

Letters to Sir Charles Bell re treatment of wounds, and letters re Bell's watercolour drawings

Publication/Creation

1815-1866

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Sir C. Bell Collection -

List of Original Letters
L M. S. S.

T. Longmore.
Relly Oct. 1002 - S. S.!

From	To	Date
Surgeon Charles Collier a.m.D.	Charles Bell Surgeon, Soho Square	Bruxelles 5 th August 1815
Do	Do	Bruxelles 20 th Aug th 1815.
J. Roche ✓?	Do	Bruxelles 17 th Aug th 15 ✓
J. Keenan & Surgeon a.m.D. (Dep ^y Imp ^t 7 th Sept. 1815)	Do	Bruxelles Sept 6 th 1815
John Boggie M.D. Surgeon a.m.D. ✓	Do.	Bruxelles 12 th Sept. 1815 ✓
A. H. Blackadder Asst ^t Ap ^t to the Forces -	Outline of a case of Gunshot Wound of the Brain -	Bruxelles. 13 th Aug th 1815
Alex. Shaw ✓ Surgeon to Middlesex Hosp London	T. Longmore transmitting Catalogue of Waterloo Drawings do	London 19 th July 1866. { This M.S. Catalogue is in the same case with the Sketch Book —

to
Bruxelles — August 5 — 1815

Dear Sir,

I feel much flattered by your Communication, & Regret, which was received a few days since, and, altho' sadly & business is ~~very~~ ^{very} ~~much~~ ^{much} ~~conspicuous~~ ^{conspicuous} to my dear friends, & yet much harassed by public duties, I take the first vacant moment to reply to your Enquiries. I shall feel doubly gratified in the Result of this short, & politically speaking, splendid Service, if, in addition to great professional Opportunity, it shall ^{have} opened for me an acquaintance with Percy, ranking so highly as you do. Acquaintance, I might say, I had already, in some degree, obtained — but I mean that greater intimacy, which should permit me having recourse to your Opinion, whenever I met with any Circumstance novel, or intricate to my own Practice. In a few words I may reply to your Questions, respecting these Cases —

Edw. Meyer died a few Hours after you saw him — and I regret that ~~an opportunity~~ ^{the Pressure} of Duty, at that time, allowed the Case to pass without Examination — There was no doubt, I believe, of the Liver being the injured Viscus, but I suspect there was also some Effusion of blood into the Abdomen.

Wassell, of the 10 Regt, lived some ~~several~~ ^{six} days after you saw him, and appeared to be improving physically, but still with that impaired memory, and impaired Judgment — It is odd that he always described himself as belonging to the 17th, ^{tho} ~~he~~ ^{he} ~~was~~ ^{had} ~~formerly~~ ^{been} ~~served~~ ^{served}, and ~~then~~, as if aware of the error, would struggle to correct himself, but could never articulate, so evident that it was the truth. It is wonderful to think that conscious Life, & even some embarrassment of sense, could be carried on, under the immense, & extensive Injury done to the Brain, which was examined by me in Person by Dr. Frazier, & some British Reg Surgeons. As far as the Operation had been concerned, the Surgery was perfect, for there was no Pulsation from Bone, or Mood on the Brain, but we found a fissure running from the upper part of the Parietal Bone, towards the base of the Skull — The Membranes were ruptured, & bloody at that point where the Surgery was performed — There might, or there might not be sufficient show of the free matter — We well understood that it was at very decisive — down to the Roof of the Petriole, on the injured, (the left) side, the Dural Gallery Substance was much softer ^{probably being soft} than the corresponding Hemisphere, & of a bloody color, as if blood had been there at in large quantities, & there had been Effusion at Cerebrum — The Pelami — Capt. C. Frazier & Hayes appeared ^{of the} ~~of~~ the hospital, as did my

The Faculty of the German Legion I performed
the Operation as follows, & it was, with perfect success, successfully - i.e. - it
was open every Subject of a Study Case. I cannot immediately recall, whether,
at the time you saw him, he had appearance of Catarrh Vesicae, but, prior to my
understanding any thing, it was so informed, that I don't think it necessary to enter
a consultation, & having then ~~seen~~^{on} ~~him~~ ^{himself} confirmed of its absolute necessity for
any chance of Life, I carried, what had been before carried over, into Execution.
I found so difficult to dissecting the Prostate from the Uterus, very little in
saving it of Life to the Head -; with two Scissors I removed all those ^{superfluous} ~~excesses~~
of Bone which had been divided in saving the Prostate, and then Sections of soft
Parts which appeared thickened, & diseased. There were very little Hemorrhage, or
the Anvilary Artery was not touched - the Ligaments were cut, I think, when

were required. But the Head or the Socket was some Impediment to the
Healing of the Flap, and I rather regretted afterwards ^{that} this also had not been
taken away. The Spasm appeared neither augmented, nor diminished by the Operation.
the Courtesane became strongly tetanic; - Jaws were fixed; - the last Effort to
swallow, produced the most frightful Convulsion; - his Tongue, caught between the
Teeth, was sadly lacerated; - the Inprosthesis was succeeded by the Opisthotonus.
He of course wanted a Character as I ever witnessed - when sitting on the side of the
Bed, I have seen him ~~sit~~ thrown on his Back, & the body arched by the Spasm of
the Muscles; and yet this all this, & this some Shaking of the Stump, which
aroused, he has struggled, is now free, for some days, of Spasm, which gradually
subsided, after three weeks hold, the Stump is fast closing up, & he walks about his
Ward & is considered as a Convalescing Patient. Altho I know every attention
was paid to this man by the Young Gentlemen ~~and~~ who does duty under me,
& I obtain a every opinion to see if I could gather any fresh View of the
Subject, and find whatever offered a reasonable Chance, I cannot say I
attribute his Cure to Medicine, but to one of those happy Constitutions we
sometimes see, which survives the most frightful Injuries, & cures in spite of
the most violent, & certain Purgatives. What think you of this Case? and
it have been hastened by the Removal of the Head of the Bone -

(2)

P.S. August 29. I have been delayed in sending of this until the present time, & I am sorry to say my life guards man is not quite so well - I was, I fear, too sanguine, off as the time will be telling. I have had occasion since to dilate the wound down to the Thorax, & give Stone to a large collection of Bone, & again the fracture gave relief. This case is quite extraordinary - I shall give you further particulars here after for your information, & opinion, but it will be published, I believe, by a friend of mine who has been much interested in the man's fate. - I ~~received~~ the External Osseous yesterday, on account of general anesthesia within about three inches of Paparth's ligament - the Tumor was large, & I spent three hours had made when I was to operate, but it was fortunately quite small. The anesthesia was occasioned by Musket shot in the 18th June; I shall publish particulars hereafter. This day there is great heat of blood in the head, but I hope to prevent all consequences.

Bruxelles - August - 20 1815

Dear Sir,

You were kind enough, when here, to offer me a Copy of the Sketch you took of Wall's Case, and, as I have sent a Statement of it to Sir Geo. Mt. Gwyer, for the Medical & Chirurgical Society, I should feel most truly obliged if you could ^{now} favor me with it. Perhaps you would have no objection to send it at once to Sir James, at the Medical Board, Berkeley Street, and I think, if the Case be worthy of notice, the Society Committee will have an engraving taken from it; without some such Context, the best description is very feeble.

Woolly will soon be well - the throat is good, & James has long since yielded - Stump ~~now~~ nearly healed -

Feifer (who had the breast struck by a round shot) is Convalescent -

I have had a most interesting case since I saw you in the life
 Guards Barr, we heard that she had the 4th & 5th ribs broken, by a pistol shot;
 I pointed her out to you as a case arising from a general treatment - or
 bludgeoning - but saying to - He had twice had a shower of explanatory lectures
 which had failed to do much good - he turned the other way, he began
 to exhibit signs of more permanent mischief - he had evening haematemesis of brown
 flecked chills - & a clear cough, & a breathing, as he described it, of dis-
 ease of the lungs, & chest. Substituting (as the saying of the 7th July) a more
 rigid examination, I ^{felt} ~~discovered~~ what appeared to be either a hole, or a detached
 portion of bone, & as my patient was evidently losing ground, I determined on
 ascertaining whether any piece of the rib, putrid, or driven into the pleura,
 could be the cause of the haematemesis. I made a free incision, accordingly,
 extending diagonally from the 4th, towards the angle of the 5th rib - I then removed
 from pieces of the 4th rib, & finding a bulging of the pleura, I made a cautious
 opening into the chest - some very fine air first escaped, & then, to my
 gratification, air flowed freely a gush of air, of an almost insupportable
 force. It was her last gasp for three years - I kept a piece of rib -
 a rib is introduced twice daily to the bottom of the wound, which we

find difficult to keep open. There is still slight oozing of air, but
 exceedingly diminishing - a few bubbles of air sometimes escape - the Constitutional
 symptoms all on the decline, & the patient appears to be fairly convalescing.
 I fear a suppuration, but I have not observed the least, even around the
 edge of the wound.

Next Case of very badly fractured Scapula in ^{hand} ~~the~~
 an old man, a 6th, which I considered I should, is
 now so remarkably well, - that I expect to have him in
 a week or a fortnight. The bone was originally broken, the
 bone had returned just about the first rib - when I saw
 it, I think it must have been shattered fully three inches - it does not
 now appear to be more than one inch less than the sound one.

Still the two compound fractures of the radius
 have done, or are doing, well.

When you can find leisure for me many
 accounts, to pass me with your friends or them, ^{subject} ~~cases~~, or on other subjects
 connected with our profession, I should ^{be} ~~be~~ much obliged - he has not had
 much of learning, and he is the happier who feels the greatest need for it.

Accept my best wishes for Mrs. Heath, & believe me
very truly Yours Charles Collier

I crave your excuse, my dear Sir, for this disorderly letter, but, hurried as
I am, it is something to be able to do ~~the~~ so much.

W. H. P. O. S.

C. Collier Esq

London

100 Square

W. H. P. O. S.

in a detached
manner.

3d Class
5. Sp
1845

If you would address any letter for me to my Mother's care - I. Collier Esq
20 Carey Street Lincoln Inn - it will be forwarded thro' the Commander at Cheaps
Office -

James Alexander did not survive H.B. House after you ^{saw} ~~saw~~ him. I was quite prepared, in the event of Hemorrhage, to cut down upon, & secure the bleeding vessels - but he died exhausted - he died, as I have seen many, from the Scurvy of Life Building to an Injury they are unable to restore. He had no Fever - no Cough -

Albright Hooper is doing well, & doing so, from an looking constantly to that Point you regard as the probable Cause of his ^{trouble} ~~trouble~~; once he has been bled, and the putrid symptoms have been constantly watched, & kept under by mild, but steady antiphlogistic Treatment. The sinuses are closed - the wound is well granulated - his health is steady, - and I think there is not enough of it to complete his Cure.

Wall is quite well, & will be discharged to his Regt.

Believe me to be very faithfully Yours

Charles Collier

P.S. Vinty's Case will be submitted at length to the Medical Public, by a Physician, on account of the Cure, or Subsidence of such strongly featured Testes -; there are at two Cases living of all who had this affection -; this man, & a French Officer. His Death was constantly anticipated by all, and by none more than myself, on account of the ^{too} formal ill success of our means in these Cases - I shall not enter further at length into the Treatment than I have done, as it is more medical, & does not so immediately concern what you treated

I shall think - besides having provided the details for a. Lyman,
as well as Schupfing, perhaps, his alterations -

C.C.

20

Dear Sir

Brussels.

17 August

RMS 630/1

③

I regret very much, I had it not in my power to pay earlier attention to your wishes.

ordered to move to form a general Hospital, I lost an opportunity of following up many interesting cases, as well as the pleasure of immediately complying with your Request. I beg to assure you, that I will always hold myself flattered, in being afforded an opportunity to forward you any Medical or Surgical intelligence from this place.

Lieut. Peitchard is alive and doing well. All things considered: complains of occasional pain in the Left Side of the head: The Left Ey. is protruded from the Socket - I apprehend the ball is lodged behind its orbit - The Sight of the right Ey. is impaired as well as the hearing of the Left Side. This is really a very extraordinary case: You will perhaps soon have an opportunity of seeing him in England - As his wife, I believe, is soon sent home.

If I mistake not you had a Sketch taken of Carl Pfeiberg Wound - of the Kings German Legion. I recollect however you took particular notice of the Case. The Left Thigh was fractured with very great muscular Protrusion. It was apparently a hopeless Case and an operation at the Hip joint was contemplated. He is now in a promising way, tho I

It is not considered his recovery certain: The patient's muscles
are reduced to a plain surface. And the same is true of
the limbs: There is some imitation from the dis-
section of the Alveoli, but the former. All
things considered, he is doing surprisingly well.

In my Division - two cases of Tetanus have
occurred of that disease. I believe you saw them
both: One had his left leg suspended close to the
body - and his right ankle fractured by a musket
ball. He is now perfectly recovered of Tetanus &
in other respects doing well. The treatment was
not particular, the wound of the ankle joint
was dressed with lint dipped in Spirit of Turpentine
having Embrication of Tincture of Opium & was
used alternately. And we continued to introduce by
the rectum. For the jaws were not firmly locked -
some Cordial and Antispasmodic Medicines.

The other Case originated from compound fracture
of the Thigh, which it was not possible to
put in Splint from the irritability of the
bone - This man died of Exhaustion from the
loss of blood. He had recovered of Tetanus some
time before his death - his treatment had been
similar to that of the former, except that
a few mercurial frictions to the arms had been
used: The following may be considered an extra-
ordinary Case and Exception: J. Turner 3rd Regt
of Foot Guards was wounded by a splinter of a shell

in the 10th which entered the Scissum of the Sternum
and dividing it down towards the 12th vertebrae
crossed between the Superficial and deep seated muscles
that form the Abdominal Part of the 6th Rib: his
breath was excellent till about the 9th Day - when
his face and hands appeared about the Umbilicus
and Lumbar Region, and a hard body, changing
its position with the position of the patient, was
evident. An Incision was made upon it, by
Messrs. Ligon Bennett, who extracted a piece of a
shell weighing 3/4 lb. with ragged edges, and
I had formed a cavity between the
internal oblique and transverse muscles. The
Patient is now doing well. His
countenance looking healthy, and his
general health and spirit good.

This, with care that daily nursing
tends to show, what effort Nature, and the
devoted Surgeon will do, for Recovery. I
recalled, at the battle before New Orleans - a man
presented himself to me with an apparently extra-
ordinary tumor over the left clavicle. I cut down
upon it, and extracted an Iron ball weighing one
pound - that had entered at the superior part of
the left Scapula - and pushing forward, smashed
the clavicle, and then exhausting itself, had not
sufficient force to break the Integuments. This man
was doing well when I left him - but being ordered
on other duty, I do not know, the result.
I request you will always consider me at your
service. I remain, Dear Sir, your most faithful Servant
J. B. Beck

Charles Beloe Esquire
34 Soho Square
London



Dunfries Sept. 6.

1845

My Dear Sir,

Your kind letter of the
 17th of July reached me only this
 day. having travelled as I learn
 from the postmark, to Paris. &
 after going God knows how
 many rounds. has slumbered
 till now, in some of the latter
 post offices. - it was trans-
 mitted to me from Ghent! -

At the close of the Surgical
 Campaign I find that I have
 been more successful than on
 any former occasion, & I have
 operated less. - the Compound
 fractures have done much
 better than at any other period.

in my own practice I saved
Exactly one Half. & also
four Wounds of the Liver, Four
of the Bladder, Three of the
Head (without Lappanning) &
One of the Head where the
Operation was performed -

Capt. Lambell was by
only Death, I would not be
permitted to open the body,
But He Died Spitting blood,
& with a Liver horribly
distended -

Capt. Elphinstone after
Colic, General & Spinal
Bleedings, & a tedious inter-
val of several Weeks, is now

now perfectly Recovered -
of three Shattered
Shoulders. Two were operated
upon, & One of the Wrist
at that place I nearly saved
the wound & saved off the
end of the Bone / was left
unoperated on, of the former
Two - One Died Seton, the
Vein on Dissection
found inflamed up to the
very Axilla, the other
proceeded this Day for
England -

Your Visit here, will
I assure you, be long &

Thankfully remembered by
the Seniors of this Staff.
For myself I have never
had but one Opinion, & I
feel happy in stating it
now. by offering you the
assurance. that I am very
sincerely your Obligated
Servant -

Wm. M. M.

Charles Dell Esq.

34. The Square

Brussels
 Sep 12th - 1815

My Dear Sir

I had the honour to receive your letter a long time ago, which I ought to have answered much sooner. However I trust that you will excuse me for the delay which I have made, as I hope to be able to give you more information about some of the cases which I have seen treated, than if I had written sooner -

Major Verma's wound was exactly as you suspected - the bone was injured - some time after you left this - it became extremely painful, the whole arm swelled, & he had a considerable degree of fever - at last two small pieces of bone were thrown off, & since that he has been considerably easier - the matter was working down the arm, & forming a sac under the deltoid muscle a little below the wound - an incision

was

was made down to the bone by which the matter
has been discharged. I am now keeping this
wound open - his health is very much improved;
but as a further exploration must yet take place,
the cure is likely to be very tedious -

The man whom you mention who had the
thunder torn off; belonged, I believe to B. B. B. B.
he died, I am told, soon after you left this -

The case which you saw in my Division,
if the thunder torn off is now nearly well.
he left this a few days ago for England, with
the Invalids: the scroonous process which he
had left bare, stopped off about a month ago.

I have had some very interesting cases of
wounds of the Intestines which are now quite
well - in two cases the feces were discharged
by the wound for upwards of three weeks -

The Colon appeared to be the portion wounded -

I had also a case of wound of the Kidney.

The wound was discharged by the wound 25 days.
At last the Patient (a French Officer) got
completely well - what was curious in this case.

was.

was, that ^{as long as} the wound was discharged by
the back he scarcely ever passed a drop by
the natural way - Mr. Guthrie's case of
Hip Joint Operation is, I am told, likely
to recover - a case of aneurysm occurred

a few days ago, high up in the Thigh -
the external V. was taken up, but the
man died in three days after -

The case I am told is to be published.

The operation was done by Mr. Collier.

You will know if you have any belief in

the wind of a Bull - a French soldier

whom I had in my Division for a wound of the leg

with a musket Ball - consulted me one day

about his leg - he said a Cannon Ball

passed close to his head on the 18th June.

he was instantly struck blind of one eye, & has

now since recovered the sight of it -

I shall do myself the honour of speaking on

when I get to London -

I remain, My Dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully

J. B. B. B.



Mr.
Charles Bell Esquire
Surgeon
34 / Soho Square
London

outline of a Case of Injury of the Brain. Runc 630/11 ⑥

Dominique Modie et. 27 was wounded at the battle of Waterloo on the 18th June - He lay three days on the field without food - was then taken to a village and from thence to one of the Churches in Brussels - He was admitted into the Gendarmarie Hosp^l on the 30th June and came under my care on the 4th July -

A musket ball had entered at the anterior part of the squamous suture of the Temporal bone on the right side and passing backwards and downwards fractured the parietal bone and lodged in the Brain -

On the morning of the 5th July the wound was laid open by Mr. Charles Bell - three portions of bone were removed and the ball extracted from the posterior lobe of the right Hemisphere of the Brain immediately over the Tent^{or} - Cerebel. Sup^{er} - - The ball when extracted was covered with the substance of the Brain -

Notwithstanding this extensive injury of the Head - his constitution could scarcely be said to be at all affected his pulse before laying open the wound was 72 and on the day after 80 - he made no complaint but of slight headach and deafness of the right ear - appetite strong - Tongue clean - Belly regular - skin cool - slept well -

The wound was carefully cleared of blood and small portions of the Brain - the lips were then brought together and retained by means of two stitches and adhesive straps - over which a uniform compress and bandage -

His Head was kept constantly cool and moist with cold water - his Bowels were freely opened

diaphoretic medicines regularly administered and he was rigidly kept on the Lowest Diet -

Under this management (his bowels kept constantly loose) he continued free from any uneasy feeling until the 16th when he complained of lancinating pains in the back part of the head - and of uneasiness from the light of a candle and noise - The wound looked extremely well - the lips nearly united - very little discharge of matter - the pulse somewhat more full but not more frequent -

A brisk Cathartic entirely removed these unfavorable symptoms and from that time till the 24th he continued improving - on that day however the expression of his eyes and fullness of his countenance indicated some new irritation of the system -

His pulse for the first time was found as high as 96 and hard - skin very hot - considerable disposition to sleep - Upon making inquiry it was found that the officer under whose care he had been placed for the last three days had omitted giving him his usual laxative - and had given him wine Eggs and other extras - These were immediately stopped and a brisk Cathartic again administered by which means he was in the course of a few hours again restored to his former state of convalescence -

From this time he has again been under my immediate care - He makes no complaint but of slight deafness of the right ear - and that he thinks

is diminishing gradually. He says that from his present sensations he could not know that he had been wounded. He has all along been permitted to smoke Tobacco freely - he uses it to remove the sensation of hunger - having a strong appetite and being at the same time kept on a very spare diet - of the propriety of which he is completely satisfied. The wounds are now (6th Sept) nearly all cicatrized - to all appearance the remaining part will be skinned over in the course of four or six days at farthest - The pulsation of the Brain is distinctly visible at two different parts of the cicatrix - in every other respect he enjoys perfect health -

Lt. H. Blackadder

Lt. A. the Forces

13 Sept - 1873

~~203, Tottenham Square, W.~~
40 West Abbey Road
(Kilburn) N.W.
19th July 1866

My Dear Sir

I have despatched today
by passenger-train the parcel
containing the Catalogue of the
Waterloo Drawings, with Sir Charles
Bell's Sketch Book, and the
interleaved copy of his "Disser-
tation on Gun-shot wounds" (which
appeared both separately, and as
an Appendix to the second Edi-

tion of his Operative Surgery.)
used by him while on his visit
to Brussels, as a Note Book.

The few observations I have
prefixed to the Catalogue may
instruct you as to how I have
made it up.

The marginal Notes on the Draw-
ings in the Sketch Book have
furnished the principal materi-
als. The letters from those Surgeons

who corresponded with him after
wards about the Cases, I have
put into the Sketch Book, where
Mr Charles Bell himself had
placed them. They seem deserving
of being preserved by fixing
them in the book.

I may suggest that some
intelligent person should be
employed to trace in ink the
Notes written only in pencil
in the "Dissertation".

You will perhaps perceive
that the pencil notes in the
Sketch Book have been re-
freshed. I did that myself.
As they were nearly illegible
in some places: and I took pains
to follow his own writing (even
keeping his bad spelling).

But of course such closeness
of tracing would be unnecessary
in regard to the "Dissertation."

My sister will be glad to hear
of the safe arrival of the Parcel.
I am Yours very truly
Prof^r Longmore. Alex. Shaw

Transcript of RANC 63012

Letter 1.

Brussels Sept 12th 1815

My Dear Sir,

I had the honour to receive your letter a long time ago, which I ought to have answered much sooner. However, I trust that you will excuse me for the delay which I have made, as I hope to be able to give you more information about some of the cases I have seen treated, than if I had written sooner.

Major Vernon's wound was exactly as you suspected - a bone was injured - some time after you left this it became extremely painful, the whole arm swelled, and he had a considerable degree of fever - at last two small pieces of bone were thrown off, and since that he has been considerably easier. The matter was working down the arm and forming a sac under the deltoid muscle a little below the wound - an incision was made down to the bone by which the matter has been discharged, and I am now keeping this wound open - his health is very much improved, but as a further exploration must yet take place the case is likely to be very tedious -

The man whom you mention who had the shoulder torn off is now nearly well. He left this a few days ago for England with the invalids - the acromion process which had been left bare dropped off about a month ago.

I have had some very interesting cases of wounds of the intestines which are now quite well - in two cases, the feces were discharged by the wound for upwards of three weeks - the colon appeared to be the portion wounded. I had also a case of wound of the kidneys: the urine was discharged by the wound 25 days and at last the patient (a French officer) got completely well - what was as long as curious in this case was that when the urine was discharged by the back he hardly ever passed a drop by the natural way. Mr. Guthrie's case of hip joint operation is, I am told, likely to recover - a case of aneurism occurred a few days ago high up in the thigh. The external iliac was taken up, but the man died in three days after -

The case I am told is to be published. The operation was done by Mr. Collier. I do not know if you have any belief in the wind of a ball - a French soldier whom I had in my division for a wound of the leg with a musket ball - consulted me one day about his eye, he said a cannon ball passed above to his head on the 18th June, he was struck instantly blind of one eye and has never since recovered the sight of it.

I shall do myself the honour of waiting on you when I get to London.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

John Boggie.

_____ : _____
 :

Letter 2.

Brussels 17th August.

Dear Sir,

I regret very much I had it not in my power to pay earlier attention to your wishes.

Ordered to move to join a general Hospital, I lost an opportunity of following up many interesting cases, as well as the pleasure of complying ~~in~~ immediately with your request. I beg to assure you, that I will always hold myself flattered, in being afforded an opportunity to forward you any medical or surgical intelligence from this place.

Sam Pritchard is alive and doing well all things considered. Complains of occasional pain in the left side of the head: the left eye is protruded from the socket - I apprehend the ball is lodged behind its orbit - the sight of the right eye is impaired as well as the hearing of the left side. This is really a very extraordinary case. You will perhaps soon have an opportunity of seeing him in England, as he will, I believe, be soon sent home.

If I mistake not you had a sketch taken of Carl Frieberg's wound - of the King's German Legion. I recollect however you took particular notice of the case - the left thigh was fractured with very great muscular protrusion. It was apparently a hopeless case and an operation at the hip joint was contemplated. He is now in a promising way, tho' I do not consider his recovery certain. The protruded muscles are reduced to a plain surface: and the sore is comparatively small: there is some irritation from the protrusion of the Pelvic Extremity of the femur. All things considered, he is doing surprisingly well.

In my Division, two cases of Tetanus have occurred of that disease: I believe you saw them both: One had his left leg amputated close to the knee, and his right ankle fractured by a musket ball: He is now perfectly recovered of Tetanus and in other respects doing well. The treatment was most particular.

The wound of the ankle joint was dressed with lint dipped in spirits of turpentine, strong embrocations of Tincture of Opium, etc were used externally, and we contrived to introduce by the mouth - "for the jaws were not firmly locked" - some cordial and antiseptic medicines. The other case originated from compound fracture of the thigh, which it was not possible to put into splints from the irritable state of the parts. This man died of Exhaustion from the local disease. He had recovered of Tetanus some time before his death - his treatment had been similar to that of the German, except that a few mercurial frictions to the arms had been used. The following may be considered an extraordinary case and Escape: J. Turner, 3rd Battn. 1st Foot Guards was wounded by a splinter of a shell on the 18th. which entered the dorsum of the Ileum and directing its course towards the right Umbilicalis lodged between the superficial and deep seated muscles which form the Anterior Parietes of the Abdomen: his health was excellent until about the 9th July when tension and hardness appeared about the Umbilical and lumbar regions, and a hard body, changing its position with the posture of the patient, was evident. An Incision was made upon it by the Staff Surgeon Brownrigg who extracted a piece of shell weighing $9\frac{1}{2}$ ounces, with ragged margins. It had formed a cavity between the internal oblique and transversalis muscles: The patient is now doing well: his ^{n.}would looking healthy and his general health and spirits good. This, with cases that daily occur, tend to shew, what Nature and well directed surgical efforts may do, for Recovery: I recollect, at the battle before New Orleans, a man presented himself to me with an apparently enormous tumour over the left clavicle. I cut down upon it, and extracted an iron ball weighing one pound that had entered at the superior part of the right scapula - and pushing forward smashed the clavicle and thus exhausting itself, had not sufficient force to break the integuments. This man was doing well when I left him - but being ordered on other duty I do not know, the result.

Requesting that you will always consider me at your service - I remain,
Dear Sir, your most faithful svt.

J. Roche.

Charles Bell, Esquire,
34 Soho Square,
London.

Letter 3.

Bruxelles, - August 5th 1815

Dear Sir,

I feel much flattered by your communication, and report, which was received a few days since, and, altho' sadly in arrear in correspondence with my near friends, and yet much harrassed by public duties, I take the first vacant moment to reply to your enquiries. I shall be doubly gratified in the results of this short, and, politically speaking, splendid service, if, in addition to great professional opportunity, it shall have been opened for me an acquaintance with yourself, ranking so highly as you do. Acquaintance, I might say, I had already, in some degree, obtained - but I mean that greater intimacy, which should permit me having recourse to your opinion, whenever I meet with any circumstances, novel, or intricate to my own practice - In a few words, I may reply to your questions, respecting these cases :-

Fred. Meyer died a few hours after you saw him - and I regret that the pressure of duty, at that time, allowed the case to pass without examination - : there was no doubt, I believe, of the liver being the injured viscus, but I suspect there was also some epanchement of blood into the abdomen.

Wanstell, of the 10th Regt, lived some six days after you saw him, and appeared to be improving physically, but still with that injured memory, and confused judgement - It is odd that he always described himself as belonging to the 17th, in which he had formerly served, and then, as though aware of the error, would struggle to correct himself, but could never articulate, or recollect that it was the ^{fact} ~~truth~~. It is wonderful to think that animal life, and even some combination of sense, could be carried on, under the immense, and extensive, injury done to the brain, which was examined by me in Presence of Dr. Thomson, and some brother staff-surgeons. As far as the operation had been concerned, the surgery was perfect, for there was no pressure from bone or blood on the brain; but we found a fissure running from the upper part of the parietal bone, towards the basis of the skull; - The membranes were ruptured, and bloody at that point where the fungus was protruded -; there might or there might not be Inflammation of the pia mater -; you will understand that it was not very decisive -; down to the Roof of the Ventricle, on the injured, (the Left), side, the medullary substance was much softer than the corresponding hemisphere, and of a bloody colour, gradually losing itself, as though ~~blood~~ had been thrown

out in large quantities, and there had been efforts at absorption - the thalami, ~~corp^a~~ Striata - and Plexus appeared to be natural, nor did any mischief appear to have been done in the cerebellum - or posterior parts of the organ. He died somewhat suddenly -: I had bled him the over night for some slight increase in the power of the heart -: in the morning, there was a little oozing of blood in the fungus, enough to tinge the bandage, and, after sitting up to take some breakfast, he fell back, and expired. I had anticipated this result for two days before - because the sensorial power appeared rather less, and because he was more inclined to sleep. His life was evidently rescued at the time of the operation, and that it did not absolutely succeed, I attribute to the shock given to the brain, rather than to the immediate physical injury - to concussion, rather than to compression.

In Voults of the German Legion I performed the operation we talked on, and I add, with gratification, successfully, i.e., it now offers every prospect of a speedy cure. I cannot immediately recall, whether, at the time you saw him, he had appearance of a tetanic spasm, but, prior to my undertaking any thing, it was so confirmed, that I deemed it necessary to call a consultation; and, having then our opinions confirmed of the absolute necessity for any chance of life, I carried, what had before been conned over, into execution. I found no difficulty in dissecting the muscle from the bone, and very little in sawing it off close to the head -: which had been driven in among the muscles, and those portions of soft parts which appeared thickened, and diseased. There was very little haemorrhage, as the axillary artery was not touched - two ligatures were all, I think, which were required. But the Head in the Socket was some Impediment to the meeting of the flaps, and I rather regretted afterwards, and now regret, this also had not been taken away. The spasm appeared neither augmented nor diminished by the operation. The countenance became strongly tetanic -: jaws were fixed -: the least effort to swallow, produced the most frightful convulsion -: his Tongue, caught between the Teeth, was sadly lacerated-) the enprosthotos was succeeded by the Opisthotonos and of as marked a character as I ever witnessed - when sitting on the side of the bed, I have seen him thrown on his back, and the body arched by the power of the muscles; and yet thro' all this, and thro' some sloughing of the stump, which ensued, he had struggled, is now free, for some days, of spasm, which gradually subsided, after three weeks hold, the stump is

fast closing up, and he walks about the ward and is considered as a convalescing patient. Altho' I know every attention was paid to this man by the Young Gentleman who does duty under me, and I obtained every opinion to see if I could gather up any fresh view of the subject, and tried whatever offered a reasonable chance, I cannot say I attribute his Cure to Medicine, but to one of those happy constitutions we sometimes see, which survives the most frightful injuries, and ~~recovers~~^{recovers} in spite of the most rational and certain prognostics. What think you of this case? would it have been ameliorated by the Removal of the Head of the Bone?

James Alexander did not survive 48 hours after you saw him. I was quite prepared, in the event of haemorrhage, to cut down upon, and secure, the bleeding vessels - but he died exhausted - he died, as I have seen many, from the powers of life yielding to an Injury they are unable to restore. He had no fever - nor cough.

Albright Beefer is doing well, and doing so, from our looking constantly to that Point you regard as the probable cause of obstruction; once he has been bled, and the pectoral symptoms have been most constantly watched, and kept under by mild, but steady antiphlogistic treatment. The sinuses are closed - the wound is well granulated - his health is steady, - and I think there is yet enough of it to complete his cure.

Ball is quite well, and will be discharged to his Regt.

Believe me to be, very faithfully yours,

Charles Collier.

P.S. Voults case will be submitted at length to the Medical public, by a physician, on account of the Cure, or Subsidence, of such strongly positive Tetanus -; there are but two cases living, of all that had this affection -; this man, and a french officer. His Death was constantly anticipated by all, and by none more than myself, on account of the too general ill-success of our means in these cases - I shall not enter further at length into the treatment than I have done, as it is more medical, and does not so immediately concern what you wanted, I should think -; besides having promised the details to a physician, it would be anticipating, perhaps, his Intentions -

C.C.

(Franked; 4 O'Clock
12 Au
1844 Ev

Charles Bell, Esq
Surgeon,
Soho Square.

Letter 4.

Bruxelles, August 20, 1815

Dear Sir,

You were kind enough, when here, to offer me a copy of the sketch you took of Bate's case, and, as I have sent a statement of it to Sir Jas Mc Grigor, for the Medico and Chirurgical Transactions, I should feel most truly obliged if you could favour me with it. Perhaps you would have no objection to send it at once to Sir James, at the Medical Board, Berkeley Street; and, I think, if the case is worthy of notice, the Committee, will have an engraving taken from it; without some such context, the best description is very feeble.

Voultz will soon be well - the Health is good, and spasms have long since yielded - stump nearly heal'd. -

Heifer (who had the breast struck by a round shot) is convalescent.

I have had a most interesting case since I saw you in the Life Guards' mess, in Ward 15, who had the 4, and 5 ribs broken, by a musket shot; I pointed him out to you as a case doing well by general treatment - as bleeding, bandaging, etc. He had twice had an Increase of Inflammatory Symptoms, which had yielded to the usual means - but towards the close of July he began to exhibit signs of more permanent mischief - he had evening exacerbations of fever - flushed cheeks, a short cough, and a breathing, as he described it, of air like rotten eggs, and onions. Instituting on the evening of 27th July a more rigid examination, I felt what appeared to be either a Ball, or a detached Portion of Bone, and, as my patient was evidently losing Ground, I determined on ascertaining whether any piece of the rib, pressing on, or driven into the pleura could be the cause of the excitement. I made a free incision, accordingly, extending obliquely from the 4th towards the angle of the 5th rib - I removed several pieces of the broken bone, and, feeling a Bulging of the Pleura, I made a cautious opening into the chest -; some very fetid Air first escaped, and then, to my gratification, out flowed fully a quart of Pus, of an almost unsupportable fetor. He has been bled four times since - and kept on a spare diet - a Tent is introduced twice daily to the Bottom of the Wound, which we find difficult to keep open - There is still slight oozing of Pus but gradually diminishing - a few bubbles of air sometimes escape - the constitutional symptoms all on the decline, and the Patient appears to be fairly convalescing. I fear'd Emphysema, but I have not observed the least, even round the edges of the wound.

That case of very badly fractured Femur in ward 16, in an old man, a Pole, which I consulted about, is doing so remarkably, that I expect to have him on crutches in a week. The Bone was miserably broken, the Ball had entered just above the Great Trochanter - when you saw it, I think it must have been shortened fully three inches - it does not now appear to be more than one inch less than the sound one.

All the compound fractures of the Tibia have done, or are doing, well.

When you can find Leisure from your many Pursuits, to favor me with your opinions on these or on other Subjects all connected with our Profession. I shall be much obliged - we have all used enough of learning, and he is the happier who feels the greatest necessity of it.

Accept my best wishes for your Health, and believe me,

Very truly yours,

Charles Collier.

I crave your excuses, my dear Sir, for this disorderly letter, but, hurried as I am, it is something to be able to do so much. If you would address any letter to me to my brother's care - (J. Collier Esq. 30, Carey Street Lincoln's Inn -) it will be forwarded through the Commander-in-Chief's office.

P.S. August 29th. I have been delay'd sending off this until the present time, and I am sorry to say my Life Guards man is not quite so well - I was, I fear, too sanguine, as the case will be tedious. I have had occasion since to dilate the wound down to the Thorax, and to give (?) to a large collection of Pus, and again operation gave relief. This case is quite entre nous - I shall give you further Particulars hereafter for your Information, and opinion, but it will be published, I believe by a friend of mine, who has been most interested in the man's fate. I tied the External Iliac yesterday, on account of femoral aneurism within about three inches of Poupart's Ligament - the Tumor was large, and I fear'd disease had reach'd/where I was to operate, but it was fortunately quite sound. The aneurism was occasion'd by musket shot on the 18th June; I shall publish particulars hereafter. This day there is great want of blood in the Limb, but I hope to prevent ill consequences.

Letter 5.

Brussels Sept. 6th 1815

My Dear Sir,

Your kind letter of the 17th of July reached me only this day, having travelled, as I learn from the postmark, to Paris, and after going God knows

how many rounds, has slumbered till now in some of the native post offices, - it was transmitted to me from Ghent ! -

At the close of the surgical campaign I find that I have been more successful than on any former occasion, and I have operated less, - the compound fractures have done much better than at any other period. In my own practice I have saved exactly one half - and also four wounds of the liver, four of the bladder, three of the Head (without Trepanning) and one of the head where the operation was performed.

Captain Campbell was my only death. I would not be permitted to open the body, but he died spitting pus, and with a liver enormously distended.

Capt. Elphinstone, after copious general and topical bleedings, and a tedious interval of seven weeks, is gone home perfectly recovered.

Of three shattered shoulders, two were operated upon and one (the worst, and that where I merely [illegible] The wound and sawed off the end of the bone) was left unoperated on. Of the former, one died tetanic, the vein on dissection found inflamed up to the very auricle, the other proceeded this day to England.

Your visit here will, I assure you, be long and ~~thankfully~~ remembered by the seniors of the staff. For myself I have never had but one opinion, and I feel happy by stating it now by offering you the assurance that I am very sincerely, your obliged servant.

HENNEN
J. Hennen.

Hennen.

Charles Bell Esqre.
34 Soho Square.

Letter 6.

Outline of a Case of Injury of the Brain.

Dominique Modéré act 27 was wounded at the Battle of Waterloo on the 18th J June. He lay three days on the field without food - was then taken to a village and from thence to one of the churches in Brussels - He was admitted in to the Gendarmerie Hospl. on the 30th June and came under my care on the 4th July.

A musket ball had entered at the anterior part of the squamous suture of the temporal bone on the right side and passing backwards and downwards fractured the parietal bone and lodged in the brain.

On the morning of the 5th July the wound was laid open by Mr. Charles Bell - three portions of bone were removed and the ball extracted from the posterior lobe of the right hemisphere of the brain immediately over the ~~Thalam.~~ Cerebelli Supratent. The ball when extracted was covered with the substance of the brain.

Notwithstanding the extensive injury of the head, his constitution could scarcely be said to be at all affected. His pulse before laying open the wound was 72 and on the day after 80 - he made no complaint but of slight headache and deafness of the right ear - appetite strong & tongue clean - belly regular - skin cool - slept well.

The wound was carefully cleaned of blood and small portions of the brain. The lips were then brought together and retained by means of two stitches and adhesive straps, over which a uniform compress and bandage.

The head was kept constantly cool and moist with cold water - his bowels were freely opened, diaphoretic medicines regularly administered and he was rigidly kept on the lowest diet.

Under this management his bowels kept constantly loose, he continued free from any uneasy feeling until the 16th when he complained of lacerating pains in the back part of the head, and of uneasiness from the light of a candle and noise. The wound looked extremely well & the lips nearly united - very little discharge of matter - the pulse somewhat more full but not more frequent.

A brisk cathartic entirely removed these unfavourable symptoms and from that time till the 24th he continued improving - on that day however the expression of his eyes and fullness of his countenance indicated some new irritation of the system. His pulse for the first time was so high as 96 and hard - skin very hot - considerable disposition to sleep. Upon making inquiry it was found that the officer under whose care he had been placed for the last three days has omitted giving him his usual laxative and had given him wine, eggs and other extras - these were immediately stopped and a brisk cathartic again administered by which means he was again in the course of a few hours restored to his former state of convalescence.

From this time he had again been under my immediate care. He makes no complaint but of slight deafness of the right ear, and this he thinks is diminishing gradually. He says that from his present sensations he could not know that he has been wounded. He has all along been permitted to smoke tobacco freely - he has it to remove the sensation of hunger - having a strong appetite and being at the same time kept on a very spare diet; of the propriety of which he is completely satisfied. The wounds are now (6th August) nearly all cicatrised - to all appearance the remaining part will be skinned over in the course of four or six days at farthest. The pulsation of the brain is distinctly visible

at two different parts of the cicatrix - in every other respect he enjoys perfect health.

H.H. Blackadder,
Rp. As. to the Forces.

13th August 1815.

Letter 7.

40 West Abbey Road

(Kilburn) N.W.

19th July 1866.

My Dear Sir,

I have despatched today by passenger train the parcel containing the Catalogue of the Waterloo Drawings, with Sir Charles Bell's Sketch Book and the interleaved copy of his "Dissertation on Gunshot Wounds (which appeared both separately and as an appendix to the second edition of his Operative Surgery), used by him while on his visit to Brussels, as a note book.

The few observations I have prefixed to the Catalogue may instruct you as to how I have made it up.

The marginal notes on the Drawings in the Sketch Book have furnished the principal materials.

The letters from those surgeons who corresponded with him afterwards about the cases, I have put into the Sketch Book, where Sir Charles Bell himself had placed them. They seem deserving of being preserved by fixing them in the book.

I may suggest that some intelligent person should be employed to trace in ink the notes written only in pencil in the "Dissertation."

You will perhaps perceive that the pencil notes in the Sketch Book have been refreshed. I did that myself as they were nearly illegible in some places: and I took pains to follow his own writing (even keeping his bad spelling). But of course such closeness of tracing would be unnecessary in regard to the "Dissertation"

My sister will be glad to hear of the safe arrival of the parcel. I am

Yours very truly

Alex Shaw.

Profr. Longmore.