

Committee. In the Public Health Laboratory Service he was a valued member of various working parties, particularly one conducting a practical study of the laboratory diagnosis of tuberculosis, of which he was the convener and in which he took a very active part.

Ronald Phease was not inclined to voice his opinions unasked, but these were sought and appreciated more often than is generally known, as they were invariably based on careful judgment and shrewd common sense. Though often expressed with an air of diffidence, this did not mislead his friends as to their true worth. H. T. F.

#### BRIGADIER D. B. McGRIGOR, O.B.E., M.B., D.M.R.E.

BRIGADIER D. B. McGRIGOR, formerly consultant radiologist to the Army, died in Colchester after a short illness on 22nd October, aged 73.

Dalzeil Buchanan McGrigor joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1907 after graduating at Aberdeen. From 1909 to 1914 he saw service in India, where he qualified with distinction at the Indian X-ray Institute. In the early part of the first world war he saw active service in France with the Indian Expeditionary Force in charge of No. 1 Field X-ray Section and returned to India in 1917. He was awarded the O.B.E. in 1919 for his services.

After taking the D.M.R.E. of Cambridge in 1920, he was appointed specialist in radiology at The Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank and lecturer in radiology at the Royal Army Medical College. He retired from the active list in 1927 and was appointed adviser in radiology to the Army Medical Services.

On the outbreak of the second world war he was recalled from the reserve and organised the Army School of Radiology, being appointed consultant and promoted brigadier in 1941. After the war he continued to serve as honorary consultant to the Army until his retirement in 1952 at the age of 67.

J. M. W. writes: I first met Mac in the summer of 1914. We did not meet again until 1921 at The Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, where he was the radiological specialist, and a lasting friendship started. On my return to Millbank in 1928, he was the greatest help to me on the Advisory Radiological Committee. He knew what the Army Medical Service would need in the way of radiological equipment and he did an immense amount of work in getting the X-ray sets ready for active service. In 1940 and 1941 we worked together at the War Office and he was a tower of strength. His records were meticulous and he saw everything himself in the way of equipment and radiological personnel. To all ranks he was kindness-itself.

He was a man of many interests: for several years he was a most able secretary to the R.A.M.C. Officers Widows and Orphans Friendly Society. He was a first-class mechanic, and possessed many clocks and expert knowledge in looking after them. Perhaps his greatest feature was his capacity for making friends. He had travelled widely and was always asked to return. He leaves a wife, who most ably assisted him at all times, a daughter and two sons, both medical men. Our deepest sympathy goes out to them.

A great and lovable character has left us, and one feels all the better for having known him.

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### Correspondence

*From Major-General R. E. Barnsley, C.B., M.C., M.B.*

DEAR SIR,

In your issue of July, 1957, you published a list of medical personnel who participated in the battle of Waterloo. In a covering letter I told how this came into my possession as a result of the publication of the picture of an unknown young purveyor for identification in *Country Life*, and expressed a hope that

his medal and his pocket book which contained it might come into the possession of our Corps museum.

I am glad to say that our hopes have now been realised, thanks to the good offices of Mr. Eland of Dunmow and to the generosity of Mrs. Chesterton and her relatives in New Zealand and the United States, who have all been consulted and have agreed to the transfer.

Deputy Purveyor Robinson's pocket book now forms one of the most interesting items in our collection. The Waterloo medal itself is contained in its original wash-leather case and, oddly enough, a buttonhole has been sewn into the ribbon which would seem to indicate that Robinson was in the habit of wearing his medal attached to his waistcoat button!

There is also a circular rosette in red, blue and silver which might have decorated his headgear. Stuffed into a pocket in the cover of the book are many old letters and documents. Among these are several letters from his friend and fellow purveyor Jonathan Croft.

Perhaps the official documents have the greatest interest for us today. There is his billeting notice dated 7th July, 1815, instructing the Mairie du Deuxième Arrondissement to furnish "logement à un Capitaine Anglais et son suite," and a location list of troops under command of Sir Thomas Graham dated 17th April, 1814. The list of medical personnel at Waterloo, in Sir James R. Grant's own handwriting, is proudly endorsed "Certificate of my being present at the Battle of Waterloo. George Robinson."

The typewriter must surely be held responsible for the masses of paper which come so near to clogging the whole administrative machine nowadays. Today if the D.M.S. of an army sets forth he is preceded by a cloud of paper with "distribution" to five or six people concerned and "Copies to" a dozen or so more (who could not care less) all giving the "E.T.A.," etc. etc.

Things were very much simpler in 1816 when, on 19th August, Sir J. R. Grant, the Duke's P.M.O., sat down, took out a piece of notepaper and wrote and addressed a note in his own hand as follows: "My dear Sir, As my progress has been less rapid than I calculated owing to the many hospitals I have had to inspect, I expect to be in Cambrai on Sunday. You will therefore act accordingly and inform any who may be interested, officially or otherwise."

The pocket book itself is in red morocco and bears the name "George Robinson" in gold letters. The first page reads "George Robinson, Dy. Purveyor to the forces. Duke of Wellington's Headquarters, Paris, January, 1816. Entered this town 7th July, 1815." Then follow a number of pages containing skilful drawings in pencil, pen and water-colour of landscapes and local types. The rest of the book is blank except for the last few pages, which show Robinson in sentimental mood. Some of the verses are recognisable, but surely the "Ode to the Forget-me-not which blooms on the Field of Waterloo" must be original. It begins:

"Where sleep the brave on honour's sainted bed  
Thou, lovely flower, art wildly seen to wave  
Thy fragrant incense o'er the valiant dead  
A blooming tribute to the soldier's grave."

and so on through five verses. This is followed by :

“Oh! say not woman’s heart is bought by vain and empty treasure,  
Oh! say not woman’s heart is sought by every idle pleasure,”

which seems to have a familiar ring, though I have not been able to identify the author. Next come Thomas Moore’s “Believe me if all those endearing young charms” and “The last rose of summer.” The poetry ends on a gloomy note with another unidentified poem. Then, as something of an anticlimax, we are given a recipe for making ginger wine !

The question as to whether the dashing young purveyor of the picture was indeed the romantic George Robinson of the pocket book is still undecided and is likely to remain so. There is only one very meagre clue : the man in the picture is strikingly handsome and, in one of his letters, Croft expresses a hope that “a good looking happy fellow like you is flourishing.”

I am, etc.

R.A.M.C. Historical Museum,  
Queen Elizabeth Barracks,  
Crookham,  
Hants.

R. E. BARNESLEY.

Enclosed with General Barnesley’s letter was a photostat copy of the list of Medical Staff officers employed in the field at the battles of Quatre Bras and Waterloo, which was published in this JOURNAL last July (page 158).

It is interesting to note that although only a duplicate, the whole page of foolscap is written in Sir J. R. Grant’s own hand.

“How many Ds.M.S.,” asks General Barnesley “would bother to do this for an obscure captain today?”—Ed.

### Book Reviews

SIR CHARLES BELL—HIS LIFE AND TIMES. Sir Gordon Gordon-Taylor, K.B.E., C.B., F.R.C.S., and E. W. Walls, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., F.R.S. (Ed.). Edinburgh and London : E. & S. Livingstone Ltd. 1958. Pp. 288+xii. Illustrated. 42s.

Eponymous terms are less fashionable than they used to be, but who in the medical profession has not heard of the external respiratory nerve of Bell or of Bell’s palsy ? It is over 150 years since Charles Bell, the son of a Scottish minister, left Edinburgh to win fame in London. This book gives an account of his early life and the Edinburgh background of the late eighteenth century. Bell had instruction in anatomy there from the second Monro, and in its application to surgery from his elder brother John, an established Edinburgh surgeon, to whom he was apprenticed. We are shown something of the early days of the *Edinburgh Review* and of his youthful friends, the young Whig lawyers and politicians, Broughton, Sidney Smith and Horner, who all attained eminence later.

He remained in London for thirty-two years, and despite struggles and difficulties achieved an assured place in history as an anatomist, physiologist, surgeon and artist. His interests were wide—perhaps too wide. As a clinical observer, collector of museum specimens and prolific recorder and medical