Clinical and other Notes

extended to above the pubes where there was a small indurated abscess. As irrigation of the track was possible, routine treatment was carried out till smears showed occasional gonococci only.

On the nineteenth day (October 27, 1931) the area was anaesthetized by novocain and a probe passed. The probe did not travel beyond the abscess, but a fibrous thickening could be felt continuing like a cord from the abscess downwards behind the pubes.

The track was slit up to the abscess and the edges sutured back along each side. The lining of the lumen resembled normal urethral tissue. 1-10,000 hydrarg. perchloride was used in wet dressing. Salt packs were applied as a provocative, but no gonococci appeared again. The area healed quickly, a depression remaining from contraction at the abscess site and the patient was discharged to duty.

In the photographs will be seen a dimple on the dorsal rim of the glans—a vestige of the embryonic opening.

I am indebted to Lieutenant-Colonel E. H. Milner Moore, D.S.O., Officer Commanding Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley, for permission to forward this article for publication.

OLD GUN-SHOT WOUND AND FOREIGN BODY COMPLICATED BY M. CATARRHALIS.

By Major R. W. VINT, Royal Army Medical Corps,

AND

Major J. H. C. WALKER, Royal Army Medical Corps.

CAPTAIN J. H., aged 38, was extensively wounded in the left thigh and abdominal wall by shrapnel in 1916. The wounds were not complicated by fracture or gas gangrene and healed completely.

The patient returned to duty on active service and since then he has served continuously in the Far East and other stations and has remained fit until this admission to hospital. He was admitted to the Military Hospital, Malta, on February 11, 1932, suffering from an abscess in the left thigh. On stereoscopic examination, a foreign body was seen situated internal and superficial to the femur.

At operation on February 15, 1932, the abscess was incised, about one and a half pints of thick white pus were evacuated, the foreign body (small piece of shrapnel) was removed and the abscess drained. The pus was sent to the Command Laboratory for examination and culture. The drain was removed on the third day and the cavity closed; the wound had almost healed by March 5, 1932, when the patient was discharged from hospital.
Laboratory Report.—The direct smear from the pus showed large numbers of Gram-negative cocci and diplococci. Morphologically and culturally the organism resembled M. catarrhalis and this was confirmed by the fact that it did not ferment carbohydrates. A throat swab showed the same organism to be present in large numbers. The organism was not agglutinated by the patient’s serum.

We wish to thank Lieutenant-Colonel B. Johnson, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., for permission to forward this article for publication.

Travel.

A VISIT TO LOBITO.

By Lieutenant-Colonel R. F. O’T. Dickinson, O.B.E.,
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On the journey between Mauritius and the United Kingdom, one of the occasional ports of call for Union-Castle intermediate ships is Lobito, just north of Benguela, in Portuguese West Africa (Angola). As this part is probably very little known, and as the writer has visited it on three occasions since 1924, it is thought that a short account of the locality might prove of interest to officers of the Corps. Lobito lies in latitude 12° S. and longitude 14° E. It has a magnificent natural harbour about 2½ miles long and over one mile in width. The soundings show from over 70 feet in the bay to 35 feet at the quay-side. It will thus be seen that a large number of big ships can be accommodated in the harbour.

The importance of this port lies in the fact that the new line of railway (about 800 odd miles), opened formally in July, 1931, right across Portuguese West Africa, establishes connection with the rich copper-bearing country round Katanga (Belgian Congo), the tin and other mining districts of Northern Rhodesia, and also with Southern Rhodesia, and so on to Beira in Portuguese East Africa. Through trains now run from Lobito to Beira. The Katanga-Lobito route, as compared with the Katanga-Beira route, saves 600 miles of rail transport, and about 2,600 miles of sea transport.

Lobito has thus become a very important place commercially, and one can foresee here a great field for British enterprise in the future.

The town of Lobito is built mainly on a sand spit about 2½ miles long and averaging 300 yards wide, and constitutes the main European residential quarter. The houses are of local brick and cement with wide verandahs, and large airy rooms admitting a thorough through draught. The native huts, storehouses and grain stores are mainly inland.

The climate is dry and not very hot, as there is always a good sea breeze. There are no violent storms in the locality, owing to its situation in the