & afforded points of minute  
resemblance worthy of remembrance occurring in experiments  
in the same division & close to the tents in which cholera alone  
prevailed during the month - A Soldier (Case 18) having eaten  
largely of a rich indigestible cake was the same night seized  
with an epiploic fit to which he was subject but which appeared  
to have no connection with the symptoms which afterwards  
followed. Towards evening being seized with vomiting &  
purging of a fluid (said to have been yellowish) he was taken  
to hospital when his pulse became rapidly weaker &  
soon imperceptible & he died 24 hours after admission, having  
had within coldness of the surface, cramps, or light coloured  
evacuations - The 5<sup>th</sup> case was that of a woman (Case 85) &  
subject to Dysentery who was admitted with an attack  
of purging of more than usual severity; vomiting & collapse  
came on the 5<sup>th</sup> day, with suppression of urine, & she died in four  
hours having within had cramps, coldness of the surface,  
or rice water stools. On dissection the intestines were found  
to contain a large quantity of light coloured gummy fluid,  
the bladder was quite empty, & no diseased appearance  
anywhere existed in the various membranes of the bowels -  
This man it may be mentioned died on the very same day  
as one of the cases of cholera in a neighbouring hospital.



such instances as those here given of rapid sinking, carrying off the patient in a few hours, in a locality where Cholera exists, afford strong reasons for believing that so choleric influences, may develop itself in the course of other diseases & even prove fatal, without many of the symptoms showing themselves which are usually deemed essential to constitute a veritable case of Cholera.

Of Bright's disease of the Kidney two cases have occurred one (Case 18) a woman - admitted at first for Delirium Tremens, was seized with an inflammatory affection of the chest, then with oedema of the legs, vomit & death - The urine lately being scanty & highly albuminous. The only morbid appearance found was the large granular Kidney constituting the 3<sup>d</sup> stage of Bright's disease. The other case was not so evident in its nature, but sufficient to explain in any other way, than as dependent on a similar cause, as the former - A man (Case 14) was admitted into Hospital with slight Quinsy which was easily cured, he became lithemic & for two days prior to death perfectly comatose. Considerable serous effusion was found on the Brain, & the Kidneys were large pale & flabby - a tubercle was fortunately discovered in the state of the urine during life.

The case of a sailor (Case 15) was a result which had suffered from Dysentery, Protrusion & flatulency from effusions into the abdomen, which after death was found to depend on an indurated & corrugated liver.

Ulcers - 3 deaths took place from wounds - one received very recently in Sebastopol & cured by a common shot; another by a bayonet wound at the assault on the Redan (8<sup>th</sup> Sept), & the last a chest wound received on the 11<sup>th</sup> Nov at the explosion in the camp. The first (Case 3) had latterly by amputation immediately after receipt of the injury; the



shock being great & followed by an amount of debility  
from which he never completely rallied - on the 14<sup>th</sup> day  
he was attacked by Pneumonia & on the 9<sup>th</sup> after the receipt  
of the wound he died - The inflammation was found to  
be confined to the pleura & the lower lobe of the right lung  
in which there existed an abscess occupying the centre of  
the hepatoid part. The well known disposition to spontaneous  
abscess after serious injuries had no doubt determined  
this rare termination of pneumonia in sheep. The second  
Case (Case 8) died of exhaustion consequent on the drain  
from Empyema, evacuated externally - A Flap cut  
had traversed the pleura - in its whole length enter-  
ing near the Costiform Partings & passing out close to  
the Clavicle surrounding the lung in its course - Pus  
flowing followed, succeeded by Empyema which was  
opened about two months subsequently. The wound  
healing up, the spontaneous collection was again permitted  
to escape by an artificial opening, the Patient dying  
soon after from continued suffering of 4 months  
duration. The other Case (Case 13) was one of a similar  
Nature, Chronic Pleurisy & Empyema, having followed a  
shell wound of the chest, which left a considerable opening  
& injured the lung - He was much reduced by hectic & evidently  
not likely to recover when his days was abruptly terminated  
by a fellow patient, striking him several blows across  
the head with a bar of iron, he died 24 hours after, having  
survived the original injury about 10 weeks.

Asthma - The single case of this disease (Case 56) presented  
itself in a scrofulous subject, in whom the inflammation  
which without apparent cause attacked the wrist joint  
spreading upwards along the bones of the fore-arm &  
downwards on the fingers - He soon overcame the combined  
influence of hectic & diarrhoea, no morbid appearance.



however being found in the intestines after death.  
The single case of Fracture, Case 157 occurred in an  
Artillery man picked up dead at the foot of a rock from  
which it was supposed he had fallen. His cranium was  
consistently fractured & death appeared to have taken  
place at once.

Such is a detail of all the cases of disease which the  
Pathological Board in Camp has been called on to  
examine during the last month - a few additional  
may have occurred throughout the Camp, but even  
if allowance be made for them the mortality must be  
admitted to be very small considering the large body  
of Men among whom these casualties have taken place.  
With the comparative immensity from diseases of an  
serious nature, enjoyed by the soldiers stationed in Camp,  
it is interesting to remark the striking contrast pre-  
sented by the Land Transport Corps, which consisting  
at present of 6003 men, all natives of Great Britain  
lost no less than 57 by death during the month of January  
of these casualties no less than 25, were caused by Snow,  
the average duration of which was 10 days, Snow how-  
ever coming on in frequency & causing it. - In diet & clothing,  
the Land Transport Corps it is presumed do not in  
any respect differ from the rest of the Army, they are  
however up to the present time not so well sheltered,  
their duties are more laborious & constant, & their exposure  
considerably greater than that of the regular Soldier. But  
that these causes, sufficient as they may appear, have not  
alone occasioned the great mortality, will be evident when  
it is stated that among 16750 Soldiers taken from different  
Regiments at present attached to, & performing all the  
duties of the Land Transport Service, but one single  
death during the month took place & that from Apoplexy

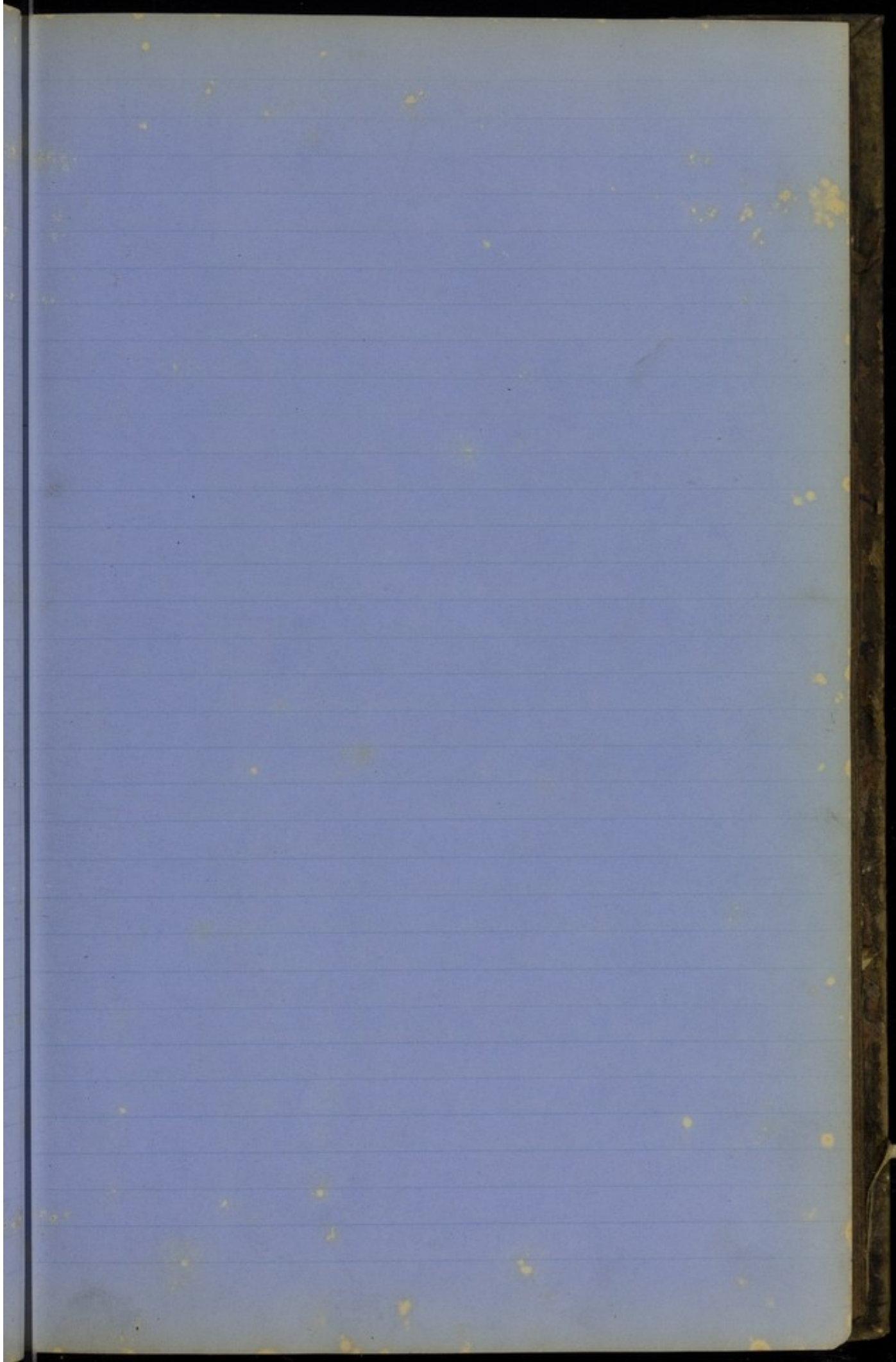


It is evident therefore, that the cause of this great sickness & mortality, must be sought for in the description of Men of which this new Corps is composed as well as in the infernal season & circumstances under which many of them have been sent out. The Men some of whom are Scotch Youth & other dissipated looking elderly Men picked up in the streets & suburbs of <sup>the</sup> large Towns have been hastily recruited into a description of Soldiers & hurried out no matter what the season of the year, to perform now some arduous duties, under hardships of Climate & exposure (which though hard it is to be remembered, with perfect impunity by the British attached and acclimated Soldiers) their unformed & unperfected constitutions utterly unfit them to encounter.

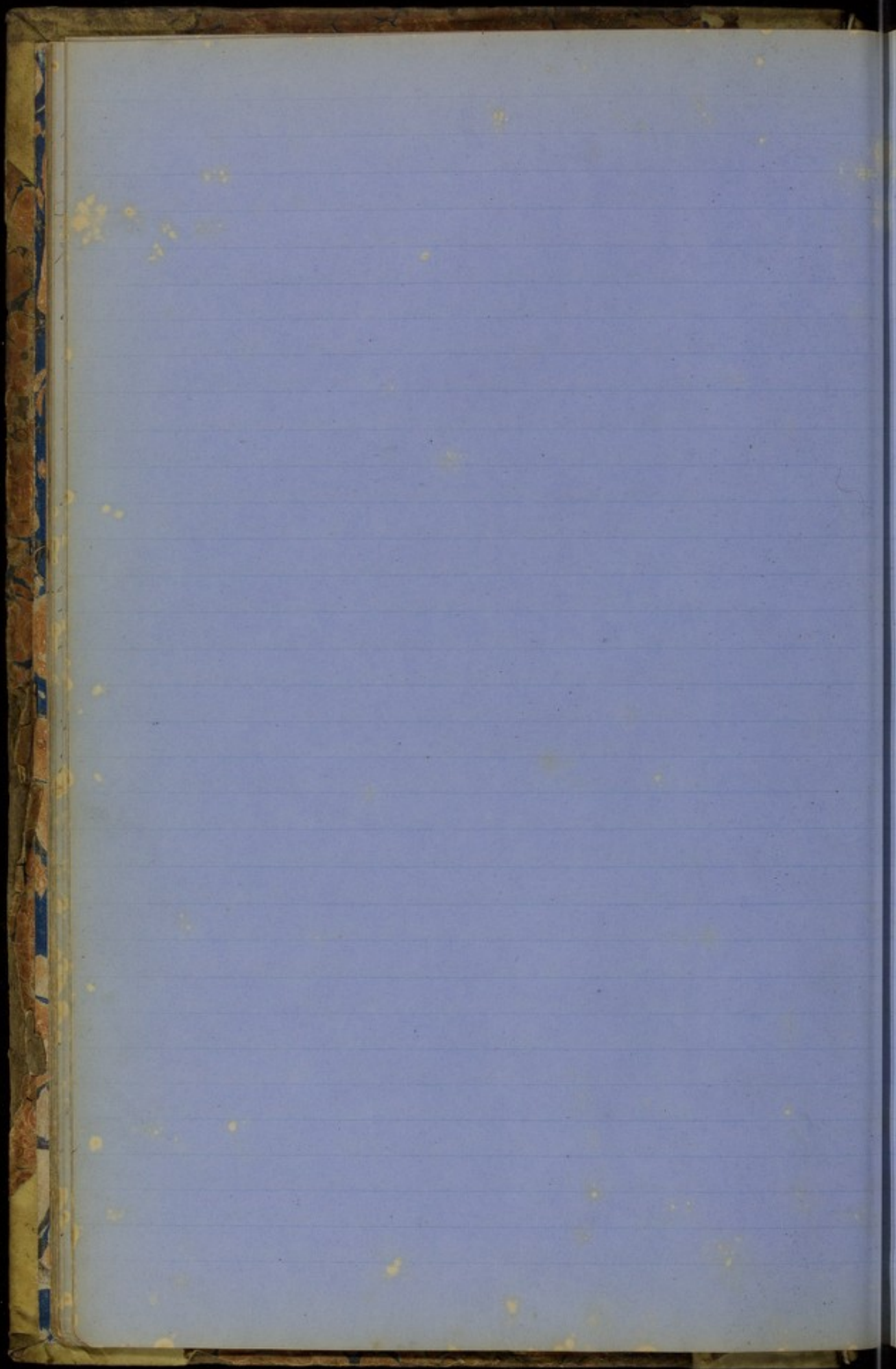
In point of youth & haste with which they have been embodied & dispatched on foreign Service the Medical Staff Corps, less some resemblance to the Men of the Land Transport, but so far as an opportunity has been afforded one of judging, whether their youth or arrival here in winter, has in the case of the former Corps, been attended with any injury to their health, but it may be presumed they only wanted the laborious occupation & continued exposure & stagnant lodging sub-added, to have made them as sickly & die as rapidly as the Land Transport Corps Men have done.

Camp Sebastopol 3 (Sig<sup>o</sup>) G. Home, M.D.  
 January 11<sup>th</sup> 1856 3 Staff Surg<sup>o</sup> &  
 3 President Pathological Board  
 in Camp











Monthly Report of the Proceedings of the Pathological  
Board in Camp for February 1856.

The Troops occupying the Camp before Sebastopol, have, in so far at least as may be judged from the small number of deaths which has occurred, enjoyed remarkable health during the month of February.

The number over which the operations of the Pathological Board in Camp extend include the whole Infantry in the Crimea with the exception of the Highland Division stationed at Scancarva, - of 3 Regiments encamped in the neighbourhood of Balaklava & probably also of the Foot Guards, who though forming part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division quartered in the Camp have not as yet invited ~~any~~ the Board to aid in conducting any of their dissections - making allowance therefore for the above mentioned exceptions, the number of Men by whom the following fatal cases have been supplied is as nearly as can be estimated 27,000. & among that large body but 12 deaths from disease have this month occurred, viz, 4 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division, 4 in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 3 in the 5<sup>th</sup>, & one in that portion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Division exclusive of the Guards. No deaths at all having, during the period taken place in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division which in point of number is the strongest of the whole - in addition to these there died among the Artillery stationed in the front, 4 of the sappers & miners 2, the Army Works Corps having also lost one of its members by being asphyxiated with charcoal fumes - No deaths there of the Levies, 2 of the Land Transport Corps, & 1 of the Artillery perished from the immediate & direct effects of Scour. The whole, taken thus together thus amounts during the month to 22, & very favourably contrasts with that of January, itself considered a very healthy month.



when they reached 48. There are but complete absences  
of Zymotic diseases from the list of fatal complaints, continues  
this month also to be a matter worthy of remark & which  
had one even case terminated in death from a particular  
cause which will presently be described, the result of some  
Abdominal affections of all descriptions were in the same time  
only 2 being exactly one half less than they were in January -  
And affections Resp. the same proportion as they had before,  
& Chest complaints still retain a marked ascendancy, though  
relatively to the whole Casualties they are one fourth less than  
the preceding month, which almost the sole exception to the  
general retraction has been the deaths from Drunkenness, to which  
belong no less than 7 out of the 22 Casualties 19 only of the 48  
deaths in January being due to the same cause - Nothing  
seems worthy of remark as to the particular localities in  
camp, or the Regiments in which these fatal cases occurred,  
as with the exception above mentioned of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division,  
the 12 deaths from disease were pretty equally diffused  
over the other Divisions. The Light where I did in one  
Regiment suffering rather the most. of the most prevalent  
disease of the month Pneumonia, 8 cases were distributed  
over 4 Divisions, Artillery and Sappers, & 6 deaths from the  
most in order of fatality Drunkenness, were divided among  
3 Divisions, the Artillery and Land Transport. - It is a  
subject of congratulation that Cholera appears for the  
present to have entirely disappeared from the Army,  
the single case here to be noticed, having proved fatal  
on the last day of January, although the direction was  
not performed till the first of this month. In turning  
to the specific Diseases falling to be noticed on the  
present occasion Rabies &c. Cases few, having during  
the month of February caused one death, (Case 61) the  
patient a sapper had just returned from Africa where he



had been exchanged having been taken Prisoner by the Russians at Sebastopol 5 Months before, he was soon after his return admitted into Hospital, labouring under scorbutic symptoms & in a very emaciated & debilitated condition— 3 or 4 days after his Admission febrile Action was set up, which speedily degenerated into a low typhoid state, with petechial spots, Diarrhoea, delirium, involuntary evacuations & death on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of his residence in Hospital, — No very marked scorbutic appearances were found on dissection, except spongy patches on the skin, and a few more spots on the mucous membrane both of the Blum & large Intestines. — The sudden return to good living & plenty, aided probably by indulgence to a considerable amount in drinking on the occasion of rejoining his comrades, had most likely determined the occurrence of fever, to which the scorbutic taint engendered while a prisoner, subsequently imparted the typhoid & fatal characters. That symptoms of Scurvy should have shown themselves in a modified degree in one who had for 5 Months been detained as a prisoner of War, is easily enough understood, when it is stated that even in our Camp, when for many months the food has been in abundance & of excellent quality, when fresh provisions have formed at least a half & often a larger proportion of the Soldier's Diet & Vegetables & fruits have always entered into the daily allowance, when lime juice has almost constantly been issued & the comforts & the clothing of the Men have been unattended to, some cases of undoubted Scurvy have nevertheless shown themselves. — In the few cases which have come under my own observation, the following symptoms were present in whole or in part, viz, spongy & great swelling of the gums, which bleed on the slightest injury



purpurous spots chiefly on the extremities & depending parts, a pale & leaden hue, of countenance, with relaxed bowels & great reduction of the strength - Nearly all of these were combined in the case of a wounded man, long resident in Hospital, when not a single ounce of solid meat had for months been consumed, & a measure of diet & strength with a daily proportion of vegetable food. The absence of that in a fresh & succulent state, appeared in this instance to have caused the symptoms & they speedily gave way under the substitution for fresh meat of Milk, potatoes, porter & lemon juice.

It would be a question under present circumstances well worthy of experimental enquiry, to determine the degree in which dried & preserved Vegetables are possessed of antiscorbutic properties. There is reason to believe that much of their virtues in that way are impaired by the various processes to which they are subjected of drying, compressing &c. & it might be a matter of consideration whether the salutary effect of Vegetable food might not be better incurred by issuing it occasionally at least under the form of pickled cabbage, buttered cucumbers, horseradish, &c. when such are in the fresh state, cannot be obtained. *Affections of the Head.* - 3 cases occurred, both though very different in their character denominated Meningitis. The first of these (Case 114) was admitted under the head of continued fever, but with this peculiarity that he complained of more than usual degree of pain in his head & neck, & that laterly he was almost constantly delirious - He died on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of his residence in Hospital. Great cerebral congestion & much arachnoid effusion on the upper surface of the brain existed, & at the base a thick layer of pus was found covering the *Verbellum Cerebri* & extending from the *Medulla oblongata*, down along the *Medulla spinalis*, to the dorsal vertebrae. Neither convulsions, spasmodic twitchings or paralysis during



Life indicated the participation of the Choro, in the inflammatory symptoms going on within the head.

The other case (Case 86) was also an instructive one being an instance of a disease of common occurrence in childhood but much more rare in advanced life Hydrocephalus - The duration of this case unlike that of the former extended to 11 weeks. Admitted at first with febrile symptoms, he afterwards complained of what was considered a Rheumatic attack in his head & back, he was restless, irritable, despondent & subsequently suffered from frequent vomiting & obstinate Constipation - he eventually passed into a state of Stupor & died Comatose - On dissection the convolutions on the upper surface of the brain were found much flattened, from the lateral ventricle being greatly distended by an accumulation of clear serous fluid which measured above three fluid ounces. In each posterior horn was found a small flocculus of soft and recent Lymph - It is curious that the only other instance met with in camp of this disease, occurred last month in a man of the very same Regiment, who was also admitted and treated as fever & whose after pursuing a similar course it terminated fatally in 8 weeks - This case is in last month's Reports marked "Case 87"

The fatal affections of the chest were in number 9 viz, 5 from Pneumonia & 4 from Plethysis - The weather this month has been less variable than it was in January & the extremes of temperature, neither so great, or with one exception so sudden in their occurrence. The average temperature of the morning at 7 A.M. was 87 $\frac{1}{2}$  the highest range observed at that hour being 100 $\frac{0}{100}$  the lowest 78 at 12 M. the average was 10 degrees higher



July, 1818 the maximum being 80° & the minimum 25° & a careful comparison of the temperature about the period when 6 of the 8 cases of fatal Pneumonia took their origin, shows no immediate connection with reduced temperatures as having been the cause, & on the contrary the only sudden fall of the thermometer which happened during the month occurred on the 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> & though attended with a high & keen North wind originated no case of inflammatory affection of the chest, which has as yet proved fatal - None of the 8 cases of Pneumonia occurred alone & unaccompanied by inflammation of other parts within the chest; acute Pleurisy was the most frequent complication, occurring in no less a number than 7 out of the 8. Pleurisy to a greater or less degree was found in 5. Four of the 8 cases, were admitted into Hospital as Fever, 2 as Pleurisy & of the former in 2 at least the designation of the disease appears at first to have been correct, the fatal chest complaints having supervened in Hospital, in one on the 5<sup>th</sup> & in the other on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of treatment. Six of the 8 patients, had the right lung alone inflamed & but 1 the left, in the remaining one both lungs were found to be equally involved in the disease, the peculiarity noticed in last month's report of the frequent occurrence of inflammation in the upper lobe has been found to hold good in this month's dissections also, in 3 out of the 9 affected organs the disease was confined to the upper lobe, in 2 to the lower, in 1 it affected both upper & middle; in another the upper & lower only leaving the middle lobe entirely free, in 2 cases it was found to affect one lung throughout its whole extent. The unusual predilection of the disease here for the upper lobe is no doubt connected with some peculiarity in the soldier's dress, lodging or habits which does not obtain in civil life. were the <sup>men</sup> occupants of tents when where they sleep.



The feet are turned towards the pole, & the head & upper parts  
of the chest towards the corners under which the air can  
fully pass an explanation might perhaps be found for  
this Pathological peculiarity. None however were erected  
in tents except persons at hard labour, & others in con-  
finement, & these are almost invariably provided with double  
excavated & floored tents, which though without a fire  
are generally warmer than any other description of  
abode. The construction of the huts also, it is probable  
may conduce to the exposure of the upper portion of the  
Body to the direct influence of cold, as to many enquiries  
made on the subject the have invariably replied that cold  
drafts gain admission between the boards of the side  
panels at their head, & sink unperceptibly, especially  
when the huts are a little raised above the ground,  
between the joining of the floor boards beneath. Where  
on the subject of huts, a caution may be mentioned more  
likely in my opinion to cause inflammatory diseases  
of the chest than any other & that is the necessity that  
exists for the man sleeping on the floor in wet weather  
which cannot fail to be saturated with moisture, & from  
which they are separated for the most part only by a  
waterproof sheet or blanket. The muddy state of the  
ground around the huts & the constant ingress &  
egress of the men throughout the day occasioned before  
evening the accumulation of wet mud on the floor  
to a very considerable amount. Each man scrapes  
this from under him previous to his lying down, but  
it is easy to conceive in what a state of dampness the  
boards must be left after its removal & how ill adapted  
for a comfortable sleeping place. Another mode in which  
it is likely that acute chest attacks are not un frequently  
induced, is by men passing the night when drunk in a



Guard but, I confined to that of their own Regiment.  
Their Blankets are (from enquiries I have made at the  
Guard rooms of above a dozen Regiments) usually obtained  
from their Barrack tents, but if the down <sup>has</sup> may, as is  
often the case, been picked up by another corps, the same  
attention cannot be paid him; & what is more likely  
to cause Pneumonia than sleeping off the evenings  
debauch on the bare floor of a guard tent, with  
only a goat coat for a covering, when the thermometer  
may be many degrees below the freezing point, the  
mans constitution also in all probability undermined  
by habitual dissipation. The period during which  
the Pneumonia patients were under treatment in hospital  
has been variable & short - in one of longest duration  
it was 18 days - in another it was 12 - in another it was  
10 - in 2 it was 7 - in a like number 5 - while in the  
remaining one it terminated fatally on the 5<sup>th</sup> day -  
This latter was a sapper (Case 47) who but 10 days  
before landed in the Crimea & was only taken ill  
the day previous to his admission into hospital.

The symptoms of the disease were well marked  
& not apparently severe, when on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day bilious  
purging came on followed by vomiting & cold sweats  
& he died the following day, death being  
apparently due to a modified choleraic attack, occur-  
ing in one but lately arrived in the country &  
therefore predisposed to suffer from such a poisoning.

Regarding the treatment employed in the 8  
Cases of Pneumonia, exactly one half have been  
subjected to general bloodletting & of the remainder  
2 or 3 from the low & asthenic nature of their symptoms  
have appeared to require support & Stimulents almost  
from the first, an instance of this from of the Complaint.



may have begun which occurred there is reason  
to believe, in a mass of dissipated habits. - The  
patient (Case 60) was admitted with distinct  
Pneumonic symptoms, accompanied with marked  
exhaustion & debility, the pulse was small &  
feeble & a constant tendency to faintness was  
complained of - on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day there was delirium with  
a dry and dark tongue, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> hiccup - on the 4<sup>th</sup>  
a thready pulse of between 120 & 140 on the 5<sup>th</sup> he died  
nearly the whole of the right lung was here, & found  
in a state of gray hepatization, this was evidently  
a case where antiphlogistic treatment was in-  
admissible, & in which the advance of the disease  
was so rapid & the vital powers so depressed, that  
no remedy could have been used with any pro-  
spect of success - such cases in so far as can be  
gathered from the abstracts furnished, seem  
this month to have been more frequent than  
before, & whether even they might not have been  
advantageously treated by blood letting at the very  
commencement & thereby have been prevented running  
on to the typhoid state is a question only to be  
determined at the bedside by an intelligent &  
unprejudiced observer. - The single case of Phthisis  
Pulmonalis (Case 68) belongs rather to the class of  
general Tuberculosis than to tubercular affections  
of the lungs. At first admitted with diarrhoea,  
he had subsequently general abdominal tenderness,  
& afterwards cough dyspnoea, & the usual stethoscopic  
indications of Phthisis. At death on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of  
treatment & no dissection Tubercles were found not  
only in the upper lobes of both lungs, but also on  
the surface of the Pleura & Peritoneum, & in the



Bronchial & Mesenteric glands. He was a young man of 14 months service half of which had been passed in the Crimea, & while the general prevalence of the disease throughout so many organs, shows a strong tubercular diathesis, its having remained undeveloped during even months exposure in Camp life, seems to indicate no great tendency in this climate to foster tubercular affections.

But 2 cases of fatal abdominal disease have occurred, the one cholera & the other Bright's disease of the Kidney. The former (Case 129) which proved fatal on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January is the last that has occurred in Camp for a period of 5 weeks, notwithstanding the recent addition of several drafts of young and unacclimated soldiers, who would probably have suffered more or less from the disease had their arrival taken place in summer. The cold weather has certainly here as elsewhere appeared to act as a check on the disease, the cases gradually diminishing in number, but not it is to be remarked relaxing in severity, the proportional mortality being up to the last as great as ever. Morbus Brightii, one case (Case 60) & not a very characteristic one of the disease. The patient who was 120 days under treatment, was at first admitted with the chief symptoms after which his gums became spongy & ulcerated & although no mercury had been taken saturation followed. The evacuations were black & stercoraceous & he died in a state of coma preceded by convulsions. The dissection showed serous effusion in the Brain - the Bronchial tubes inflamed the small Intestines scaly covered in patches & the large containing the black feculent matter



that had been passed during life. - The Kidneys were small, mottled & granular, the cortical portion contracted. - The Urine albuminous.

Part of these symptoms can only be explained on the supposition that the patient was also labouring under a morbid state of system which by causing debility & emaciation had contributed more than the other disease in bringing about the fatal issue.

The only trace of surgical disease that has this month been under examination was one of lumbar abscess (Case 69) & possessing features of considerable interest. It occurred in a steady old soldier, who though fit for duty up to the time of his admission into Hospital, had for months been observed to walk with a peculiar gait. He was 88 days under treatment but so obscure and changeable were the symptoms, that he appears under no less than 8 different kinds of admission, viz, 1<sup>st</sup> Abscess P. B. 2<sup>d</sup> Peritonitis, & 3<sup>d</sup> Paralysis - all satisfactorily explained by the appearance on dissection. - The history of the case was as follows. Without any assignable cause an Abscess appeared, gradually to have formed in the substance of the Psoas muscle on the right side, from which the matter diffused itself round the vertebrae to the muscle of the opposite side. From these two localities it then extended upwards under the Cover of the diaphragm, into the cavity of the chest, there forming on each side an encysted suppuration, on the posterior wall of the Thorax, & along the dorsal spine. The entrance of matter thus into the chest & its limitation by the copious effusion of lymphatic Lymph, had no doubt caused the febrile symptoms with which he was at first admitted and subsequently the pus, communicating <sup>itself</sup> between the two cases, from life.



of the Lumbar Vertebrae dissecting & isolating  
the nervous trunks on their exit from the ~~hony~~  
canal, probably occasioned the acute tenderness  
of the abdominal parietes to which they are distributed  
& which simulated Peritonitis that membrane  
showing not a vestige of Inflammation. Along the roots  
of the Lumbar nerves the matter had passed through  
the hony foramina into the spinal canal, where  
from about the 10<sup>th</sup> Sacral, to the 13<sup>th</sup> Lumbar vertebra  
a layer of pure lye upon had exterior to the sheath, thereby  
compressing the chord & giving rise to the paralytic  
symptoms which terminated life no dissection or dissection  
here could in this case anywhere be found.

The only other cases remaining to be noticed were  
6 in which death was occasioned by Inflammation,  
& 1 when it was produced by the respiration of  
Charcoal fumes - of the cases of fatal Inflammation,  
3 were found at daylight, lying in their huts among the other  
men, 1 who was observed slightly intoxicated at mid-  
day & was four hours after, picked up lifeless in a stable.

I was brought dead to his Regiment from a distant  
part of the Camp - & only 1 from being heard to vomit  
during the night, was found alive and taken to the  
Hospital, where he only survived for a few hours.

Two of the 6 belonged to the 1<sup>st</sup> and  
2<sup>nd</sup> Regiments, a larger number than their proportional  
share, but throwing thereby light on the habits of  
that corps, & on their large comparative sickness &  
mortality, one half of these bodies emitted a strong  
& decided alcoholic odour from the stomach or other  
Internal parts but in the rest this could not be  
perceived at all, thereby giving rise to the question  
as to how far these deaths were due to excess in



drinking, & in how far the were owing to cold, it being unquestionably true that such casualties as men being found dead in their tents, occurred more frequently in cold weather than when it was comparatively mild.

One of these men was known to have drunk a whole Bottle of Liquor before going to bed, & another when found dead in the morning had 2 bottles under his pillow marked "old Tom" & both of them empty.

The appearances on dissection in these cases were nearly alike, viz, great congestion of the upper parts of the body externally - subarachnoid serous effusion with vascular engorgement of the Brain usually a distended right & empty left side of the Ventr. fluidity of the Blood & engorgement of the Lungs.

The last case to be mentioned is one of asphyxia (Case 67) where a man of the Army Medical Corps was suffocated by a pan of Charcoal placed in the tent in which he slept. A curious circumstance connected with this case being that a Turk who slept in the same tent awoke in the morning completely unaffected. The Baggage was placed between the Englishman & the tent door which was closed, so that any current of air entering by it would the necessary vapours direct towards him, & away from the Turk who slept in the opposite side of the entrance - Turks usually sleep with their heads enveloped in their blankets, but this could have had no possible effect in his protection.

Such is an analysis of <sup>all</sup> the fatal cases which have been reported to the Commission of the Pathological Board during February - The sameness of the symptoms as <sup>an</sup> indication of the death of the Army, is exceedingly satisfactory & were it possible to limit the consumption



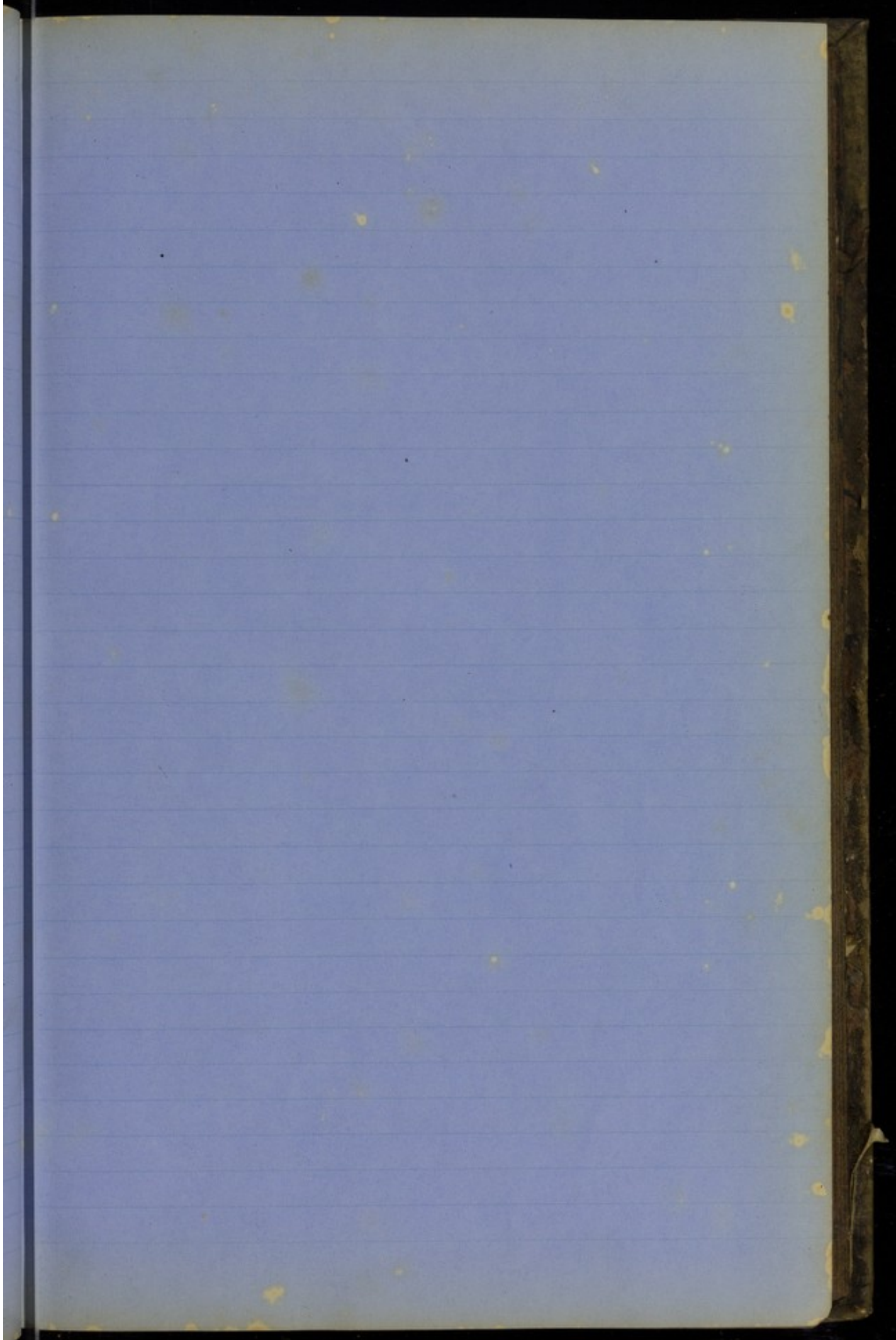
of intoxicating liquor to a more moderate quantity,  
not only would to live this month, sacrificed by its  
abuse have been saved, but it is probable that other  
diseases also & especially Pneumonia would neither  
have occurred so frequently, nor formed fatal.

(Signed) Wm. Stone M.D.

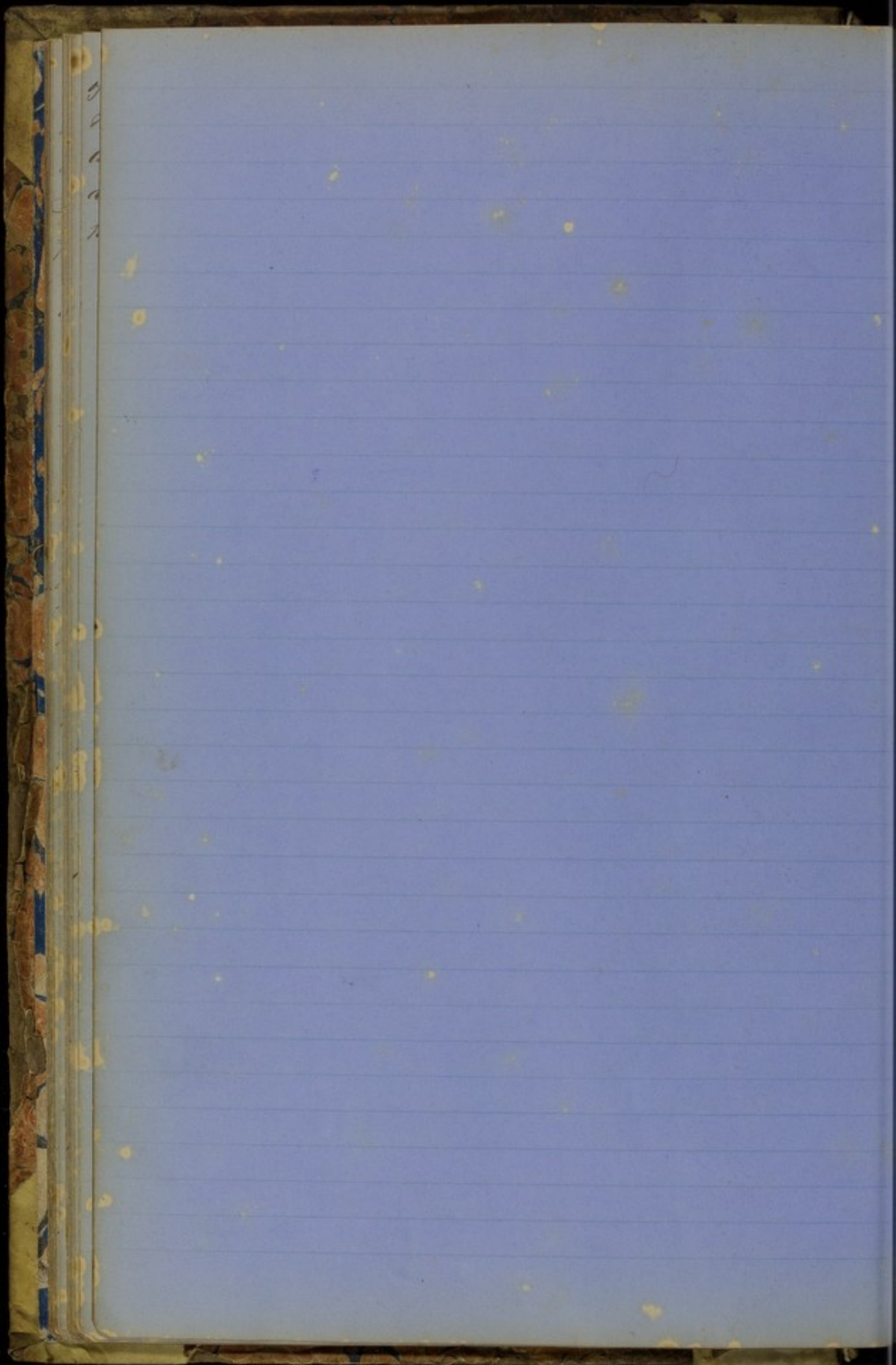
Camp Sebastopol  
15 March 1862

Staff Surgeon &  
President of Pathological Board











Monthly report of the Proceedings of the  
Pathological Board in Camp for March  
1856.

This board have during the month of March  
been called upon to examine 21 patients  
who have died in Hospital from the effects  
of disease, besides 7 whose deaths were  
due to the immediate effect of excessive  
drinking, both these numbers being some-  
what larger than in the preceding month  
when 6 died of drunkenness & 16 of other  
causes. So small as the mortality in both  
instances have been, and trifling as is the  
difference between the two months, it is not  
to be ascribed to either, greater sickness or  
mortality prevailing now than formerly,  
but to the arrival during the first of large  
drafts from Prussia, raising the strength  
of 4 entire divisions, & that portion of the  
1<sup>st</sup> division of the Guards, from 27,000 to  
31,000, the new arrivals being principally  
young soldiers, among whom disease is  
both more frequent & fatal in its course.  
The weather during the month, though it may  
be said to have been serene & clear, has  
been characterized by the prevalence of  
cold winds from the N.E. & N which blew no  
less than 20 days out of the 31. During  
its continuance the atmosphere was generally  
clear, though on 4 or 5 days snow fell to an  
moderate extent. The wind blew from the  
South during 4 days only & then a much more



genine temperature four miles. The variations of the Thermometer have neither been so sudden nor the extremes so great this month as last, the greatest observed difference between night & morning having been 23 degrees. The temperature has been regularly registered at three different periods of the day & the following are the results, between 7 & 9 in the morning, the average height of the Thermometer has been 33°, the maximum observed, having been 48°, the minimum 15°; between 1 & 3 o'clock P.M. the average for the month has been 40°, the highest ranges 60°, the lowest 20°; between 9 & 11 at night the mean temperature has been 28°, the maximum 40°, the minimum 15°.

Chest complaints have, as in the two former months, been the most frequent cause of death 15 out of 31 having fallen as a sacrifice to them - Acute affections have caused exactly as last month 2 deaths - and Fatal Ferus have this month been 3 instead of 1 as in February - Abdominal diseases have been all but absent from the fatal category, but one man having died of Chronic Peritonitis consequent on ulceration gradually perforating the Stomach. Drunkenness figures higher this month as a cause of mortality than it has ever done before, 7 having died of the immediate effects of drinking to excess, while 6 perished from the like cause in February & 4 in January - Since the commencement of the month of April



However, the best check has been placed on the indulgence of this vice that could possibly be imposed, namely the stoppage of the 6<sup>th</sup> or day extra field pay which since September has been issued to the Army, & it may with tolerable certainty be anticipated, that mortality from Drunkenness will hereafter cease to be so great.

It is the opinion of some medical officers, & of a still larger number of Officers commanding regiments that the liquors here obtained by the men, contain certain ingredients & adulterations injurious both to health & life, & to a degree which similar beverages elsewhere do not possess.

With the view of satisfying myself on this point, I have visited some Counties, & examined the liquors there consumed, consisting chiefly of Rum, Gin, & Whiskey. I have also tasted or cheap description of Brandy which is secretly brewed about the Camps by the French Soldiers, but in no instance has there been any admixture with these different spirits distinctly cognizable by the sense of taste alone. A Turkish Spirit called Rakie formerly consumed abundantly by the Soldiers is now from its supposed pernicious qualities forbidden to be sold in Camps. If likely to serve any useful purpose, specimens of this as well as the other liquors, might easily be obtained & sent to England, with the view of being there carefully examined & analysed. The Division which proportionally to its strength



yielded the greatest number of fatal cases has been that portion of the 1<sup>st</sup> which includes the Grenade 3133 men having thus suffered 4 deaths; next to this in succession comes the 2<sup>d</sup> Division which out of 6458 has lost 5 - next the 4<sup>th</sup> which out of 6997, has lost 4 - after - the Light with 7291 of strength has lost but 3 - & lastly the 3<sup>d</sup> with but little under the strength of the Light Division has had but one death this month, & none at all during that which preceded. In regard to the particular classes of disease to which the mortality has during the month of March been due, the first to be noticed is Continued Fever which did not cause a single death in January & but 1 in February, while 3 have this month been carried off by it. It will in all probability form a source of increasing mortality in proportion as the elevated temperature acts on the quantity of animal matter with which the soil throughout the camp is everywhere impregnated. The first case (case 73) occurred in a delicate lad who had suffered from Ague a year before in the Ionian Isles & had never been in good health subsequently, having since he had been in Camp almost constantly laboured under Diarrhoea. The usual symptoms characterise the attack, but with the addition of obstinate vomiting, pain in the Hypochondria & yellowness of the skin. Death took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> day, & on post-mortem examination there was found, besides considerable sub-arachnoid effusion, the Liver much con-



egested & so much softened in its texture as to  
be in front, of the form & shape of a walnut,  
almost semifluid - In both the other cases the  
disease was better marked & life doubtless  
in its true nature, both (cases 85 & 87) were  
old soldiers of some months service in the  
Crimea & uninfected from the first physical  
symptoms of a low type - Head symptoms  
were in the advanced stage, the chief local  
affection, as indicated by headache, suffusa-  
tion of the eyes, delirium & a tendency to  
stupor - One survived 13 days & the other 8.  
Petechial eruption existed in both, in the  
one fluid & disappearing before death, in the  
other of a dusky hue coming out latter in  
the disease & continuing as ecchymosed  
points after death - Vascular congestion  
& serous effusion were found in the brain  
of both, the blood was imperfectly coagulated  
in the large vessels, the lungs were engorged,  
but the intestinal canal was free of con-  
gestion, ulceration, or enlargement of the glands.  
In neither of the regiments to which these men  
belonged did fever prevail to any greater ex-  
tent than it did elsewhere throughout the  
Camp, from 2 to 3 cases being admitted  
nearly out of a strength of between 700 & 800  
men - I visited & minutely inspected the  
locality in which both cases men had resided  
previous to their attacks, but in neither case  
any cause be discovered the account for  
the occurrence of fever of a severity quite  
unusual at the time -



The fatal Head affections this month were  
2. viz. 1 Meningitis & 1 Delirium Tremens.  
During the 3 mos. that the dissections of the  
Army have been conducted by the Patholog-  
-ical Board, there are but three causes of  
death that have never yet been absent from  
the return of Monthly Casualties. viz, Pneu-  
-monia, Ictericatae & Meningitis. It occurs  
to me that a close relationship than some  
accident has occasioned the invariable  
presence of these three together in the fatal  
list. When a sufficiency of drink has been  
taken to destroy life at once as a narcotic  
poison the case is of course registered under  
the head of Ictericatae, & in all such, these  
organs have been invariably found to be  
the seat of high vascular congestion. The  
Brain & the Lungs - should however as  
must often be the case, a large amount of  
liquor, bordering on but not amounting  
to a fatal dose, have been swallowed.  
The man for the time escapes with life, but  
a certain degree of the same pathological  
condition has no doubt been induced, &  
considerable congestion both of the Brain  
& Lungs have taken place. Febrile reaction  
follows the excess, accompanied by an effort  
to relieve the congested parts, which may ter-  
-minate either in a restoration to the healthy  
condition, or in inflammation of the substance  
of the lungs or of the membranes of the brain.  
This theory if admitted as correct will at  
once explain the connection between the two



cause of mortality of greatest prevalence  
in the Army throughout the winter, viz. Pneumonia  
& Drunkenness & will also satisfactorily  
account for a comparatively infrequent disease,  
acute inflammation of the membranes of the Brain  
having occurred every month since the Board began its  
labours. The case of Meningitis (Case 98) that  
recently presented itself was admitted & died  
under the head of Febris Intermittens, & here  
in passing let me point to the advantage of  
having an independent board, to conduct the  
Dissections & register the results - a body who  
have no preconceived theory to support or  
diagnosis to be on out, as object to arrive at  
but the truth. It may be interesting to illustrate  
the light thrown on the real cause of mortality  
of the Army by the Board, with what it would  
have appeared to be under the former system,  
by appending to this report a return of the  
diseases reported to have proved fatal, as  
compared with those which by dissection  
were actually found to have been so.

The patient with Meningitis is stated to have  
had febrile symptoms & headache on admission -  
to have improved for a few days, then  
relapsed & becoming delirious on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of  
treatment to have died on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The dissection  
showed free effusion in Fatches between  
the arachnoid & Pia-mater, on the superior &  
inferior surface of the Brain - A considerable  
serous effusion amounting to 3vj was also found



in the lateral ventricles. The case of Delirium  
Tremens (Case 70) possessed but little interest.  
The patient an old soldier & sergeant has  
for many months been detached from his  
regiment & employed in the Commissariat  
department, thereby having greater latitude  
afforded him of indulging in his fatal  
propensity. The case is chiefly remarkable  
for the large amount of opium taken in  
a short time (about 100 grs. in 5 days) with-  
out any apparent effect either good or bad.

The 15 cases of Chest affection comprised 9  
of Pneumonia, 2 of Pleurisy, 1 of Bronchitis,  
1 of Phthisis & 2 of Diseased Heart. The  
first of these will this month also be observed  
to have retained its former preeminence, not  
only our chest complaints, but our all  
other diseases whatsoever. The average  
duration of the fatal attacks in these 9  
cases was 10 days, one, or very peculiar  
case to be afterwards noticed having  
proved fatal after only 31 hours treatment,  
& the most protracted having lasted for 20 days.

Inflammation of the Pulmonary tissue was  
the sole existing disease in but 2 of the cases  
in 1 it was associated with Bronchitis, in 3  
with Pleurisy, in 2 with Pleurisy & Bronchitis,  
& in 1 with Pericarditis. The simultaneous  
affection of both lungs has been rather more  
frequent this month than formerly, having been  
remarked in 4 of the cases, while of the remaining  
5, the right was the side affected in 4, & the left  
in only one. The inflammation also from, having



this month been of longer duration (the average length of the attacks being in January, 7 days - in February 8 - & in March 10.) had extended over all the lobes in six, in 4 it was confined to the upper lobes, & in 3 to the lower -

From the accounts given of the cases in the abstracts, debility appears to have characterized the type more of late than it has done before, Typhoid symptoms in one case (case 75) coming on so early as the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, though the patient afterwards survived for 14 days.

This recent tendency to debility seems to derive confirmation from the appearances, met with this month for the first time since our dissections commenced - That of congestion of the pulmonary tissue, which in one case (case 96) only existed to a small extent, but in the other (case 76) was more considerable. The fatal issue having been more accelerated, by the haemoptysis which was consequent on a vessel being opened by the elongating. The apparent weakness which accompanied many of the attacks did not prevent the employment of general depletion in the early stages of 4 of the cases, & local in one - and it is worthy of remark, that those patients who were bled, survived longer than the others, the average duration of their treatment having been 13 days while that of the others was only 9. From particular enquiries made on the subject the blood drawn has not in all cases been found, to exhibit the appearances usually con-



-pidated as indication of high inflammation  
viz, the capped coagulum & the buffy coats.  
+ if from these various facts it seems probable  
that we have not had lately to do with the  
acute atrophic Pneumonia formerly seen  
among our troops at home, & affecting by  
frequency the lower lobe of the Lungs, the  
peculiar features of the disease here ob-  
=served, may confirm the remarks made  
some time ago by certain Pathologists in  
France, who state that a description of  
Pneumonia, had then lately fallen under  
their notice, when the inflammation had  
manifestly a special tendency to affect  
the upper lobe, & the constitutional symptoms  
had at the same time a peculiar dis-  
=position to assume the type of debility.

Connected with this affection of the upper  
lobe of the lung, & its probable cause, our  
case (Case 94) is worthy of particular notice.  
A young recruit who had spent some months  
at Malta & had then found himself, ac-  
=cording to the account of his comrades, fit  
for all the arduous duties of a soldier,  
though with the left auriculo-ventricular opening  
so contracted, (apparently congenital) as to  
admit only the point of the little finger, marches  
up from Balaklava to the camp, tightly  
buttoned up & loaded with his knapsack  
accoutrements & arms. On the way he is observed  
to suffer much from fatigue & want of breath  
being finally obliged to fall out & come up slowly  
at his leisure. - On arrival at his regiment, with



Lungs doubtless congested, both from over  
excitation & the mechanical impediment offered  
to the return of the blood from thence to the  
left ventricle of the heart: he is shivering on  
bitter cold night with a keen North wind  
blowing, & the thermometer as low as  $17^{\circ}$ .  
Just in an ill pitched shell-tent, when from  
the statement of others all suffered much  
from cold, the upper parts of the body being  
peculiarly exposed to the air which entered  
freely beneath the canvas - Next morning  
this bad feeling very ill is admitted into  
hospital with all the symptoms of well  
marked Pneumonia - The heart with  
its contracted orifices, though in  
ordinary circumstances sufficiently able  
to carry on its functions, under the pressure  
of inflammation set up in the neighbour-  
hood, accelerated circulation & congested  
lungs, becomes quite unequal to its work.  
The dyspnoea reaches an excessive degree.  
The lips & countenance are livid, & in the  
course of the following day, the patient dies  
literally asphyxiated - Red hepatization  
of the upper lobe alone, is the only post-mortem  
appearance, in addition to the general con-  
-gestion which existed in both lungs - The  
rational view of this case seems the  
most probable one, & might appear to be by  
it, thrown as one cause at least of the frequen-  
cy of inflammations here affecting the upper  
lobe - The cases of Pleurisy of which  
there were two, showed nothing very remarkable



other diseases likewise in both, viz, a general  
deposition of Miliary Tubercles in one (Case  
79) + Bright's disease of the Kidney in the  
other (Case 80) the immediate cause of death  
in both being undoubtedly the inflammation  
of the serous membrane - When Pleurisy  
exists alone, or when even associated with  
a certain degree of Pneumonia, it has  
evidently been the prominent affection, more  
or less severe effusions have always been  
found, in addition to the exuded lymph,  
but when, as has been most frequently the  
case the Pleurisy has been secondary to  
the inflammatory condition of the lung,  
effused lymph to a greater or less extent  
alone usually exists - The single cases  
of Bronchitis affecting equally both sides  
(Case 83) occurred in a man of the Land  
Transport, who probably drank much &  
in whom the Kidneys were in an advanced  
stage of Bright's disease - The case  
of Pulmonary Phthisis (Case 97) showed  
a deposition of Miliary Tubercles general  
throughout both lungs, all in the crude  
unsoftened state + as numerous in the  
lower as the upper lobes - The patient was  
stronger in appearance though fat, & the  
disease appears to have run its course in  
somewhat less than one month - Neither of the  
two cases of heart disease were in any way  
instructive, one a sergeant (Case 83) having  
just arrived in the Crimea, was marching out  
to join his regiment, when he suddenly fell



down & expired - Hypertrophy of the Left side of the Heart, with disease of the Aortic valve were found after death - The other (Case 93) had 8 months before in the trenches received a contusion of the side, since which, he had never been altogether well dyspnoea & palpitation being his chief complaints - The whole organ was found enlarged & both the Mitral & Tricuspid valves diseased - But one case of abdominal affection has on this occasion proved fatal (Case 90) & that was presumably an attack of Febris C. C. with accompanying ulceration of the Ileum - The Febris occurred when he was stationed at Malta & during his convalescence he was dispatched to the Crimea, he having continued to suffer from debility & diarrhoea throughout the voyage here - On arrival he was admitted into his regimental hospital with febrile symptoms, abdominal tenderness, constipation, & occasional vomiting, he became emaciated rapidly & died in a month - Circumscribed Chronic Peritonitis, with perforating ulceration at more points than one of the small intestine, being the appearance discovered after death -

The complete absence of Cholera from the Camp at a time when the arrival of about 4000 unseasoned men in the Crimea, would but a few months before certainly have led to its increased development, is very satisfactory



& this circumstance affords fair ground  
for hoping that this scourge may have de-  
finitely quitted the country, at all events  
for a time.

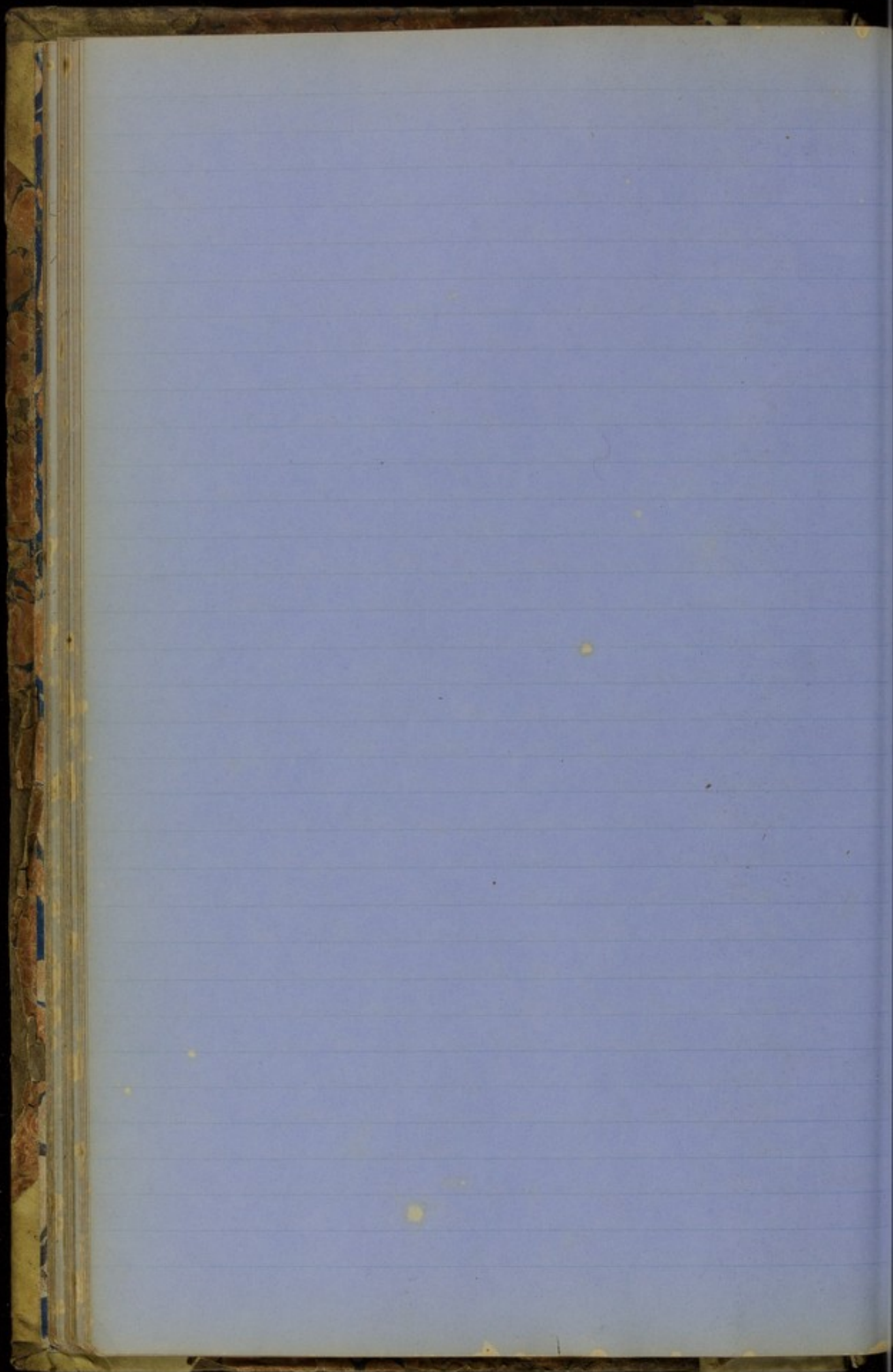
The least cause of mortality to be noticed  
which has this month carried off 7 in-  
dividuals is, if not a disease, certainly  
a vice more hopelessly incurable than  
any other in the British Army - Drunkenness.  
Of these 7 men, 5 were found dead, in their  
huts at day-break, & the remaining 2,  
though discovered & placed under treat-  
ment while still alive, eventually sank  
under the effects of their prisoning dose.  
As it is chiefly during cold weather  
that these casualties from drunkenness  
have taken place, the question was started  
as to how far the fatal issue was due  
to drinking, & in how far to cold - On a  
careful review of the whole of the cases  
there appears to be but little doubt, that to  
the former the fatal events were mainly  
owing; the latter only by inducing or heighten-  
ing amount of liquor to be consumed than  
usual. In nearly all the bodies, more or  
less spirituous odour was exhaled on  
opening the stomach, & in the few when it was  
not, free vomiting had either been induced  
or the patient had survived for some time  
after the fatal dose had been swallowed.  
I have ascertained from two or three Con-  
sulting Surgeons, on whose statements it is believed  
reliance can be placed, that the temperature



of the weather makes the greatest difference  
in the amount of liquor sold by them,  
spirits on very cold days, superseding  
or apparently taking the place of the other  
articles in ordinary demands. The descrip-  
tion of rumage preferred by the soldiers is Rum,  
next to it Gin, & lastly Whiskey; each of these  
being retailed at 6<sup>d</sup> a glass, in well re-  
gulated regiments the non-commissioned  
officer on duty, at the Contem, prevents all  
selling of liquor before noon, he also takes  
care that no one loiters about the premises,  
or drinks more than a single glass of  
liquor at a time. The daily sales of such  
establishments (of which one is attached to  
each regiment) often amount to upwards  
of £12. & more than have had more  
reason to regret, the stoppage of the soldiers  
field-allowance than the surplus of  
contem.

Such is an analysis of the operations of the  
Pathological Board in Camp for March.  
The actual appearance or dissection has  
been less considered, than the general  
description of the fatal diseases, & the probable  
causes to which they were attributable. As it now  
appears that, it is by giving the Board's proceed-  
ings more of a sanitary direction, & restricting  
it less to mere morbid anatomy, that both  
the original object of its institution, & its utility  
to the army generally, will most effectually be  
carried out.







Monthly Report of the Proceedings of the  
Pathological Board in Camp - for April  
1856 -

The Pathological Board in Camp have during the month of April been called upon to perform 26 post-mortem examinations, a less number than were reported the preceding month, & showing a smaller ratio of mortality in reference to strength (now 33473 exclusive of Guards) than have occurred for the last 4 mos. since the operations of the Board began. As to the relative proportion of these cases which the different Divisions have supplied, the Light & Second have been those on which the mortality this month has more particularly fallen, of the former one regiment alone having within the period yielded 4 deaths - Throughout the last 4 mos. the 3<sup>d</sup> Division has been the one which has contributed the least to the labours of the Board, a circumstance in all likelihood attributable to the dry & rocky nature of the soil in which it is encamped while the 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> on the contrary, have afforded the greatest number of fatal cases, the former probably from their position of it not consisting of the Guards, being stationed on the side & top of an elevated ridge much exposed to the winds blowing from the most inclement quarter - the north - the latter, perhaps from its particular locality being more damp than that occupied by any other division.



+ thereby accounting for its having been the only  
one in which Cholera + fatal bowel com-  
plaints have during the 4 months occurred -  
Of the special classes of disease which have  
in the course of the month presented themselves  
Chest affections have on all former occa-  
sions been both the most frequent as well  
as fatal in their results. There has occurred  
but 3 cases either, the same as last month  
Chest affections have proved fatal in only  
one while those dying of chest complaints  
have amounted to 15 being though they occu-  
-rred during a comparatively mild + fine  
month actually the highest proportion in per-  
centage to the whole deaths, that has been  
yet observed - 54 per cent of the mortality in  
January having been due to Pulmonic aff-  
-ections, 40 per cent. in February, 54 per cent in  
March, + 58 per cent in April - The abdomi-  
-nal class of diseases have on this occasion  
been all but absent from the list, being in  
number only 1 - Under the head of Miscellan-  
-eous complaints. Drunkenness appears  
to have carried off 4 - life as was predicted  
since the stoppage of the soldier's fields allow-  
-ance than previously, 6 deaths from the same  
cause having happened in February + 7 in  
March - In the same class 2 deaths are  
this month registered under Asphyxia both  
resulting from over exertion + fatigue in beds  
of an unformed + delicate constitution - Every  
thing during the winter endeavours by this report  
has ministered favourably to the soldier's health -



The regimen daily has been extremely light. The fatigue by no means oppressive & the weather has been so at times we able to all sorts of out door amusements including Duwits, Foot-balls - Skittles & feats of strength such as rolling & throwing the large round shot that every where abound. The tents also seem in many cases to have been subjected to thorough cleaning, the bedding has been frequently exposed to the sun & air. Tents expressly for personal ablution have been established in many regiments & now since the cold has abated, numbers of men are seen at the streams in the various rivers washing their clothes. All this along with the diminished means of gratifying the propensity for drinks, has been highly conducive to health, while the heat has not as yet been so great as to be at all injurious. The average height of the thermometer at midday having been only 61°. The highest temperature then observed never having exceeded 70°.

Of Particular Diseases the first to be considered is Fever of which there occurred altogether but 3 fatal cases. The first of these (Case 100) showed itself in a young man of the Land Transport Corps who had for only two months resided in the Crimea. The symptoms which were at first seen assumed somewhat of a remittent type, & appeared for some days to yield to the employment of Calomel & Ipecac. A relapse however took place accompanied with obstinate vomiting & he sunk



on the 29<sup>th</sup> day of treatment. The ordinary appearance of cerebral congestion & sub-arachnoid effusion being found on dissection along with Bright's disease of the kidney in an advanced stage which probably exercised a material difference in bringing about the fatal issue. The remaining 2 cases occurred both in the same regiment (the 1<sup>st</sup> B<sup>n</sup> R. B.) & exhibited the malignant typhoid character to a degree which had never been observed in Camp before. There was no reason to suspect contagion as being the cause of either, the two men belonging to different companies & occupying totally different localities in this Camp. They were admitted into hospital within 2 days of one another, & except themselves no other case of any severity showed itself in the regiment at the time. The first affixed (Case 114) was a recruit landed 9 days in the Crimea, having spent several weeks at Malta when as well as on the voyage he represented himself always to have been perfectly well. On arriving here, the detachment to which he belonged was placed in double shell-tents with comfortable boarded floors. When admitted into hospital more than a week after, he had all the symptoms of attacking a severe attack of Typhoid, great debility & malaise, coated & dry tongue, & intense muscular pain in the back - epistaxis & hiccup soon followed, he became comatose with dark colored fetid



on the 5<sup>th</sup> day the skin assumed a yellow  
hue & the tongue was observed to be black  
& dry - There were however no delirium &  
the urine was well secreted to the last.  
The 8<sup>th</sup> day he died. On dissection dark  
coloured Jetchia & macula were  
found to exist almost every where, on  
the skin, the Glance, the heart, the Kidneys  
& on the stomach - All the tissues even  
to the cartilage of the ribs were intensely  
yellow - The liver was in all respects  
natural, but in the stomach was found  
a dark brown thick fluid, which on  
standing separated into a clear super-  
-natant liquid & a blackish brown  
deposit, it was in fact the matter  
known as "Black vomit". I carefully  
examined this man's tent, its locality  
was good, & the soil dry, no impurity  
of any kind existed near it, & all  
the other men occupying it (in number  
I believe nine) were healthy - The third  
case of Fever occurred in an old soldier  
(over 60) who had been for several  
months detached from his regiment on  
Land Transport duty from which he  
had rejoined at his own request  
about a month before. In this man  
in addition to the more ordinary symptoms  
marking the commencement of Typhoid  
Fever, there was Delirium almost from  
the first, on the 4<sup>th</sup> day Jetchia appeared  
& from the 5<sup>th</sup> on to the 11<sup>th</sup> the day of his death



There was steep vomiting almost to come  
with contracted pupils & involuntary  
evacuations. At the time of dissection the  
testicles had all disappeared, the  
skin being shiny but not in the least  
of a yellow tinge - there were both con-  
gestions & serous effusion in the serous  
minute spots of eschymosis existed on  
the surface of both the lungs & lungs -  
but the intestinal mucous membrane  
& glands were healthy. This man had  
inhabited a barracks but which I found  
at the time remarkably clean & airy  
& in good condition - neither was  
there anything to be discovered either  
internally or externally at all likely to have  
formed a cause of Fever. The occurrence  
of these 2 cases of Malignant Fever at the  
time when Fever was known to exist  
to a very formidable extent among the  
French, & was also reported to prevail  
in the camp of the Russians, seemed  
to render the propriety of a general order  
there issued granting unlimited freedom  
to our whole army, both officers & men  
to visit the Russians, extremely question-  
able in a sanitary point of view. As  
might have been foreseen the permission  
there granted was in many instances  
abused - men & non-commissioned officers  
remaining absent for days together -  
stupidly no bad effects have as yet  
resulted, as regards the health of the



Army. The only case of Fever at all trace-  
-able to contagion which has since occurred  
being a Roman Catholic Clergyman  
who died of Typhus having previously  
made several ministerial visits to  
the French Ambulance Hospitals in  
which at the time that disease ex-  
-tensively prevailed -

Next in order comes Head affections  
of which there was but one & that a  
case of Meningitis (Case 118) attributable  
to the individual having drunk to  
excess of indifferent French Brandy which  
had caused great sickness & other un-  
-usual symptoms & was here believed  
to have been adulterated with some  
corrosive ingredient. Admitted into  
Hospital two days after, he suffered  
from intense headache, quick pulse &  
in the afternoon he was observed to be  
delirious. He speedily became insensible  
frothing at the mouth & died the same  
evening. The arachnoid was found highly  
congested & a considerable quantity of  
sero-fibrinous exudation was observed  
beneath it, though from the brief duration of  
the symptoms the morbid appearances did  
not so clearly indicate the undoubted  
existence of inflammatory action as  
otherwise might have been decided -  
Chest affections formed 15 of the whole 26  
casualties & were made up of 10 cases



of Pneumonia, 2 of Pleurisy & on each  
of Consumption, Disordered Heart &  
Anæmia. - Pneumonia alone (if the  
4 cases of Drunkenness be subtracted)  
thus constituting 45. p.c. of the whole of the  
remaining deaths. The fusion ratio in  
which it stands to all the other fatal  
diseases which occurred during the  
months of January, February & March.  
But why during both milder & less  
changeable weather it thus continues  
with equal frequency to be the  
prevalently fatal disease now as  
formerly, the more especially since spirit  
drinking, with which in last report  
it was enumerated to connect its  
prevalence has diminished, it is  
difficult to determine. The weather  
except at the very commencement of the  
month has been extremely fine. The average  
of the Thermometer observed daily about  
9 a.m. having been  $52^{\circ}$  & in the evening  
 $43^{\circ}$ . The extremes at the former period  
being  $26^{\circ}$  &  $70^{\circ}$ , & at the latter  $20^{\circ}$  &  $54^{\circ}$ . -  
The wind has blown nearly equally from  
Northerly & Southerly quarters of the  
compass but with much less violence  
than it did the preceding months -  
Extremely little rain fell & the atmosphere  
was usually clear - Of the 10 individuals  
in whom Pneumonia proved fatal, 4  
had been under a month in the Crimea  
& were probably suffered from the hardships



or exposure of camp-life. It would seem that the symptoms of the disease, were not this month, at all events at their commencement, quite so well marked as they have hitherto been, no less than 7 out of the 10 cases, having been admitted under other heads than that of Pneumonia, half of these having no reference to affections of the Chest at all. The severity of the disease however judging from the rapidity with which death occurred, did not appear to have materially abated, the average duration this month of all the cases having been  $9\frac{1}{2}$  days instead of 8 which was the average during the last 3 months. Further from the extent of lung affected could any conclusion be formed, both sides having been implicated in exactly half the patients, whilst recent Pleurisy (double in 4) existed in all but one - of the 5 where one lung was alone inflamed the right was affected in 4, & the left in 1 - & in a single patient along with recent Pleuritis existing on both sides acute Pericarditis was also present. The fibriniform formerly advocated tho' of the sole or at all events more advanced stage of the disease being found in the upper rather than the lower lobe, has still in several cases been found to exist, though lately the disposition has appeared to be more to the participation of



the greater portion of the inflammation throughout  
all the lobes while the center remains  
crispitant & free - A marked difference  
has this month been apparent as regards  
the treatment on only one of the whole 10  
cases having been subjected to general  
bleeding, & but 1 to local bleeding & in  
whom the depletion was practiced at all.  
It is scarcely to be supposed that so  
great & sudden a change could have  
taken place in the character of the disease  
as to have made only 20 per cent this  
month stand in need of bleeding, either  
local or general, while 43 per cent. is the  
proportion in which one or other has been  
employed in all the cases of Pneumonia  
during the preceding three months. - About  
the beginning of April a discussion took  
place at the Medicine Society, lately  
established in Camp on the treatment  
of this disease, at which a majority of  
the members spoke strongly against all  
evacuations of blood at whatever time  
practiced. Some of the senior officers  
even going so far as to state (with very  
questionable propriety, in the presence of  
many Juniors) that in the treatment  
of this disease as in almost every other  
complaint they had laid aside the  
use of the lancet altogether. The  
connection of this discussion with the  
altered mode of practice, whether  
standing in the relation of cause & effect



is to say the least curious & shows both  
how far good or ill the opinion of an  
individual may influence many who in  
their course of action are not guided  
by fixed principles, & how cautious  
those should be whose position entitles  
their opinion to respect, in advocating  
either an ultra or extreme mode of treatment.  
One of the cases of Pneumonia is worthy  
of a passing notice, from the sudden &  
unusual manner in which death took  
place, viz. by convulsions. The man (Case 103)  
was a peasant but lately landed in  
the Prison, & stated that feeling himself  
ill for some time before he came to hospital  
he had been unable to eat any food  
& had supported himself entirely by  
having constant recourse to spirituous  
liquors. The nervous system had  
become so exhausted by this repeated  
stimulation that it proved unequal to  
maintain the vital functions oppressed  
as they were by inflammation going on in  
both lungs, & a fit of convulsions termi-  
nated the patient's life on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of his  
residence in Hospital. In the other case  
(Case 113) Pneumonia supervened so  
gradually or congestion of the lungs in-  
duced by excessive intoxication, that it  
was impossible to define the limit which  
separated the fit of Drunkenness from  
the inflammatory attack. He was ad-  
mitted from the Strand in a state of perfect



inaccessibility from drink which on partially  
subsiding left him in such a shivering  
state that an attack of Delirium Tremens  
was considered imminent. Next day  
before the usual symptoms had entirely  
disappeared his breathing was observed  
to be a little oppressed, followed a  
few hours afterwards by a slight but  
dry cough - then a little fever. By the  
third day both the cough & dyspnoea  
had increased, & the stethoscope then  
for the first time detected the existence  
of inflammatory action in the right lung.  
An exacerbation of the symptoms on the  
6<sup>th</sup> day clearly marked the extension  
of the disease to the left, & on the 11<sup>th</sup> day he  
died.

Acute Pleurisy - 3 Cases - The first of these  
occurred in an old soldier (case 101)  
who had served throughout the war in  
China & had latterly been a year, been  
a Prisoner of War in Russia. He died on  
the 10<sup>th</sup> day of his treatment in Hospital,  
having for some time previous to his ad-  
-mission been observed to look ill, & while  
at his work in the Shoemaker's Shop  
to be very breathless. The only morbid  
appearance found after death was a  
general deposition of soft lymph over  
the left pleura which also contained a  
pint of turbid serum. It was almost  
certain that in this case the disease had  
been for some time in existence before he



applied for admission into hospital - an circum-  
stances which not infrequently happens in the  
best conducted regiments among the men  
& officers servants, & those who are not  
required to appear clearly on parade.

The case of the 6<sup>th</sup> a day field all over  
which admission into hospital at this  
time involved acted also as an additional  
disease in a sick man becoming a  
patient until necessity prevented him  
from doing otherwise - The other case  
(Case 110) observed also in an old soldier  
& appeared to run its course in 8 days - the  
left side being in this instance the seat  
of the disease, & the effusion less in  
quantity than in the other patient. Neither  
had been subjected to blood-letting  
or any other antiphlogistic treatment -  
Pulmonary Phthisis - Case - (Case 111)  
manifesting nothing worthy of special note -  
Its duration was 42 days in hospital with  
frequent occasional treatment for cough  
before - Softened tubercles & cavities in  
both lungs, together with ulceration of the  
large intestine were as usual the appear-  
-ance discovered on dissection.

Disease of the Heart - proved fatal in one  
man (Case 113) of 8 years service & present  
with the army throughout the whole war -  
The ordinary symptoms along with general  
oedema characterised the affection during  
life & great dilatation of the organ with thinning  
of its walls, & disease of aortic coats were found



after death.

Remington. Of this but one case occurred  
& that in a Sergeant (Case 115) of 13 years  
service in whom the rupture took place  
followed by death in a few minutes when  
he was sleeping for guards. The tumor  
about the size of a walnut was situated  
at the very commencement of the rectum  
the coats of which were much diseased  
it had opened into the pericardium  
& the cavity of this membrane contained  
about a pint of blood.

Of abdominal affections the only one that  
this month proved fatal was a case  
of chronic dysentery (Case 108) highly atonic  
in its character & more closely resembling  
the disease that carried off such numbers  
during the first winter of the siege. From  
my throat has hitherto presented itself  
to the Board. The subject of it was a  
soldier of little more than a year's  
service of which he had spent nine months  
in the Crimea. From his first admission  
his symptoms were characterized by debility,  
frequent bloody stools without abdominal  
pain & scarcely any tenesmus. On the  
13<sup>th</sup> day of his residence in hospital the  
toes of both feet became gangrenous, not,  
the Surgeon of the Regiment states from  
the effects of cold, but as he is decidedly  
of opinion, from debility alone & unaided  
circulation. He continued to pass frequent  
bloody stools, & on the 31<sup>st</sup> day of treatment



died, as sponges of the game or other scabrous  
symptom having been shown itself - all the  
toes on both feet numb, a dissection found  
black & dry, the vessels leading to them  
being healthy & firm - the large intestines  
throughout were ulcerated & filled with  
bloody mucus -

Of 6 deaths which occurred from Miscellaneous  
affections: Drunkenness carried off  
4, & exhaustion from over exertion, being  
- noted for want of a more appropriate  
name Asphyxia 2. Intoxication has  
since the stoppage of the soldiers 6<sup>th</sup> a day  
of field allowance, undoubtedly diminished  
& the deaths following directly or excessive  
drinking have in consequence become  
less frequent - Little advantage it is to  
be feared can be made to result to  
Pathology from the 31 dissections from  
this cause, that the Board has during  
the last 4 mos. performed, the post mortem  
appearances being rather very well marked  
or of such a distinctive character as to be  
readily distinguished from those found in  
other cases of sudden death - It might be  
advisable seeing that drinking is now  
like the jaundice in the Army, & deaths from  
this cause occasionally to take place,  
that "Ebricitas" should be admitted into  
the military nomenclature, if for no  
other reason, to prevent the false deductions  
resulting from deaths from this cause, being  
as now returned as having occurred from



Asphyxiation, Syncope, Apoplexy, Delirium &c  
or if preferred "Sudden death" might be  
admitted as a class with various sub-  
divisions such as Poisoning, Drowning,  
Drunkenness to be included under it.

There is reason to fear that sufficient  
care is not in all cases taken of men  
confined in a Guard room who drink  
especially as regards their being occa-  
sionally inspected during the night for the  
purpose of ascertaining whether or not it  
is necessary to obtain for them medical  
assistance - of the 21 cases of fatal  
drunkenness reported to the Board, about  
half or more were confined in a state  
of intoxication mostly at night, & some  
at daylight the following morning dis-  
covered to be dead, some of them having  
the appearance of having vomited when  
on their backs & thereby probably been  
choked, others & especially a man of  
the 68<sup>th</sup> Regt. having been most improperly  
crowded with others equally drunk & by  
this means in all likely hood suffocated.  
In the case above referred to 17 prisoners  
had been heaped together in a bell-tent  
which is almost never appropriated to  
more than 12 or 13 sober men of whom some  
it is calculated will always be on duty.  
Was a regulation made obliging every  
Sergeant of a Guard having charge of  
drunk prisoners to visit all such at  
stated & short intervals, the evils of



neglect would than be readily observed -  
Another omission in regard to Drunkenness  
appears to be on the part of the Medical  
Officers either not using the stomach pump  
at all or not employing it at a suffi-  
-ciently early period. In but a very  
small proportion of the 21 fatal cases  
which were brought under treatment  
while alive was its use had recourse  
to. Though the only safe & proper practice  
when either emetics cannot be swallowed  
or when swallowed they do not produce  
their full effect than being no delay  
under such circumstances admissible  
in removing from the stomach that  
portion of the poison that still remains  
unabsorbed. Medical Officers however  
stated in their abstracts "that the stomach  
could not be got to respond to the most  
powerful emetics" & again that "being  
unable to swallow ineffectual attempts  
were made by tickling the fauces to in-  
-duce vomiting", yet in neither instance  
do they appear to have thought of using  
an instrument which if not in actual  
possession of the regiment could have  
been readily procured at the Medical  
Store of every division in the camp -  
and that treatment even in those 21 fatal  
cases might have been of importance  
is certain from the fact that exactly one third  
of the whole were taken to hospital  
while still alive & then survived for



in an average period of 17 hours after meals.  
A curious & unusual effect resulted in  
one of the few cases (Case 99) where the  
stomach Pump had been used. In  
addition to the usual appearances  
found in such cases after death there  
were about 6 blackish oval patches  
on the mucous membrane of the stomach  
in size somewhat larger than a hornet  
beard, & occupying all about the same  
locality, viz, that part of the greater  
arch immediately opposite to the cardiac  
orifice - Each of these was surrounded  
by a certain amount of increased  
vascularity & led to the supposition  
that some corrosive poison had been  
administered along with the liquor of  
which the opaculated looking spots were  
considered as the manifest effect.  
A Grand jury immediately recommended  
by the regimental medical officer to  
be placed over the counter where the  
man had been drinking the previous  
night, & it was not until after a  
review, & more careful examination  
showing that there was no disorganization  
at the blackened parts, that they  
were all more or less oval in shape, &  
situated immediately over the entrance  
of the oesophagus, that it occurred  
to the Board that they were patches  
of mucous membrane which had been  
drawn into the openings at the end of



the stomach pump tube & thereby eschew occa-  
sionally satisfactory confirmed by the  
analysis of the contents of the stomach  
showing no trace whatever of any irritant  
or corrosive poison.

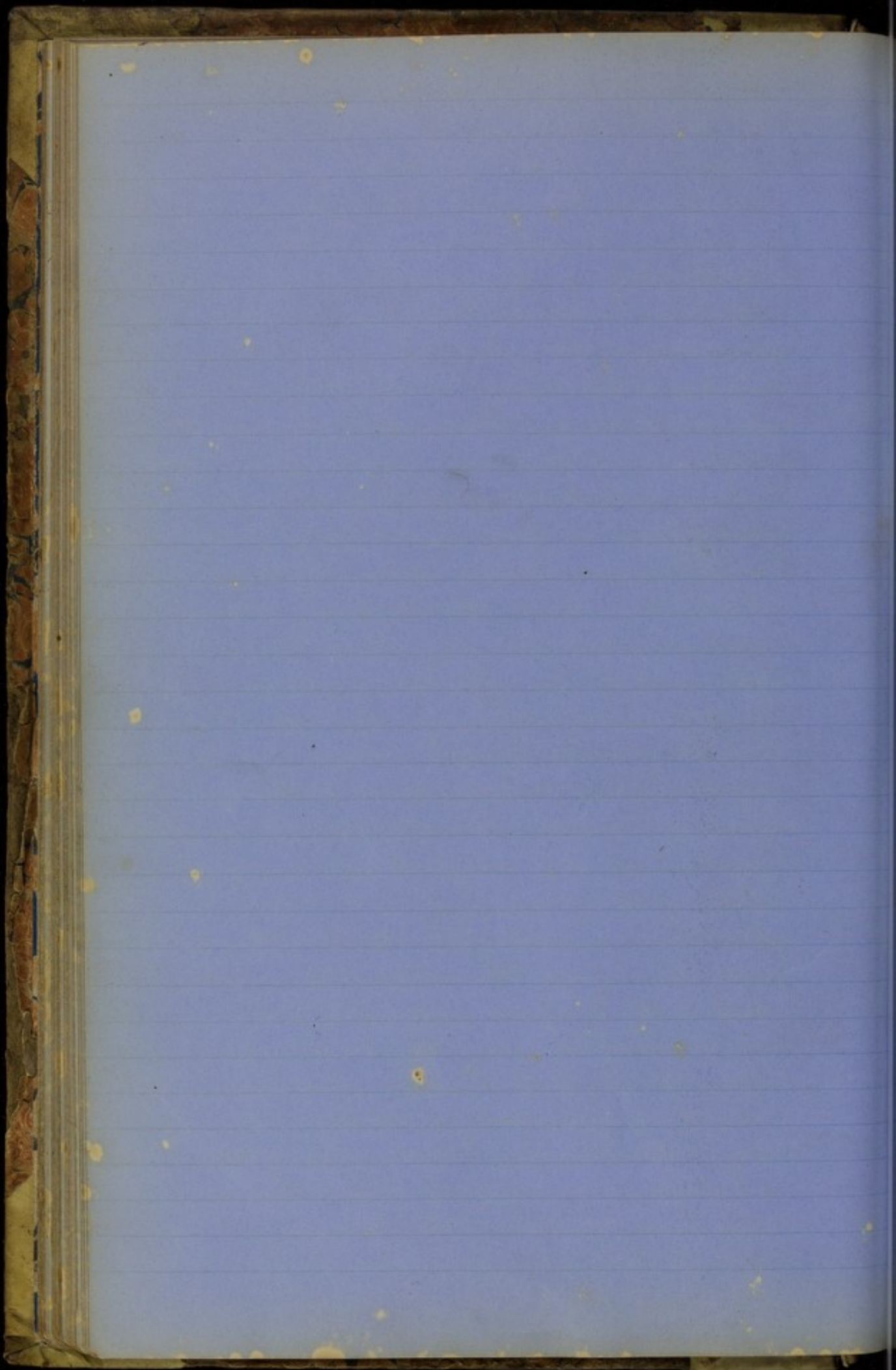
Of the two cases returned as Asphyxia  
the first was a young overgrown lad  
(Case 102) who after a long & fatiguing divi-  
sional field day in very bad weather  
had been compelled towards the end  
to fall out from complete exhaustion.  
He was admitted into a neighbouring  
Hospital & died soon after. The other  
(Case 121) was also a slight lad who on  
his return from the Russian Camp, having  
probably lost his way, had perished from  
the combined effects of cold, exposure &  
fatigue. He was found at daylight  
on the banks of the Tchernaya river  
with his clothes wet & in the act of ex-  
piring. No morbid appearances except  
great internal congestion were found in  
either of these cases.

Such is an analysis, too lengthy & minute it  
may be, of all the casualties which during  
the month of April occurred in Camp. This  
is probably among the best reports of any  
interest which the Board will have an oppor-  
tunity of presenting as the Army has already  
begun to break up, & it is likely that by the  
end of May a greatly diminished force  
will alone remain in the Crimea.

Camp, Sebastopol

13<sup>th</sup> May 1856







Report of the Proceedings of the Pathological  
Board in Camp for the month of May 1856 -

The operations of the Board have experienced a considerable diminution during the month of May, but 21 dissections have been performed in that time, a diminution in numbers does not so much to an improvement in the health of the troops, or a decrease in the severity of the diseases which occurred, but to the departure of a large portion of the Army whereby the strength of that portion serving before Sebastopol has been reduced in strength from 33473 which it was in April to 24185 which is the average strength of each week composing the month of May. Viewed relatively to strength actually more deaths have taken place this month when 1 died out of every 1151 men, than in April when the mortality was only 1 in 1287. Little can be said of the Divisions in which the casualties occurred each having contributed its share in making up the numbers without any great disparity, the 1<sup>st</sup> Division yielding 1 death for 1130 of strength, the 3<sup>rd</sup> 1 for every 1822, the 3<sup>rd</sup> - 1 for every 1141. The 4<sup>th</sup> 1 for every 1533. & the Light 1 for every 1243. It is somewhat remarkable that notwithstanding the mild & warm weather prevalent during the month, when the average range of the Thermometer between 7 & 9 in the morning was 65°, between 12 & 2 P.M. was 74°, & between 9 & 11 P.M. was 61°.



with wind usually from the S.W. & but little pain  
thru affording so far am able a contrast  
with many preceding months. That month-  
-like the mortality on this occasion are  
throughout the whole winter, should have  
resulted principally from acute affections  
of the Chest, & among them, chiefly from  
Pneumonias. A numerical comparison  
of all operations performed by the Board, since its existence  
clearly proving that chest affections have  
this month formed as high a proportion  
of the mortality as they have ever done  
before, having in January constituted 54  
per cent. of the deaths, in Feb'y 41 - in March  
53, in April 57 - & in May 57. The genuine  
Glethemic condition of the system engendered  
by abundant nutritious foods, a daily  
allowance of pure & but little dirt, may  
perhaps be disposed to inflammation,  
disease, while cold caught by the incautions  
laying aside of flannels, by exposure after  
being overheated in out-door games when  
but lightly clad, by getting wet feet while  
washing clothes in the various parvines,  
or by sitting together for hours in parties on  
the grass around the camp, playing cards,  
may prove in many cases at this season, the  
exciting cause of these frequent & formidable  
Thoracic attacks. Next in frequency to Chest  
affections to which 12 deaths were this month  
due, come abdominal complaints & diarrhoea:  
- some each of which occasioned 4 - & last of  
all stand General Affections under which is



included but 1 case of Fever, which presents  
disease for the first time. This on with an alto-  
gether absent from the list. The first in  
order for Lenticular consideration is the  
single case here returned as Febris C. C. which  
having occurred in a lad (Case 138) in whom  
on dissection unequivocal indications of  
Epididymitis were found, together with  
diseased Kidneys & highly albuminous  
urine, it is doubtful if the case might  
not with more propriety have been demon-  
strated as Epididymitis the Fever being considered  
symptomatic. He was 20 days in all,  
under treatment, complaining on admission  
of febrile (rheumatic?) pains of the limbs &  
great fulness but without either head ache or  
furred tongue. After a time chest symptoms  
of moderate severity are stated to have  
occurred, the result it is possible of an  
injudicious metastasis to the Heart. The  
dissection showed no marked cerebral  
lesions but peculiar irregular nodules look-  
ing vegetations of soft lymph adhering to  
one of the semilunar valves at the commence-  
ment of the Aorta. A similar appearance  
found on one occasion since (Case 139) led  
to a minute examination of the Pericardium  
supposed to be in its natural state, when  
manifest though slight indications of  
recent Pericarditis were found to exist, in  
all probability with an equal amount of  
care would have been discovered to exist  
here. Besides this case 4 other Patients were



reported to the Board & no doubt appear in  
the regular returns as having died of Fever -  
2 of Febris C.C. & 2 of Typhus, all however on  
dissection were found to be cases of primary  
local inflammation chiefly Pneumonia.  
This rectification of the error of Diagnosis  
error which the most careful are liable  
occasionally to commit, & which it is feared  
medical officers performing their own dis-  
sections are not always ready to correct,  
is not the least of the advantages of having  
a separate Pathological body to discover  
by dissection the disease which naturally  
proved fatal. - Of the class of Thoracic  
affections, the first to be considered is  
Pneumonia which caused 8 deaths. In  
the official returns 3 only of the 8 cases  
appear as admitted for the disease of which  
they died, 1 admitted as Fever & 1 as  
Pleurisy having subsequently been changed  
to Pneumonia, & of the 3 remaining 2 ad-  
mitted as Febris Typhus & 1 as Typhus,  
having tho' their disease was really Pneumonia  
been left under the diseases for which admitted.  
The type of the Pneumonia which presented itself  
this month was even more than before  
characterised by acuity, its course being  
unusually rapid, so much so that of  
1 only of the 8 cases he excepted when death  
took place during a relapse (Case 142) the  
average duration of life after admission  
into hospital did not exceed 7 days, though  
in one or two on careful examination, showed



several days of complaint & illness before admission into hospital, during which as usual they had had recourse to stimulants to support & keep them up. General bloodletting was performed in but 2 of the cases, & local in 1. The blood when drawn in the very early stage as in case 141, showing here both cuffed & buffed, but when as in case 135 the disease had gone on for many weeks before application had been made for relief the symptoms were atonic, evacuations out of the question, & death followed on the 6<sup>th</sup> day. The chest symptoms were in some cases very slightly marked, directing no attention to the real seat of the disease, until the stethoscope demonstrated the existence of pneumonic condensation already considerably advanced. In such cases the accompanying fever, usually of the typhoid type, was for a time considered to be the only disease, nor was it occasionally an easy matter on dissection to convince those present, that inflammation of the lungs was the primary affection & the fever only symptomatic, notwithstanding the extensive firm & granular red or grey hepatization found after death, so different from the comparatively soft & semi-condensed lung which characterises the secondary Pneumonia of Continued or Typhoid fever. Recent Pleurisy continued this month to be found as an almost invariable accompaniment of Pneumonia, but 1 case of the 8 having alone failed to show indications of this tract.



Acute Pericarditis was also found to coexist in 2 of the cases, the effusion of soft lymph being in one of these extended to that part of the endocardium forming the semilunar valves. This co-existence of Pleuro-pneumonia with Pericarditis, does not appear hitherto to have attracted the attention which so serious a complication deserves. Out of 54 dissections of Pneumonia, we have found it to exist 5 times, once only when no sign of Pleurisy whatever occurred, once when the Pleurisy was single, & no less than 3 times when the Pleurisy affected both sides. The fluid effused into the Pericardium has in these 5 cases, varied from 2 to 8 oz. The exudation of lymph has for the most part been very moderate & has occupied chiefly the space of the heart around the origin of the great vessels. In but one of the cases was the existence of any Cardiac disease suspected during life, the great dyspnoea amounting almost to Orthopnoea which supervened toward the termination of the complaint having suggested this idea. In none however of the other 4 patients was any thing of this kind remarked. For the first time this month, the right & left lungs have been affected with nearly equal frequency, the right being inflamed in 6, & the left in 5 - 3 of the 8 having both lungs affected. Out of 36 cases of Pneumonia examined during the winter, of which 16 were double, the right side was affected in 34, while the left was only in 18. The peculiarity referred to last month of the



arteria magna vis of the lobes remaining crepitant  
& healthy while the posterior parts showed in-  
flammatory condensation, has been found on  
this occasion in 3 cases - while the air on being  
so often pointed out in these reports of the more  
frequent occurrence of hepatization in the  
upper than the lower lobe & which has of  
late been gradually diminishing in frequency  
has this month changed to or near a ordinary  
state of things the lower lobe having been  
alone affected in 3 cases, the upper in 2, &  
the whole lung in 3 cases. The next disease  
for consideration is Pulmonary Phthisis of which  
2 cases have this month occurred. This  
disease, with Pneumonia & Drunkenness are  
the only 3 sources of carnalities which have  
never been absent from the list since the  
Board commenced. The cases though constant  
in their occurrence have been few in number,  
having in 5 (not omitted) only 9. But little  
can appear to have been bestowed on the  
diagnosis, if we may judge from only one  
of the 9 having been admitted & died as  
Phthisis, while 6 others the names of whose  
disease was never changed appear on the  
returns 2 as Catarrhs, 2 as Bronchitis & 2 as  
Diarrhoea - The average duration in all the  
9 of their last residence in Hospital was  
60 days showing no immense acceleration  
of the symptoms, although the Patients may  
be considered in the field Hospitals, as not  
so favorably situated for the treatment  
of such a complaint, as if they had been



accommodated in more fixed & permanent estab-  
-lishments. In all the nine Patients Tubercles  
either soft or woody existed in both  
Lungs & in 2 only had they not advanced to  
the stage of suppuration. In 5 of the cases  
tuberculous matter had been deposited in  
other organs also, either the Mesenteric glands  
Kidneys, Pleura, or Peritoneum. As a general  
rule the ulceration existing in the intestines  
was not found to be so extensive here as  
it usually is in the same disease in other places.  
1/3 of the Cases having shown no trace whatever  
of ulcerated bowels, & other 2 having manifested  
it only to a small extent. While the compara-  
-tive rarity of Phthisis as a fatal disease  
is here referred to it is but fair to state that  
a very sufficient reason for its being so  
exists in the fact, that all protracted diseases  
whether of the chest or other parts are as a  
general rule transferred from the Cornish  
-Scotian or Bonyland. One of the deaths which  
this month happened from Phthisis is deser-  
-ving of notice (Case 136) on account of the Patient  
who before admission being an hospital orderly  
& therefore long under medical observation  
was seldom (it was said never) heard to cough  
or known to manifest any other chest symptoms.  
The disease for which he was treated was  
diarrhoea with bloody-stools & great  
emaciation, Tubercles in abundance being  
found in one Lung & Cavities in the other.  
The fact of this Patient having been 21 days  
under treatment & the real nature of his



never suspected, is the more extraordinary for  
his having some months previously been treated  
in Hospital for Haemoptysis.

Pleuritis acute. The single case of this disease  
(Case 144) is remarkable for the peculiar  
condition of parts which the dissection re-  
vealed. The originating cause of the malady  
appeared to have been a single small  
tubercular cavity, occupying the apex of the  
right lung, which had ruptured into the  
Pleura & had given entrance thereby both  
to air & pus. Pleurisy had followed, &  
the lung, adherent from above downwards  
along the junction of the cartilages with the  
ribs had become compressed into a membrane-  
one expansion, & so stretched that the  
artificial opening at the apex which were  
rounded & distinct, communicated with  
the remains of the cavity by an oblique &  
valvular canal which admitted the entrance  
of air, but did not apparently allow of its  
return the result of this was that a small  
portion of air entered with each inspiration  
& distended the side, bulging out the inter-  
costal spaces & actually thrusting the  
diaphragm downwards so as to be at first  
mistaken for the liver & causing great dis-  
placement of the abdominal organs. The  
liver has been almost entirely forced over  
to the left side & occupied very nearly the  
situation of the spleen. Besides a large  
quantity of air which the Pleura contained  
there was also a fluid of sero-purulent fluid



removed from its cavity. An excellent opportunity  
-ity has existed of assisting the diagnosis by  
percussion, but even the presence of Pleurisy  
was never suspected during life. The Patient  
having been all along considered to  
labour under continued fever. Recent  
Pneumonia was also found in this case  
but no Pneumonia or other affection of  
the Lungs. The single case of Malacia  
Cordis (Case 143) exhibited no peculiar  
features, the death being an extremely sudden  
one, & but little that was morbid was  
found on dissection. The man who was  
of irregular habits while returning from  
ball firing fell down & instantly expired  
as if shot through a vital organ. Post-mortem  
examination showed the left ventricle rather  
hypertrophied, the semilunar valves  
slightly thickened, & the inner membrane  
of the Aorta somewhat thickened & diseased.  
He had never been known to complain  
before though a comparatively old soldier.

The Abdominal affections were but 3 & these  
single cases of Peritonitis & Hepatitis.

The former (Case 129) very imperfectly detailed  
in the Abstract appears to have been ad-  
mitted at first with pain of the abdomen &  
constipation, though soon on the Hospital  
returns throughout as diarrhoea. After laxative  
medicines had been exhibited purging of an  
obstinate nature supervened & he died  
on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of treatment, no morbid  
appearances whatever being found after death



except recent & general Peritonitis with several  
(three) circumscribed abscesses in different  
parts of the peritoneal cavity: The intestinal  
mucous membrane in its whole length was  
healthy. The case of Hepatitis (case 127)  
had terminated in a large abscess  
probably of long standing & occurred in  
a man who had while formerly serving in  
the 14<sup>th</sup> L<sup>ie</sup> Regt in India suffered from the  
same disease, which after evacuating  
itself externally, had left a depressed  
cicatrix under the margin of the ribs -  
which was still perfectly distinct. He was  
re-embarked to England & discharged  
but having, after a couple of years again  
regained his health, he enlisted in the  
Land Transport Corps in which at the time  
of his death he had served for 4 Mos.  
in the Crimea. He had for a considerable  
time been attending Hospital as a con-  
=sultant, but had only been an actual  
patient for 10 days preceding his decease,  
the symptoms then being Fever & Pain in the  
region of the Liver. An abscess containing  
3 Quarts of Pus existed in the right lobe &  
several smaller ones were present in the  
left. The class of Surgical diseases  
this month, comprised 1 death from fracture  
of the Cranium, & 1 from Urinary infiltration.  
Of these the first took place from the accidental  
bursting of a shell which one of a Fatigue  
party threw down from his shoulder on  
being told that it contained a charge of Lead.



It exploded on falling to the ground, inflicting  
a depressed fracture of the Frontal Bone, above  
the left eye of a young rifleman who was  
close by. Insensibility at once followed &  
continued until the depressed portion of bone  
had been removed by means of Hays's saw  
when it was immediately relieved. He  
from this time went on favorably for  
11 days having quite his usual appearance  
& being able to get up & assist to go to  
the stool - Oscillations of the Pulse & slight  
delirium without manifest cause now  
took place which though temporarily checked  
by opening the Temporal Artery, returned in a  
few days & he died on the 14<sup>th</sup> of his residence  
in Hospital. On dissection a piece of the  
Frontal Bone was still found displaced  
& pressing on the Brain. The Dura Mater  
was entire but thickened by lymph effusion  
on both its sides & an abscess containing  
about 2oz of Pus occupied the anterior  
lobe of the Brain immediately below  
the seat of injury, the whole of the left  
hemisphere being softened & of a yellowish  
grey colour. The case of extravasation of  
Urine (Case 138) was obscure in its origin  
though sufficiently clear both in its progress  
& termination. The man was admitted with  
an attack of Continued Fever, but had never  
been known to suffer from Urinary disease under  
any form - About a fortnight after his admission  
when convalescent he first had his attention  
called to a small indurated tumour in the



Perineum for the existence of which I could  
assign no cause. It gradually increased in  
dimension extending forwards & on the 3<sup>d</sup> day  
of its existence a catheter was for the first time  
introduced with perfect ease into the bladder  
drawing off Urine which was observed to  
contain both pus & blood. Two days aft-  
-wards the swelling extended to the Scrotum  
which rapidly increased in size showing in  
24 hours symptoms of gangrene, notwith-  
-standing, at an early period of free incision.  
The constitutional symptoms now became  
extremely typhoid & he died the following day  
being the 7<sup>th</sup> from the first appearance of the  
Perineal tumour, & the third from the commen-  
-ment of the Scrotal swelling. Dissection  
revealed the presence of a small abscess  
close to the membranous portion of the Urethra  
with which it communicated by a <sup>fine</sup> small  
opening, the canal itself being perfectly  
healthy throughout. From the abscess or  
communication had also taken place  
with the Cellular tissue in the Perineum  
by which Urine had passed into the Scrotal  
integuments of the Penis, & those of the lower  
part of the abdomen in all of which locali-  
-ties gangrenous inflammation had taken  
place. What the primary cause of the  
small abscess was which gave rise to all  
this mischief it was impossible to ascertain.  
The last of the causes of death this month  
among the troops & one that has caused an  
ever failing source of mortality since the



operations of the Board commenced in Drunkenness & to its 4 casualties have been due. Some diminution in the proportion of deaths from this cause is here perceptible since the commencement of summer weather but it still continues high having constituted in May 19 per cent. of the whole mortality - It is worthy of remark that 3 out of the 4 cases which occurred this month happened in the light division whose camp is immediately contiguous to the Grand Barrack on the Wornocoff Road where recently on account of the removal of the French Army the price of spirits has greatly fallen, as for instance Brandy which formerly retailed at 4/6 & 5/- is now readily sold for 1/- a bottle - of this the results may readily be conceived to have been extensive dissipation & frequent breaches of discipline so much so in regard to the former as to have led it was said (though the truth of this statement cannot be vouched for) to no less than 80 men having in one regiment of the Light Division been confined for drunkenness in a single night, & in regard to the latter to its being finally interdicted as a place of resort for the English soldiers altogether - A few days before the commencement of the present report a Tabular view of all the cases of Drunkenness which had occurred during 4 months was drawn up for transmission to England & from it the following facts may be deduced, that the



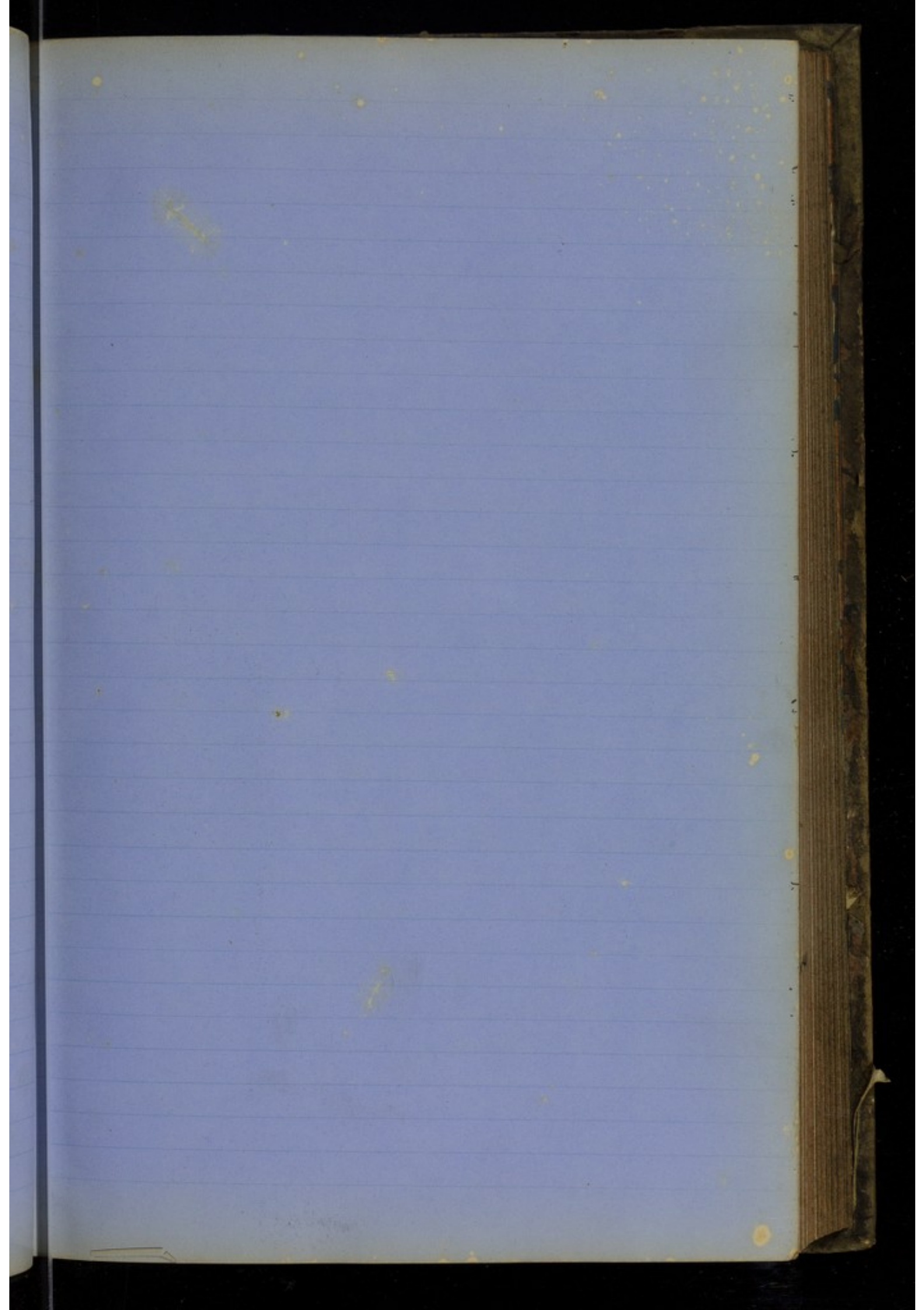
victims of this vice were for the most part men of some standing in the service, having an average of 3½ years service, & 26 years of age, that the majority of them were remarked to be of a robust & muscular frame though very generally notorious for their irregular habits - that out of 21 men, 10 were already dead when found, 7 having died in their beds during the night, & 1 during the day in a workshop, & another in a stable - of the remaining 11 who still existed when brought to their camp in a state of insensibility from drink 3 were allowed to die in the Guard tents & 1 in his hut without any medicine assistance having been obtained, the remainder (7) having terminated their existence in hospital when the mean duration of their life after admission was 13 hours - During the treatment of some of the 7 cases various attempts were made to induce vomiting by means of Ipecacuanah, mustard irritation of the fauces & by pouring the down out sensibility by means of the cold affusion, in some cases these expedients were successful in emptying the stomach while in others they entirely failed - The stomach pump was had recourse to in but two cases, & these singular to say were the ones in whom of all those subjected to treatment life was prolonged to the greatest extent. The employment of this instrument appears the most speedy



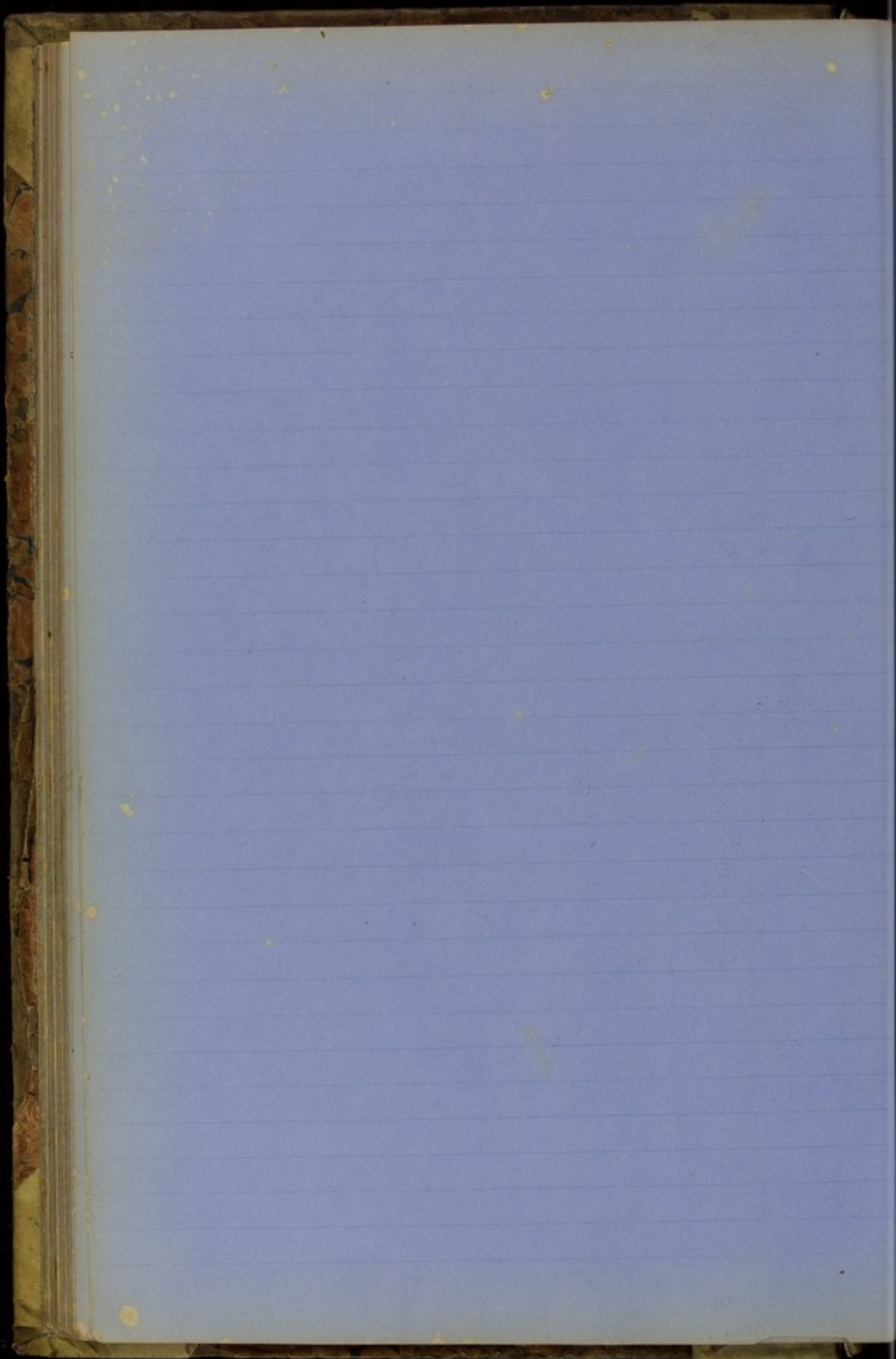
& effectual means of accomplishing a self-evident indication of primary importance, which seems to have been far too often neglected in the treatment of these cases; the more especially as the stomach was in several instances after death found to contain a highly spirituous liquor which had neither been rejected nor absorbed, & which so long as it was permitted to pass into the system effectually neutralized all the attempts to benefit the patient. In the contents of 11 of the stomachs, the odor emitted was distinctly alcoholic, & in 6 only of the whole number examined is it stated that this could not be perceived. Marked vascular congestion of the brain was found in 19 cases, of the Lungs (generally both) in 18, & of the stomach in 9, while the heart had the right side greatly engorged & the left empty in 7, exactly the opposite in but 1 only, & was found perfectly normal in 7. Such are some of the deductions of an interesting kind, which may be drawn from the tables to which reference has here been made.

Camp. Sebastopol }  
Crimea. 13<sup>th</sup> June 1856 }











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