province—the Shah's brother—who resided at Kermanshah. Rawlinson was in this district from 1835-7, and during that time his duties were many and varied. He had to raise, equip, and drill a force of 3,000 Kurdish levies, subdue rebellion, and assist in putting the finances on a sound footing. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Royal Geographical Society for his explorations in Luristan. He was intensely attracted by the cuneiform inscriptions at Behsitun and made many visits to the rock to attempt to scale the cliff. Until he arrived in Persia this young officer had never seen cuneiform writing, and was entirely ignorant of the values of the wedge-shaped signs. While on his journey from Teheran to Kermanshah Rawlinson had seen the cuneiform inscriptions on Mount Elwand at Hamadan, and to quote from the "Memoir": "... here he was able for the first time to make a leisurely examination of cuneiform inscriptions, and was induced to copy them and ponder over them and endeavour to penetrate their meaning... They had already been partially deciphered by those eminent scholars (Burnouf, of Paris, and Lassen, of Bonn), but the results of their labours were wholly unknown to the young Englishman, who commenced his own study of the Elwand inscriptions without any acquaintance with any similar previous researches."

It was not till 1847 that Rawlinson was able to obtain accurate casts of the Behsitun inscriptions. This was accomplished by the daring of a Kurdish shepherd boy. By a close study of the wealth of material thus obtained, "a chapter of the world's history that had been almost wholly lost once more made known to mankind."

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Echoes of the Past.

A CHRISTMAS KALEIDOSCOPE.

By Colonel S. F. Clark (R.P.).

On Christmas Eve, 1904, I embarked on the R.M.S. "Walmer Castle" for a tour of service in South Africa, and next day I mentioned to a civilian fellow-passenger that, since I had joined the service I had hardly spent two consecutive Christmas days in the same place. He remarked that no words of mine could have brought home to him more vividly what life in the Army meant. Now that my movements are more under my own control, the remembrance of this conversation has led me to trace my whereabouts on that great festival for each year that I was on the active list, and others may like to follow up the idea for themselves. They will doubtless agree that the R.A.M.C. officer has few opportunities of spending Christmas at his parental home—even if it is still in being on his retirement.

December, 1886, was the first Yuletide on which I wore uniform—as a Surgeon on probation at Netley. About a dozen of us, whose homes were
Oh Tistmas Kaleidoscope

a long way off, did not take the short leave that was available, and we had a very merry time. We were much amused when two or three of our comrades who had gone away came back, very unostentatiously, before they were due, with all their money spent. We told them that it was a military crime for a man on leave to return before its expiration, and their uncertainty as to the truth of this made them very unhappy.

Twelve months later I returned, on holiday, to my home in Edinburgh, already, as it proved, for the last time at this season.

Christmas, 1888, found me on the old troopship "Crocodile," bound for India, and still a week's sail from Bombay. In 1889, I was for over ten weeks on a 600-miles march with cavalry changing station between Meerut and Mhow, and spent Christmas Day of that year with a party of the 18th Hussars at Sathkunda camping ground, not far from Neemuch. The E.P. hospital tent was pitched as a dining hall, and the men had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Next year I dined with the P.M.O. at my station, Mhow, in keeping with the tradition that the senior officer of the corps invites his officers and their wives to feast with him at Christmas. I can still see the 2nd Middlesex marching to church that morning to what soon afterwards became the tune of our Corps—"Her bright smile haunts me still." An unusual incident happened at this time, for the 18th Hussars, who had gone into the jungle en masse, for several days picnic, were ordered back by the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Roberts, on the complaint of the Chaplain that they were out of reach for Church Service. They went out on the 23rd and came back on the evening of the 24th, not at all in good humour with the padre.

In November, 1891, I was transferred to Aden and was doing duty at the Crater on Christmas Day. A cornet player of the band of the King's Regiment acted as "waits" on the previous night, and the notes of his instrument echoed and re-echoed from rock to rock in a wonderful way. A year later I was still in Aden, but at Steamer Point.

Christmas Day, 1893, found me at Karachi, and I spent the festival on the following year at Deolali, awaiting passage to England. I was married now, and my wife and I spent the Yule of 1895 at Dover, and that of 1896 at Brighton—each place being my station at the time. A year later we were on the hired transport "Jelunga," near Hong Kong, our destination. As this was a self-contained station it seemed that I must at last have some fixity of tenure, and although I spent the next five Christmas Days at Hong Kong, yet my habitation was in three different places. In 1898 we were living at the Hong Kong Hotel and dined with the P.M.O. In 1899 and 1900 we had a furnished house at the Peak, and gave dinners ourselves. The next two years found us deprived of our house, with accommodation everywhere very tight, and we were glad to get into a boarding establishment at the Peak.

On Christmas Day, 1903, I was orderly officer at the Military Hospital, Devonport, and, on going to the O.M.O.'s room in the evening, I found...
the orderly who had brought my bag prostrate on the floor, fast asleep, and my bag lying out of his reach. He had apparently gone down with a beery thud.

1904 I have already referred to, and the next three years were spent in one of the officers' bungalows, at Tempe Ridge, Bloemfontein. In 1908 I was at Middelburg, Cape Colony, and my chief recollection of that Christmas is acting as prosecutor at a court-martial on the dispenser on duty, who was charged with drunkenness on duty on December 25. What keeps this in my memory is a reprimand I got from the Commander-in-Chief, South Africa, for saying, in my opening address, that though drunkenness at Christmas was not frowned upon so relentlessly as at other times, yet a case like this could not be overlooked. The Commander-in-Chief said that there was no laxity in regard to Yuletime excess. I suppose it is one of the things that is better understood than expressed.

In 1909 we were in a house at Pietermaritzburg, Natal, and a few days later I went to Durban to see a cricket-match between England and South Africa. I mention this because it completed a quaint record of mine, in that it was only the third Test Match that I had seen, and each of them in one of the three only countries in which Test games are played. The first was at the Oval, in 1886, after I had sat for examination for entrance into the Corps: the second was in Sydney, in 1908, and the third I have just referred to. Hobbs is the only member of the English 1908 XI who could still get a place in a Test team, while Woolley played at Durban. At Christmas, 1910, I was under orders for home, and we had sold up and were in a hotel at Maritzburg, but as we left for Durban four days later we narrowly missed spending that day in that seaport.

1911 was the first time since 1887 that I had leave at Christmas, but as my parental home existed no longer, we went over to some relations in Dublin. 1912 and 1913 were spent at Chester, and Christmas 1914 found me in France. A year later I was at Brighton, on sick leave, recovering from an injury which I had received “over there,” while A.D.M.S. of a Division. The next two festivals I passed in Macedonia, and my last Christmas Day in the Service was spent once more at Brighton on short leave.

I am confident that anybody who does me the honour of reading this article will agree that the civilian has less glorious uncertainty about where he is likely to spend his Christmas Days than has the soldier.

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**Reports and Analysis.**

**COAGULEN-CIBA.**

A new hæmostatic received from the Clayton Aniline Co., Ltd., 68½ Upper Thames Street, E.C.4, has been tried on half a dozen cases of hæmorrhage from ulcerated surfaces—gastric ulcer; it appears to increase the coagulability of the blood in such cases and has a beneficial effect as a hæmostatic.