Clinical and other Notes

compressed. The large intestine was slightly increased in lumen and contained scyballa. No haemorrhages were found.

The bone-marrow of the right tibia was of a bright pink colour all through.

The body decomposed in an unusually rapid and offensive manner.

Microscopic examinations were subsequently carried out with the following findings:

Spleen: The whole of the pulp was stuffed with white cells of the granular series. There were numerous infarctions. The capsule and the stroma did not appear to be much thickened.

Liver: The lobular arrangement of a normal liver could not be distinguished. The liver cells appeared scattered in small groups of three or four among a vast collection of white cells. No evidence of necrosis was seen.

Bone-marrow: The cells of the bone-marrow from the shaft of the tibia were almost entirely myelocytes—neutrophil and eosinophil. There were a few myeloblasts, a few megalokaryocytes, and a few erythroblasts.

Lung: All the capillaries were filled with white cells. Microscopic areas of emphysema alternated with small, consolidated areas. Scattered through the lung was a considerable amount of pigment, some black, some golden yellow.

Heart: The muscle fibres appeared fairly normal, but were separated from one another by capillaries full of white cells.

Kidney: The tubules showed cloudy swelling of the epithelium with patchy desquamation. The glomeruli were very prominent owing to their capillaries being packed with white cells.

The declared course of this soldier's illness lasted only seventeen days, the predominant cell in the blood was the neutrophil myelocyte, the spleen at the time of death weighed sixteen pounds, and haemorrhages were notably absent.

The above notes are published with the permission of the officers commanding the hospitals concerned.

FRACTURE OF TRANSVERSE PROCESS OF FOURTH LUMBAR VERTEBRA.

By Major J. H. M. Frobisher, O.B.E.

Royal Army Medical Corps.

The following case and X-ray print of a naval rating admitted to the Military Hospital is forwarded, as it appears of some interest:

Peter M., leading seaman, H.M.S. "R.," was admitted to hospital on July 25, 1927, suffering from "contusion right kidney." There was a history of patient being struck over the right loin by a block which carried away whilst he was assisting to spread the foc'sle awning on July 25, 1927. When seen after the accident there was only slight shock. Over the right
renal region there was a large contusion, a linear abrasion and a small lacerated wound. Patient was unable to pass urine. A catheter was passed without difficulty and about two ounces of blood-stained urine were drawn off. Examination on admission to hospital showed patient to be suffering from a large contusion, a linear abrasion, and a small lacerated wound over the right renal region. Examination of urine revealed the presence of blood and casts. X-ray examination revealed a fracture of the transverse process of the fourth lumbar vertebra. There were no signs of cord injury. Haematuria rapidly cleared up under treatment, and pain in loin soon disappeared. X-rayed at intervals, but the fracture did not appear to be uniting. The fracture was not considered of any serious import, and the patient was discharged to duty on August 29, 1927.

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Echoes of the Past.

WHICH WAR?

By Major Oskar Teichman, D.S.O., M.C., T.D.

Royal Army Medical Corps (T.A.).

It is a far cry from the Charing Cross Road to St. Goar on the Rhine, but it was a sixpenny box in that bibliopological thoroughfare which took us to this delectable spot, where the saint of that name first preached the gospel in the middle of the sixth century. Our purchase was an illustrated guide-book to the Rhine; the engravings were somewhat foxed, the joints were distinctly weak, and Mr. Baedeker might have scoffed at the date of publication, 1792. And yet as a guide-book it could give points to its descendant of 1927. The author’s remark: “... St. Goar dont la situation merveilleuse surpasse tout ce que j’ai jamais vu, ...” finally settled the question of a short summer holiday; besides, the journey could be made the whole way from London by boat, a great advantage in these days of crowded summer railway trains.

On a certain Sunday in August of last year, when the sun smiled on the vine-clad countryside, we crossed the Rhine from St. Goar with Hector, an ancient pointer belonging to our hotel, and walked a few miles down the right bank. The river was gay with the merchant flags of at least five nations, as if flaunting the medieval castles which in olden times extorted tribute from many a passing ship. Now and then some fussy little motor boat, arrogantly flying the monarchist flag, would push its way through the heavily-laden barges and excursion steamers. On leaving this busy waterway, internationalized since 1918, we ascended some 800 feet and plodded for miles through orchards and cornfields, a country apparently destitute of