

**Memoir of Sir Andrew Smith, Director General of the Medical Department  
of the British Army / by Alexander Michie.**

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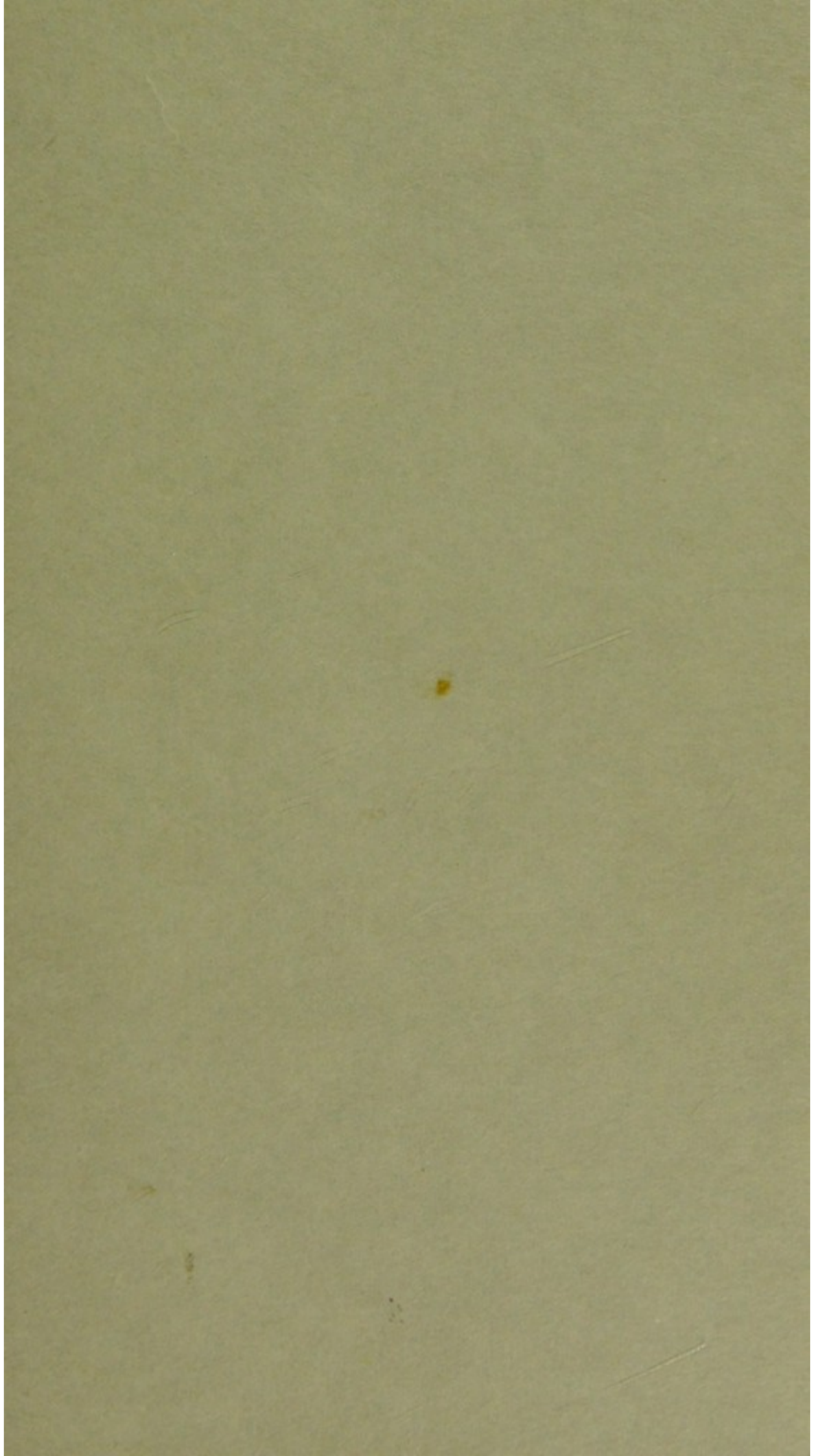


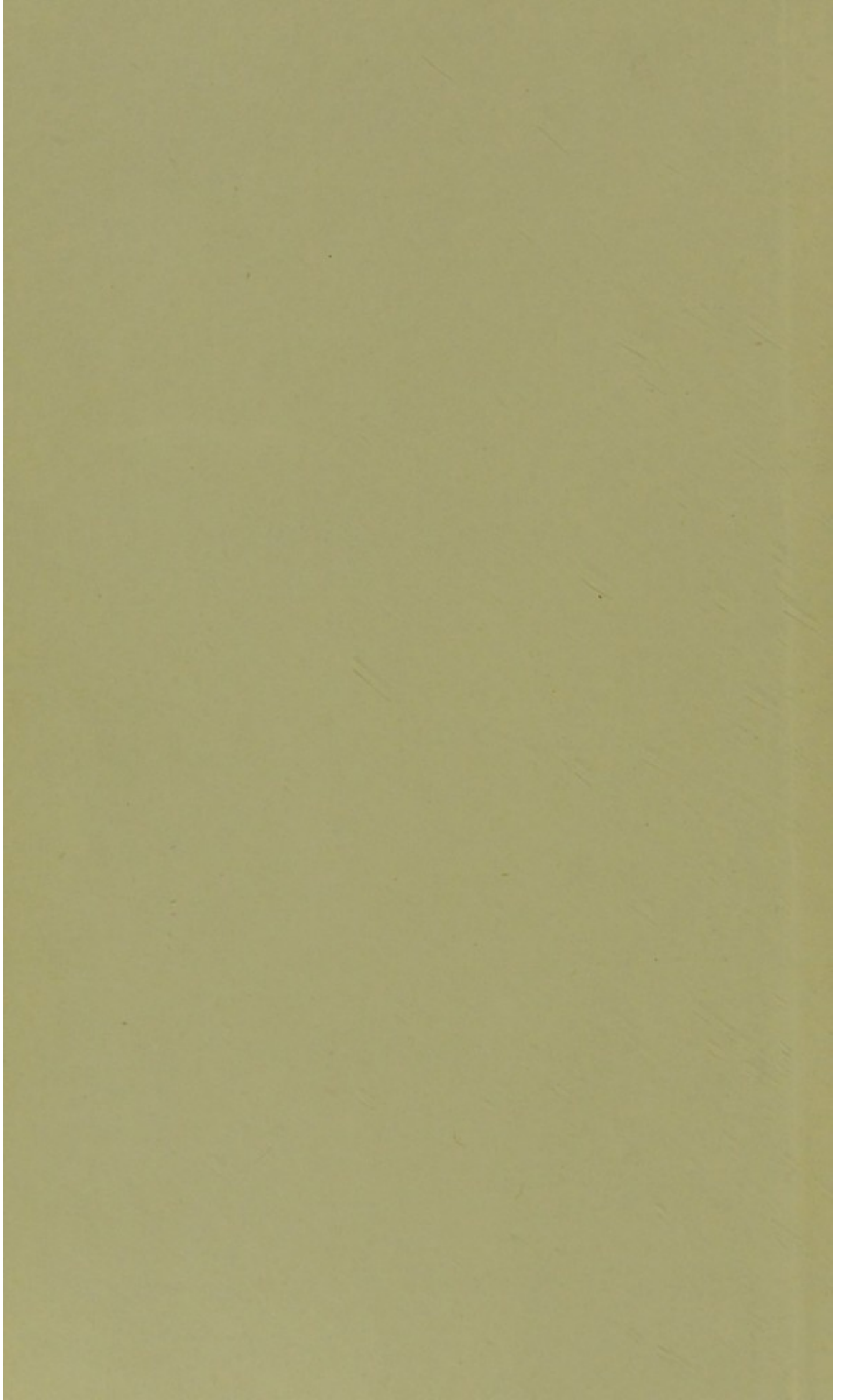
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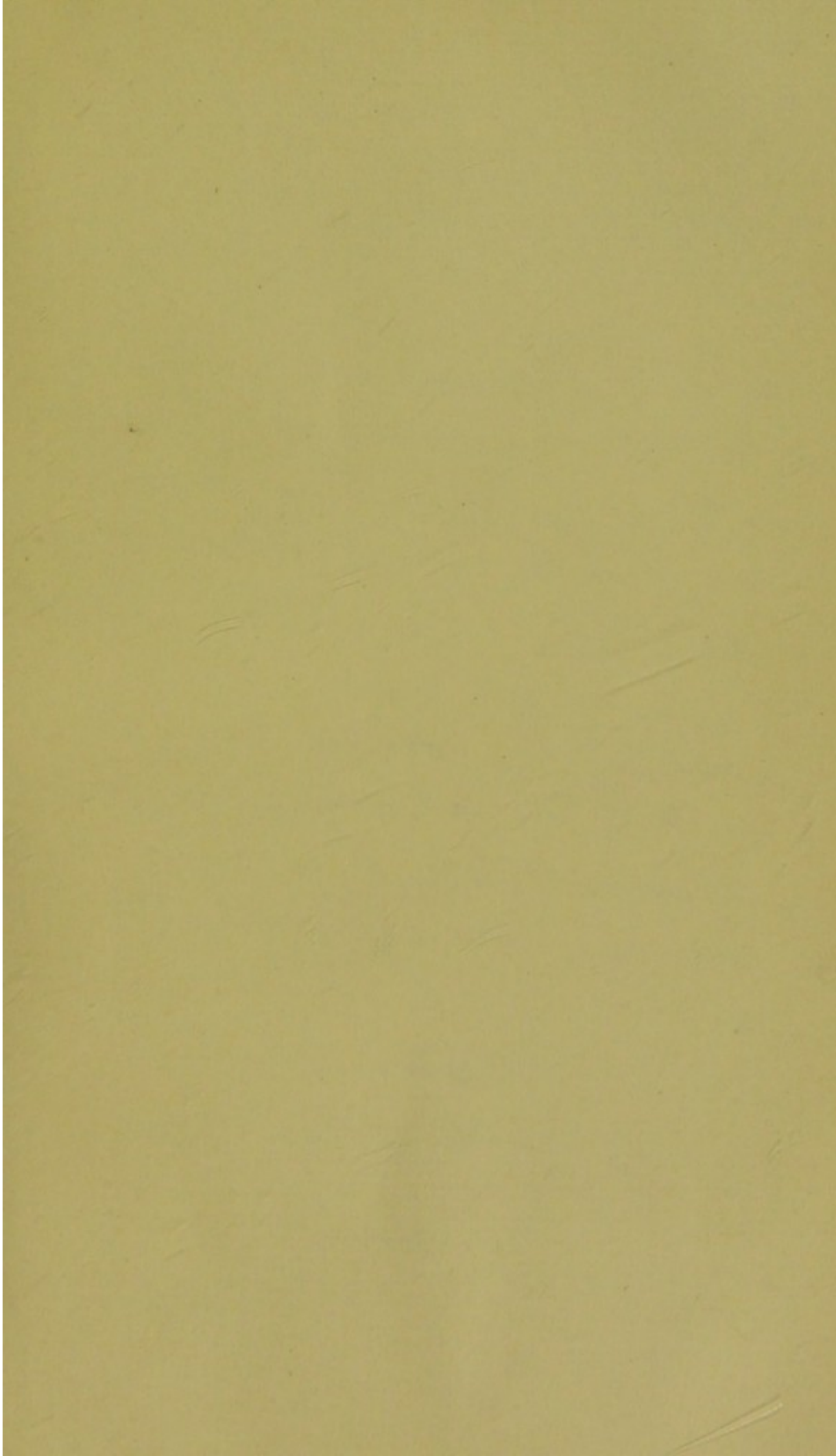












The author of the Memoir was a nephew of  
the late Sir Andrew Smith, and this why  
was given to me by the author's brother,  
Mr Andrew Smith Michie, retired banker,  
3 Russell Road, Kensington, London.

4. December 1913.  
After having the booklet bound, I  
presented it to the Library of the Royal  
Army Medical College, in pursuance  
my intention as expressed of the  
above.

W. Johnston.

12 April, 1914.

MEMOIR

OF

SIR ANDREW SMITH,

M.D., K.C.B., F.R.S., F.Z.S., &c.,

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF  
THE BRITISH ARMY.

BY

ALEXANDER MICHIE,

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE HAWICK ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



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ALNWICK :

PRINTED BY H. H. BLAIR, MARKET PLACE.

THE following sketch was written at the urgent request of a leading member of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, for publication with the transactions of that Society, and has appeared as a paper for the present year.

Owing chiefly to the limited space assigned, I have been precluded from giving anything beyond a very imperfect outline of the life of a much esteemed relative, and consequently have had to omit many incidents which would doubtless have been of interest to the friends of the subject of the notice. Want of room has also prevented extracts being given from the unpublished Journal of the Expedition of 1834-5; and likewise several of the more important letters to the Military Authorities previous to and during the War in the East in 1854-5. The professional and official opinions adduced in regard to the administration of the Medical Department by the then Director General are a few out of a considerable number to the same purport.

I am indebted to Sir Walter Elliot of Wolflee and Mr Hardy of Old Cambus for the list of publications, &c., appended.

A. M.

April, 1877.

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MEMOIR  
OF  
SIR ANDREW SMITH, M.D.

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Sir Andrew Smith, K.C.B., formerly Director General of the Medical Department of the Army, was born on the 3rd December, 1797, at Heronhall, in the parish of Kirkton, Roxburghshire. He was the son of Thomas Smith, a man, active and faithful in the discharge of all the duties of life. His mother was a woman of great mental power and Christian worth, and the family consisted of two sons and three daughters, of whom Andrew was the first born.

At an early age, he was sent to a school at Stobs, but made little progress, the teacher, being of a harsh disposition, frequently subjecting him to unmerciful flogging, which produced in his mind an aversion to study. Too frequently he was found playing the part of the truant, spending his time in gathering wild flowers, hunting butterflies, or searching for bird nests.

In 1809, the family having removed to Hassendean, he attended the parish school of Minto, and afterwards that of

Lilliesleaf, where, under more favourable auspices than at Stobs, he made most satisfactory progress with his education.

The medical profession having been chosen as his future sphere of action, he was placed under the care of Mr Walter Graham, of Hawick, a surgeon of extensive practice in the town and surrounding district.

In 1813, he proceeded to Edinburgh, where he pursued, with diligence, ardour, and success, his studies in the University. Being desirous of entering the Medical Department of the Army, and having fully qualified himself for the service, in the summer of 1815, he made application, and repaired to London, to undergo the preliminary examinations; his hopes of a favourable issue, however, being slight, owing to the reduction of the strength of the army, consequent on the return of peace, after the decisive victory of Waterloo. He passed the necessary examinations with credit to himself, and satisfaction to all the members of the Board; a treatise on the eye having especially produced a most favourable impression on the mind of Sir James M'Gregor, the Director General. On the 15th August, he was greatly gratified by being gazetted an Hospital Assistant; and there is good reason to believe, that he was the youngest officer ever admitted to the Department. For three years he did temporary duty at various home stations, and had medical charge of troops going to, or returning from Malta, Nova Scotia, and Canada. In 1818, and following year, he was quartered at Edinburgh, and while there, embraced the opportunity of attending all the classes in the University and Surgeon's Hall, which he had not been able to overtake formerly. At the conclusion, on the 2nd August, 1819, he graduated as M.D. The subject of his inaugural dissertation was "*De Variolis Secundariis.*" During this period he was an occasional contributor to the Edinburgh Medical Journal.

In 1820, Dr Smith was ordered to the Cape of Good Hope, where he remained till 1837. For short periods, he had medical charge there of the 49th and 98th Regiments and Cape Mounted Rifle Corps; and was also frequently employed by successive Governors in confidential missions to the Kaffir and other tribes beyond the frontier. As South Africa has ever presented an attractive field to the naturalist, his leisure hours were spent in the enthusiastic pursuit of his favourite study; and he entered into the work with all the ardour of his nature. In a few years his

collection of objects of natural history contained many valued treasures ; which, on the formation of the museum in connection with the South African Institution, were presented by him for exhibition there. From the first, Dr Smith took great interest in the prosperity of that institution, and, by his exertions, contributed greatly to its success. From time to time the result of his observations on the zoology of the country, embodied in papers, were read at the meetings, and published in the Quarterly Journal.

In 1824, Dr Smith was sent by Lord Charles Somerset, the Governor, on a mission into Kaffirland, and while there, in that and the following year, he had much intercourse with Gaika and other chiefs of note. His manly, upright dealings, gained the confidence of the people, and his unceasing efforts, as a medical man, to relieve their sufferings, obtained the love and gratitude of all.

In 1828, owing to the existence of great dissatisfaction on the northern border of the colony, in consequence of the marauding practices of the Bushmen of the Orange river, Dr Smith was commissioned by Sir R. Bourke (who had succeeded Lord Chas. Somerset) to proceed thither to obtain information regarding their views, and ascertain from them, whether the policy of the Government was correctly understood and appreciated. His report recommended several changes, some of which were adopted with good results. One of the fruits of this journey was the publication, at Capetown, of his "Origin and History of the Bushmen," which was afterwards translated into the French, German, and other languages.

In consequence of the exterminating wars of Chaka, the Zulu potentate, having depopulated the well-watered and fertile district for a considerable distance around Port Natal, a district more favoured by Nature than any other in South Africa, a strong desire was evinced by the inhabitants of the Cape that it should be opened up for colonization. In 1830 it was decided by Sir Lowry Cole, the new Governor, to send Dr Smith to examine the country, and report the result of his observations. This was a service of no little danger, owing to the ferocious character of Dingaan, the brother and successor of Chaka ; and also to the treacherous and barbarous massacre of Lieut. Farewell, and seven of his party, the previous year, when on their way to Port



Natal, by a chief who had fled from the yoke of Dingaan. Notwithstanding these and other discouraging influences, Dr Smith, accompanied by his friend Lieut. Edie, and a Dutch farmer, set out on the mission. They proceeded on their way till they reached the Umzimvubu, where their passage to the river was stoutly opposed by the inhabitants of an Amaponda kraal situated near its banks. Neither the tact nor persuasive powers of Dr Smith, nor his offer of valuable presents could conciliate the people; so nothing remained for the party but to force its way. All efforts having failed, it was intimated that, at sunrise on the morrow, they would proceed on their journey. Accordingly, all were early astir, making preparations for departure; the Amaponda gathering round and sullenly looking on. At the appointed time when all was ready for the advance, Dr Smith, Lieut. Edie, and the farmer, well mounted and armed, led the way, the wagons followed, while the rear was formed by the servants of the party. The Amaponda, with threats, accompanied them to the river, but the opposite bank was reached in safety. When all were over, Dr Smith intimated that the presents were still available, and sent them to a small island in the middle of the stream. After much hesitation, one man ventured to meet the messengers. The people on recovering the gifts were wild with delight, loudly proclaiming their friendship, and invited the party to return home the same way.

The Umzimvubu was the eastern boundary of the country which had been devastated by Chaka. From this river to the Tugela, a distance of about 240 miles, it had been utterly ravaged; so much so, that not more than fifty persons were seen in the whole territory; except in the immediate vicinity of Port Natal, where a number of natives, the remains of the original inhabitants, having left their hiding places, had gathered for protection around the English traders and hunters, settled there. The party having reached the Tugela, the southern boundary of the Zulu dominion, it became necessary to proceed with the utmost circumspection, as two years had only elapsed since Chaka had been assassinated at the instigation of Dingaan; which deed, had been followed by the slaughter of all, who, in any degree, had been suspected of having disapproved of the policy of the new king. Dr Smith advanced with caution, and was favourably received by the savage monarch at his principal kraal, situated

on the Umslatosi river. While there, many opportunities were afforded of witnessing the galling nature of Dingaan's rule; death being the penalty for many offences, which in less barbarous communities would not have been regarded as crimes. Dr Smith, one morning, saw the lifeless bodies of thirteen women, who had been killed by order of the king, and whose only fault had been, that they had reminded him of a promise made to them, the fulfilment of which they considered had been too long deferred. To impress his visitors with his power, he reviewed several of his favourite regiments, each about a thousand strong, all well drilled, well armed, and active men. To honour them, he had an exhibition of war and other dances, &c. On the other hand, he sought information regarding the white king and his soldiers, the arts and usages of civilized society, and other matters of interest to him. Having fully attained the objects for which the journey was undertaken they set out on their return to the colony. On the way, Dr Smith was attacked by a sudden and serious illness, but had the good fortune to experience the tender and unwearied care of Mrs Shepstone, wife of the Rev. Mr Shepstone, Wesleyan Missionary in Kaffirland. In due time they arrived in safety at the Cape, having been absent about six months. Dr Smith's report, which was characterized as "an able, comprehensive, and statesmanlike document," strongly recommended that the depopulated district should be opened for colonization. The Governor highly approved of this being done, while a former Governor, who had previously disapproved of the scheme, united in urging its adoption. But the policy of the Home Government at the time was to curtail rather than to extend the boundaries of our colonial empire. On this account, the recommendation was not carried out till circumstances arose in 1842, which compelled the colonial office to take action, and led ultimately to the formation of the colony of Natal. Having arrived at this decision, the position of Lieut.-Governor was offered in the first instance to Dr Smith, which honour, however, he deemed it to be his duty to decline.

In 1829, a small party of traders\* having penetrated into the interior till they reached the Matabeli territory, ruled by Umsilligas, better known by his Sechuana cognomen of Moselekatse,

\* One of these traders was a man from the neighbourhood of Hawick, named Scoone.

great anxiety was manifested at the Cape for a more accurate knowledge of the tribes, the geographical features, and natural productions of the country. Accordingly, there was formed at Capetown, in 1833, the Association for the Exploration of Central South Africa,\* and an influential committee was appointed, who, in a few weeks, reported that they had made the offer of the direction to Dr Smith, being of opinion that "few persons, if any other in the colony, could have been selected so well qualified for the undertaking by scientific acquirements, zeal, courage, activity, and experience as a traveller." It was arranged that his old fellow traveller to Natal, Capt. Edie, should go as second in command. The expedition was to include a surveyor and draughtsman, a non-commissioned officer, and a small party of soldiers, as guards to the wagons, of which, seven were considered necessary to secure the success of the undertaking.

In addition to the objects contemplated by the Association, Dr Smith was commissioned by Sir Lowry Cole to confer with the chiefs of the principal tribes, in order to induce them to give up their barbarous practices, to accord a more favourable reception to traders, and protection to Christian missionaries. Before arrangements were completed, considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the required number of Hottentot servants. The memory of the disastrous results of former expeditions, and the real or fancied danger of the present, deterred them for a time; but after much exertion the full complement was engaged; and in August, 1834, the company, numbering thirteen Europeans and twenty Hottentots, left Graaff Reinet. Travelling by moderate stages across the parched karroo, they reached, in about a fortnight, Philippolis,† the capital of the Griquas. From this place a detour was made to visit the Coranna, Basutu, and Mantatee tribes, and to examine the country toward the sources of the Caledon river. The primary objects for which this journey was undertaken, were successfully accomplished; but the satisfaction was clouded by a serious accident to Capt. Edie, which deprived the expedition of his services; by the death, by

\* The late Hon. J. E. Elliot, M.P., was a member of this Association.

† The last Sunday in the colony was spent at Colesburg, where they witnessed the baptism of forty children by the Rev. Mr Murray, of Graaff-Reinet, who had the spiritual charge of the scattered settlers connected with the Dutch Reformed Church, and visited them three times in the year to administer the ordinances of religion.

drowning, of Corporal McKenzie, 72nd Regiment; and by one of the men being carried off by a lion.

The party returned to Philippolis in the end of November, and after a few days rest, set out for Kuruman, crossing, in the beginning of January, 1835, the Vaal river; which being in full flood, was effected with great difficulty and no little danger. In the end of the month they arrived at Kuruman, and were heartily welcomed by the Rev. Messrs Hamilton and Moffat, the latter entering into Dr Smith's plans with characteristic zeal.

It being deemed expedient to open communication with Moselekatse before advancing further, two messengers were despatched to Mosiga, then the residence of that chief, with strict injunctions to proceed with all haste, and return without delay. Meanwhile, Dr Smith decided, with a small party, to explore the borders of the Kalahari desert. Both men and oxen suffered intensely from hunger and thirst, the only supply of water for several days being obtained from pits of great depth, dug in the dry river beds by the poor Bakalahari. Ample compensation was, however, obtained by the addition of many rare specimens to the already rich collection of objects of Natural History. On the return of the messengers from Mosiga with a favourable reply, and a guide to conduct the party thither, preparations were at once made for the continuation of the journey; and, it being deemed desirable that Mr Moffat should accompany the expedition to Moselekatse, that gentleman readily acceded to the proposal, though at considerable self-sacrifice. They set out from Kuruman at the end of April, were joined by Mr Moffat, at Motito, then the most advanced missionary station in South Africa, and, though the tribes were in an unsettled state, they reached the Molapo river safely. This being the western boundary of the Matabeli country, they had to wait for permission to go on. This having been obtained, in a few days they arrived at Mosiga, and were received in a friendly manner by the king, who expressed his anxiety to render to the expedition whatever aid might be considered necessary. Mr Moffat remained with Moselekatse while Dr Smith went on to the tropics, exploring the Oori, Mariqua, and Limpopo rivers. For a time great obstacles were thrown in the way of the advance of the party, the king having professed great solicitude for the safety of Dr Smith, while in reality it was believed his sole object was

to prevent a knowledge of the extent of the desolation of the country, and of the misery entailed on the conquered tribes. Aided by the remonstrances of Mr Moffat, however, all impediments were removed, though it was evident the guides seemed more anxious to prevent communication with the inhabitants, than to facilitate the acquisition of information from them. Beyond the Matabeli territory proper, much valuable information was derived from the Baquain and Bamanguato tribes. From the former, the knowledge of the existence of a large fresh water lake\* was obtained. On many points, the statements were vague and unsatisfactory, but as to its existence there was no discrepancy whatever. Under more favourable auspices an effort would have been made to have reached it, but in consequence of the dry season, the death of a number of the oxen, the reduced condition of the remainder, and other untoward circumstances, it was clear that it would have been a courting of misfortune to have made the attempt; while the successful return to the colony, of the expedition, held out the hope of future efforts being followed by favourable results. As soon as the necessary observations were made on the surrounding country, they set out on their homeward journey, by way of Mosiga, Kuruman, and Griquatown, and in due time reached the colony after an absence of eighteen months.

African exploration is not without stirring adventure, and zoological researches in that country are sometimes attended with great peril, as not a few incidents in this and former journeys could testify. With the exception of the untoward events already mentioned, however, everything had fulfilled the most sanguine hopes of the promoters. Friendly intercourse had been entered into with about thirty tribes, a good understanding had been established with nearly all the chiefs, much valuable information had been acquired regarding the manners and customs of the people, and the natural resources of the country; while the expedition returned laden with upwards of five thousand specimens of new or rare quadrupeds, birds, and other objects of Natural History, nearly five hundred drawings of the people, scenery of the country, &c., and eighteen hundred implements, weapons of war, ornaments, and other articles of interest.

\* Lake Ngami first visited in 1849, by Dr Livingstone, and Messrs Oswell and Murray.

The successful completion of the enterprise was due in a great degree to the harmony and good will, which prevailed among the principal members of the party; and to the valuable assistance rendered by the Rev. Messrs Kolbe, Archbell, Allison, and Moffat, especially the last, who, having previously visited Moselekatse, had gained his confidence and esteem, and so was in a position to render invaluable service. Dr Smith was also under great obligations to Waterboor, the chief of Griquatown, who was particularly kind and communicative. To Moshesh, the Basutu chief, he was under a deep debt of gratitude, for his kindness and solicitude for the comfort and safety of the party. The most favourable impression was produced on the mind of Dr Smith, by the frank and manly bearing of this chief, and by his great intelligence and liberality of sentiment.

On the return of the expedition, a general meeting of the members of the Association was held at Capetown, Sir John Herschel presiding, when Dr Smith received a most cordial reception, and the warmest thanks were tendered to him and the other members. It was resolved to place a portion of the collection in the museum at Capetown, and that the remainder should be sent home for exhibition in London, and ultimate sale for the benefit of the funds of the Association.\*

In 1837, Dr Smith returned to England, was promoted to the rank of surgeon, and stationed at Fort Pitt, Chatham. The succeeding year a representation was made to the Lords of the Treasury by Lord Glenelg, Colonial Secretary, supported by the late Earl of Minto, with a view to obtain a grant to enable the association to publish Dr Smith's "Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa," at a price within the reach of naturalists of moderate means. The application was favourably responded to by a grant of £1,800, and Dr Smith, in the interest of science, completed the work without any personal pecuniary remuneration whatever. \* This work is the best evidence of the high position to which he attained as a naturalist. It was his purpose also to have published the "Journal of the Expedition;" but a severe and protracted illness laid him aside from active duties for a considerable time; and for several years his health was unequal to

\* The collection was exhibited in the Egyptian Hall, London, and attracted much attention, and, when sold, realised a large sum; the *Rhinoceros Keitloa* (Rhinaster Keitloa, Br. Mus. Cat.), with other valuable specimens, being purchased for the British Museum.

the extra work involved in the publication. It, however, has not been wholly lost, as much of the information, and many of the illustrations have appeared in some of the most widely known books of African travellers, and men of science.

Dr Smith's professional advancement had been slow hitherto, but in 1841, he was made staff-surgeon of the first class, and appointed P.M.O. at Chatham. In 1845, he was promoted to the rank of Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, and transferred to London as professional assistant to the Director General. On the retirement of Sir James McGregor, in 1851, he was selected by the Duke of Wellington to succeed him with the rank of Superintendent-Inspector General, and in 1853 he received the status of Director General.

These successive appointments were received with approbation by the Medical and other journals, and satisfaction by the great body of the medical officers in the army; he being esteemed, by those best qualified to form a correct opinion, as "a man of talent and high professional acquirements, of ready and acute business habits," and "of high principle, in whom the utmost confidence could be placed."

While endeavouring faithfully and efficiently to discharge his official duties, Dr Smith had sufficient leisure to devote to scientific pursuits. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and the Zoological Society, and of other associations of similar character. At this period his favourite study was the Class Reptilia, and he spared neither trouble nor expense in making his collection as complete as possible. Having numerous friends in all parts of the world, he received specimens from time to time, from every quarter, so that his collection was acknowledged to be the best in that particular department, of any in Great Britain.\*

The aggressive policy of Russia in the East having led to a declaration of war by the British Government, it devolved on Dr Smith, as head of the Medical Department of the Army, to make provision for the proper care of the troops, which might be called on to take part in the struggle. To this task he brought all his energy, forethought, and administrative ability, and, long before the army was called on to take the field, he seemed to have anticipated every want; but in a short time grievous charges were

\* The greater part of this collection he afterwards presented to the University of Edinburgh, and it is now exhibited in the Industrial Museum.

brought against the department in the Crimea, chiefly by the correspondents of a leading metropolitan journal ; and then followed a storm of obloquy, which burst around the head of the Director-General at home. Attacks so violent in tone are fortunately rare in the history of British journalism, and Dr Smith, again and again, was urged by his friends to defend himself from the charges brought against him, or allow those who were cognizant of the facts to do so. His invariable reply was, "that the truth would be known some day, and that he could afford to wait ; meanwhile, he would, to the utmost of his power, seek to do his duty." Into the merits of those charges it would be inexpedient to enter, but in justice to the memory of a most efficient and meritorious officer, it is necessary to say, that the tone of many of the letters and articles seemed to indicate, that other and less worthy motives were in operation, than an anxiety for the good of the service, or a solicitude for the welfare of the troops. The defeat of the ministry of the Earl of Aberdeen and the accession to power of Lord Palmerston, led to the appointment of the Sebastopol Committee, before which Dr Smith gave evidence, and put in papers thoroughly clearing himself from the charges ; and proving to all unbiassed minds, that, whoever was to blame for the disasters, assuredly it was not the Director-General. When Lord Palmerston assumed the reins of Government, he promised great changes in the constitution of the Medical Department ; changes which Dr Smith considered would decidedly operate to the injury of the service. Subsequently, the whole subject of the Administration of the Department and its future constitution, was submitted for consideration to a Committee of the House of Commons, and after much inquiry and patient deliberation, a report was presented, which, on the leading points, supported fully the views of Dr Smith. After these enquiries, the tide of opinion turned decidedly in his favour, and, on every side, justice was done to his merits. His medical brethren embraced the opportunity of bearing testimony to their appreciation of his services, and he was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, London ; of Surgeons, Edinburgh ; of the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow ; and of the Medico Chirurgical Society of Aberdeen ; while the University of Edinburgh conferred on him the degree of LL.D. ; and Trinity College, Dublin, that of M.D. (*Honoris Causâ*) ; these honours being



accompanied with addresses, couched in terms expressive of the greatest admiration of his character and confidence in his administrative capacity. Dr Andrew Wood, P.R.C.S., Edinburgh, wrote as follows :—

Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh,  
5th August, 1856.

SIR,—It is with much pleasure that I discharge the duty which has devolved upon me as President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, viz.—that of intimating to you your unanimous election as an Honorary Fellow of the College, which took place on the 3rd inst.

This is an honour which is very rarely bestowed, and only for high professional acquirements or distinguished services. During the late war you have been placed in a position of great responsibility, great anxiety, and great labour. Called upon at short notice at the termination of a long peace to provide for the supply of men and *matériel* for the medical service of a large army acting at a distance; surrounded by difficulties, almost, if not altogether unparalleled, with insufficient resources at your command, exposed to much unmerited obloquy, maligned by a portion of the public press, you were not discouraged, much less dismayed, but continued firmly, perseveringly, and efficiently to discharge the duties of your high office, in such a manner as to promote the health of our brave troops, and to alleviate their unavoidable sufferings on the field of battle, in the hospital, and in the camp. Such an administration of the medical department entitles you to the gratitude of your country. The College, anxious to testify their approbation of your conduct in trying circumstances, and feeling that it is right that public men who have conscientiously and successfully discharged their duties as they consider that you have done, should receive honour at the hands of those best qualified to judge in the matter, viz.—those professional brethren have resolved to elect you one of their Honorary Fellows; and they think that you will not value the honour the less if they express their wish that it should be considered not only as a testimonial to your own merits, but also to those of the medical officers of the army, who during the late war have approved themselves not only skilful and humane, but brave and enterprising, and in all respects worthy of the confidence of the army as well as of the country.—I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient servant,

ANDREW WOOD, M.D.,  
President R.C.S., Edinburgh.

Dr Andrew Smith, Director-General of the  
Army Medical Department.

The strain of the direction of the department during the war had been too severe for the somewhat impaired constitution of the Director-General, but he remained at his post till there had been issued from the press the “*Medical History of the British Army*,” and documents arranged for the information and guidance of his successors in any future war, and then, having served his

country for forty-two years, he sought to be relieved of his duties. General Peel, then Minister for War, acknowledged his resignation in the following terms:—

War Office, 11th June, 1858.

SIR,—I have received your letter of the 22nd ultimo tendering the resignation of your appointment as Director-General of the Army Medical Department.

After the long period which you have devoted to the public service, and under the circumstances of impaired health, which you urge as your reason for wishing to retire from your onerous and responsible situation, I cannot hesitate to accede to your request.

It will be my duty to recommend, through His Royal Highness the General Commanding in-Chief, without delay, for Her Majesty's approval, the name of your successor, and also to recommend in the strongest manner to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, that you may be permitted to retire on the full salary of your appointment.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express to you the sense I entertain of the zeal and devotion to the public service which you have always evinced in the discharge of your duties, and of the most laborious and anxious character of those services at times of unexampled difficulty.

I have the satisfaction of knowing that my opinion of the manner in which you have filled the office of Director-General of the Army Medical Department is concurred in by my predecessor in office, and you will retire with the assurance that you have faithfully and zealously discharged most arduous and important duties.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your most obedient humble servant,

J. PEEL.

A. Smith, Esq., M.D., &c.

Her Majesty, the Queen, who, both personally and through his friend, Sir James Clarke, had repeatedly expressed her sympathy for him under trying circumstances, now conferred on him the dignity of K.C.B., which honour was a source of gratification to his friends, and to the profession of which he was a member. The *Medical Times*, in a leading article, adverting to this, said that "the conspicuous and comprehensive ability, the industrious and energetic zeal, the self-denying devotion to the welfare of the soldiery, and of the medical staff, which Sir Andrew Smith displayed, from February, 1854, the date of his preliminary enquiries and measures in Bulgaria, until the embarkation of the sick at Scutari, in June, 1856; tried and proved by this incontestable evidence, we most conscientiously pronounce the subject of this notice to have well merited the grateful and opportune reward conferred on him by his sovereign."

Freed from the cares of office, he had ample time to bestow on those studies which had ever been so congenial to his disposition, and, for a few years, he devoted great attention to African exploration, but more especially to all that had reference to the native tribes inhabiting the southern portion of that continent.

All circumstances seemed to give promise of a serene old age, when he would reap the fruits of a well-spent life of activity and usefulness; but in 1864, he was called to mourn the loss of her, who for more than twenty years, had been the cheerful, warm-hearted and faithful partner of his lot; and the death of Lady Smith, was followed the succeeding year, by that of a loving gentle sister, to whom he was ardently attached, and whose tender sympathy for him, in his great loss, had been as balm to his wounded spirit. Lonely, stricken with grief, and the infirmities of years gathering around him, he lost nearly all interest in those pursuits which formerly had been his delight; and, toward the close of his life, most of his time was given to the perusal of books of devotion, and the study of the Holy Scriptures.

In the spring of 1872, the state of his health and other circumstances gave great anxiety to his friends. During the summer he appeared to have rallied, and hopes were entertained that all would be well, but on the 6th of August, when out for a drive, he was suddenly seized with illness and taken home; and, notwithstanding the assiduous care of his ordinary medical attendant, and of his friends, Sir William Jenner and Mr Quain, he gradually sunk till the morning of the following Sunday, when he peacefully passed away in the 75th year of his age.

Sir Andrew Smith was a man of great force of character, of untiring industry and perseverance, and of unbending integrity. Doubtless his energy and decision would occasionally seem to lead to impetuosity; and his firmness of purpose, at times, approach to something like obstinacy; yet these qualities enabled him to overcome difficulties, which to men of less inflexible resolution, would have proved insurmountable. Though he ever maintained strict discipline in the department over which he presided, he was always found to be the firm and constant friend of the man, who faithfully sought to do his duty.

In private life he was genial and kind-hearted, a man who could never look on distress of any kind without doing his utmost to relieve it. He was loved and respected by all who knew him, but most by those who knew him best.

*Bibliographical List of the Writings of Sir Andrew Smith,  
M.D., K.C.B., F.R.S., F.Z.S.*

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