AN UNUSUAL CASE.

By MAJOR M. WHITE, M.C.
Royal Army Medical Corps.

My excuse for publishing the following brief notes is that, in my experience, the case is distinctly novel.

Cases where men have swallowed buttons, safety-pins, lime, etc., are not uncommon, but hitherto I have not heard of dummy rifle cartridges finding their way into the stomach. Yet such is the story of Private H., 2nd Somerset Light Infantry, a somewhat unwilling soldier who reported sick at the British Station Hospital, Agra, on the evening of July 30, 1925, complaining of abdominal pain and said to have swallowed nineteen dummy .303 cartridges.

Examination confirmed this seemingly impossible feat, as a sharp tap of the fingers over the stomach area produced a “click” clearly audible to the orderly standing at the foot of the bed.

After X-ray, gastrotomy was performed in the ordinary way, and eighteen cartridges removed, six being “bunched” near the pylorus, and the remainder in the cardiac portion; the last being apparently wrapped in a fold of the mucous membrane was rather intractable, and was removed only after the patient had been raised to the sitting posture. Efforts to find the nineteenth cartridge were unsuccessful, both wounds were closed, and recovery was uneventful. On the second morning following the operation the remaining cartridge was recovered from the stool, the man remarking, “I told you so.”

From documents received since the operation I find that Private H. a short time previously had swallowed fifteen dummy cartridges while at another station, but in that case all were delivered per rectum.

Travel.

SECUNDERABAD—AN APPRECIATION FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF AN R.A.M.C. OFFICER.

By CAPTAIN S. SMITH.
Royal Army Medical Corps.

SECUNDERABAD.

The town and cantonment of Secunderabad, which hold one of the biggest garrisons in India, lie in the centre of the large native State of Hyderabad at a distance of about six miles from the famous city of the same name.

Hyderabad—a country of great natural wealth and with an area nearly as extensive as that of Great Britain—is situated on the great plateau of the Deccan.

It is the premier State of India, and its ruler, H.E.H. the Nizam, who
Secunderabad

is accorded a salute of twenty-one guns, is reported to be one of the wealthiest monarchs in the world. His subjects are mostly Hindus, the language of the peasants being Telegu or Marathi, but he himself with most of the notabilities of the State is a strict Mohammedan.

A local currency is coined in the State mint, the standard coin being the oosmania-sicca (O.S.), more commonly called the halli-sicca (H.S.) rupee.

The exchange value of the oosmania currency varies, but the value of the O.S. rupee averages about two and a half annas less than that of the Indian Government rupee.

Formerly a handsome gold coin, the “gold mohur,” was also coined in the Hyderabad Mint; these gold mohurs, although scarce and withdrawn from currency, can still be bought as mementoes.

Hyderabad has also its own post and telegraph system, the income from which forms part of the revenue of the State. Local stamps are used for letters circulating within the Nizam’s dominions.

The country is almost entirely agricultural and, with the exception of Hyderabad (Deccan), its capital city, there are no large towns.

Wheat, rice and cotton are the staple products, whilst the important Singareni Collieries are amongst the most flourishing coal mines in India.

Hyderabad State is served by one of the few non-State-owned railways in India, the Nizam’s Guaranteed State Railway, which has its workshops and officers’ bungalows at Lalaguda, a small suburb of Secunderabad. The railway (broad gauge) traverses the Nizam’s dominions from west to east, connecting up with the G.I.P. Railway on the western border of the State at Wadi and with the M.S.M. (Madras and Southern Marathi) at Beswada, a large but dirty village lying on the Kistna Canal on the eastern border, a total distance of nearly 300 miles.

In addition a metre-gauge line connects Secunderabad with the north via Manmad. This line, passing through the rich agricultural districts, is of ever-increasing importance.

The railway journey up from Bombay to Secunderabad, a comparatively short twenty-four hours’ run, is quite comfortable, especially if one takes the precaution of booking a through carriage (at Victoria terminus, Bombay) in advance.

Secunderabad is a typical Indian cantonment town possessing broad, well-lighted streets, the inevitable maidan which acts as a parade ground and which is also used for polo and other sports, a very superior bazaar, and a number of English shops.

The general lie of the country is very flat with a gradual rise from Secunderabad (1,700 feet) up through Trimulgherry to Bolarum (1,900 feet).

Like most “plain” stations the country has a brown and dried-up appearance during the hot months, but becomes delightfully green during the monsoon and winter.
The soil is generally light and sandy with bare sandstone and granite rocks showing through in many places. These masses of sandstone and granite are constantly met with throughout the State of Hyderabad and constitute one of its most salient features.

Toddy and palmeyra trees abound, and the cantonment is surrounded by the ubiquitous (and incidentally mosquito-breeding) paddy fields.

Climate.—The monsoon breaks about June 17 and lasts until the middle of October. The four cool months of November, December, January, February, are delightful, comparable with an exceptionally fine English spring. There is practically no rain during these months beyond a few showers in January. Most of the social activities take place during the winter. From the beginning of March onwards the weather starts to

"stoke up," and April and May are very trying (the shade temperature often reaches 115° F.). Most of the ladies and children in the station migrate to the hills during the first week in April, but some of the older and more "knowing" residents leave about the middle of March.

The average rainfall is about thirty-three inches.

Garrison.—The Secunderabad Brigade (formerly part of the now defunct 9th Secunderabad Division) averages about 6,500 troops commanded by a G.O.C. with the local rank of Major-General; the Brigade offices are situated on high ground near the Residency at Bolarum.

The British garrison, with the exception of the Brigade staff and details (garrison police, etc.) at Bolarum and Secunderabad, is concentrated in the village of Trimulgherry, where also lies the finely-built and spacious British station hospital.

The two British infantry battalions are accommodated in roomy barracks in South Trimulgherry, one battalion occupying Gough Barracks
Secunderabad

in the near vicinity of the hospital, while the other garrisons the fort, which, complete with its loopholed walls, moat and two drawbridges, the latter periodically raised, constitutes even to this day the official rallying place for Europeans in the event of a native rising.

North of the fort lie the artillery lines, where a brigade of artillery (minus one battery) is accommodated. The Artillery Mess is a fine building, with numerous trophies of the chase, including some fine heads hung round the walls of the ante-room and dining-room. The Mess also boasts a fine squash racquet court.

North of the artillery barracks are the Hyslop barracks, the home of a British cavalry regiment, situate officially in North Trimulgherry, but actually in Bolarum. In North Trimulgherry is also the British Section (V.D.) Hospital, formerly a very flourishing concern, but nowadays (luckily) half empty.

The native units are distributed between Bolarum, the home of two Indian cavalry regiments, Begumpett, Tarbund, Bowenpalli and Secunderabad.

The Mess of the 20-29th Lancers at Bolarum, formerly the old "Contingent Mess," is a fine spacious building, and boasts one of the best (certainly the best sprung) ballrooms in the station.

Amongst the native units must not be forgotten the two locally-raised and officered regiments of Imperial Service troops. These troops did yeoman service during the Great War, and are splendidly trained. They present a very picturesque appearance when drawn up for parade on the maidan.

Domestic.—Secunderabad is essentially, from the point of view of R.A.M.C. officers, a married man's station. Bungalows are cheap and moderately plentiful, furniture can be hired at a reasonable rate, servants are easy to procure, whilst the social life is what one likes to make of it and can be exceedingly gay.

Bungalows.—These are mostly Government owned, well kept up, and range in price from Rs. 40 to Rs. 80 per mensem. Several are, or were in my time, earmarked for R.A.M.C. officers, bungalows being provided for the O.C. hospital, second in command, for a major in the artillery lines, and for the O.C. Section Hospital. In addition there are two excellent and recently-built married captains’ quarters (each about Rs. 60 per month). It is a wise precaution to give the O.C. hospital or other officer timely warning of one’s arrival and requirements in order that a bungalow may be bespoke. In the event of no suitable quarters being available on one’s arrival accommodation can be arranged at one or other of the two hotels, the Majestic or Montgomery’s. Both of these have a moderate scale of charges, are under European management, and are quite up to the average of small Indian hotels.

Furniture can be hired in the town at prices ranging from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 a month according to one’s rank and bargaining powers.
Servants.—Good, bad and indifferent, are plentiful, and should be obtained locally. In my opinion it is a mistake to bring servants from other stations, or from Bombay; they usually cost more, and fight with one's local contingent. In a small establishment where no horse is kept the following servants are necessary: the butler, cook, ayah and dhoby being paid in Government coin, and the remainder in local H.S. currency. The monthly wages are bracketed against each:—

Butler (Rs. 30), ayah (Rs. 25), cook (Rs. 25), dressing boy (H.S. Rs. 18), chokra (H.S. Rs. 9), kitchen boy (H.S. Rs. 6), chowkidar (H.S. Rs. 10), sweeper (H.S. Rs. 9), mali (H.S. Rs. 12), two coolies (each H.S. Rs. 6), dhoby (Rs. 16).

Total for servants Rs. 160 per mensem. In addition, if a motor be kept, a “cleaner” boy at H.S. Rs. 15-20 will be required.

Food is good and plentiful; meat, fish, vegetables and other bazaar products are cheap and of very fair quality. Recently imported English groceries can be obtained from many shops in the town (including Spencer’s, a first-rate British shop, with headquarters at Madras), from the club, which lays in a large and varied assortment for its members, or from one or other of the regimental canteens; these latter, which for the most part are run by native contractors, supply many of one’s wants in the shape of groceries, etc., at a considerably cheaper rate than the corresponding article can be bought in the town, partly for the reason that their goods are exempt from the 6 per cent. Nizam’s tax, which all articles imported into the State (with the exception of those destined for the military) have to pay.

One’s grocery bill depends very largely on the extent to which one can do without imported tinned and bottled goods, which are invariably expensive.

The choice of fruit is not great, but mangoes, melons, small oranges, pineapples, the latter rather “woody,” but sweet and of excellent flavour, and bananas are plentiful and cheap when in season.

The variety of fish is limited, and consists largely of fresh-water fish, with the characteristic muddy flavour, caught in the local “tanks.” Pomfret, a sea fish with a considerable reputation as a delicacy, and oysters are obtainable from Bombay and Madras.

Cost of Living.—If one lives and entertains moderately and keeps one’s club bill within reasonable compass, it is quite possible for a married captain to live comfortably on his pay. A short statement showing the average monthly cost of living is given below. (For a married captain with one child and no European nurse.)

The following figures compare favourably with those given recently by “Married Captain” (JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS, January 1925, p. 78), but he admitted that his estimate was based on the cost of living in an expensive seaport where prices are notoriously high.
For those not long established in double harness it may be a moot point to settle how much it is advisable to bring out with one from home, and what to buy on one’s arrival in India. On this difficult subject, probably no two individuals think alike; it must be remembered, however, that most English goods (especially cutlery, silver, etc.) if bought in India have already paid a heavy import duty, which together with freightage charges raises the cost to almost double that of the home price; on the other hand officers proceeding home are often willing to sell their household goods at a very moderate rate, and during the winter weekly auctions are held where occasionally remarkable bargains can be made.

Table cutlery, linen, silver, cretonne chair-covers (about fifty yards) should certainly be brought out. (The customs’ officials are very lenient over articles which accompany one.)

Dinner and tea services should be brought if one has them, otherwise if one is prepared to wait they can be bought locally.

A few well-made English suits and a good supply of afternoon and evening frocks, also a supply of hats (ladies’), are essential.

Boots and shoes are well and cheaply made locally, and only a minimum supply to act as models should accompany one. Drill uniform, topees, tropical suits, etc. (except a minimum for the voyage out), should most certainly be purchased locally.

Banks.—Neither Cox, Grindley, nor ‘King, King and Company, have branches at Secunderabad, but there is a local branch of the Bank of India. Many officers bank with one or other of the local “shroffs,” who are convenient and always open to make reasonable advances at the modest rate of 12 per cent per annum without further security than one’s position as an officer—a not unimportant consideration when a car, etc., has to be bought.

Social Life.—The Club is, as in most Indian stations, the local hub of the universe. Although not a beautiful building (it was built I believe by a railway architect, and mightily resembles a railway station), it serves its purpose as a rallying point remarkably well, and is usually crowded from 5 p.m. onwards. The social life of the station is well catered for and there is a constant round of the usual entertainments, dances, etc., incidental to Indian military life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow</td>
<td>Rs. 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Servants</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bread</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bazar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groceries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wines, minerals, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minimum Rs. 610
Although primarily a Service club, there are many members to be found amongst the civilian community, the families of the railway officers being happily much in evidence. There are also many Indian members from amongst the "Nawabs" in Hyderabad, and right glad are we to have them, for they are amongst the best liked and most sociable members of the club.

There is a limited number of residential bachelors' quarters in the club grounds, and a bachelor, if ordered to Secunderabad, should most certainly communicate with the Secretary, who will, if he can (the quarters are always in demand) arrange for his accommodation.

The club boasts a good ballroom, which, however, is all too small for the two or three hundred revellers who collect there on such festive occasions as the annual Armistice fancy dress ball. Billiard players are well catered for, and there is an excellent billiard room containing three good tables. The game is very popular in the station, especially amongst the Indian members of the club, some of whom are fine players.

The winter "season" at Secunderabad is a very gay one. All the British regiments give balls during the season, and the 20th/29th Lancers usually hold several dances in their beautiful ballroom. In addition the Resident gives several balls and receptions annually, either in the magnificent Residency at Hyderabad or at Bolarum.

The number of ballrooms in the station is limited, none of the British units (with the exception of the cavalry, who have a small dance room in their mess) possessing one. To meet this need they one and all hire the
Secunderabad

large, specially-prepared dancing drugget which belongs to the Railway Institute. This is spread by experts on a flat surface, usually the mess tennis courts, a multitude of newspapers placed underneath providing the necessary spring. The drugget, when properly spread, stretched and covered with French chalk, forms a good dancing surface (though rather tiring to one's feet), and one has the added enjoyment of dancing in the open. Some of the most successful dances in the history of the station have been given on this drugget, notably a very popular fancy dress ball given a few years ago by the officers of our own Corps.

The European community comprises the military, who largely predominate in point of numbers, Secunderabad being essentially a military station, the I.C.S. represented by the Resident to the Nizam and his two secretaries, the railway contingent who form a little community of their own out at Lalaguda, and other civilians, including the local representatives of large business firms and banks, professors at the Nizam's college, etc.

Many of the Indian Nawabs out at Hyderabad also entertain largely, and one of the chief charms of life in Secunderabad, to my mind, is the chance it gives one of accepting the hospitality so freely given of these members of the local ruling class, and thus increasing one's understanding of Indian life.

Calls.—Calling is done (luckily) almost entirely by post, the newcomer making the first call.

Among one's first duties on arrival in the station is, with the help of one's "burra memsahib" or other kind friend, to make a list from the local directory (which is published monthly at Rs. 1·8, and is cramful of information) of all those to whom one should post cards.

There are, of course, the few on whom, according to the dictates of etiquette, personal calls should be made.

The Nizam and other Indian families have visitors' books in which one can write one's name.

Sport.—There is an excellent gymkhana club which runs hockey, tennis, cricket and golf. Although run separately from the Services Club it is closely associated with it, and nearly everyone in the station belongs to both; the monthly subscription to the Gymkhana Club is only Rs. 6 (Rs. 2·8 for ladies), and this allows one to participate in all the games.

When I was in the station the club ran a flourishing hockey team with by far the best ground in the district to play on.

The garrison have a very strong cricket team which makes a good account of itself during the annual quadrangular tournament (Europeans, Mohammedans, Hindus, Parsees), when Secunderabad goes cricket mad. The maidan during this week presents an appearance like that of an English county cricket ground during its cricket week, with gaily beflagged marquees, representing the various communities, encircling the ground. A sign of the times is the number of "purdah" marquees to be seen, through
the curtains of which many of the "grandes dames" from Hyderabad eagerly follow the game.

There is a nine-hole golf course on the maidan run by the gymkhana, but it is flat and uninteresting, not to be compared with the very sporting 18-hole Bolarum golf course which is run as a separate club for the nominal monthly subscription of Rs. 2.

There is always plenty of polo in the station, a series of very flourishing tournaments being held annually, one of the most popular of which is that for a challenge cup presented by Nawab Salar Jung (a grandson of the famous G.O.M. of Hyderabad).

The one time famous Golconda team, some years ago one of the finest polo sides in India, is now defunct, but many of its players still play for the Futteh Maidan (Hyderabad) team, amongst whom may be mentioned the renowned Major Shah-Mirza Beg, who is apparently as agile and clever at the game as ever.

(To be continued.)

Current Literature.

The Treatment of Human Anthrax. The Lancet, vol. ccx, No. 5341. January 9, 1926.—As regards general measures for the treatment of human cases of anthrax, Dr. Adrianus Pijper, of Pretoria, states that surgical interference is no longer in vogue; the cautery is no longer used and excision short of amputation of the limb does more harm than good, except perhaps in those somewhat hypothetical cases in which the disease is seen in the earliest stage before the microbes have invaded the deep tissues. In other cases, that is, in almost all, it is recommended that the patient should be kept in bed with the affected parts immobilized by sandbags and the local lesion treated by the application of dressings soaked in mild disinfectant.

Specific treatment with anti-anthrax serum, especially that known as Sclavo’s serum, is said to yield good results.

The mode of action of the serum is not known; apparently it possesses no bactericidal properties, though it contains agglutinins and bacteriotoxins. Little is known about the virulence of the infecting material, and as the anti-serum has not yet been standardized, its exact value is difficult to gauge. The administration of specific serum, however, has proved effective even during the last stages of the disease, and whenever the serum is available its application is strongly advocated in all stages. Large doses are recommended, commencing with at least thirty cubic centimetres given intravenously, and followed by smaller doses given subcutaneously every day.

Kraus, working in South America, claims that normal serum obtained