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the explosive, and the handle, which is joined to the former by a socket. The body is a tin cylinder, 4½ cm. in diameter and 6 cm. in length, filled with Shimose powder, and containing a percussion fuse; it is sur-

mounted with a tin cap which, when driven in, causes the grenade to explode. The grenade must always fall on its lower end, and this result is obtained partly by means of a leaden ring, 3 cm. wide and 1½ cm. thick, which is fixed on to the case, thus giving weight to the missile, and partly by the handle which not only enables the grenade to be thrown with considerable force but also acts as a rudder.

After the battle of Mukden, in order to still further ensure of the grenade falling normally, a sort of kite-tail made of cloth, about two feet in length and one inch in width, was added to the end of the handle. This piece of cloth was rolled up round a short iron rod about one and a quarter inch in length and about as thick as a goose-quill; and this small rolled bandage was then tied to the handle. On the line of march the grenade is suspended from the waistbelt by the hook at the top of the handle.

When the grenade had to be used, the ligature securing the small linen roll was first broken. The missile was now seized by the end of the handle and hurled to a distance of at least forty or fifty yards. During its flight, the coil, being weighted by the small piece of iron, became unrolled, and, when the grenade began to drop, this tail acted as a guide, ensuring a perpendicular fall. Owing to this arrangement there were no more cases of "misfire."

Although largely used by infantry these grenades also proved useful in cavalry skirmishes, as even when the enemy aimed at was missed, the explosion often broke some horses’ legs, and thus brought down both horses and riders. The idea is a novel one, but it possibly has a future full of promise before it. The order to “unhook grenades” may possibly not offer so fine a military spectacle as that of “draw swords” but the order to “hurl grenades” will, doubtless, show a better result in the shape of a butchers’ bill than half-a-dozen mere cavalry “charges”!


Correspondence.

TRYPANOSOMIASIS IN SIERRA LEONE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

DEAR SIR,—The interesting paper by Captains Grattan and Cochrane in the May number of the Journal brings to mind a few notes on the same subject, showing, among other things, how important it is that we should not lightly disregard native medical knowledge.

Eight years ago, while serving in the Sherbro and Mendi country of Sierra Leone, I noticed many people with scarred necks, and on enquiry I was informed that the glands had been cut out by native doctors to prevent or cure sleeping sickness. My informants averred that sleeping
sickness had at one time not been uncommon in the neighbourhood, but
that after the people found that the removal of the “nuts” or “banga”
was efficacious, the disease had become rare. Whether the removal of
the glands in the earlier stages of the malady could be of service in treat-
ment we cannot say; but scientific medicine has now confirmed the native
opinion that enlargement of the glands is an early symptom.\(^1\) I offered
2s. a head for the names and whereabouts of sleeping sickness cases,
but was unable to meet with one. In 1901, however, I found a case
when I was taking the out-patients at the Princess Christian Hospital.
The man was a Creole-negro who had been to the Congo two years
previously. About this time Captain C. H. Carr, R.A.M.C., sent down
from the “bush” a private of the West African Regiment, whom he had
invalided for sleeping sickness, but the diagnosis was changed at the
Headquarter Hospital. Subsequently I saw two or three cases of sleeping
sickness in the Colony, but all had a history of having been to Fernando
Po, Congo, or elsewhere down the Coast. The last case I saw was under
Dr. W. Renner in the Colonial Hospital in 1904, and from this I success-
fully inoculated the common “mango monkey” and a rat with blood
which had been for two hours or so in diluting fluid. Cases must have
been coming from the Congo for some years, yet, though the Colony and
Hinterland swarm with tsetse-flies, no local cases had come to light
until Captain Forrest’s discovery of one; and a very important discovery
it is.

We may hope that the Colonial Government will set to work to stamp
out the disease before it has spread beyond control, as it seems to have
done in other parts of Africa. It is doubtful if any considerable portion
of the Colony or Protectorate of Sierra Leone is free from *Glossina
palpalis*. At Mabanta, where Captain Forrest’s case first came to notice,
I had no sooner mentioned my desire for tsetse-flies, at a penny each,
to a small boy, than he ran off to the water-side, and he brought back
half-a-dozen tsetse-flies in a few minutes. There are tsetse-flies all
around Freetown. During a journey lasting some three weeks to the
east and north of that port I found the people everywhere familiar
with this voracious insect.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

Cambridge Barracks,
Portsmouth,
May 5th, 1906.

F. Smith,
Major, R.A.M.C.

\(^1\) It is usual to regard the glands as a beneficent organ acting as a filter for stopping
objectionable substances and germs, but if we look upon it as also a place in which
organisms can flourish in safety, and discharge poisons into the system of their host
while they are preparing for a further advance, we may conceive that early removal
of glands has claims upon our consideration. Prompt removal of non-suppurating
glands might, indeed, prove to be of value in other diseases—syphilis for instance.