during this period of time. It is considered that the explanation probably relates to the means by which the urate, held in tophi, is mobilised to become incorporated in the miscible body pool of urates. This process must be regarded as having a course homoeostatic mechanism.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

THE evergreen subject of the 'soldiers load' was dealt with by Lieutenant-Colonel Melville in a most excellent paper which appeared in the Journal in March 1911. The paper is too long to reprint completely and in consequence we print two extracts. The first contains Melville's comment on the greatcoat and the second deals with the views of von Moltke which are quoted in the paper. Both relate to topics on which division of opinion still exists today.

THE LOAD OF THE INFANTRY SOLDIER

by

Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. MELVILLE, R.A.M.C.

"In addition to the tent there is the greatcoat. This, again, is extremely heavy, our army heading the list with a weight of 6 lb. 13 oz. I am very doubtful if this weight is well expended. A greatcoat is excellent as far as the waist; below that it hampers a man in walking, and rucks up, leaving his legs exposed when lying down. What is needed for the protection of the lower limbs is either a full cape or kilt hanging round the waist (Burberry makes something of this nature, and I believe the 5th Gurkhas thought at one time of adopting this pattern), or a pair of stout overalls, such as men use for motor bicycling, or policemen wear on point duty. These last would not hamper the man to any extent in his movements, and would certainly keep in position during the night. These could be supplemented by a rather full-skirted pea jacket, such as the "coat, warm, British," which all who have served in India know well. It is to be noted that the Norwegians do not issue a greatcoat, but provide in lieu of this a thick "sweater" weighing 1,027 grammes, plus a sleeping bag weighing 1,500 grammes."

The following quotation, which appeared in the paper, is from a memorandum of Von Moltke's. It was originally written in 1860, in connection with a full report furnished by Oberstleutnant Ollech, of the Prussian General Staff who accompanied the French Army in the Italian Campaign of 1859 as Military Attache.

In his report Colonel Ollech suggests the advisability of forming, presumably as an experiment, though this is not stated,—“One battalion of genuine Light Infantry.” Von Moltke’s *Minuté* on this runs as follows:

“From the standpoint of the higher strategy what we want is not a “light battalion” but a “light army” A tactical victory is only decisive when it occurs at the strategically correct position, and that can only be attained by an army equally mobile in all respects An Army which, starting from Rossbach on November 5th, could fight at Leuthen on December 5th, would be as good as doubled Such mobility is only to be expected when the army is formed of sturdy men, well practised in peace, well fed in the field, and carrying as regards all arms a really practical equipment An Army which marches light will also manoeuvre freely. Therefore every weight that man or horse carries is of importance, and also the way in which it is carried. Everyone agreed that our equipment must be lightened, but when it comes to the point, there is endless variety of opinion.” As Colonel Kraus says, this last sentence of Von Moltke’s speaks volumes.”

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

“A Medical Officer in the Mutiny” Part II Being the Experiences of Francis William Innes, Surgeon 84th Foot, in India (1857-58)

Major-General A. MACLENNAN, O.B.E., M.B. (Retd.)

READERS will recall that in Part I of Innes’ narrative (which was published in the previous number of the Journal) he dealt with the overall picture relating to the relief of Lucknow. In this second part of his narrative the author covers in detail his experiences from 19th Sept. to 27th Nov. 1857 when he was in charge of the Field Hospital in the Allum Bagh. Again the account is so clear and well written that I have not altered it in any way and only the minimum of footnotes have been required. Now read on.

Medical Report on the Oude Field Force and Hospital Allum Bagh from 19th September to 27th November 1857

This little Army was composed of the Allahabad moveable Column* reinforced by the arrival on the 15th September 1857 of 1500 men under Sir James Outram consisting of the 5th Fusiliers⁽¹⁾ from “Mauritius” H.Ms 90th Light Infantry⁽¹⁾ from Home, Evers Battery and details of Corps composing General Havelocks original force, which had suffered frightfully in the first expedition into Oude. They were however progressively recovering under the benign influence of the shelter and good food they enjoyed for a month at Cawnpore. Cholera however still lurked about the camp, many men suffered from Diarrhoea, and more from the debility with Anorexia and white flabby indented tongue, which were all but universal when (12th August) the force retreated to the right bank of the Ganges.

* H.Ms 64th 78⁽²⁾, 84, and the 1st Madras Fusiliers, Bengal Volunteer Cavalry and Artillery in all, 1500.