

A fasciculus, including the re-publication of Observations on the ligature of arteries, secondary hemorrhage, and amputation at the hip-joint, A letter to the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty (1835), on the assimilation of the Medical Departments of the Army and Navy in respect to rank and pay, besides rendering the naval hospitals of Great Britain, in future, schools for the acquisition of perfect skill, dexterity, and fortitude in the performance of all surgical operations, with the Order in Council of 1805, and A description of the medico-chirurgical ambulance, the invention of Dr. Veitch, for the day of battle / by James Veitch ; with an able and interesting letter from Sir George Magrath.

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INCLUDING THE RE-PUBLICATION OF

OBSERVATIONS ON THE LIGATURE OF ARTERIES,

SECONDARY HÆMORRHAGE, AND AMPUTATION AT THE HIP JOINT;

A LETTER

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF THE
ADMIRALTY (1835),

ON THE ASSIMILATION OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENTS OF
THE ARMY AND NAVY IN RESPECT TO RANK AND PAY,

BESIDES RENDERING THE NAVAL HOSPITALS OF GREAT BRITAIN,
IN FUTURE, SCHOOLS FOR THE ACQUISITION OF PERFECT SKILL, DEXTERITY, AND
FORTITUDE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF ALL SURGICAL OPERATIONS;

With the Order in Council of 1805, and

A DESCRIPTION OF
THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL AMBULANCE,

THE INVENTION OF DR. VEITCH, FOR THE DAY OF BATTLE.

5221
BY JAMES VEITCH, M.D.

*Deputy Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets;
Member of the Royal College of Physicians, London; Member of the Royal Medical Society of
Edinburgh; Member of the Society of Arts;
Formerly Principal Surgeon to the Royal Naval Hospitals at Antigua, Plymouth, Prisoners of War,
Norman Cross, and the Royal Naval Lunatic Asylum, Hoxton.*

WITH AN ABLE AND INTERESTING
LETTER FROM SIR GEORGE MAGRATH, M.D., C.B.,

Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets,
WHO SERVED UNDER THE IMMORTAL NELSON, AND WAS HONOURED WITH THE
FRIENDSHIP OF THAT GREAT MAN.

LONDON:

R. MACDONALD, 30, GREAT SUTTON STREET
CLERKENWELL.

1851.

James Wardrop Esq
from his friend The author

6 Arlington Square
14th April

1856

James Wardrop Esq M.D

L L L

OBSERVATIONS ON THE LIGATURE OF ARTERIES,

SECONDARY HÆMORRHAGE,
AND AMPUTATION AT THE HIP JOINT.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

IN accidents, accompanied with wounds, as well as in the varied operations of surgery, there is no mode of suppressing hæmorrhage equal to that of the ligature. Since its introduction it is therefore not surprising, that its form and manner of application should at all times have become an object of deep interest with those Surgeons who were enthusiastically devoted to the interests of humanity and of their profession, because the results of their exertions often yield to minds thus constituted the highest gratifications that can spring from the powers of surgery, and success in this department of the healing art is greatly dependent on the form and due application of the ligature. In the operations of the surgeon cause and effect admit of no doubt; the advantages conferred on the patient, alone originate in the skill and intrepidity of the surgeon in the discharge of the sacred and important duties that are due to the unfortunate, and to the heroes suffering in the cause of their country. The operator here enjoys, in full force, the triumph of his art, combined with the gratitude of his patients in acknow-

ledging his humanity and his skill. Such pleasures are pure and not to be surpassed, and such I have often enjoyed, in the field, on board of ship, and in hospital practice; and in making this observation I hope I shall not be deemed vain.—Vide Appendix of Fasciculus.*

While I was engaged, during the years 1803 and 1804, in conducting the important duties of one of the first hospitals of this country, I seriously felt the dangers arising to my patients from the existing practice of surgeons using large, flat ligatures. Not only were they dangerous from their size and form, thereby exciting great irritation, but from their most unwise and improper distribution in the wound inflicted by the knife of the operator. Still surgeons spoke of healing by the first intention; but no such thing took place, because their arrangements completely interrupted the powers of the animal economy in so closing the wounds they inflicted. The use of the large ligature was adopted in order to guard against the division of the artery under the pressure of securing it.

The risk of secondary hæmorrhage was supposed to be much increased by the application of the small ligature, and this opinion influenced me to a certain extent, and led me to make repeated experiments on the dead body, in 1803 and 1804, with the small round ligature, previously to applying my reasoning to practice on the living

* The object of the two services, the Army and the Navy, is the same,—that of upholding this great empire in an exalted attitude among surrounding nations; and with these sentiments deeply impressed on my mind, it has always been a matter of indifference to me whether a man wore a red coat or a blue; I invariably considered both equally claiming my exertions when they were likely to be useful, and in such circumstances no danger nor difficulty retarded my efforts—efforts which yield me (humble as they are considered by me) great consolation, although by making them I sustained severe bodily injury, the effects of which are still felt.

body. That reasoning was founded on the advantages likely to result from diminishing irritation; and these reflections rendered me anxious to attempt, with safety, the reduction of the volume of foreign matter in the form of ligature, in securing the blood vessels divided in the numerous and important operations I had to perform; and this improvement, which extends itself to all the operations in surgery, I carried to an extent that no one has usefully exceeded, not only by the diminution of foreign matter in securing the divided arteries, but by the distribution of these ligatures in the wounds inflicted by the operations of surgery; and which distribution of these ligatures, combined with their form, brought this part of surgery as near perfection as it is capable of attaining. The sufferance of foreign matter in the wound, by cutting off the dependent ligatures of every artery tied, and allowing the knots only to remain on the arteries, and attempting to heal the wounds over the knots, has not been found to answer. The mode of arresting hæmorrhage which I adopted, was carried into effect long before the book of Dr. Jones was published, and without any knowledge of his experiments. I was not aware, at the time I so successfully applied the single round ligatures to surgery, of the change that the artery undergoes by their action, and which knowledge led Dr. Jones very properly to recommend a round ligature; but I may here remark, that such recommendation was not sufficiently explicit, for it left the surgeon at liberty to introduce as much foreign matter in a round, as had previously been done in a flat form in securing arteries, and, by consequent irritation, defeating the good effects of the round form of ligature in aiding the process of nature in healing by the first intention. My experience and reasoning led me to recommend a small ligature, and its nature and form were not left to conjecture, but clearly laid down; and the introduction of this practice to surgery, by which its limits have been extended, is, I think,

unquestionably due to me. Dr. Jones did not apply his round ligature to operations on the human body; and the practice of using the small single ligature, was not adopted at the Edinburgh Infirmary, in which city his experiments were made, until the appearance of the following Essay on the ligature of arteries, which was sent to the Editor of "The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal" in 1805, and in sufficient time to have appeared in the last number of the said Journal of that year, but was not published until the 1st of April, 1806. It is far from my wish to detract from the memory of Dr. Jones; no man is more sensible of his claims to the respect of his profession;—no man more alive to his ingenuity, his ability and patience in conducting his experiments, than I am;—no man ever read his work with more satisfaction than I did, because his experiments tended to assist the cause of humanity, by aiding the removal of prejudices, which were arrayed against the single ligature, although its advantages have been most satisfactorily established by repeated and successful experiments conducted by me, in varied operations, on the living body—advantages which Dr. Jones did not possess when he published his book.*

The Second Essay was published in the same Journal, in the month of April of the year 1807, and had the effect of calling the attention of British surgeons to an operation actually discarded from among them by the authority of Mr. Pott; and at the time that Essay was written, I am inclined to believe the authority noticed held some influence not only over the reasoning, but over

* Dr. Monro, the late illustrious professor of anatomy and surgery in the university of Edinburgh, gave his unequivocal testimony to the merits of this improvement in the application of the single small round ligature by Dr. Veitch. Mr. Wardrop, who is inferior to no one as a surgeon, was among the first to see the advantages, and consequently to adopt the single ligature in his operations.

the undaunted and enthusiastic feelings of Sir A. Cooper, in every thing that relates to surgery and its operations. When conversing with this able and distinguished surgeon, shortly after the appearance of the Essay on the operation of amputation at the hip-joint, Mr. Cooper (now Sir A.) related some circumstances attending this important operation, as performed by Mr. Bromfield, who, it would appear, had, in the course of his attendance, mentioned the circumstance to one of his patients. At the future visits of Mr. Bromfield, the patient became inquisitive as to the results of the operation, and naturally applied to Mr. Bromfield for information, who replied that the person he had operated on was dead, but that he had lived twenty-four hours after the operation.*

No operation should be declined, however difficult and dangerous, provided the concurrence of the patient can be obtained, and that it tends, by its effects, to alleviate pain, and increase the chances of recovery, otherwise become absolutely hopeless. The single dressing of a fractured and lacerated limb will often give more real pain than any operation for its removal will inflict.

The mode of operating at the hip-joint, laid down in the following Essay, will be found singularly applicable where diseased bone renders this most important operation necessary.

* The operation of amputation at the hip-joint has recently been performed with complete success by Sir Astley Cooper.

OBSERVATIONS,

&c. &c.

On Secondary Hæmorrhage, and on the Ligature of Arteries after Amputation and other Operations.

I HAVE always been of opinion, that the quicker we produce adhesive inflammation, by which we look forward in amputation to the union of divided parts, the more are we likely to obviate secondary hæmorrhage. As I consider this position undeniable, even where there may be an existing disposition in the vessels to disease, it may be productive of some good to inquire how far the methods usually taken in this important operation coincide with the views of the surgeon, who has in contemplation healing by the first intention.

The general practice in amputation is to secure the blood-vessels by very broad ligatures, not inferior in their dimensions to some kinds of tape; and it is not unusual to see the femoral artery taken up by such a ligature, including in the course of the needle a considerable quantity of the contiguous muscular and other parts.

The security of blood-vessels of any importance we are still under the necessity of trusting to the ligature, which is an introduction of foreign matter into a wound intended to be healed by the adhesive process, the effects of which are undoubtedly at variance with the intentions of the surgeon; and on their number, size, and distribution in

the wound, depends, in a great degree, his success or failure.

Independent of the obstacles which ligatures must ever place against healing by the first intention, particularly when of such immense dimensions, and where they are numerous, which often happens, the mode of arranging them usually adopted by the profession has also a tendency to counteract the adhesive efforts of nature, and performs an important part in establishing the suppurative process in almost every part of the wound. The surgeon, when the blood-vessels are secured, generally draws the ligatures out at the superior and inferior parts of the wound, so that the whole living and recently divided part of the stump becomes covered by a foreign body; in fact, he establishes a seton where he has in view healing by the first intention,—a measure which must constitute a decided obstacle to the accomplishment of his designs; and, besides the disadvantages to the healing of the wound, their removal, when it can be attempted with safety, becomes more difficult from the point acted on, and the extremity of the vessels secured necessarily forming an angle, which forces the ligature, where there is resistance, into the contiguous parts, giving rise at times to pretty considerable discharges of blood.

The above is a short, but, I believe, a correct view of the imperfections in the present mode of performing amputation, as well as all other operations, to which it is the object of this Essay to call the attention of surgeons, by pointing out the impossibility of healing by the first intention under such arrangements, and to endeavour to remove some of the difficulties which obstruct the healing and adhesive efforts of nature, by a simple, safe, and, I believe, easily practicable deviation from the established method.

Where the habits and condition of the patient have been favourable to operation, I have most unexpectedly seen the suppurative process interfere with the exertions of men of the highest eminence: matter forms—the stump in some instances opens—a disposition to exfoliation follows—the periosteum quits its adhesion to the bone—the muscles retract—the condition of the wound changes—and hectic fever succeeds, from renewed irritation and discharge, terminating in the death of the patient; and to these unfavourable changes the improper size of ligatures, joined to their equally improper distribution, contributed a most important and conspicuous part.

Let any one, to feel the force of the preceding observation, recollect how suddenly the discharge of pus ceases on the removal of the ligatures, and how great it is where even the smallest of them remains. The irritation and sloughing, also, arising from the natural removal of a piece of carious bone, offers a strong lesson in favour of the propriety of diminishing every source of irritation as far as possible, and decidedly points out large ligatures as the certain cause of secondary hæmorrhage in some instances, where, under an opposite treatment, it would not have taken place.

Although I had, in my operations, been as successful as many, still the strong impression made on my mind by my failures, was never effaced by that success, and excited in me a desire to obviate their recurrence. To this feeling of regard for my fellow-creatures am I to trace the deviations which I am about to notice. As the subject is of importance, and thus early produced for the purpose of exciting attention and gaining information, it will, I hope, be treated with the spirit of candid inquiry: I shall therefore proceed to detail my late practice and ideas of this important part of surgery.

In place of securing the blood-vessels and distributing the ligatures in the manner always followed in amputation, I have, in one case, above the knee, tied every vessel from the femoral artery downwards (including nothing, if possible, but the artery) with a single silk thread; and when this was done, I afterwards, as near to the knot as was prudent and possible, took off one half of each ligature, so that the foreign matter introduced was a mere trifle, compared with what I had been accustomed to see. There is considerable disadvantage attending the including in the ligature on the artery much of the contiguous parts, as it may interfere with the contractile powers of the arteries exerting themselves to their immediate and full extent. On closing the wound by adhesive straps, instead of the usual arrangement of the ligatures from the superior and inferior parts, I drew each ligature out as nearly as possible on a line with the vessels secured; and, provided the edge of the adhesive strap, when applied to bring the opposite sides of the wound into contact, urged the ligature from its direct course, it was opened carefully with a pair of scissars in the direction of the wound, so that the ligature might be allowed to pass out on a line with the vessel it secured, by drawing it or them gently into this division of the strap. The next strap was applied so as more than to cover and support the extent of division in the preceding one, and, provided it interfered with the direct course of the ligatures from their source (the vessels secured), the same steps were taken. In this manner the wound was closed, and every ligature drawn out, as nearly as possible, on a line with the point to which it was tied; and, although a man of 60, and much weakened by previous disease, the wound healed with the rapidity of hare-lip. The parts were united in the course of six days, and, with the exception of the points of ligature, there was no purulent discharge. What can prove a greater security against secondary hæmorrhage

than such a union of parts?*

The great objections that have been stated to this mode of securing the blood-vessels have been founded on the ideas of cutting or injuring them so much as to give rise to secondary hæmorrhage. This mode of thinking and reasoning, although plausible, does not appear to me to be well-founded. A large ligature excites the process of inflammation and ulceration throughout its whole course, and much beyond itself, in the direction of the artery towards the body. The parts, in place of coalescing and approaching each other, which is of material consequence in favouring the support of the divided arteries, recede very considerably on all sides, so that the extremities of the arteries remain unsupported, and, as it were, floating in a sinus, with ligatures most unnecessarily large attached to them, and capable of exciting, by undue irritation, excessive inflammation in the very substance of the artery itself;—a change of action from that of the adhesive disposition highly dangerous in my opinion, as being favourable to secondary hæmorrhage, by its tendency to excite the sloughing process. The mode of ligature which I have lately tried will obviate such inconvenience, as the parts will be found much more disposed to general union, from the cause of irritation and inflammation being so much diminished, and will prove one great means of obviating, where practicable, in place of promoting secondary hæmorrhage. Indeed, I really think we are justified in ascribing hæmorrhage after amputations as well as some other operations, to the great volume of ligature, the very means adopted to obviate such an occurrence exciting suppuration and sloughing; for it is but fair to conclude, where undue action does

* Leaving the wound open after amputation for a time, as a provision against the dangers arising from secondary hæmorrhage, is not only bad practice, but it carries, as it were, something of inhumanity with it, because it tends to promote that occurrence. The subsequent dressing of the wound becomes a revival of the operation, and is revolting, from being unnecessary, as it should have constituted a part of the operation, and without intermission.

follow, that the vessels secured by such ligatures will be more likely to assume the ulcerative and sloughing form of action than others. In the dead body, where the key-stone of the fabric is gone (if I may so express myself), and resistance consequently becomes less than in the living, you cannot, by a single thread, or by any ligature composed of silk threads, fairly exerted, divide the external coat of the artery, even if you introduce a hard and round substance into its cavity capable of occupying its diameter. Here certainly, as observed, there is less resistance than in the living body, where the powers of reparation are coeval with the injury inflicted; and the nature of the ligature, when the change it produces is duly considered, will certainly have its influence in retarding or accelerating these powers. A broad ligature bruises more extensively than the small, and will consequently be more likely to produce the disposition to sloughing. The single thread offers something like the delicate incised wound, with its disposition to unite; the broad ligature presents something like the wound attended with contusion and irritation, which seldom fails to present difficulties to the exertion of the surgeon.

The changes which ligatures induce, joined to the natural powers of the artery in repressing hæmorrhage, have been ingeniously and ably treated by Dr. Jones, and are worthy of the attention of every medical man. The operation which I have described was performed before seeing or knowing any thing of that valuable tract.

The removal of one half of the ligature requires perfect steadiness, and a little time; but the time occupied by this part of the operation is not to be admitted for a moment into calculation, when contrasted with its advantages. But if even both parts of the ligature are allowed to remain, this mode of securing the arteries would still have a decided superiority over the general practice.

J. D.

ESSAY II.

Observations on Amputation at the Hip-joint.

FROM the nature of the duties which the surgeon has to perform, it often happens, that the most formidable and alarming accidents are suddenly and unexpectedly presented to him, and which require immediate aid, otherwise the unfortunate patient sinks a victim to the accident which has befallen him. Strongly impressed with the necessity of being able to afford the most prompt assistance, when called on to attend those suffering under wounds and accidents, and actuated with the desire of doing this as effectually as possible, I have been generally in the habit of particularly revolving the more important operations of surgery in my mind; and, in proportion to the difficulties which attend them, have they commanded my attention, with the double view of being able to meet them with composure when presented to me, and of devising means for averting, as far as practicable, the occurrence of such difficulties. In naval, as well as military life, the duties of the surgeon present a grand and animating picture, by the ravages which they enable the constitution to repair, and consequent disasters which they avert. The mind of the surgeon, on whom this feeling strongly operates, will often be rewarded with the most delightful of all satisfactions, in restoring a fellow-creature to health, to his children and his friends, who must certainly have perished without his interference: and this exalted and refined sentiment will be excited in proportion to the dangers which the patient laboured under, and which consequently roused, in proportion to their magnitude, the genius, self-command, and intrepidity of the surgeon.

Amongst the many operations to which my mind has carried me, previously to performing it on the living body, that of amputation at the hip-joint has been repeatedly the subject of my attention; and the result of my reflections is, that the present aversion to this operation is not well founded, as it appears to me to be practicable, and often likely to be followed by recovery, where, without it, the patient must be consigned to his grave. The necessity of amputation at the shoulder often presents itself, and the operation is often performed with success. The same causes which give rise to amputation at the shoulder-joint, will be found to require the same resources from surgery at the hip-joint; but here, the operation is less frequently performed, from its being more formidable in its nature; and certainly, when we weigh this operation on its own base, and compare its probable effects upon the constitution, with any other single operation, we must admit the hazard to be very great, under the present mode of performing it. Amputation performed at the hip-joint, as a last resource, is certainly fraught with more danger than the same operation at the shoulder-joint, or any other part of the body; still, it ought not on this account to be declined where it can remove a disease, or remedy the effects of an accident that must otherwise certainly prove fatal to the patient. It is a misfortune, that Mr. Pott imbibed opinions injurious to the useful tendency of this great and necessary operation, as his authority was calculated to have much weight on the minds of professional men, and probably has, in many cases, reconciled them to the idea of relinquishing it. I will venture to affirm, that had he adopted a different line of conduct in delivering his opinion on this subject, and not acted towards this operation in a manner somewhat inconsistent with the principles which he has clearly and ably laid down, under those circumstances where a patient is placed between the necessity of submitting to an operation or the grave, that amputation at the hip-joint

would, long before now, have rewarded the surgeon with as great a proportion of success as other operations of this nature.

Mr. Pott says, "To remove, or even to relieve any of the miseries to which mankind are liable, is a very satisfactory employment; but to attend on a distemper from its beginning, through a long and painful course, to its last fatal period, without even the hope of being able to do anything which shall be really serviceable, is, of all tasks, the most unpleasant. In such cases, any attempts, however hazardous, provided they are rational, would be justifiable; certainly, then, whatever is not in itself dangerous, and affords the smallest ray of hope, ought to be embraced."

Here I coincide most perfectly with Mr. Pott; but it is truly singular, that a great surgeon, influenced by such feelings as reflect credit on his heart, should abandon this useful principle, and be found to say—"That amputation in the hip-joint is not an impracticable operation (although it be a very dreadful one), I very well know. I cannot say, that I have ever done it, but I have seen it done; and I am now very sure I shall never do it, unless it be on the dead body."

The opinions of Mr. Pott, on this important operation, do not seem in unison with his great talents as a surgeon; they appear to me the result of some hasty prejudice, and do not run like that stream of useful information, genius, and elegance, generally pervading his works. I contend, in conformity to the opinion first quoted from Mr. Pott, that no necessary operation ought to be discarded because it is formidable; but, on the contrary, this character of the operation ought to constitute a strong reason, why it should be minutely cultivated, and made familiar in all its parts to our judgments and our feelings,

which appears to me to be the true mode of rendering service to our fellow creatures, and of overcoming difficulties. The great objection to this operation is the difficulty of commanding the hæmorrhage, by any method hitherto adopted with which I am acquainted, and, in consequence, the great chance of the patient dying under the hands of the surgeon.

Taking up the artery, after passing from beneath the ligament of Fallopius, does not avert this danger; and it is further objectionable, as adding the operation of aneurism to that of amputation. If the danger from hæmorrhage can be overcome, certainly the depth and extent of incision will prove no serious objection to this operation being performed; and, by the mode of operating which I am about to describe, this difficulty will, I hope, be completely surmounted. The man who suffers double amputation of the legs or thighs, or of one leg and one thigh, has certainly a greater extent of wound and irritation inflicted on his constitution, than in the operation now to be described.

The patient is to be placed on a table, of the height usually employed in amputation; when the tourniquet is to be applied in the groin, so as to act on the superior part of the femoral artery. The assistants will now secure the patient, support the limb, and retract the integuments, as in cases of ordinary amputation. This being done, and the surgeon placed on the outside of the thigh, he will commence his first circular incision, on the same principles as in the ordinary amputation of the thigh, and carry it through the integuments and fascia, freely into the substance of the subjacent muscles, which the assistant will immediately retract, to enable the surgeon to commence, without delay, a second circular incision, at a point somewhat higher, to be carried directly to the bone. When the muscles are completely divided, the next object is to

cut the bone an inch or two below the circular incision ; with this view, a longitudinal incision is to be made on the inside, and another on the outside of the thigh, commencing each incision at the top of the inferior section of the muscles, and carrying it towards the knee, somewhat more than two inches from the place of its commencement. This being done, the muscles are to be dissected from the bone, in the direction of the knee, to the extent of an inch and a half, near which point the bone must be divided. This part of the operation, it is evident, can give no pain, and will not occupy half a minute. The next step is to secure all the blood-vessels, as in ordinary amputation, to which the removal of the leg in the manner directed, gives the most perfect access. The blood-vessels being all properly secured, the tourniquet must be removed, and the patient is now to be placed on the sound side, when an incision is to be made, commencing about two inches above the trochanter, and continued, in a direct line with that projection, to the extremity of the stump. We are now to consider the bone as a tumour or foreign body, to be removed by expert and steady dissection, commencing from below upwards, and detaching, in the direction of the acetabulum, the adhering muscles on each side. The muscles attached to the trochanter being freely cut, the capsular ligament must be divided circularly, from within outwards, or *vice versâ*, according to the thigh operated on, (following the margin of the socket) ; and during this process, an assistant must press the bone towards the opposite thigh, which will force it from its socket, and enable the surgeon to lay hold of the head of it, and easily separate the attachments of the muscles from the inside of the bone, a step in this operation which ought always to be deferred until the head of the bone is thoroughly dislodged, by the division of the ligamentum rotundum.*

* The crucial division of the capsular ligament may be adopted, and is probably preferable to the circular.

It must now be evident, that the reason of my leaving a part of the thigh bone projecting beyond the muscles is, to enable my assistant or the surgeon to use it in some degree as a lever, to accomplish its own removal. From the nature and extent of the parts divided, in the second stage of the operation, there would be some reason for apprehension, did the surgeon not possess the most perfect access to, as well as command over, every vessel which he divides. Time is no object; the safety and recovery of the patient is the only consideration. The surgeon is, therefore, when he divides a vessel of any consequence, to make his assistant cover it with his finger or a sponge, and deliberately to take it up. In removing large tumours, this mode of securing the vessels is attended with considerable advantage; and here it cannot fail to strike with peculiar force. I some time ago removed a tumour of twenty years standing from the back of a sailor, that measured three feet three inches in circumference, and weighed four pounds four ounces. I also, a little time back, in the Royal Infirmary of this place, saw Mr. Law dissect out, with much precision, a tumour seated on the side and back that weighed twenty pounds. This operation, as well as my own, was attended with the most perfect success.

When the bone is removed, every vessel is to be secured by a single thread, one half of which is to be taken off, as recommended by me in a little Essay on the Ligature of Arteries, and Secondary Hæmorrhage, published in the sixth number of "The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal," under the head Inquirer, and signed J. D. I may here observe, that I extend the mode there recommended, of tying the blood vessels and arranging the ligatures to all operations where it is necessary to secure the vessels by ligature, and particularly to extirpation of the testicles and aneurism,—operations where it has been almost the constant practice not only to use one very

broad ligature, but to apply a second equally broad by way of greater security. Broad ligatures stretch, insulate, and derange the relative communications of the extremity of the vessel thus taken up, and excite excessive irritation, so that the sources of vitality of the part treated in this manner are in many instances cut off, and secondary hæmorrhage is the consequence. The single ligatures (which I consider a great advantage) come sooner away than under the usual mode of taking up the blood-vessels; and their safety has been established in sixteen different cases of amputation above the knee, five below, two of the fore-arm, one of the arm, all of which were performed by myself; and in none of these cases did anything in the form of secondary hæmorrhage occur.

The ligatures in the course of the longitudinal wound are to be gently and easily drawn out, laterally, and as nearly as possible on a line with the mouths of the vessels secured, and the wound is to be closed with adhesive slips. The circular wound is next to be closed, when the same principle as to the distribution of the ligatures is to be attended to, as recommended in the paper just noticed. The ligatures are to lie easily, attached to the extremities of the divided vessels; and particular care is to be taken in the application of the adhesive slips, to avoid extending them like vibrating cords. This wound is likely to heal with great rapidity, as the removal of the bone takes away the resistance it would give to the union of the soft parts, and which, to a certain degree, it does in every case of ordinary amputation; and, independent of resistance, its hard sharp edge and rough extremity may act on parts so acutely sensible from recent division, to a certain degree, as a foreign body, until the economy of the system adapts itself to the loss which the constitution has sustained. It is almost unnecessary to recommend, in the removal of the thigh bone by dissection, keeping the knife as close to the bone as possible, in the circular dissection,

as well as in separating from above downwards, or *vice versa*. The distance at which the incision is to be begun from the superior part of the thigh, must be ascertained by the circumference of the thigh to be operated on, and then measuring the half of its diameter from the pubic side of the thigh. The mode of operating which I have just described, may be in many cases usefully extended to amputation at the shoulder-joint.

It was my intention to have closed this paper by adverting to a Note attached to a valuable and interesting case of aneurism, communicated by Mr. Abernethy, in the last number of "The Edinburgh Journal;" but this I decline at present, as I may at a future period command sufficient leisure to enable me to resume the subject of the ligature of arteries, as well as amputation at the hip and shoulder joint.*

EDINBURGH, *November*, 1806.

* Mr. Thomson, the ingenious and able Professor of Military Surgery at this place, did me the honour of perusing this paper in manuscript; and has recommended the operation, as well as the mode of ligature which I have introduced and practised with so much advantage, to the particular attention of his pupils. This mode of operating at the hip-joint was performed on the dead body by Dr. Veitch, before the pupils of Dr. Munro, the present distinguished Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh, as well as those of Dr. Barclay.

(Copy.)

6, *Ovington Square*, *Brompton*, 1851.

DR. VEITCH has great pleasure in sending SIR GEORGE BALLINGALL the "Observations on the Ligature of Arteries, Secondary Hæmorrhage, and Amputation at the Hip Joint," as published in the *Edinburgh Journal* in 1806.

Dr. V. here presumes to observe, that healing by the first intention had no real existence in amputation, or in surgery,

until the introduction of the small single round ligature by Dr. Veitch, and drawing it out on a line with the secured artery, the half of the ligature having been previously cut off. Until the mode of dressing the wound after amputation here delineated was adopted, the principle developed by the immortal Hunter could not (as already observed) be said to exist in conducting surgical operations.

Dr. V. has no doubt that Sir George Ballingall, who loves his profession and the army and navy, will draw the attention of his pupils to the mode of ligature and dressing here recommended, as well as to the readiness with which Dr. Veitch devoted himself, regardless of danger, to the safety of the wounded soldier and sailor, because likely to be beneficial to the Surgeons of both the Army and the Navy at the present moment, when honours are about to be distributed to merit and gallantry, as such efforts in both corps are numerous. (*Vide Fasciculus, p. 29 et passim.*)

Dr. V. is also well assured that it is in accordance with the feelings and sentiments of Sir George Ballingall to direct the minds of his hearers to the liberal services of the late illustrious Viscount Melville in obtaining the Order in Council of 1805, and published in the Fasciculus, page 48, as it was a magnificent effort on the side of that great man, and coadjutor of the illustrious Pitt, in the cause of humanity.

Dr. V. has looked into the *Lancet*, and has witnessed the concentrated view of Sir George Ballingall's able and lengthened labours for the benefit of the profession with singular pleasure. The course pursued by Sir George Ballingall is that which Sir George Magrath and Dr. V. were anxious to introduce into the Navy, by rendering the hospitals thereof, by means of able professors selected from the medical officers of that service, schools of practical surgery and medicine.

Sir George Ballingall, &c. &c.

A LETTER

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORDS
COMMISSIONERS OF THE ADMIRALTY,

*On the Assimilation of the Medical Departments of the Army
and Navy, and rendering the Naval Hospitals Medical and
Surgical Schools.*

26, Cadogan Place, 24th May, 1835.

MY LORDS,

A long and ardent devotion to the service induces me to solicit the honour of addressing your Lordships, while I remark that the foundations of our national and commercial greatness have been laid on the bosom of the ocean, a mighty and pure source of prosperity, worthy of its origin and of its defenders; and these blessings, so indispensable, in a state of undiminished splendour and power, the Navy alone can uphold. With this opinion, and being at the same time duly impressed with the wisdom and justice of your Lordships, I humbly presume to submit a few observations on a subject of vital importance, that of the health of the Navy, because, without *health*, the hitherto irresistible operations of our great bulwark, the Navy, will cease to command respect and obedience throughout the world.

The mode of conducting the Medical duties of our Naval Hospitals, by Physicians acting strictly as such and Surgeons, is probably not the best calculated for diffusing energy, ability, and genius over these establishments.*

* At the Naval Hospitals of Great Britain the duties of the Physicians and Surgeons should be invariably combined, and both ought to act in either capacity when required. The duties strictly Surgical might be assigned to the younger branches of these officers, and the Medical to those more advanced in life.

It has always, my Lords, appeared to me strange, that any part of the Medical corps employed at our Naval Hospitals, where desperate wounds and accidents are being constantly received, should have been allowed by the Medical Boards to turn their backs on these desperate wounds and accidents, and place half their acquirements, as well as those of their assistants, in a state as it were of suspended animation. The experienced Medical man (which implies a thorough knowledge of medicine as well as surgery) despairs of no case, unless the head, the heart, or great vessels contiguous should be shot through, as he is often able to extricate the distinguished officer from the effects of the most perilous wounds, to receive marks of regard from his Sovereign, and the homage of a great and admiring nation. Wounds the most dangerous and extensive are now cured by humane treatment and by bold and skilful operations, that would in former times have proved fatal, by locked jaw and other causes. With Medical men so educated, and to which our Hospitals may be rendered instrumental, the Navy will possess, in a scientific and condensed form, everything that can be required for the prevention and cure of diseases.

Permit me, my Lords, to observe, that water, when left to its own laws, invariably finds its level, and as certainly will genius and talents tend to those points where due encouragement is awarded; and it is but fair that those gallant chiefs, with the seamen and marines under their command, who are destined to emulate the immortal deeds of Blake, Benbow, Rodney, Howe, St. Vincent, Duncan, Nelson, should possess the same advantages towards the preservation of their lives, as those who are to follow in the footsteps of Marlborough, Wolfe, Abercrombie, Moore, Baird, and Picton, as the lives and services of the latter are not likely to be more valuable to their country than the former. The object, my Lords, is to afford increased advantages to the Navy, and to which I am

truly anxious to contribute, by cultivating the immense resources of the Hospitals thereof, which have been heretofore in a great measure lost to the Medical literature of the nation. These institutions have been erected and supported at great expense to the country, and no doubt can exist as to the anxiety of your Lordships to render them eminently useful to the service, as well as to the empire at large.

The intention of the proposition I have the honour to lay before your Lordships is, to render our Naval Hospitals (such as Greenwich, Portsmouth, and Plymouth) not only the recipients of officers, seamen, and marines, but Medical and Surgical Schools, by requiring each of the Medical men thereunto appointed to deliver an annual course of Lectures, and which course of Lectures, as well as the practice of the Hospitals, should be open, under certain regulations, for the instruction and improvement of the Medical Officers of the Navy, as also the sons of officers who may be intended for the medical profession; indeed, these advantages might be extended, under the auspices of your Lordships, to the community at large, and thus would the names of the present Board of Admiralty be connected with science and humanity until time shall be no more. The following to constitute the course of instruction:—Senior Medical Officer, the practice of medicine—Second Medical officer, the theory of medicine;—a course of *Materia Medica* to be alternately given by each of them.—Third Medical Officer, the operations of surgery, with their causes.—Fourth Medical Officer, Anatomy and Physiology. Clinical Lectures to be given in their respective departments. The Dispenser to deliver a course of Pharmaceutical Chemistry. Our Naval Hospitals would thus shortly acquire fresh vigour, and yield invaluable instruction, under the guidance of their Medical Officers, who are independent of private practice, which gives leisure for the most attentive consideration of the

cases received for treatment; and by such liberal and wise views these Institutions will become, in reference to the Navy, what Woolwich is to the Engineer and Artillery department of the Army.*

In conclusion, my Lords, let me affirm that the health of the officers and sailors of Her Majesty's Navy is uppermost in my mind; but should this plan add to the general interests of the nation and the profession, the more likely it is to be followed with that ardour and enthusiasm which never fails to lead to success.

My Lords, I have the honour to be, with great respect,

Your obedient humble Servant,

JAMES VEITCH, M.D.

*To the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners
of the Admiralty.*

P.S. All those pupils who may be allowed to avail themselves of the instruction to be derived from these Institutions, to be clothed and maintained by their friends. No man makes a better Physician than an old Surgeon, who has been regularly educated; but the Medical Boards might have prevented such officers, on being made Physicians, throwing those qualities overboard which distinguished them as Surgeons.

* One object of this letter was, as a matter of justice to the British sailor, to place the Medical Officers of the Navy, in what respects their pay, half-pay, rank, prize money, the supply of instruments, and their widows' pensions, on a perfect equality with those of the Army.

THE ST. VINCENT, WELLINGTON, AND NELSON

MEDICO - CHIRURGICAL AMBULANCE,

The Invention of Dr. VEITCH,

DEVOTED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE WOUNDED WARRIOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE UNITED SERVICE JOURNAL.

26, *Cadogan Place*, June 6, 1836.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit to you, for publication in your valuable journal, a description of an invention devoted to the preservation of the wounded warrior. In all the combinations of this ambulatory operating theatre, utility and humanity have been aimed at, because its author has personally witnessed and mingled in the miseries and triumphs of war. It carries no Congreve rockets nor Shrapnell shells in its composition; but, in despite of this, it possesses powers calculated to eagerly attract the notice of the gallant, the enlightened, and generous warrior, and lover of his country; whose object, the day being decided, is to relieve human suffering, and thereby gather laurels as imperishable as the fame resulting from the field of battle. This apparatus was constructed with the view, as observed, to save and diminish, as far as possible, the sufferings of those who are destined, in times to come, to uphold the already splendid achievements of the Army and Navy, whose combined efforts have invariably laid in the dust their country's enemies.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient humble Servant,

JAMES VEITCH, M.D.

(Formerly one of the principal Surgeons of the
Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth, &c. &c.)

The invention may be constructed in a dockyard, at a cost under three pounds.

THE MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL AMBULANCE.

DESCRIPTION.

THIS apparatus consists of an operating table, with a flap attached thereunto. The solid table is 3 feet 4 inches in length, 2 feet in breadth, to which there is affixed an inclined plane, to raise and support the shoulders of the patient when necessary. The flap is 2 feet 6 inches in length, and of the same breadth as the table, and, when required, is supported by a moveable beam, which can be promptly projected from underneath the table, which is 2 feet 11 inches in height. Under the body of the table, and in the centre, there is a square box of 16 inches in all directions, and four exterior and lateral divisions of 2 inches in breadth each, 16 inches in length, and 8 in depth, for receiving the cases of amputating, trepanning, miscellaneous, and cupping instruments, and are exteriorly so marked.

When amputation of the thigh or any other extremity is required, the necessary instruments are laid out on the inside of the cover of the box just adverted to, beginning with the letter nearest to the limb to be removed. The first instrument wanted, to be placed opposite A, and the second opposite B, and so on, according to the order in which they are required in the course of the operation; by which means the very painful and afflicting circumstance of calling for instruments is altogether avoided.

If a shoulder is to be removed, the same arrangements are to be adopted as in the amputation of a thigh, with the difference of placing the instruments at the head, instead of the lower extremity of the table.

The divisions in the centre are intended to receive bandages of 6 yards, of 5, of 4, and 3 yards in length and of 3 inches in breadth, and they are capable of giving ac-

commodation to about two hundred bandages of the description noticed. The drawers in front, marked "Ligatures," are intended to keep these essential agents of surgery in constant readiness. The drawers marked "Slips of adhesive plaster," indicate the propriety of their being, at all times, in readiness for operations and wounds. The compartment marked "Fractures" is for keeping the splints and bandages necessary for the cure of such accidents in a constant state of readiness. The department marked "Dislocations" indicates that all instruments required for the reduction of dislocations are there to be found in a state of preparation.

With these arrangements, the surgeon can never be taken by surprise, and is consequently always in a condition to remedy the effects of wounds and accidents, however dangerous, and thereby to obviate their fatal tendency, even without a regular surgical assistant.

This invention is portable as a whole, but its parts admit of being separated and removed to any point where the whole may not be wanted.

With the above apparatus, no man, however dangerously wounded, ought to be despaired of, because every thing requisite can be readily found in its place, and there is a place for everything required on the day of battle.

It would also be advisable to have brass rods, on which to hang lamps, constantly fixed to the deck, in the centre of the cockpit, and directly over the place appointed as the operating theatre in time of action. It could be carried by poles, like a sedan chair, to any point where it might be wanted, and this plan would be advisable, even on board of ships* of war; but where greater velocity is demanded, as in the field of battle, a neat spring cart, with a box fixed thereunto, of its exact dimensions, could

* This apparatus ought to be constantly under the eye of the surgeon, and should therefore stand in his cabin. The Navy of Great Britain is the first in the world, and our Naval Hospitals should be rendered equally eminent for the diffusion of the science of Surgery, Medicine, and Medical Literature.

be kept in constant readiness, by which arrangement, and with a single horse, it could be conveyed, the surgeon accompanying it, with much speed, to the assistance of the wounded.

This invention appeals strongly to the head and heart of all officers who love their monarch and their country, and who consequently delight in meeting and overcoming difficulties and danger, as well as in protecting those under their command who suffer in these exalted pursuits.

The above is a description of a full-sized apparatus, which will be applicable to hospitals, to the field of battle, to actions on board of ship, as also to garrisons and to regiments under marching orders. This apparatus is calculated to give the utmost precision to the surgical department accompanying fleets and armies, of which, in my opinion, they have hitherto been, and still are, strikingly deficient; and as its powers are obvious to both officers and men, it will animate the confidence of both in the hour of danger.

The present improved state of chemistry, which condenses the virtues of drugs within a small compass, would enable this apparatus to easily accommodate medicines for 1500 men, when on board of ship, in the field, or under marching orders, and without altering its dimensions, or increasing its weight beyond a few pounds.

This invention, besides its applicability to the army and navy, promises the greatest advantages in hospital as well as in private practice.

Noblemen and gentlemen keeping a large retinue, manufactories, railway companies, and hunting establishments, would find in this invention a source of security, as at all such places valuable lives are often unnecessarily sacrificed, when accidents occur, in consequence of the requisite instruments either not being in a state of readiness, or at such a distance as to give rise to delay, and that delay to death. It also forms an admirable dépôt for the keeping of instruments of every kind in a high state of preservation.

No one can dine or breakfast with ease at a table that is either too high, too low, or too broad ; and to perform an important operation on the living body with skill, delicacy, and dexterity, so as to inflict the least degree of pain, becomes utterly impossible under such defects. When the table for operations is fixed to a bulkhead, which prevents the surgeon moving round his patient, these defects become more severely felt. In private practice, in searching for a table on which to operate, delay often arises, as well as misery to the family, and suffering to the patient, far beyond the pain of the operation itself ; which evils will all be obviated by this invention, because it can be conveyed, with the instruments previously arranged, to the house where the operation is to be performed.

This apparatus once placed in the field of battle, the cockpit, the railway terminus, or in a private room, the surgeon is prepared to do his duty.

The British sailor is one of the first of the human race for the perfect and heroic performance of a daring exploit, while he never forgets mercy and generosity to the vanquished ; and with our knowledge of these virtues, nothing should be left undone for the salvation of such men.

The subjoined opinions demonstrate its applicability to such high national purposes, and also that it is required, as without it those officers conceive that the wounded sailors of Her Majesty's Navy are denied great advantages, in reference to the alleviation of their sufferings under dangerous and painful operations.

This invention when adopted will aid in the mitigation of the sufferings of the wounded warrior ; it will also inspire confidence before going into battle, by enabling the captain, the officers, and the crew to judge of the fitness of the preparations in the surgical as well as of every other department of the ship in which they serve ; and it was on this excellence of the invention, still un-employed in the Navy, that the gallant officers to whom it was submitted commented with delight and satisfaction.

The following distinguished Naval and Military Officers besides many others of all ranks, have given the invention their decided and enthusiastic approbation.

| | |
|---|---|
| Admiral Tollemache | Robert Liston, Esq. |
| General Lord Fitzroy Somerset | General Morris |
| Admiral Sir Pulteney Malcolm | Colonel Rome |
| Admiral Sir Edward Codrington | Hon. Captain Crofton, R.N. |
| Admiral Sir William Parker | Captain Cochrane, R.N. |
| General Sir F. Maclean, Bart. | Captain Glasscock, R.N. |
| Colonel Maclean | General Forbes |
| Sir Thomas Trowbridge, Bart. | Captain Bruce, R.N. |
| Admiral Sir Charles Adam | Captain Campbell, R.N. |
| Colonel Brotherton | Admiral Sir J. Hill |
| Admiral Wollaston | Captain Smith, R.N. |
| Admiral Hollis | Admiral The Earl of Dundonald |
| Admiral The Hon. Charles Elphinstone | Major Clark |
| Colonel Sir F. Smith, Engineers | Admiral Sir F. Maitland, Bart. |
| Captain Ellis, R.N. | Captain Daly, R.N. |
| Sir James Macgregor, Bart., Chief of the Medical Department of the Army | Admiral Sir James Hillyer |
| Dr. Baird, formerly Inspector General of Naval Hospitals | J. Pettigrew, Esq. |
| Dr. Ryan | Captain Meredith, R.N. |
| Dr. Gladstone, Greenwich Hospital | Dr. Hume, Inspector of Military Hospitals |
| John Gilchrist, Esq., ditto | M. Chivers, Esq. |
| James Wardrop, Esq. | Captain Downes, R.N. |
| Sir C. F. Forbes, M.D. | Lewis Tonna, Esq. |
| F. Young, Esq. | Lord Reay |
| Dr. Alexander | Captain Peevor, E. India Service |
| Copeland Hutchinson, Esq. | Captain Campbell, ditto |
| | Admiral Sir Henry Digby |
| | Robert Keate, Esq. |
| | Sir George Magrath, M. D., C. B. |

The invention has received the honorary testimonial of the Society of Arts.

A model of the invention has been placed for inspection in the United Service Museum, Scotland Yard; the centre of which was voted an eligible site for the Hat of the immortal Nelson.

From Sir George Magrath, M.D., C.B.

Plymouth, Dec. 5th, 1846.

MY DEAR DOCTOR,

I am greatly flattered by the honour you have done me in condescending to defer to my opinion respecting your admirable and ingenious contrivance of an operation table, adapted in principle, construction, and arrangement to the requirements of the cock-pit, as well as the field, in action. This highly interesting apparatus, must be hailed by every man of science and humanity, as supplying an important desideratum, long felt in the public service, in the hour of battle, combines and comprehends, in a portable and *condensed* form, a complete surgical appointment, and all the necessary and requisite apparatus appertaining to an effective surgical equipment, calculated to economise time, abridge trouble and inconvenience (more especially when the Medical Staff is limited), and facilitate the Medical Officer in his toilsome, arduous, and responsible duties. This opinion will be found demonstrably correct by every competent judge who deduces his conclusions from practical experience of the cockpit in action. This is a subject I can discuss with confidence, having served in line-of-battle ships in a plurality of general engagements with enemies' fleets, and which I hope qualifies me to claim the privilege, above all ceremony, of forming an accurate estimate, without incurring a suspicion of arrogance; for who can comprehend the confusion, the horrors, and dismay of a scene where the wounded, crushed with formidable gun-shot casualties, the high and the low, the dead and the dying, are indiscriminately laid side by side in appalling numbers, writhing in the agonies of torture, but the man who has been engaged in the calamities of active warfare? I represent facts from early associations and reminiscences still vividly impressed on my memory. But abstract or general propositions though ever so true, often appear

obscure and doubtful till they are explained by examples ; but “ we must yield to fact, while we resist speculation ;” and I shall illustrate my views.

In the Battle of Camperdown, a shot of heavy calibre entered below the water line of the Russell, which tore away an enormously heavy beam in the cockpit, the mass of splinters of which wounded several women at my quarters, and dispersed in different directions my surgical equipment, which I had disposed of as conveniently as circumstances admitted, and which obliged me (having but one inexperienced assistant) for a time to abandon a wounded man, whose right leg had been *amputated*, and the left commenced upon, until I had collected and rearranged my seat and *matériel* ! Had I possessed the *Model Table* which you have so skilfully perfected into practical utility, much valuable time would have been saved and suffering avoided, nay, the hazard of life obviated ! This single fact, and many other analogous ones, could be adduced from the records of the service in incontrovertible affirmative of the expediency of establishing the invention. Indeed, nothing would give more splendour to the cares of Government, or be more grateful to the Medical Department of the Navy, while it would demonstrate the anxiety of the Executive to minister to the cause of suffering humanity, than the adoption in its fullest spirit of the invention under consideration. If it be not too useful—too important, to challenge opposition, or awaken prejudice and antagonism, I have no apprehension of its success. But we are told by high authority, that “ there is sometimes danger in greatness of design ;” still I cannot anticipate a rejection of a scheme so obviously advantageous, and which entitles you to the gratitude of the State, and, I trust, an honourable reward for your science and ingenuity in originating a public good. *Sint hic etiam sua præmia laudi.* I regret my incapability to give such palpable colouring to the subject as would seize upon the feelings of those in whose jurisdiction the required patronage resides !

The coincidence and unanimity of sentiment which has long obtained between us, of establishing our great Naval Hospitals as National Schools of Surgery and Physic, continues to occupy my attention; and the more I contemplate the subject, the more I am convinced of its practicability, and the practical benefits which it would confer upon the country. Great efforts are reserved for great occasions, and the time will come when it may be necessary to give effect to so laudable a scheme, which is so practicable, and so necessary to the efficient education of candidates aspiring to the naval service; and *this cannot* be so advantageously accomplished as by the institution of practical schools, where *nautical* diseases and the surgical treatment of extensive gun-shot wounds would furnish occupation for the student who had acquired and was well grounded in all the preliminary branches of his profession. The arguments in favour of the conversion of Government Hospitals into Institutions of instruction are so numerous and cogent, that it would obviously be a waste of labour to discuss them; for we have only to look abroad to other countries to be convinced how much the want of such schools is a dishonour to our own, and were the system to be approved of and encouraged by judges of matters connected with the state, its expedience would be admitted. But to treat the subject in detail, throughout all its ramification and bearings, would require more time and leisure than I can bestow upon it; but I feel that a veteran of some experience and service in the Medical Department of the Navy may be permitted to express his thoughts on a subject of such vital importance and weight as are involved in the question. Government, it is well known, cannot attach distinguished and talented men to the service, or train them to the peculiar profession, by pay alone; while, on the other hand, a public education, conducted on a liberal scale, and at the expense of the State, would be a high and flattering inducement to exertion and ambition to rise by the force of industrious emulation, and zealous devotion, which no sense of mere duty and

subordination can produce. The man is deserving of praise who considers, not what he may do, but what is becoming him to do; and I trust this sentiment will operate in your favour at head-quarters.

I am, my dear Doctor,

Your sincere friend,

(Signed)

GEORGE MAGRATH.

Dr. Veitch, M. D.

Deputy Inspector of H. M. Hospitals and Fleets.

Remarks by the Editor of the "United Service Journal."

We have been enabled, by the courtesy of Dr. Veitch, to inspect the apparatus which forms the subject of the foregoing description, and can pronounce confidently on its merits. Whether as a fixed article of hospital *matériel* in quarters or on ship-board, or as a portable item of field ambulance, it appears to us well worthy of general adoption, afloat and ashore. The chief objection to its present construction, at least as far as regards facility of transport, is its weight; but this might be considerably diminished by forming the outer case of a lighter material than wood. The expense is comparatively moderate, and much more than balanced by the convenience and utility of the apparatus, which, we are persuaded, would become, with such modifications as experience might suggest, an adequate remedy for a defect in our medical resources which many a member of the United Service has had practical cause to rue.*

* The distinguished and highly accomplished officer who thus remarks, had lost a leg, and was therefore in every way competent to give an opinion on the capabilities of this invention; but his objections, founded on weight, disappear in reference to the Navy.

APPENDIX.

“Rectè enim veritas temporis filia dicitur, non autoritatis.”—BACON.

THE following is a short sketch of the different important situations that have been held by Dr. Veitch in the public service, who is a member of the Royal College of Physicians of London, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, as also a Surgeon by diploma thereof, and at which celebrated school he studied nearly fourteen years in the attainment of classical, medical, surgical, and pharmaceutical information, and was elected one of the annual Presidents of the Royal Physical Society, and also a member of the Royal Medical Society.

Dr. Veitch at a future period studied in Paris, and visited the Hospitals and other sources of information with which that interesting capital abounds; and during that time he attended a course of Natural Philosophy delivered in the Louvre, which was as remarkable for the talents, the apparatus, and the demonstrations of the Lecturer, as by the presence at these Lectures of Louis Buonaparte, then a Colonel of the Consular Guards, and afterwards King of Holland, thereby showing his devotion to science and literature.

1. Dr. Veitch had the honour to serve as Medical Superintendent of Prisoners of War at Norman Cross; and the medical department of which dépôt he arranged for the reception of prisoners of war.

2. One of the principal medical officers of Plymouth Hospital, at which he received many gallant and dangerously wounded officers, seamen, and marines, as the result of the great naval actions fought during a war unexampled in point of severity in the history of Great Britain.

3. Dr. Veitch was appointed to Paignton Hospital, at Torbay, which he declined, and having had the honour of a personal interview with Lord Howick, then First Lord of the Admiralty, Dr. V. delivered his reasons very distinctly to his Lordship for having so acted.

4. Principal Medical Officer of Antigua Hospital; and while

he held that situation he transmitted much information calculated to conduce to the benefit of the public service.*

5. Acting Physician to the Fleet under the late Admiral Totty, Commander-in-chief of the Leeward Islands.

6. Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, Hoxton; an institution that was appropriated to the reception of officers, seamen, and marines of the navy who were afflicted with mental derangement. When Dr. Veitch received his appointment to this Institution, 150 patients under different forms of insanity became the objects of his care,—fifty of whom were under restraint, and some of them in irons: but in less than a fortnight this disgusting and frightful state of the institution had altogether disappeared, and the number of deaths were gradually diminishing, so that he had preceded Pinel in the mild and humane treatment of the insane. The services of Dr. Veitch at this asylum were directed in his appointment to be considered as time served at a Naval Hospital, such as Greenwich, Haslar, Plymouth, or Antigua.†

7. Dr. Veitch had the honour to be especially appointed—and, he believes, at the command of the late illustrious Earl St. Vincent, he being then first Lord of the Admiralty—to fit out the hospital ship intended for the fleet of the immortal Nelson previously to the battle of Trafalgar.

8. While Earl St. Vincent was commander-in-chief of the Channel Fleet, Dr. Veitch, aided by the discernment and authority of that great man, was the first to introduce the Vaccine Inoculation into the navy, the blessings of which were till then unpractised in the naval service of Great Britain.

9. Dr. Veitch was the first and original inventor and introducer of the single small round ligature for securing wounded arteries, into the practice of surgery, which, with the distribution of the said ligatures, and cutting off half of each of them after operations, and drawing out the remaining half on a line with the divided artery, and dressing the stump accordingly,

* While Dr. Veitch was chief of this hospital, he devoted himself to the faithful performance of his duties, and introduced many useful changes, and such they were acknowledged to be by Sir Alexander Cochrane, then Commander-in-chief on the Leeward Islands Station, and every officer under his command.

† From Hoxton the maniacs were, at the suggestion of the late Dr. Weir, removed to Haslar Hospital; a change that was certainly advantageous as far as accommodation was concerned, but to the mind of Dr. V. it did appear somewhat incongruous to place officers, seamen, and marines afflicted with insanity under the same roof with those labouring under corporeal diseases. Dr. V. being strongly impressed with the propriety of this opinion, in a humane, a moral, and curative point of view, proposed that a distinct edifice should be erected, and solely devoted to the important and interesting purpose of receiving these unfortunate officers and men. Dr. V. was the medical officer who first established at this Asylum, in 1815-16-17-18, an enlightened and humane system of treatment of the insane of the Navy. Essays on Insanity were published in 1820, which established this fact.

constituted one of the greatest modern improvements of that art, because it increased in a high degree the chances of success in all surgical operations where ligatures are required.*

10. He has invented an apparatus that condenses and classifies the instruments and bandages necessary to be employed in the most dangerous day's battle, and combining therewith an operating table of the most perfect character in its dimensions, and the whole comprehended within the space of three feet four inches, while it is at all times in a condition to be moved to the point of action in less than a minute.

11. The suggestions of Dr. Veitch to Sir Hyde Parker, then commander-in-chief, as also at a future period to Sir John Duckworth, ultimately led to the watering of our ships of war at Port Royal, Jamaica, by tanks; an arrangement that has contributed to the health of that station.

12. Dr. Veitch has demonstrated our Naval Hospitals as being capable of rendering great advantages to the service and to the nation, by making them Schools of Medicine and Surgery in addition to their present duties.†

13. Dr. Veitch may remark, that while he resided in Cadogan Place, Chelsea, he was upwards of ten years Physician to the Chelsea, Brompton, and Belgrave Dispensary, and during that period more than 10,000 patients, adults as well as children, were the objects of his care at the said institution; and Dr. V. then published a Treatise intended to obviate attacks of hydrocephalus, a disease so fatal to infancy. That period of his life gave him an opportunity of acquiring an intimate knowledge of the habits and opinions of the humbler classes of society as to the poor laws, workhouses, and the means of their employment, besides other matters connected therewith, which then greatly excited his attention, and which still continue to occupy his mind.

14. Dr. Veitch is the author of a Treatise on the Prevention and Cure of Yellow Fever; and, while he was afloat, he served under some of the most distinguished officers of the navy, and by his professional exertions and conduct was honoured with

* The Army Medical Board, alive to these advantages, has long issued express orders for their adoption. The dressing the stump accordingly implies, that the course of the ligature should not be interrupted in its direct line from the divided artery by the application of slips of adhesive plaster; as in all the operations performed by Dr. Veitch in 1803-4 at Plymouth Hospital, these slips were divided by a pair of scissors, and the ligature or ligatures drawn into the interstices as applied in succession.

† The public hospitals of France and of all the nations of Europe, Great Britain excepted, are Schools of medicine and surgery. The House of Lords, the House of Commons, the Courts of Justice, and the Churches, are all open to the public, and thereby diffuse the greatest advantages throughout the nation; and these bodies themselves derive, individually and collectively, the greatest service from such a course, as it excites intense reflection and attention to their duties; and the same train of reasoning extends itself to our Naval Hospitals, if aided by judicious regulations.

their friendship, as the consequence of the faithful discharge of his duty to the wounded officers, seamen, and marines who were placed under his care.* In that Treatise a plan for the investigation of the nature of fever and other diseases incidental to the navy and those visiting tropical climates, was laid down, which, had it been attended to, would certainly have spared our witnessing some dismal scenes of mortality.

15. In the year 1824 Dr. Veitch was anxious to unite the medical departments of the Army and Navy, as he conceived that such a union would be conducive to the interests of both these services and of the nation, and he therefore addressed a letter to Sir Herbert Taylor on the subject; and it would appear from the following reply, that he conceived it eminently worthy of his consideration. The same hospitals and medical attendance were to be devoted to the use of both soldiers and sailors, when labouring under disease, an arrangement that would have greatly facilitated these important duties, and contributed to economy.

"Sir Herbert Taylor presents his compliments to Dr. Veitch; and acquaints him, in reply to his note of the 24th, that there can be no objection to his waiting upon the Duke of York on Tuesday, and that Dr. Veitch will find his name on the list. Sir Herbert Taylor begs to assure Dr. Veitch, that he has great pleasure in promoting any object of an officer of Dr. Veitch's character and professional merits.†

"*Horse Guards, 24th September, 1824.*"

16. Dr. Veitch is the author of *Practical Essays on Mental Derangement*.

17. Up to the year 1805, the operation of amputation at the hip-joint was banished from British surgery by the united

* During the war originating in the French Revolution, there was scarcely a fort on the coast of St. Domingo or of Porto Rico that Dr. Veitch was not alongside of in action.

† Dr. Veitch was the first officer received by his Royal Highness on that day at his Levee.

Extract of a Letter from Dr. Veitch to Sir Herbert Taylor.

September 24th, 1824.

"Indeed Dr. Veitch is of opinion that the medical department of the Army and Navy should be combined. Such a union to be conducted by Medical Men selected from the Medical Officers of the Army and Navy. The same Surgical and Medical attendance; the same hospital for the reception of Soldiers and Sailors; the same stores; similar pay and advantages to be conferred on both corps with the power to Medical Men of serving on shore or at sea, under proper arrangements, would vary and increase the sources of information in the same individuals, and so render them more enlightened servants of their king and country; it would extend the field of medical and surgical observations in both corps, and it would also lead to more enlarged views, by increasing our knowledge of general principles, and would thus facilitate all operations connected with the cure of disease, and the still more important point of medical and military duty, the preservation of health, for without health and vigour, military operations must cease."

opinions of Pott and Bromfield, as the consequence of its dangerous character. At that period Dr. Veitch, conceiving it his duty to refrain from no operation, however formidable, provided it offered his patient the chance of recovery, pointed out a mode of performing that operation—so striking and imposing when the results are successful—and the operation has since that period been often so performed.

18. Dr. Veitch, while Surgeon of the *Saturn*, and acting Physician to the fleet under the late Admiral Totty, then commander-in-chief on the Leeward Islands station, did away with visiting the sick in the cockpit by the erection of a dispensary under the forecastle, in which were placed medicines and all utensils necessary for that purpose, and with which he combined a number of elementary books in science and medicine for the use of his assistants.

19. The urinary bladder being extensively connected by means of its nerves and blood-vessels with the brain, the heart, and spinal marrow, Dr. Veitch, on weighing that connection as an anatomist, was the first to suggest the propriety of vesical medication in various diseases, when the stomach was not available for their application, or rejected their use—as in black vomiting, locked jaw, hydrophobia, intus-susceptio, hernia, cholera, and suspended animation.

Remedies may be also more directly applied by means of this organ in cases of diabetes and dropsy than through the stomach.

Dr. Veitch believes it to be admitted in Her Majesty's Service that he carried with him into all the important situations he filled, the most upright intentions; and these sentiments were ceaselessly displayed by his insisting on the correct fulfilment of all contracts, as well as duties of every kind calculated to promote the recovery and happiness of his patients. All complaints bearing upon the execution of contracts, in reference to beef, wine, bread, and the number of nurses, were invariably examined openly and in the presence of both parties, wherever he was entrusted with authority, and if difficulties arose, the boards, or the senior officer were applied to; and this decisive line of conduct created much enmity at home and abroad. Dr. Veitch never laid his head upon his pillow without having done his utmost for the interests of the public service, and for the recovery of the patients placed under his care. These objects were held sacred, and consequently never sacrificed to selfish views; and this sense of honour and duty is established by the testimonials hereunto attached, as well as by his having offered his invention to Her Majesty's Navy without stipulating or even calculating on any reward beyond the internal satisfaction of conferring a lasting advantage on the gallant sailor in the hour of battle.

Royal George, 1st August, 1800.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 27th ultimo, requesting permission to inoculate, with the vaccine matter, several men on board His Majesty's ship "Magnificent, who have not had the small pox," which suggestion does you much credit in my opinion, and I have no objection to your inoculating those men, as proposed, if it meets with the approbation of Captain Bowater.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

ST. VINCENT.

Dr. Veitch,

Surgeon of the Magnificent.

Bury Street, April 14, 1809.

MY LORD,

At the request of Dr. Veitch, I take the liberty of trespassing on your Lordship's time, in stating the important services that officer rendered a division of the army under my command, in a critical situation at St. Domingo last war.

I am therefore anxious to acquaint your Lordship, that at the time the district in St. Domingo was attacked by the enemy in almost all directions, and the troops exposed to much distress from the want of medical assistance, Doctor Veitch, in the most handsome manner, by his professional abilities, and zeal for the public service, afforded the sick and wounded the most benevolent relief, which always impressed me with a high opinion of him; and I trust that your Lordship will be pleased to receive this favourable testimony of Dr. Veitch's merits with your usual consideration.*

I have the honour to be, my Lord, with great respect,

Your most obedient and very humble Servant,

(Signed)

B. SPENCER.

(Late Sir B. Spencer, K. B.)

To the Right Hon. Lord Mulgrave.

May 15, 1798.

This is to certify, that Dr. James Veitch, Surgeon of His Majesty's ship *Regulus*, serving under my command, during

* Dr. Veitch served as a volunteer, and sustained considerable injury by a fall into a trench while superintending, at night, the embarkation of a party of wounded soldiers, seamen, and marines, the effects of which are now felt.

the siege of Irois, by his unremitting attention to the wounded, and his professional skill, rendered very essential service to the troops and seamen composing the garrison. And I feel particular satisfaction in giving him this testimony of my high approbation.

Given under my hand, on board *La Magicienne*, Mole St. Nicholas.

W. H. RICKETS.*

(Late Nephew to the deceased Earl St. Vincent.)

Doris, off Brest, July 3, 1801.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 2d instant, offering your services to attend an expedition in agitation—an offer, in my opinion, very much to your honour and credit. And I can assure you it would give me great pleasure to have you personally engaged in the service, were I not certain that your professional abilities will be much wanted on board the *Doris*; for upon such dangerous enterprises it is but natural to expect some loss of limbs, in which case I should be sorry to be deprived by any unforeseen accident of the abilities that I am convinced you possess.

Your gallant offer shall be shown to the Commissioners of the Sick and Hurt, as the proper channel for you to meet with that reward your merit deserves.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) CHARLES BRISBANE.

(Late Sir C. Brisbane, Governor of St. Vincent.)

Dr. James Veitch, Surgeon of H. M. S. Doris.†

* Captain Rickets, who took the name of Jervis, was alike distinguished for his talents, his zeal, and vigour as an officer; and to those feelings he fell a victim, in conveying despatches of much importance to his country, on board the *San Josef*. His death was a great loss to his country, as all his conceptions on points of service were at once liberal and splendid, and displayed a superior mind.

† This was the cutting out of the *Chevrette* from Camaret Bay, the whole French fleet then lying in Brest Harbour, by the boats of the in-shore squadron, then under the command of Sir Charles Brisbane. It is due to the officers and crew of the *Chevrette* to state, that they made a gallant and obstinate resistance. Nothing could exceed the magnificence, determination, and grandeur of this brave exploit by the boats, in which many were killed and wounded, and the latter were the objects of the surgical care of Dr. Veitch. The forts on shore were not idle, thereby adding deeper interest to the affair.

56, *Montague Square*, May 6, 1814.

DEAR SIR,

I have the favour of your letter of the 5th, and am very sorry I had not the pleasure of seeing you when you called, and shall be happy to have that honour when I return to town. I perfectly remember your zeal, skill, and humanity, in the care you took of the wounded men under your charge, from the squadron which I commanded in the action of the 4th of November, 1805. I am also fully aware of your medical skill and successful practice upon other occasions; and I have every wish to render your merits every testimony and assistance in my power.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD J. STRACHAN.

(Late Sir Richard Strachan.)

To Dr. Veitch.

London, May 12, 1814.

DEAR SIR,

In compliance with your request, I beg leave to state that I perfectly remember the very great care you took of the wounded men belonging to the *Hero*, then under my command, after the action of the 4th of November, 1805, to which I can bear the fullest testimony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GARDNER.

(The late Lord Gardner.)

To Dr. Veitch.

Admiralty, May 12, 1814.

MY LORD,

Doctor Veitch, the late Surgeon of the Naval Hospital at English Harbour, Antigua, has requested me to bear testimony to your Lordship of the rectitude of his conduct in that station, so far as it came under my observation; and it is with great pleasure that I feel myself particularly enabled to do so; for having passed near three months in English Harbour, in the year 1809, in fitting the *Abercrombie*, then recently captured, for sea, and being at that time the senior officer on the station, in consequence of the departure of the Commander-in-chief for Halifax, I had frequent, indeed almost daily communication with Doctor Veitch, on subjects immediately connected with

the duties of his department, and I ever found him actuated by the greatest anxiety about the seamen placed under his care, and the most laudable desire to procure to them all the comforts and allowances intended them by His Majesty's Government, under the contracts entered into for that purpose. On frequent inspection into the general state of the Hospital, and made either by myself, or by officers under my orders, on those occasions the attention of Doctor Veitch was invariably apparent in the good order and cleanliness of the wards, and the satisfaction expressed by the men with the care they experienced.

I cannot offer this tribute of justice to Doctor Veitch, without adding, that as an individual I entertain the highest esteem for his character.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

WILLIAM CHARLES FAHIE.

(Late Commander in Chief of the Leeward Islands Station.)

Right Hon. Vis. Melville, &c.

London, August 17, 1814.

SIR,

In ready compliance with your request that I would certify my opinion of your conduct in the situation of Surgeon of the Royal Naval Hospital at Plymouth, I have no hesitation in saying, that it appeared to me, that during the whole time in which you was employed in that station you acted with attention and fidelity; and, as far I might be supposed competent to judge, with judgment and skill, and unremitted attention to the comfort of the patients under your care.

(Signed)

R. CREYKE.

(Governor, Royal Naval Hospital, Plymouth.)

To Dr. Veitch.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date. It is but justice to you that I should bear testimony to the skill, attention, and integrity, with which you discharged your professional duty as Surgeon of the Naval Hospital at English Harbour, during the time you filled that situation, whilst I held the command of the squadron employed upon the Leeward Islands Station.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed)

FRANCIS LAFOREY.

To Dr. Veitch, M.D.

Wimpole Street, October 17, 1818.

SIR,

In compliance with your request, that I would state my opinion of your conduct as one of the principal Surgeons of the Naval Hospital at Stonehouse, I have the pleasure in stating, from the reports of all the officers who visited the Hospital, and from my own observation, the attention shewn to the sick and wounded seamen was such as did great credit to you. Of your professional skill I was incapable of forming any judgment; but I have great satisfaction in saying, that when spoken of by those who were competent to form an opinion, it was spoken of with commendation.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

WILLIAM YOUNG.

(Vice Admiral of Great Britain.)

To Dr. Veitch.

London, June 7, 1815,

MY LORD,

At the request of Dr. Veitch, I beg leave to state to your Lordship, that in 1798 detachments of officers, seamen, and marines, were landed, under my command, from a squadron under the orders of Admiral Richard Rodney Bligh, to support the garrison of Fort Irois, St. Domingo, then closely besieged by a powerful black force.

The operations which devolved on our military and naval forces were conducted with vigour, in order to repel the enemy, and many officers, soldiers, seamen, and marines were wounded.

The exertions of Dr. Veitch, who served as a volunteer, and performed many important operations, exposed to great hazard from shot and shell, impressed the officers of the army and navy present on that arduous occasion, which lasted for weeks, with the highest opinion of Doctor Veitch's zeal, humanity, and skill, which imposes upon me the pleasing duty of offering to your Lordship this just tribute of public approbation of an individual, for whose public and private character I entertain the highest esteem.*

I have, &c.

(Signed)

HUGH COOKE.

(Captain Royal Navy.)

Right Hon. Vis. Melville.

* This is the same service adverted to in the Letter of the late Sir Brent Spencer. Dr. Veitch served as a volunteer, as observed, and sustained considerable injury.

August 9, 1808.*

MY LORDS,

The exertions of the Spaniards, at the present period, are particularly pleasing, and it is to be hoped that their efforts will be crowned with success. From the general state of science throughout Spain, it is probable that their armies are not well supplied with medical and surgical aid, a character of assistance of much importance at this moment. Should this opinion be found correct, and should it become an object to be remedied by this country, I shall feel great pleasure in engaging in such service, as I know no manner in which I could more effectually contribute to the service of my country than by directing my exertions to the aid of the gallant Spaniard.

Provided it is determined to afford the Spaniards assistance of this nature, I take the liberty of suggesting, that a small body of surgeons, with a proper number of assistants, to be placed under the orders of a surgeon of experience, would be probably the best mode of embodying this kind of aid.

My Lords,

I am, with great respect,

(Signed)

JAMES VEITCH.

*Right Hon. The Lords Commissioners
of the Admiralty.*

*Governor's House, Guadaloupe,
August 2, 1812.*

MY DEAR SIR,

As it will ever afford me particular pleasure in bearing testimony to the merits of officers, with whom it may be my fate to serve, I must in justice to you state, that during the time I held the command on this station, your conduct as chief of the Royal Hospital at Antigua, gave me the fullest satisfaction. Your zeal and ability cannot fail to recommend you to the notice of the Admiralty, in whose province it lays to reward the services of those who so eminently distinguish

* Dr. Veitch being then in Scotland felt it his duty to send a copy of the above letter to the late illustrious Viscount Melville, who during his life was distinguished by great talents, and was the devoted friend of the Navy and his Country, and with him the Order in Council of 1805 originated—a measure in which his friend Mr. Pitt cheerfully concurred.

themselves in the line of their profession as you invariably have done. It will be gratifying to me to hear that you are removed to a situation in England.

I am, with much truth,

Most sincerely yours,
 (Signed) ALEXANDER COCHRANE,
 G. C. B.*

To Dr. Veitch, M. D.

*Office for Sick and Wounded Seamen,
 7th November, 1805.*

SIR,

We have received your Letter of the 5th instant, making an offer of your services in any point where they may be necessary in consequence of the late action with the enemy's fleet,† which reflects credit on your zeal, and acquaint you that we have transmitted a copy thereof to Mr. Marsden for the information of the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

We are,

Your very humble Servants,
 (Signed) W. GIBBONS,
 T. WEIR.

*Dr. Veitch, Surgeon,
 Plymouth Hospital.*

Dunira, 17th May, 1808.

SIR,

I have received your Letter of the 14th instant, stating your desire to dedicate to me your Thesis on the mode of preventing and treating the Yellow Fever. I certainly can have no objection to any mark of regard being shown to me proceeding from such motives as those you have stated; and I beg to thank you for the polite expressions in which you have conveyed to me your wishes on the occasion.

I am, Sir, &c.

(Signed) MELVILLE.

To Dr. Veitch.

* Sir Alexander Cochrane, previously to his assuming the Government of Guadaloupe, had been Commander-in-chief on the Leeward Islands Station, and had repeatedly expressed his approbation during that period of the conduct of Dr. Veitch.

† This was the battle of Trafalgar.

The Burn, 12th August, 1808.

SIR,

I have yesterday received your letter and enclosure. I have no doubt that medical assistance would be a very essential aid to the Patriots of Spain; but being in no correspondence with any department of Government, I cannot forward your object in any way, unless by forwarding it to my Son,* which I have done.

I am, Sir,

Your most humble Servant,

(Signed)

MELVILLE.

To Dr. Veitch.

DR. VEITCH, while on active service, was commanded by distinguished officers:—Admiral Douglas, Admiral D'Auvergne, Admiral Sir Hyde Parker, the Hon. Captain Blackwood, Captain Oakes, Captain Carthew, Sir George Eyre, Admiral Tollemache, Sir Charles Brisbane, Sir James Brisbane, Admiral Totty (Commander-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands Station), Sir Alexander Cochrane, Sir Francis Laforey, Captain Fahie, Captain Bowater, Admiral Young (Vice-Admiral of Great Britain), Sir Richard Rodney Bligh, Captain Rickets (who afterwards took the name of Jervis); by all of whom, while living, Dr. Veitch was esteemed, and by some of them actually regarded as their friend. And lastly, the suggestions of Dr. Veitch in reference to the health of the Navy, and the fleet under the command of the illustrious Earl St. Vincent, received the approbation of that great man.

* The present Lord Melville.

AT THE COURT AT THE QUEEN'S PALACE, THE 23RD DAY
OF JANUARY, 1805 ;

PRESENT,

THE KING'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY
IN COUNCIL.

Whereas there was this day read at the Board a Memorial from the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, dated the 13th inst., in the words following, viz. :—

May it please Your Majesty,

Your Majesty's Naval Service having suffered materially, in the present war, from the want of Surgeons and Surgeons' Mates, and the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen having represented to us that the difficulty of procuring qualified persons is in a great measure to be attributed to the more liberal provision made for the same description of officers in Your Majesty's land forces ; We directed the said Commissioners to consider and propose to us a plan for the better encouragement of Surgeons and Surgeons' Mates of Your Majesty's Navy, which might, in their opinion tend to remove, or at least alleviate, the difficulty above mentioned, and be consistent, at the same time, with the economy necessary to be observed in the expenditure of the public money, and they having, with their letter to our Secretary of the 8th of last month, submitted to us a plan, which they conceive to be adapted to that purpose, in which they represent to have had in view the regulations existing in the medical department of the Army, and while, on the one hand, they have taken care not to make any proposal which, if carried into effect, might create dissatisfaction in that department, they have, on the other, left no reasonable ground of complaint to the Naval medical officer.

And the Commissioners having further submitted to us the propriety of allowing the Medical officers to wear a distinguishing uniform during the time of their being actually employed, and of giving them a comparative rank in the service suitable to their situation, to which consideration, it is believed, they attach much importance, especially as the regimental surgeons are allowed to rank with captains, and their assistants with subaltern officers ; We have hereunto annexed a copy of the plan above mentioned ; and having taken the same into our consideration, we are of opinion that the adoption of the proposal

therein contained will be of great advantage to Your Majesty's Naval service, and do therefore most humbly propose to Your Majesty that the same may be carried into execution ; That the said Medical Officer be also allowed to wear a distinguishing uniform, and to have a similar rank with the officers of the same class in your Majesty's land service, to be subordinate, however, to that of the lieutenants of Your Majesty's ships and vessels, wherein they may be employed during the period of their service, although their appointments may be of prior dates.

His Majesty, taking the said Memorial into consideration, is pleased, with the advice of His Privy Council, to approve of the several proposals of the Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Seamen, referred to in the said Memorial (a copy of which is hereunto annexed) for a new establishment for improving the situation of the medical officers of His Majesty's Navy, and to order, as is hereby ordered, That the same be adopted and carried into execution. And the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, and the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, are to give the necessary directions herein as to them may respectively appertain.

(Signed)

W. FAWKNER.*

* By this order, Physicians of Naval Hospitals took rank as Inspectors of Hospitals of the Army, and Surgeons of Naval Hospitals ranked as Deputy Inspectors of Hospitals of the Army, so that Dr. Veitch has held the rank of Deputy Inspector of Hospitals and Fleets since 1803.

THE END.

...will be of great advantage to Your Majesty's
Navy Service, and do therefore most humbly request to Your
Majesty that the same may be directed to be established; That the
said Medical Officer be also allowed to wear a distinguishing
uniform, and to have a similar rank with the Officers of the same
class in Your Majesty's Land Forces, and to be subject to the same
to that of the Honours of Your Majesty's ships and vessels,
whenever they may be employed during the period of their
service, although their appointments may be of other dates.
His Majesty taking the said petition into consideration,
is pleased with the advice of His Privy Council to approve
of the several proposals of the petitioners for the Sick and
Wounded, and to direct that a copy of the said Memorial (a copy
of which is herewith annexed) be sent to the several
Departments of the Administration of His Majesty's
Navy, and to order that the same be laid before the same
and carried into execution, and that the said Sick and
Wounded be taken care of by the said Navy, and the
Land Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, and the
Land Commissioners of His Majesty's Admiralty, and to give the same
early direction to the said Departments respectively.

(Signed) W. R. H. H. H.
By the order of His Majesty's Privy Council, I have signed this
Memorial of the said petitioners, and have directed that the same
be laid before the said Departments, and that the same be carried
into execution, and that the said Sick and Wounded be taken care
of by the said Navy, and the Land Commissioners of His Majesty's
Treasury, and the Land Commissioners of His Majesty's Admiralty,
and to give the same early direction to the said Departments
respectively.

