

Facts and documents relating to the establishment of the Ophthalmic Hospital.

Contributors

Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital.

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FACTS

AND

DOCUMENTS

RELATING TO THE

ESTABLISHMENT

OF THE

OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

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LONDON :

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1821.

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SECT. I.

FACTS AND DOCUMENTS

Relating to the Establishment of the OPTHALMIC HOSPITAL.

THE extensive prevalence of the Egyptian Ophthalmia in the Army, the inveterate nature of the disease, and the number of soldiers rendered unfit for service by the loss of sight, notwithstanding the best efforts of Army Practitioners to arrest the progress of the malady, had excited the serious attention of the late, as well as the present Commander in Chief. For the purpose of remedying the evil, the Commander in Chief in 1810 appointed a Special Medical Board, of eleven of the highest civil and military professional authorities in the metropolis, composed of Physicians, Surgeons, and Oculists*, to consider and determine, upon "*the means of prevention, and the methods of cure,*" for this disease; and their report thereon being printed, was given out in "General Orders" from the Horse Guards, April 10, 1810, "for the information of the commanding officers of regiments, and for *the guidance of all Medical Officers belonging to the army.*"

By reference, however, to that report, it will be seen that the *third or granular stage of the disease*, upon the removal of which *entirely depends the radical cure of the malady*, and the *prevention of its contagion* (the two objects for which the Committee was appointed), was neither described, nor any plan of treatment laid down for its cure: consequently the Ophthalmia still continued to prevail in the army.

In the year 1809, Sir W. Adams was practising at Exeter, and had, by adopting a peculiar mode of treatment, restored several blind pensioners to sight, labouring under the third or granular stage of Ophthalmia, who had been discharged from the army as incurable.

* *Namely,*

Sir Lucas Pepys, Bart.
Sir Henry Halford, Bart.
Sir Gilbert Blane, Bart.
Dr. Baillie.
Dr. Moseley.
Sir Everard Home, Bart.

Francis Knight, Esq.
Thomas Keate, Esq.
Henry Cline, Esq.
James Ware, Esq.
Wathen Phipps, Esq.

The circumstance came to the knowledge of the late General Thewles (then the Commander of the Western District), who, after he had inspected some of them, urged the propriety of an immediate communication on the subject to Sir David Dundas, then Commander in Chief, which, in 1810, led to the introduction of Sir W. Adams to him by the Adjutant General; when, as a preparatory step to Sir W. Adams's proposal to call in the blind pensioners for treatment, with a view to the saving of pensions, and the restoring men to the service, it was suggested that a limited number of the worst Ophthalmic cases should be placed under his care, for the purpose of proving upon them the efficacy of his practice. The Army Medical Department, however, having been consulted, obstacles arose which prevented the execution of the proposed trial.

In the latter part of 1811, after Sir W. Adams settled in London, he was sent for to the Horse Guards by the Adjutant General. At this interview the strongest encouragement was held out to Sir W. Adams to communicate his improved methods of treating the Ophthalmia, for the benefit of the army, and he was assured of the warm support of the Commander in Chief, and of the liberal co-operation of the Army Medical Board. The great importance attached by his Royal Highness to the obtaining an effectual cure for the Ophthalmia was repeatedly confirmed in official correspondence, but more particularly in a letter, of which the following is a copy, addressed by the Adjutant General to Sir W. Adams:

SIR,

HORSE GUARDS, Sept. 12, 1812.

I have delayed replying to your note of the 2d instant until I had an opportunity of laying the accompanying papers before the Commander in Chief, and of stating to his Royal Highness the very satisfactory appearance of the three Ophthalmic Patients whom you sent to the Horse Guards. *His Royal Highness commanded me to assure you, that he is fully impressed with the importance of the consequences which may result from your mode of treatment; and with a view of affording an opportunity of effectually ascertaining its merit and success, has directed Mr. Weir to make an arrangement, so that you may have a serjeant and six patients placed solely and distinctly under your care for such time as you may deem requisite, and as near as possible to your residence, that you may be enabled, without inconvenience, to give them the necessary attendance.* Care will be taken to satisfy the men, that their discharges will be granted in the event of their sight being restored, that no obstruction or impediment of that nature may be in the way of your endeavours. It will be proper for you to communicate with Mr. Weir as to the selection of the patients.

I have, &c. &c.

(Signed,)

H. CALVERT,

(A. G.)

To WM. ADAMS, Esq.

After the assurances before-mentioned from so high an official authority, and upon a subject so intimately connected with the public welfare and with humanity, Sir W. Adams did not deem it necessary to make specific stipulations (his views having been distinctly stated in a letter addressed to the Commander in Chief in 1810, at the express desire of the Adjutant General), but he proceeded freely and fully to communicate to the Medical Department of the Army, his opinions and practice for the radical cure of the Egyptian Ophthalmia.

So far, however, from receiving the expected co-operation of the Army Medical Board, Sir W. Adams, from his first interview with them early in 1812 up to the present period, has experienced their most decided hostility, in their continued endeavours to frustrate his views, and to counteract his efforts. This conduct became so apparent, that by order of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief so early as 1812, the Adjutant General addressed a letter of admonition to the Director General of the Army Medical Board, of which the following copy was sent to Sir W. Adams by the Adjutant General :

SIR,

HORSE GUARDS, Dec. 2, 1812.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 25th and 26th ult. with their several inclosures, and am directed to *state distinctly, that after the various communications which had been made to you, expressive of the Commander in Chief's intentions on the subject, it was expected that Mr. Adams would have been furnished with a selection of patients, unexceptionable in all respects, for the proposed trial of his mode of practice ; and that the fullest explanation of their previous medical treatment would have been voluntarily given him, that he might have been enabled to form a correct judgment on their cases.* I am commanded to add, that his Royal Highness now looks to you for *his instructions* in this respect being most fully carried into effect, in order that a point *so essentially involving, not only the health of individuals, but the efficiency of the army at large,* may be decided in the only satisfactory way, by a fair experiment of the efficacy of Mr. Adams's mode of treatment*.

I have, &c. &c.

To the Director General, &c. &c.

H. CALVERT, (A. G.)

* In proof of the manner in which the efficiency of whole regiments have been impeded by the Egyptian Ophthalmia, even for years in succession, the following instances from among many others may be adduced:

In the 2nd battalion of the 52nd regiment, consisting of 691 men, 733 cases (including relapses) occurred between July 1805 and July 1806, of whom 50 men within that period lost the sight of both eyes, and 40 of one eye: 1341 cases occurred in that regiment within two years, and the disease continued to rage for a long time afterwards.

In the 43d regiment 619 cases (including relapses) occurred: 19 men lost both eyes and 32 one eye.

In the 2nd battalion of the 12th regiment, consisting of about 800 men, and at the time under embarking orders for the Peninsula, the disease was introduced by an infected child: 600 men were attacked with the malady, and it is understood that the services of this battalion were in consequence unavailable during the continuance of the Peninsular war.

The hostility of the Army Medical Board still continuing unabated, the Commander in Chief, in 1813, gave directions that the inquiry into the success of Sir Wm. Adams's practice for the cure of the third or granular stage of Ophthalmia, should be taken entirely out of the hands of *Army Practitioners* (who, at *that time*, most pertinaciously denied its efficacy), and that it should be placed in those of the following eminent *Civil Practitioners*: Sir Henry Hallford, Bart. Dr. Baillie, Sir Everard Home, Bart. H. Cline, Esq. Astley Cooper, Esq. and J. Abernethy, Esq. The reports of this Committee, which were transmitted to the Commander in Chief, after a trial of Sir Wm. Adams's practice upon a given number of blind pensioners, being judged satisfactory by the Heads of Departments, to whom they were submitted, it was understood by Sir Wm. Adams, from communications which he had the honour subsequently to receive, that it was the intention of his Royal Highness, of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and of the Secretary at War, to make a simultaneous effort *entirely to eradicate the Egyptian Ophthalmia from the Army, and from the Kingdom*, by the adoption of Specific Plans, which Sir Wm. Adams had submitted for their approval; this highly contagious malady having become widely disseminated among all classes of society, through the medium of the dismissed soldiery.

These intentions were, however, entirely frustrated by the present Director General of the Army Medical Board, whose promotion to that office took place in the middle of June 1815; and who, on the 4th of the following month, addressed a letter to the Adjutant General, of which the following is a copy :

SIR,

ARMY MEDICAL BOARD OFFICE,
July 4, 1815.

Before reporting to you upon the papers which you did me the honour to put into my hands, *I thought it incumbent upon me to inquire into the present state of Ophthalmia, as well as into the prevalence of Diseases of the Eye, in the army at this time.* Of the contagious disease, the Egyptian Ophthalmia, *there now remain but a few cases in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, and I trust that this disorder will soon be eradicated from the army.* In the army which lately served in the Peninsula, and which comprised a great portion of the military force of the British empire, though some corps joined it from this country with Ophthalmia, and several from Sicily, yet we completely succeeded in eradicating the disease. On its first appearance, the Egyptian Ophthalmia being a new disease in England, *the proper treatment of it was unknown*, but the discoveries of late years relating to it, and other Diseases of the Eye, *being now very generally promulgated*, and the attention of *some of the Medical Officers of the army* being now directed to those diseases, I have no doubt but that from the service *I can select officers perfectly equal to the cure of those diseases, where a cure can be effected.* Under this impression, I am of opinion that the establishment proposed by Sir W. Adams is by no means required, as its objects can be obtained without incurring any farther expense.

I have the honour, &c. &c.

To the Adjutant General, &c. &c.

J. M'GRIGOR.

A copy of this official report was immediately forwarded to the War Office, with a letter from the Commander in Chief, of which the following is a copy :

MY LORD,

HORSE GUARDS, July 12, 1815.

In reference to your lordship's letter of the 12th of April last, with its inclosure from Sir W. Adams, I have now to transmit to you the inclosed copy of a letter from the Director General of the Army Medical Department, which appears to me quite conclusive as to the expediency of creating any establishment for the Ophthalmic Disease.

I am, my Lord,

Yours,

FREDERICK,

(C. in C.)

To the Right Hon. the Secretary at War, &c. &c.

But the Secretary at War, upon the receipt of these documents, called for the monthly returns of all Ophthalmic Diseases treated in Army Hospitals since 1810; when it appeared by them, that so far from the Ophthalmia being (as the Director General had reported) confined to a "few cases in the neighbourhood of Plymouth," and its being (as he hoped it would be) "soon eradicated from the army," on the contrary, the malady *was then* extensively prevailing in the army—that it had so prevailed since 1810—and that the very month in which the above report was made, *550 patients had been treated in Military Hospitals!* while the disease continued progressively to increase, and in the November following, broke out with such violence in the Army of Occupation in France, that by the Director General's letter of April 1817 (Doc. I.) it appears that 2422 soldiers belonging to that army alone were treated for Ophthalmic Diseases, between 21st November, 1815, and 20th November, 1816!!!

Upon the *opinion* expressed by the Director General respecting "the proper treatment of the disease being *now* very generally promulgated," and the competency of certain Army Surgeons to be "selected for the cure of the disease," *three years* after Sir W. Adams had in the most open and candid manner communicated his opinions and practice to Army Practitioners, no remark will be made. But for the accuracy of the *facts* stated in an official communication to the Commander in Chief, it must be admitted he was deeply responsible. His duty was not discharged by forbearing to make incorrect or colourable representations, but it is conceived no excuse can be offered, for not ascertaining, by all practicable means, the truth and accuracy of every matter of fact stated by him, which was calculated to influence the judgment and decision of the Commander in Chief upon so important a subject.

The inaccuracy of the Director General's Report as to the inexpediency of creating any establishment with a view to the *eradication of the Ophthalmia from the army*, is further shewn by Doc. II. in the Appendix, in which it appears, that of the 1859 pensioners discharged with Ophthalmia, recently inspected in Ireland, 240 were pensioned in 1814, and 681 *since* that period. Of these 681 men (the annual amount of whose pensions is £11,420 8s. 11½d.) 68 only were reported by the inspecting surgeon to be *incurable* (annual pension £1529 19s. 2d.) 390 having recovered their sight *since being pensioned as incurable* (annual pension £6153 16s.); while the remaining 223 (annual pension £3736 13s. 9½d.) were found susceptible of cure or relief by treatment. Several indeed of the latter class have been already treated and discharged from the Ophthalmic Hospital, either cured or relieved, after inspection at the War Office; and others are now there, whose sight is sufficiently restored to enable them to follow their respective trades or employments. Now as there are good grounds for believing, from information furnished to the War Office, *that not one third* of the total number of Ophthalmic Pensioners were included in the Irish inspection, it is fair to presume, that the actual number of men discharged from the army since 1815, and the annual amount of pensions granted since that period for Ophthalmic Diseases, is considerably more than double what is specified in the above return, a large part of which expense has obviously been incurred by the incorrect report of the Director General.

Official statements similar to those made to the Commander in chief, were transmitted by the Director General to the Secretary at War. In a letter directed to his lordship, dated November 30, 1815, he says, "there is good ground for believing, that what has been termed the Egyptian Ophthalmia, or Contagious Ophthalmia, has of late years but rarely occurred in the army, *the few cases admitted into Plymouth and Aldwich Hospitals comprise the whole*, and it is now hoped that this once very formidable disease is nearly extinct in the British army."

In a second letter to the Secretary at War, dated 11th December, 1816, the Director General distinctly asserts, "that the contagious species of Ophthalmia, which has been denominated Egyptian Ophthalmia, *has ceased to prevail in the British army for several years*."

But in opposition to this unqualified assertion of the Director General, is the following official report, signed by all the members of

the Army Medical Board, and transmitted to the War Office, the very day preceding that in which this assertion was made :

ARMY MEDICAL BOARD OFFICE,
Dec. 10, 1816.

SIR,

We have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, desiring to be informed what number of men have been treated for Ophthalmia in H. G. the Duke of Wellington's army during the last year, how many of them have returned to their duty, and how many of them have been invalided. In reply to this reference, we beg leave to state, for the Secretary at War's information, that during the whole year [i. e. between November 1815 and November 1816,] it appears 2743 men have been treated in the hospitals for ophthalmia, and 2564 discharged, leaving the number of 179 remaining, as stated in our last monthly report. Without specific reference and inquiry, it is impossible to say how many of these cases have been invalided on account of ophthalmia; but such investigation shall be immediately set on foot, and the result submitted as early as possible to Lord Palmerston.

We have the honour to be, &c. &c.

J. M'GRIGOR,
W. FRANKLIN,
W. SOMERVILLE.

To the Deputy Secretary at War.

Should any attempt be made to reconcile the foregoing *assertions* of the Director General with the *official proofs* opposed to them, by endeavouring to make it appear that it *was not* the "Contagious or "Egyptian Ophthalmia" which prevailed in the army during 1815 and 1816, Sir W. Adams is prepared to submit incontrovertible evidence, that it *was* the "Contagious or Egyptian Ophthalmia" which did prevail in the army during the two years in question.

But setting aside all controversial opinions upon the subject, this fact is incontestible; namely, that a considerable number of soldiers pensioned *solely* for Ophthalmic disease, in 1815, 1816, and subsequently, have been so far cured or relieved in the Ophthalmic Hospital, that had the same degree of relief been afforded them *prior* to their being pensioned, such pensions would have been thereby either in part or wholly saved to the public*.

* In confirmation of the above assertion, may be quoted the case of Corporal William Dillow, discharged in 1816, which was one of the most severe ever admitted into the Ophthalmic, or probably any other Hospital. Dillow, a few days after his admission in May 1819, totally blind, and in great suffering, was inspected by the Right Hon. the Member for Tavistock and the Hon. Member for Stockbridge. The following year he was again inspected by these gentlemen, when his sight was sufficiently restored to enable him to read and write with great facility. Dillow had been admitted *prior* to his being pensioned, and on his discharge from the hospital, applied for a pension on account of ophthalmia, when the following certificate of his case was transmitted to the Board of Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital, by the assistant examining surgeon of that establishment, and upon which certificate was grounded the letter to the Commissioners of Kil-

The preceding official returns called for by the Secretary at War, established the fact that the Ophthalmia continued extensively to prevail in the army, while the propriety of an institution for the treatment of the blind soldiery, and the instruction of the young army surgeons in the best mode of treating the disease, could no longer be denied—it had become obvious that the public interest required such an establishment.

But the Director General, in pursuance of his systematic hostility to the institution, which, it was understood, had been originally approved by his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and which had been subsequently decided upon by the Secretary at War, exerted all his influence in the formation of an Eye Infirmary, in 1816, to be supported by *public charity*, and which it was proposed should render that service to the army, which it was the object of Sir W. Adams's proposition, to afford by the institution which the Director General had prevented from being established the preceding year.

An army surgeon, a personal friend of the Director General, was mainham Hospital, the establishment upon which Dillow would have been placed had his claim to pension been considered well founded.

(COPY.)

ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA, 8th June, 1820.

I have examined Corporal William Dillow, 45th foot, lately discharged from the Ophthalmic Hospital, and find there is a thickened state of the eyelids of both eyes, the effect of recent inflammation; but it does not appear that vision is impaired, or the disability of sufficient magnitude to warrant a recommendation for a pension.

(Signed,)

J. HARTSHORN,
Assistant Surgeon,
Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

(COPY.)

ROYAL HOSPITAL, CHELSEA,
9th June, 1820.

SIR,

Having submitted to the Lords Commissioners of this Hospital, at their meeting on Wednesday last, the discharge and papers (herewith transmitted) of William Dillow of the 45th foot, whose claim was examined on that day, their lordships, upon taking the same into consideration, directed me to acquaint you, that they are of opinion he has no claim to pension. I herewith inclose a Medical Report upon his case, from the Assistant Surgeon of this Hospital.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,
(Signed,) RICHARD NEAVE.

To WILLIAM PLUNKETT, Esq.

From the severity of this man's case, he would necessarily, had he not been treated in the Ophthalmic Hospital, have been placed upon the highest rate of pension. If then the practice pursued there proved so successful as to save the whole of the pension in so severe a case, it cannot be questioned that it would very generally produce the same beneficial effects in the milder cases of the same disease.

placed at the head of this institution, who, it is understood, had, immediately prior to its establishment, attended for some months at an Eye Infirmary, as a pupil.

The Secretary at War, however, after the fullest consideration, deemed it expedient to carry into effect a measure in which his Lordship was so strongly borne out by the Medical Returns already adverted to. The Ophthalmic Hospital was accordingly founded in the autumn of 1817, and Sir W. Adams was placed at its head. The appointment of Sir W. Adams to this situation seems to have excited the strongest feelings of professional jealousy, and this jealousy led to circumstances which present some peculiar features, and which are best explained by the following statement of facts.

It became necessary, during the absence of the chief assistant of the Ophthalmic Hospital, to name another assistant in his place, and Staff Surgeon Owen Lindsay anxiously requested that Sir W. Adams would promote his being appointed to the situation; the promise of which appointment, through Sir William's personal application to the Secretary at War in his favour, was obtained.

About this time, the depôt of the 64th regiment, stationed in the Isle of Wight, and which had been joined by two soldiers successfully treated in the Ophthalmic Hospital, was reduced, and these two men were about to pass Chelsea Board upon that occasion. Of this circumstance Sir W. Adams was ignorant, and also that any doubts were entertained of the recovery of these men, or any observations intended to be made on their cases. In continuation, however, of the system which had been pursued, it was thought that so favourable an opportunity of throwing suspicion upon Sir W. Adams's practice should not be lost; and in order to explain the course taken on this occasion, the following letter is inserted, which was addressed by Staff Surgeon Owen Lindsay, to Staff Surgeon Dease, a former assistant at the Ophthalmic Hospital, within a few days after Mr. Lindsay was made acquainted with the promise of his appointment, and which letter was detected in its passage through the War Office*.

9, DUKE-STREET, ST. JAMES'S,
18th Feb. 1819.

MY DEAR DEASE,

I was much disappointed at the two men of the 64th regiment not having been sent to the last Chelsea Board, as I had arranged matters in such a manner

* All letters sent to the War Office to be franked are unsealed, and subjected to the examination of the franking clerk, for the purpose of his ascertaining that they relate to public business.

that they were to have gone to the Board, and the attention of the Commissioners was to have been directed towards the state of their eyes; and all this was done quietly, without any person connected with Sir W. A. knowing any thing concerning the business. I would recommend you not to mention their names in any correspondence you may have here; at all events till they are snugly lodged in the York Hospital. *I hope you have not meddled with their Ochos (eyes), and that you will not prevent their getting drunk, &c. so that they may have proper vascular cornea.*

I this morning saw two of my old patients from Chatham, who had passed the Chelsea Board about a fortnight ago, and who were taken with several others into the Knight's Hospital—Gordon and M'Gee: the former has already been dismissed from the Hospital without any thing having been done to his eyes, and the poor fellow complains of having been prevented going home, and detained here; the latter, M'Gee, did himself the honour, as he termed it, to call upon me to-day, to pay his respects, and to thank me for my attention to him when he was under my care. I examined his eyes minutely, and everted the lids, not, however, with the *elevator*, as I do not now carry such an instrument (although I am informed that *you* do). His eyes are looking remarkably well, and the linings are perfectly smooth. *I cautioned him particularly against drinking, lest he should induce a relapse; and he promised me faithfully to obey my injunction.*

I also saw Marston of the 86th regiment, one of the same batch whom he had taken into the Hospital. I take it for granted you recollect the man's case perfectly. He was likewise an old friend of mine. There was when I saw him (about a week ago) a large vessel running from above downwards over the cornea of the right eye. The left appeared to be very well. I had not an opportunity of examining him particularly; but I shall take an early opportunity of doing so, which I shall the more readily accomplish, as I have just heard that the poor Knight fell from his horse yesterday, and received a severe injury of the knee; but I have not learned the particulars. Forbes leaves town, I believe, on Sunday morning. I am sorry that I have not seen so much of him as I could have wished, as he has been engaged every day to dinner, and I have been employed in the mornings. I understand that M'Leod is to commence his Tour of Inspection on Monday next. Pray let me know when you intend coming to town, and believe me,

My dear Dease,

Your's, very faithfully,

(Signed,)

OWEN LINDSAY.

JAMES DEASE, *Esq. Surgeon to the Forces, Chatham.*

I hope to be able to get you a bed at my house.

Staff Surgeon Lindsay was subsequently tried by court-martial for writing this letter, when the following facts appeared: That the above letter had been sent from the *Army Medical Board Office, unsealed, and under a Medical Board Office printed cover*: That Mr. Lindsay had been written to "*by the Secretary of the Army Medical Board,*" apprising him of Sir William Adams's two patients being expected "*from Chatham to pass the Chelsea Board*:" That he was subsequently desired "*by the professional Assistant of the Medical Board,* not to "*take these men into hospital, but to allow them to go before the board*:" And that Mr. Lindsay was also *instructed* "*to draw the attention of the Commissioners of Chelsea College to the state of*

“the eyes of the men, and to explain to them the nature of their cases.”

Further, it was acknowledged by Staff Surgeon Dease in his evidence, that he understood Mr. Lindsay's meaning in the expression, “proper vascular cornea,” to be, that the vascular cornea should be made “palpable” to his *Royal Highness the Commander in Chief*, and to the *Secretary at War*, in order that they might see the state of the disease, which vascularity, *without the patient's catching cold or committing an excess*, would not be discovered by “ordinary observers;” while he admitted that the excitement thus produced “would be removed by two or three days confinement and care.”

Staff Surgeon Owen Lindsay was found guilty of having, in the letter in question, “employed highly improper expressions, *indicating a jealousy extremely detrimental to the service at large*, and “conveyed in terms most reprehensible;” for which he was sentenced “to be *publicly and severely* reprimanded.” What were the sentiments of the Army Medical Board upon the conduct of Mr. Lindsay, is not exactly known; but what was *done* by the Board *is known*; namely, that notwithstanding this sentence, Mr. Lindsay was *immediately afterwards* reinstated by them in the employment from which he had been previously suspended.

Since the court-martial, Mr. Lindsay has openly confessed, that he wrote this obnoxious letter by desire of the Secretary of the Army Medical Board—that he never would of himself have contemplated doing so; adding, that the Secretary of the Board “had caused his ruin*!”

It may be proper now to advert to the use made, or intended to be made, of the cases of the two men referred to in the letter of Staff Surgeon Owen Lindsay.

In a Report made by the Army Medical Board to the Commander in Chief, May 3, 1819, and which, with other Reports relating to the Ophthalmic Hospital, was called for in the House of Commons by the Hon. Member for Tavistock, May 10, 1819 (at the instance of an army surgeon) is the following passage: “We observe in p. 1. “of the Appendix to his Report, Sir W. Adams states, that he proposed in 1810 to Sir David Dundas, the formation of an Institution

* This secretary could not have entertained *professional hostility* to Sir W. Adams, as he was not a medical man. Neither is it probable that he felt *personal hostility* to Sir William, who had a short time previously attended his child, while labouring under an acute disease of the eye.

“ for the exclusive treatment of Pensioners dismissed the army, blind
 “ from Egyptian Ophthalmia; asserting, that many men might thereby
 “ be restored to the service, and large sums of money, annually
 “ expended in pensions, be saved to the country. We cannot con-
 “ sider this assertion as being borne out by the results of his treat-
 “ ment, either in the cases now reported upon, or in those placed
 “ under his care in 1812, 1813, and 1814. We are not aware
 “ that any of those persons had their vision sufficiently improved
 “ to be considered fit for duty as soldiers; those examined by us we
 “ can state with confidence had not: some of them may, it is true,
 “ have been deemed by him (Sir W. Adams) fit for duty, and may
 “ have been reported as such; but on rejoining their regiments, they
 “ were either considered to be unfit for duty, or *relapsing* shortly after-
 “ wards, were discharged. Two men of this kind [*the two men*
 “ *alluded to in Lindsay's letter*] are to be found in his (Sir W. A.'s)
 “ Report, who *were reported by Sir W. Adams* as fit for duty, and
 “ were ordered to join their regiments at Gibraltar; but on their
 “ arrival at the Isle of Wight, they were deemed unfit for duty, and
 “ subsequently passed Chelsea Board.”

It was upon the discussion which took place upon the motion
 for the production of these papers, *that Mr. Lindsay's letter became*
publicly known.

Now in opposition to the *assertions* contained in the Report of
 the Army Medical Board, and which the plot developed by the
 detection of Lindsay's letter was so well calculated to support,
 are the following *facts*: It was the *staff surgeon regularly appointed*
to examine all recruits for the army in the London district who reported
 these men “ *fit for duty,*” and not *Sir W. Adams*; neither did *the men*
relapse after their discharge from the Ophthalmic Hospital, for al-
 though *reported by the surgeon in the Isle of Wight to be unfit for*
duty the day after their arrival there, they *notwithstanding subse-*
quently performed their regular share of duty, by day and by night,
 during *upwards of four months,* as was attested by the men them-
 selves to the Secretary at War, and to the Adjutant General, who
 examined their eyes and state of vision on their return to pass
 Chelsea Board. And, further, they ultimately passed Chelsea
 Board, not (as the Army Medical Board evidently intended it
 should be considered) from their incompetency as soldiers, but upon
 a reduction in the regiment to which they belonged.

Hence it is obvious, that if these two men had laboured under
 the “ *proper vascular cornea*” (excited in the manner suggested by

Mr. Lindsay) when examined, as it was intended they should have been, by the Commander in Chief, by the Secretary at War, and by the Commissioners of Chelsea College, the assertions contained in the Report of the Army Medical Board, and the "recorded opinion" of the Director General of 1816, would have appeared to be verified*.

It is thus shewn that Staff Surgeon Owen Lindsay was *deputed* to point out to the Commissioners of Chelsea College, the "*proper vascular cornea*" of these men's eyes; and also that it was intended they should have been seen by the Commander in Chief and by the Secretary at War while in this state. Nothing further is necessary to shew the nature of the attack which was made upon the reputation of the Hospital, and the moral as well as the professional character of Sir W. Adams.

It is conceived that enough has been stated to furnish the means of forming an opinion upon the propriety of originally establishing the Ophthalmic Hospital, and to assist in any inquiry that may be made into the wisdom of its continuance. The nature of the opposition that will be offered to the establishment and to its principal superintendant, and the quarter from which it will proceed, rendered it, I conceive, necessary to develop beforehand the character of that opposition, not for the purpose of gratifying any personal feeling, but to prevent those Gentlemen who will be engaged in the investigation from being taken by surprise, or thrown off their guard, by the weight and authority naturally attached to the opinions of those individuals, whose station would be expected to place them above partial views, and improper bias or practice. How far the circumstances stated with regard to Mr. Lindsay may shew that such communications should be received with caution, the reader must judge.

* In the Director General's letter to the Secretary of War, dated Dec. 11, 1816 (already quoted, p. 6.), is the following passage: "I do not hesitate to say, that the statement, which goes to shew a great saving to Government by calling in the Out-Pensioners, is most fallacious, and would end in disappointment; and I take leave to record my opinion, that it will be found very few Out-Pensioners can derive sufficient benefit from any mode of treatment to enable them to perform the duty of soldiers."

SECT. II.

EXPENSE CAUSED BY OPHTHALMIA.

THE following Documents and Statements are intended to shew: first, the proportionate Numbers of Curable and Incurable Ophthalmic Pensioners:—secondly, the Annual Amount of Expense caused by Ophthalmia:—and thirdly, the Results of Sir Wm. Adams's Treatment at the Ophthalmic Hospital.

First: Document III. shews, that of 1859 men pensioned with Ophthalmia, and recently inspected in Ireland, 315 only were reported by the inspecting surgeon to be incurable; 487 being considered by him as susceptible of cure or relief from treatment, and 1043 *having recovered their sight since their discharge*. The annual amount of Pensions granted to the *Incurable Class* is £7022 5s. 3d. that of the *Curable Class* £9045 19s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.; while the large sum of £18,111 12s. 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. is paid annually to those men who have recovered their sight *since being pensioned as incurable**. Grand total £34,179 16s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per annum. Of these 1859 pensioners, 1348 (annual amount of pension £24,457 9s. 9d.) it appears had no claim to pension for length of service. Some few may have been entitled to pensions for wounds, but the proportion of such claimants must necessarily be very limited.

Secondly: The following Statements shew the sums paid annually by Government to Ophthalmic Pensioners belonging to the three branches of the public service:

<i>Ascertained.</i>		£.	s.	d.
By Chelsea Hospital	.	61,812	15	0
(From the above sum deduct 5 per cent. as directed by Act of Parliament.)				
By Kilmainham Hospital	.	17,791	10	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
By the Ordnance Department	.	10,036	10	0
By the War Office to Officers	.	10,552	16	6
<i>Solely for Ophthalmic Disease</i>		100,163	11	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
By Kilmainham Hospital partly for Service and partly for Ophthalmia	.	4091	11	0
<i>Not ascertained.</i>				
By Chelsea Hospital for ditto ditto, supposed to exceed for Blindness alone	.	20,000	0	0
By the Admiralty for Officers and Men affected with Blindness, supposed to exceed	.	5000	0	0
Total per annum		129,255	2	6 $\frac{1}{2}$

* Whether this great amount of pension, unnecessarily granted to the two latter Classes of Pensioners, has been incurred by an incompetency to cure the malady, or by neglect in so doing, the evil to the public is the same.

Thirdly: Document IV. shews that 447 persons have been admitted into the Ophthalmic Hospital since its establishment, of whom 399 have been discharged from thence, in which number are included 217 cured, 85 relieved, 32 not benefited, and 48 remain in the Hospital. The annual amount of the pensions of 401 of these men (46 not being pensioners) is £7885 6s. 8d.

Two hundred and ten patients were treated in the Ophthalmic Hospital between Nov. 1, 1819, and Nov. 1, 1820, of whom 101 were pensioned solely for Ophthalmia, and 87 of the number since January 1815. The annual amount of pension of these 101 patients is £1838 13s. 9d. and their value, estimated by the Tables of Annuity established by Government at the Bank of England, according to the age of each individual, is £26,652 8s. 3½d.!!!

Document V. shews that in almost every instance where men have been admitted into the Ophthalmic Hospital, and treated there, *prior* to their being pensioned, that their pensions have been either wholly or in part saved to the public, in consequence of the benefit they have received while in the Hospital.

Hence then if so large a proportion of the blind pensioners, as is proved by these Documents, admit of cure or relief, and that the pensions of almost the whole of those men admitted into the Ophthalmic Hospital *prior* to their being pensioned, have been thereby wholly or in part saved, would it not be expedient, *even on the score of economy*, in future to treat there all men having claims for pensions, previously to such claims being taken into consideration, by which ready disciplined soldiers would be retained to the service, pensions would be saved, and the further dissemination of the contagion among the general population of the country, by means of the dismissed soldiery, would be prevented.

The considerable sums paid to men for marching money to their homes, and subsequently to and from the Ophthalmic Hospital, as also to their guides, would further be saved, while the proposed measure could be carried into effect without incurring any considerable additional expense.

SECT. III.

SIR WILLIAM ADAMS'S CLAIMS.

Sir W. Adams is not acquainted with any case that has been submitted to the consideration of Parliament, to which he can refer as being parallel to his own, inasmuch, as where public remuneration has hitherto been bestowed upon any Member of the Medical Profession, it has been for communications which have more especially tended to the benefit of society at large: whereas Sir W. Adams presumes to hope, that while he has added his mite to the public benefit, he has more particularly contributed to the "health and efficiency" of the army, and has already been the means of a considerable saving to the Government in pensions.

The case of Dr. Jenner appears to approximate most nearly to the present, although unquestionably they bear no degree of comparison in point of general importance; inasmuch as the improved practice for Ophthalmia possesses the power merely of *preserving* or *restoring sight*, while that of Vaccination, as *preserving life*, is confessedly the most important which has ever been introduced into the science of medicine. Upon no occasion therefore has the gratitude of mankind—the liberality of the legislature—and the respect of the medical profession, been more justly bestowed, than upon the distinguished individual to whom humanity is so deeply indebted, and to whose skill and observation the world owes the invaluable discovery which renders memorable the epoch in which it was made, and which will hand his name down to the latest posterity.

Sir W. Adams, while he thus most respectfully conveys his impression of the merits of Dr. Jenner, feels called upon, in justice to himself and to his family, to point out some differences which appear to exist with regard to the character of their respective cases, conceiving that they tend materially to strengthen his claims to the favourable consideration of Parliament.

Dr. Jenner, it will be recollected, without solicitation, *published* his discovery; and thus, *unsolicited*, gave up the possession of his opinions and practice to the public.

Sir W. Adams, it has been shewn, was *officially invited* to communicate his opinions and practice for the *benefit of the army*; which application was made to him at a time, when, from the great extent to

which the disease prevailed among the soldiery, and the supposed inadequacy of the practice pursued in the army, the greatest importance was attached to the obtaining an effectual “mode for its prevention and cure* ;” and he was thus invited, after a Board of the highest professional authorities in the kingdom (both civil and military) had been previously appointed for this *specific purpose*, but without the desired success.

The discovery of vaccination, although of the utmost possible importance to humanity, and consequently to society at large, inasmuch as it tends to the preservation of life, yet has not materially contributed to the “efficiency” of either branch of the public service, as at no period since the introduction of inoculation has the small-pox prevailed to such an extent as to impede that efficiency.

The Ophthalmia, on the contrary, it will be shewn to the Committee, has not only in many instances rendered whole regiments ineffective for successive years, and in others, during whole campaigns; but further, as appears from the publications of the present Director General, in 1807 (prior to Sir W. Adams’s practice and opinions being promulgated) it was “daily extending its ravages through the “army ;” and he adds, “if not checked, may cripple our army and “navy.”

The small-pox at no period has been known to cause any considerable expence in pensions to soldiers or to sailors : consequently, vaccination has not materially contributed to the saving of the public money.

The Egyptian Ophthalmia, on the contrary, has occasioned an

* In proof of the great length of time the malady continues, when the treatment for its radical cure has been neglected, as also its capability of propagating infection, even twenty years after the first attack, the following letter is quoted :

SIR,

BRISTOL, March 15, 1821.

In the year 1801 I contracted the Ophthalmia in Egypt, and ever since my sight has been so defective as to exclude me entirely from reading, or even writing my name, but by guess. I have had several relapses of that most dreadful malady; and in the month of August last year, my wife was affected with it from me: she is now in that dreadful state of pain, that she can have no rest night or day: the discharge is greater than any I witnessed in Egypt, although blisters and bleeding with leeches have been copiously applied, but all to no purpose. You may, sir, if you please, prove the truth of this statement, by coming yourself to see the state Mrs. Rees’s eyes are in, and bring with you those Gentlemen that argue against the utility of the Ophthalmic Hospital. Here is a case in point, which will prove the virulent infectious nature of the Egyptian Ophthalmia.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

28, COLSTON-STREET,
BRISTOL.

JAMES REES, Lieut. R. N.

enormous expense to the public; while Sir W. Adams is prepared to prove, that, by the adoption of his opinions and practice, the malady is now treated with far greater success in the army than formerly: consequently, that his communications have essentially contributed to the prevention of the expenditure of the public money.

Dr. Jenner, after promulgating his opinions and practice, besides experiencing the blessings of mankind, and the liberality of the legislature, had the good fortune to secure likewise the kind feeling of the profession.

Sir W. Adams, on the contrary, from the beginning of the year 1815, after he had fully laid open his practice for the benefit of the army, has been involved in the most vexatious controversy, which necessarily has occupied much of his time and attention. He was indeed, in 1814, warned by his more experienced medical friends of the professional feeling which he would have to encounter, if he persisted in his efforts in regard to Ophthalmia as it respected the army; and so fully were they impressed with this opinion, that Sir W. Adams was urged in the strongest manner by one of them, who belonged to the Committee of eminent Civil Practitioners appointed in that year by the Commander in Chief, to report upon his practice, altogether to abandon the experiment then in progress, even when it had been nearly brought to a successful close; assigning as a reason, that he (Sir W. Adams) "would bring the surgeons upon him:" and Sir W. Adams was subsequently told by another member of that Committee, that he had "placed himself in too conspicuous a point of view, and had thereby deservedly brought the profession upon him."

The effect of this professional feeling towards Sir W. Adams he has no hesitation in stating has proved highly injurious to him; and he regrets to add, that the great body of Medical Practitioners belonging to the three branches of the public service have, from an *esprit de corps*, most zealously endeavoured to excite public prejudice against him; while the periodical Medical Press, which it is well known is either under their exclusive direction, or open to their critical productions, has (since the beginning of 1815, when it was expected that the Ophthalmic Hospital would be established,) admitted, and given all the effect within its power, to every publication hostile and injurious to Sir W. Adams, while it has equally rejected every thing advanced in his justification. The impression thus produced, must necessarily have had considerable effect upon the profession in civil life.

From the differences which have been thus shewn to exist between the characters of the respective cases of Dr. Jenner and Sir W. Adams, it is seen that Dr. Jenner's claims for remuneration were founded upon the *liberality* of Parliament; while those of Sir W. Adams to compensation, rest (as he has endeavoured to shew) upon the *justice*, as well as the liberality, of the Legislature.

Upon the facts of his case Sir W. Adams therefore respectfully begs leave to appeal to the justice and liberality of Parliament, his professional skill being his property, and the support of himself and his family; which property he gave up for the benefit of the army, in compliance with the wish of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief*. The extent of such compensation, he trusts, will be estimated, on the one hand, by the acknowledged importance and utility of his communications, as respects "the health and efficiency of the army at large," and the saving of the public money in pensions; and, on the other hand, by the loss to Sir W. Adams of a very lucrative branch of practice which he had previously enjoyed, as also by the injury he has sustained in his general practice from the professional hostility, and consequent public prejudice, to which he has been subjected.

* In an official letter from the Adjutant General to Sir W. Adams, dated June 28, 1817, is the following passage: "His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief entertains a just sense of the zeal and liberality with which you communicated your modes of practice."

APPENDIX.

(DOC. I.)

ARMY MEDICAL BOARD OFFICE,
April 28, 1817.

SIR,

Referring to your letter of the 6th December last, and to my reply of the 10th, I beg leave now to submit, for the Secretary at War's consideration, a return, which has been very carefully made out, of the total number of soldiers invalided from the army in France, on account of diseases of the eyes, between the 21st Nov. 1815, and the 20th Nov. 1816.

From this statement it will appear, that the 56 men who have been invalided out of a total number of patients amounting to 2422, *ten* only are totally blind; and it is highly probable, that among the 43 invalided for impaired vision, a great proportion would not have been put down for discharge under a different state of public affairs.

I have, &c.

JAMES M'GRIGOR.

To W. MERRY, *Esq. &c. &c. &c.*

(DOC. II.)

RETURN of MEN recently inspected in IRELAND, who have been discharged the Service since 1810, labouring under OPHTHALMIA, specifying also the Number pensioned each Year, and the amount of their Pensions. These are divided into three Classes; namely, Incurable, Curable, and those who have recovered their Sight since their Discharge.

Periods of discharge . . .	1810.	1811.	1812.	1813.	1814.	1815.	1816.	1817.	1818.	1819.	1820.	Total.
Incurable Cases	15	12	17	9	22	19	20	17	7	5	0	143
Curable Cases	24	24	18	21	64	44	65	52	34	24	4	374
Cases which have recovered	39	45	37	47	154	78	141	85	48	31	7	712
Total number of Pensioners	78	81	72	77	240	141	226	154	89	60	11	1229
Annual Amount of Pension	£1553 4 2½	1391 0 3¼	1351 19 0¼	1507 18 1¼	4264 8 11½	2376 16 3	33960 5 0	2624 3 11¼	1360 7 8½	940 12 8½	158 3 4	21,488 19 7½

Of the above £21,488 19s. 7½d. per annum, £11,420 8s. 11½d. per annum has been granted since 1815.

To 68 Men whose Cases are *Incurable*, Pension £.1529 19 2
 To 223 Men whose Cases are *Curable*, ditto 3736 13 9½
 To 390 Men who have recovered their Sight since their Discharge 6153 16 0

681 Number of Men pensioned.

Total Amount . . . 11,420 8 11½

* * * *Fifty-one* of the above Pensioners were discharged from the Artillery, and *seven* from the Navy.

(DOC. III.)

No. 1.

INCURABLE CASES.

ABSTRACT of the Annual Amount of Pensions of 315 blind Pensioners recently inspected in Ireland, as also the Value of these Pensions calculated according to the Rates of Annuity established by his Majesty's Government at the Bank of England, supposing the main age of the Pensioners to be 32, which is worth $14\frac{1}{2}$ years purchase.

No. of Men.	Rate of Pension. s. d.	Annual Amount.			14½ Years Purchase.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1 at	2 6	45	12	6	661	11	3
2 at	2 0	73	0	0	1058	10	0
2 at	1 11½	71	9	7	1036	8	11½
14 at	1 6	383	5	0	5557	2	6
230 at	1 3	5246	17	6	76,079	13	9
1 at	1 1½	20	10	7½	297	14	0¾
1 at	1 1	19	15	5	286	13	6½
49 at	1 0	894	5	0	12,966	12	6
2 at	0 9	27	7	6	396	18	9
2 at	0 6	18	5	0	264	12	6
1 at	0 4¾	7	4	5¾	104	14	11½
1 at	14l. p. an	14	0	0	203	0	0
Not ascertd. 9	—	200	12	7¾	2909	3	4½
Total 315	—	7022	5	3	101,822	16	1¾

No. 2.

CURABLE CASES.

The Annual Amount of the Pensions of 497 Men belonging to this Class, and the Value of their Pensions according to the above Calculation.

No. of Men.	Rate of Pension. s. d.	Annual Amount			14½ Years Purchase.		
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
2 at	2 6	91	5	0	1483	3	6
4 at	2 0	146	0	0	2117	0	0
1 at	1 10	33	9	2	485	2	11
9 at	1 6	246	7	6	3565	8	9
1 at	1 5	25	17	1	374	13	8½
4 at	1 4½	100	7	6	1455	8	9
1 at	1 4	24	6	8	352	16	8
1 at	1 3½	23	11	5½	341	16	1¾
165 at	1 3	3764	1	3	54,578	18	1½
1 at	1 2½	22	1	0½	319	15	1¼
1 at	1 2	21	5	10	308	14	7
1 at	1 1½	20	10	7½	297	14	0¾
2 at	1 1	39	10	10	573	7	1
1 at	1 0½	19	0	2½	275	13	0¾
139 at	1 0	2536	15	0	36,782	17	6
82 at	0 9	1122	7	6	16,274	8	9
58 at	0 6	529	5	0	7674	2	6
1 at	0 8	12	3	4	176	8	4
5 at	0 5	38	5	5	551	6	0½
3 at	0 4¾	21	13	5¾	314	4	9½
1 at	14l. p. an.	14	0	0	203	0	0
1 at	12l. p. an.	12	0	0	174	0	0
No Pen. 3 at	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not as. 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total 497	—	9045	19	0¾	131,319	2	4½

No. 3.

CASES ALREADY RECOVERED.

ABSTRACT of the Number of Pensioners inspected in IRELAND, who, in consequence of one or both Eyes having entirely recovered, or having so little Disease remaining, were deemed unfit Cases to be sent to the OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL; with the Annual Amount of their Pensions, and their value at $14\frac{1}{2}$ years purchase.

No. of Men.		Rate of Pension. s. d.	Annual Amount.			$14\frac{1}{2}$ Years Purchase.		
			£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1	at	3 6	63	17	6	926	3	9
3	at	2 6	136	17	6	1984	13	9
1	at	2 4	42	11	8	617	9	2
1	at	2 $3\frac{1}{2}$	41	16	$5\frac{1}{2}$	606	8	$7\frac{1}{2}$
1	at	2 0	36	10	0	529	5	0
2	at	1 $11\frac{1}{2}$	71	9	7	1036	8	$11\frac{1}{2}$
1	at	1 11	34	19	7	507	3	$11\frac{1}{2}$
1	at	1 10	33	9	2	485	2	11
1	at	1 $9\frac{1}{2}$	32	13	$11\frac{1}{2}$	474	2	$4\frac{1}{2}$
1	at	1 9	31	18	9	463	1	$10\frac{1}{2}$
1	at	1 8	30	8	4	441	0	10
1	at	1 7	28	17	11	418	19	$9\frac{1}{2}$
16	at	1 6	438	0	0	6351	0	0
3	at	1 $5\frac{1}{2}$	79	16	$10\frac{1}{2}$	1157	14	$8\frac{1}{2}$
1	at	1 5	25	17	1	374	17	$8\frac{1}{2}$
1	at	1 $4\frac{1}{2}$	25	1	$10\frac{1}{2}$	363	17	$2\frac{1}{4}$
7	at	1 4	170	6	8	2469	16	8
1	at	1 $3\frac{1}{2}$	23	11	$5\frac{1}{2}$	341	16	$1\frac{1}{2}$
255	at	1 3	5817	3	9	84,349	4	$4\frac{1}{2}$
3	at	1 $2\frac{1}{2}$	66	3	$1\frac{1}{2}$	959	5	$0\frac{1}{2}$
4	at	1 2	85	3	4	1234	18	4
2	at	1 $1\frac{1}{2}$	41	1	3	595	8	$1\frac{1}{2}$
5	at	1 1	98	17	1	1433	7	$3\frac{1}{2}$
4	at	1 $0\frac{1}{2}$	76	0	10	1102	12	1
270	at	1 0	4927	10	0	71,448	15	0
2	at	0 10	30	8	4	441	0	10
221	at	0 9	3024	18	9	43,861	11	$10\frac{1}{2}$
3	at	0 8	36	10	0	529	5	0
157	at	0 6	1432	12	6	20,773	1	3
1	at	0 5	7	12	1	110	5	$2\frac{1}{2}$
8	at	0 $4\frac{1}{4}$	57	15	10	837	19	7
2	at	20 <i>l.</i> p.an.	40	0	0	580	0	0
1	at	16 <i>l.</i> p.an.	16	0	0	232	0	0
1	at	14 <i>l.</i> p.an.	14	0	0	203	0	0
1	at	12 <i>l.</i> p.an.	12	0	0	174	0	0
1	at	11 <i>l.</i> p.an.	11	0	0	159	10	0
1	at	10 <i>l.</i> p.an.	10	0	0	145	0	0
1	at	8 <i>l.</i> p.an.	8	0	0	116	0	0
No Pen. 8	at	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not as, 52	at	—	950	11	$3\frac{1}{2}$	13,783	4	$0\frac{1}{4}$
No. 3.	1047	—	18,111	12	$6\frac{1}{2}$	272,618	11	$5\frac{1}{2}$
No. 1.	315	—	7022	5	3	101,822	16	$1\frac{1}{2}$
No. 2.	497	—	9045	19	$0\frac{1}{4}$	131,319	2	$4\frac{1}{4}$
G. Total 1859		—	34,179	16	$10\frac{1}{2}$	505,760	9	$11\frac{1}{2}$

(DOC. IV.)

MEDICAL RETURN of all Persons admitted and discharged from the
OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL since its Commencement, Dec. 1st, 1817, to
the 17th February, 1821.

DISEASES.	Admitted.	Discharged.				Remaining.
		Cured.	Relieved.	Not benefited.	Total.	
Cataract _____ of one eye	16	7	1	*7	15	1
_____ of both eyes	*6	6	—	—	6	—
Cases in which artificial pupil has been formed in one eye	74	48	14	10	72	2
_____ in both eyes	7	7	—	—	7	—
Ditto complicated with cataract _____ of one eye	19	7	3	8	18	1
_____ of both eyes	2	1	1	—	2	—
Inversion of the lids _____ of one eye	10	8	—	—	8	2
_____ of both eyes	11	10	1	—	11	—
Eversion of the lids _____ of one eye	4	3	—	—	3	1
_____ of both eyes	1	1	—	—	1	—
Fistula lachrymalis _____ of one eye	1	1	—	—	1	—
Granular and diseased lids, with opaque and vascular cornea from Egyptian oph- thalmia _____ of one eye	25	10	11	—	21	4
_____ of both eyes	159	84	39	2	125	34
Opacity and cicatrix of the cornea _____ of one eye	16	7	7	2	16	—
_____ of both eyes	23	15	6	2	23	—
Acute inflammation, with ulcers on the cornea, of one eye	2	—	—	—	—	2
_____ of both eyes	2	1	1	—	2	—
Amaurosis _____	3	1	1	1	3	—
Discharged without treatment, or at their own request— for misconduct—or deserted _____	62	—	—	—	62	—
Patients' wives _____	2	—	—	—	1	1
Died _____	2	—	—	—	2	—
Total . . .	447	217	85	32	399	48

(Extracted from the Hospital Records.)

(Signed,) { GEO. R. MELIN, Assistant Surgeon to the Forces,
G. BARRY, M. D.

* Two of the cases of cataract in both eyes, recovered but in one eye, the other eye in each patient having been lost by inflammation.

A RETURN of the Amount of the Pensions of the foregoing 447
Patients who have been treated in the OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL
since its Commencement, Dec. 1st, 1817.

Number of Pensioners.	Rate of Pension per diem.		Annual Amount.		
	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
5	0	5	38	0	0
25	0	6	228	2	6
75	0	9	1026	11	3
102	1	0	1861	10	0
2	1	0½	38	0	5
1	1	1	19	5	5
2	1	1½	41	1	3
4	1	2	85	3	4
2	1	2½	44	2	1
138	1	3	3148	2	6
2	1	3½	47	2	11
1	1	4	24	6	8
2	1	4½	50	3	9
2	1	5½	53	4	7
20	1	6	547	10	0
1	1	7	28	17	11
1	1	8½	31	3	6
3	1	9	95	16	3
1	1	9½	32	13	11½
2	1	10	66	18	4
1	1	11½	35	14	9½
2	2	0	73	0	0
1	2	3	41	1	3
4	2	6	182	10	0
1	£.12 per annum.		12	0	0
Patients who had no pension, including some women and children, admitted by order of the Secretary at War . . . }			46		
Total 447			7885	6	8

(DOC. V.)

RETURN of all the PATIENTS treated in the OPHTHALMIC HOSPITAL since its Establishment, 1st Dec. 1817, who were not Pensioners when admitted, distinguishing those who received no Pension afterwards from those who did.

No. 1.

Men who did not receive a Pension after their Discharge from Hospital.

<i>Regiment.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Observations.</i>
7 D. Gds.	Jos. Coulson	Vision in his remaining eye was restored.
61	Dan. M ^c Cullum	ditto ditto ditto.
9 V. B.	James Clarke	ditto ditto ditto.
93	W. M ^c Intosh	He did all the shoemaking work of the Hospital for twelve months after his discharge from it.
101	James Crogan	Vision perfect in the left eye, and nearly so in the right.
Dumfs. Fen.	A. Henderson	Relieved.
Leic. Mil.	W. Pettifer	Cured of cataract.
27	John Worthington	Left eye cured, and the right nearly so.
45	W. Dillow	Both eyes cured.
Renf. Mil.	Peter Arnatt	Deserted. Vision good, being able to read a newspaper.
8 B. K. G. L.	Jurgan Graefke	Sight perfect in both eyes.
86	Skif. Gribbins	ditto ditto.
Anan. Mil.	A. Nicholl	Incurable from gutta serena.
9. V. B.	John Kirkwood	Underwent no treatment, his case being incurable.
72	Alex. Grant	Died in Hospital, from inflammation and chronic disease of the bladder.

No. 2.

Men who had applied for an Increase of Pension, in consequence of the Disease having become more severe after passing Chelsea or Kilmainham Boards.

<i>Regiment.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Pension Rate of</i>	<i>Observations.</i>
62	Robert Knee	9d.	Received no increase of pension: his vision was perfectly restored by treatment.
—	Thos. James	9d.	Received no increase of pension: his vision was nearly perfectly restored by treatment.

No. 3.

Men who were pensioned after their Discharge from the Ophthalmic Hospital, and who, in all probability, would have obtained a higher rate of Pension had they appeared before the Commissioners of Chelsea in the state of disease under which they laboured when admitted into the Hospital.

<i>Regiment.</i>	<i>Names.</i>	<i>Rate of Pension</i>	<i>Observations.</i>
10 Foot	John M'Kenzie	9d.	An artificial pupil formed in each eye, with which he could read the smallest print. He acted as a servant in the Hospital for some time, and was very desirous of being readmitted into the service.
81	Serg. Hill	1s.	Was sent to the Hospital by the Commissioners of the Chelsea Board, totally blind, which entitled him to 1s. 6d. per day. By artificial pupils, such useful vision was obtained, as to enable him to contribute towards his maintenance.
64	Corp. Phillips	6d.	These two men are stated to have done duty as soldiers for more than four months after their discharge from the Ophthalmic Hospital, prior to their passing the Board.
—	James Pike	9d.	
—	Pat. Duggan.	1s.	Entitled to this amount of pension for service, having 21 years and 8 months servitude.
—	Pat. Macauley	9d.	On admission could only discern light with the left eye, and barely to make his way with the right. On discharge, he could see to walk any where alone, and tell what o'clock it was by a watch. His vision and state of eyes were greatly improved.
67	Pat. Maher	1s.	Incipient gutta serena of one eye when admitted, and cataract of the other, of which he was cured.

No. 4.

Men who are not Pensioners now in Hospital undergoing treatment.

97	John Farrel	Nearly well.
29	Thos. Mattimar	ditto.
26	Dan. M'Intyre	ditto.
2 Provis.	Wm. Scott	Preparing for operation.

(Extracted from the Hospital Records.)

(Signed,) { GEO. R. MELIN, *Assistant Surgeon to the Forces.*
 { G. BARRY, *M. D.*

