Echoes from the Past.

GABRIEL RICE REDMOND: INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF MILITARY HOSPITALS.

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The subject of this memoir, a distinguished medical officer of the Army, was the eldest son of John Redmond, Esq., of Killygowan, co. Wexford, and Newton in the same county, and of Charlemont Street, City of Dublin. He was born in 1763, either at Killygowan or Newton. His mother, Catherine, was the eldest daughter of John Cooke, of Cookestown, Co. Wexford, the last male representative of Sir Richard Cooke, Kt., a grantee, in James I.'s reign, of 2,000 acres in County Wexford. Gabriel Redmond was a distant cousin of the Duke of Wellington.

Christopher Peyton, Auditor-General in Ireland, 1611, having two daughters, one of whom married Sir Henry Coley, an ancestor of Arthur Coley Wellesley, Duke of Wellington. The second daughter married Sir Richard Cooke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, 1611, from whom Gabriel Redmond was descended in the female line.

Although he was heir to an entailed estate in the county Wexford, Gabriel Redmond determined to take up the profession of medicine, and with that object entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1785 or 1786. He there pursued his studies with great zeal, and after a brilliant career obtained his degree of M.D. During the holidays, which he spent at his home, he applied himself with commendable energy to the prosecution of his medical studies under the tuition of Dr. Jacob, a skilful practitioner.

His future career was a subject of frequent discussion with his father. He had no desire to settle down as a general practitioner, but steadfastly maintained a predilection for an army medical career, and having obtained his father's consent he was gazetted Surgeon to the 126th Regiment of Foot on August 22, 1794. This Corps was raised in that year as the Earl of Mountmorres's Regiment, it was disbanded in 1796. On September 16, 1795, Gabriel Redmond became surgeon to the 28th Foot, now the first battalion of the Gloucestershire Regiment. The regiment was then stationed in Ireland, but shortly afterwards embarked for Quebec, only to be recalled and sent to the West Indies. The transports conveying the troops met with a succession of furious gales, and only four companies of the 28th succeeded in reaching
the West Indies, the headquarters and six companies of the regiment being driven back to England, where they remained till the autumn of 1796 when they embarked for Gibraltar. The four companies which reached the West Indies were there attached to the 14th Regiment, with whom they were employed at the taking of St. Lucia, and subsequently joined their headquarters at Gibraltar. Surgeon Redmond was with the four companies in the West Indies. In 1798 the regiment formed part of the force which successfully attacked Minorca.

In 1799 Gabriel Redmond was appointed "Surgeon to the Forces and Garrison Surgeon."

During his service in Minorca he met his future wife, Miss Philadelphia Barbara Douglas Johnstone, daughter of John Johnstone, of Grenton, Dumfriesshire, formerly an officer in the 3rd Regiment of Foot (The Buffs). The marriage took place in Minorca in 1801. In 1802 Gabriel Redmond was obliged to return to England on account of ill-health. In 1803 he was promoted to the rank of Assistant-Inspector of Hospitals, and served in that appointment at home till 1807, when he accompanied the British forces under General Whitelock in the attempt to capture the Argentines. Reports show that he acted as Inspector of Hospitals to the troops in Monte Video in 1807.

In 1809 he returned to England and served there till 1812 when he was ordered to Quebec, there to report himself to Sir George Prevost, Governor-General in Canada. In the Army lists of that year he is shown first as Deputy-Inspector Medical Department, and at a later date as Inspector Medical Department, September 3, 1812. He served during the American War with ability and had to endure many hardships. He has left an interesting diary, from which we give a few extracts to show the state of the medical department of the Army in Canada 100 years ago.

DIARY OF INSPECTOR REDMOND, 1812 TO 1813.

"Journal of occurrences from the 27th August, 1812, the evening I embarked with Phyllis, Anne [His wife and daughter, Ed.], and a man and maidservant, on board the 'Coleworth' Victualler, No. 31 Master, at Portsmouth for Quebec, where we arrived after a tedious and stormy passage on the 18th October. We had nearly been lost in the Gulph of St. Lawrence in a gale of wind in consequence of the wind suddenly taking the ship aback at twelve o'clock at night, and if all hands had not turned out quickly, the
Ship would have gone to the bottom. The dead-lights were in nearly the whole of the passage."

On October 19, he reported his arrival to Major-General Glasgow commanding the garrison of Quebec. On October 24, he received orders to proceed at once to Montreal, where Sir George Prevost, the Governor-General, then was. The journey of 180 miles had to be travelled by stage coach over very indifferent roads; it occupied two days and was exceedingly uncomfortable. On reporting himself to the Governor-General he was ordered to proceed to Upper Canada at once to report on the state of the hospitals and medical department. Some of the notes made by Inspector Redmond during his journey are worth reproducing to show the condition of affairs existing at that time.

River Raison: "Here Colonel McMillen commands, and with him 300 of the Glengarry Militia. There was no hospital nor any medicines, and the Colonel complained that his men had not blankets."

Brookville: "There were only 60 men 1st County Leeds Militia commanded by Colonel Brackenridge stationed at Brookville. Mr. Hepill, the surgeon, was in want of every article of medicine, &c., and the sick go to their own homes whenever they like."

At Kingston he embarked on the "Earl Moira," sloop of war, for Niagara; after proceeding ten leagues the ship anchored for the night, and next day the wind being foul, returned to Kingston. He then proceeded by road, but the guide lost his way and for a considerable time they wandered about in a wood with heavy rain falling all the time. The party finally managed to find an Indian hut in which they passed the night. Next morning they again lost their way in the wood, but managed to secure the services of an Indian boy who showed them the way. At York he inspected the hospital and found it to be "a miserable one. It was an old condemned house and could not hold more than 12 patients." . . . "Mr. Lee (the surgeon) had few medicinal or purveyor's stores, particularly articles for wounded men."

14th (November), Fort George, or Niagara: "Inspected the hospitals and barracks again and went round the quarters of the Militia with Colonel Bishop, Inspecting Field Officer; found them all very much out of repair, dirty, and the windows broken." . . . "Arranged with Colonel Bishop that a steady non-commissioned Officer from each Militia Corps was to collect the sick men at 10 o'clock every morning and take them to the staff surgeon."
15th (November) . . . “The Militia sergeants were not able to collect the sick. Those that gave in their names were gone home, some without leave.”

19th (November): “No possibility of getting to Kingston by sea as the ships were chased by the American squadron beyond the Ducks Islands, and will not venture out of Kingston Roads again, as it is time to lay them up for the winter, and until the frost sets in so that we can travel in sleighs, we must remain at York.”

After a prolonged tour, amid much discomfort due to the cold weather, the bad state of the roads, and accommodation available in roadside inns, and further increased by an inflammation of one leg and a fracture of two ribs resulting from a fall, Inspector Redmond arrived back in Montreal on December 2, 1812.

He proceeded by sleigh to Quebec, and seems to have had an unpleasant journey to judge by the notes in his diary, of which the following is a fair example: “We had a dreadful day’s journey to-day. Our sleigh horse got tired and we did not get to Machiche until late at night. Six upsets to-day. My side at times gave much pain.” While in Quebec Inspector Redmond furnished a report on the state of the hospitals in Upper and Lower Canada. He describes them all as “miserably bad,” and states that the medical and purveyor’s stores were very deficient, most of the latter having been in use during the last American war. He hired an office and a clerk, and busied himself in making out requisitions and looking over returns. He complains that all the returns furnished by the regimental surgeons were wrongly made out and that he had to send them all back for correction, a proceeding which must have occupied some time considering the difficulties of communication at that time.

On February 7, 1813, he became very ill with symptoms of some liver trouble. The attack lasted for three weeks and left him in such a poor state of health that a medical board recommended him to proceed to England as soon as the river opened. During this illness his wife gave birth to a son.

The diary contains many pages full of shrewd observations on the condition of Canada, its peoples, crops, climate, &c.

On June 29, 1813, he embarked with his family on board the “Fortitude,” Transport No. 67, for passage to Portsmouth, where he arrived on August 3 after an uneventful voyage, during which, however, his health did not improve appreciably.

On arrival in England he was given long leave of absence and
went to live in County Wexford at his old home. On July 25, 1814, he was placed on half-pay with the rank of Inspector, Medical Department. His health continued to be bad, and in consequence he applied for a pension and was awarded £300 a year; in 1819 this pension was withdrawn. Fortunately he succeeded to his father's property about this time and was therefore enabled to live with comfort. A baronetcy was offered to him on account of his good services, but he declined it. He then resided for a number of years in Caen, Normandy.

In 1831 he was promoted to the rank of Inspector-General of Military Hospitals. He died at Mount Henry in 1832, and was buried in the family vault in Meelnagh churchyard.

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**Reviews.**


In the preface to the new edition of this well-known work, the authors say that, "the purpose of the book is to aid in the correct determination of specimens," and they may be congratulated on having achieved their purpose admirably.

Necessarily the book is of special importance to army medical officers in India who are interested in the practical prevention of malaria, and to them it ought to prove invaluable as a work of reference. In it they will not only find at the cost of little labour the general working principles useful to them in the separation of anopheine mosquitoes, domestic or wild, from others, but also the details necessary to assign any particular specimen to its own genus and species.

The pure dipterologist, on the other hand, will find in it points that require confirmation and gaps that require filling.

Some minor faults are apparent, in all probability due to the process of re-writing. For example, on pp. 32-33, the references to the plates are incorrect in five places, though reference to the list of illustrations enables one to find the plates referred to in the text.

An index of Indian species of anopheines is given at pp. 127-128, but the absence of an index to the letter-press must be regretted in a book which must function mainly as one of reference. The illustrations, and more especially the coloured plates, leave nothing to be desired.

A.B.S.

The Prevention of Malaria in the Federated Malay States. By Malcolm Watson, M.D., D.P.H. With a preface by Ronald Ross, C.B., F.R.S., &c. Published by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. Price 7s. 6d.

This most interesting account of the war which for the past eight years has been waged against malaria in the Federated Malay States, is