M0016261: Display board: Sir Victor Horsley, "Remarks on gunshot wounds of the head"

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FIG. 1.—Pointed (Service) Bullet, .22 cal.; Cast of Effect in Clay. The tapering of the cast shows the gradual loss of velocity. The bullet is seen at the end of the cast, apex upwards. The narrow part of the cast is where the bullet began to turn over, and the track of destruction changed from cylinder to flat tear.

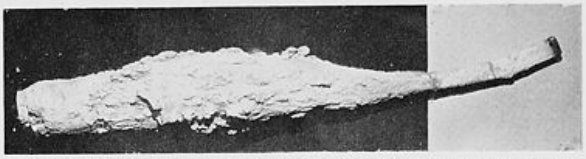

FIG. 2.—Old Conical Bullet; Cast of Effect. Similar cast of the effect of the old pattern bullet, which also turned over, so that the end of its course is a flattened cleft. The net amount of destruction is the same as in Fig. 1.

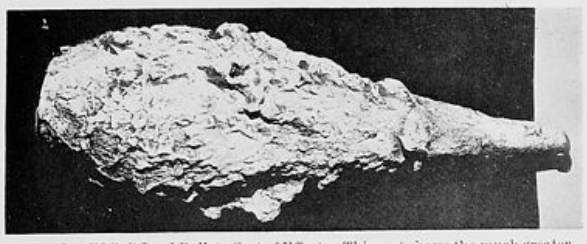

FIG. 3.—.310 Soft Lead Bullet; Cast of Effect. This cast shows the much greater destruction caused by a bullet of larger sectional area, and one which, being soft, deformed easily. Its penetration is proportionately lessened.

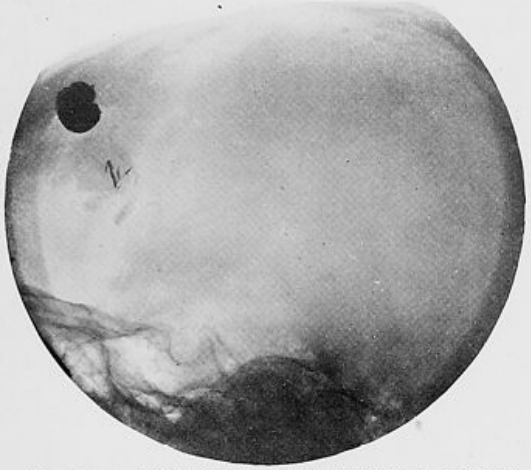

FIG. 4.—Shrapnel Bullet, showing Fragments of Bone Penetrating Brain deeply. The bullet is seen caught on inner edge of hole in skull. In front of it five fragments of bone, some streaked with lead, have passed into the frontal lobe. Around these was a 2-in. deep and wide abscess cavity, partly indicated in the radiogram taken by Dr. Bruce.

FIG. 5.—Fissuring Destruction of Skull and Subjacent Brain. In this case some of the bone was removed by Major Sherran's operation fifteen minutes after the wound to arrest the haemorrhage from the lacerated brain. The radiogram by Dr. Bruce shows well the fissuring of the skull produced by the high velocity of the bullet.

THE MODE OF PRODUCTION OF INJURIES TO THE BRAIN IN GUNSHOT WOUNDS

Sir Victor Horsley, 'Remarks on gunshot wounds of the head'. Reprint from Brit. Med. Journ., 1915, i, 321-23.

In 1895 Horsley had studied the effect of a bullet in disrupting the tissues by firing the bullet into modelling clay, a substance which resembles the body tissues from a physical aspect. The resulting cavity in the mass of clay was then filled with plaster-of-Paris, and a permanent record was thus obtained of the effect of the bullet. Horsley returned to this subject early in the First World War, and Figs. 1-3 on this plate show the effects produced by various types of bullets. Fig. 5 illustrates the bursting hydrostatic effect of a high velocity bullet entering the skull.