

accomplished. Not unfrequently, very serious accidents occur from these experiments, and pieces often come uncomfortably close, more especially if bursting prematurely. A large rifle mortar with a spiral bore, has been recently tried, it propels a conical shell weighing 270 pounds, with spiral ridges to correspond to the grooves of the mortar. When fired, the shell several times has burst the moment it escaped at the muzzle. The gun, therefore, is a complete failure.

Shoeburyness before the war was always an insignificant station, but now it is becoming a place of some importance. A hospital is being built, additional barracks and magazines are rising, and the force kept here will be increased. The commandant, Colonel Michell, I have no doubt, will be recollected by a great many Canadian friends, as he was many years stationed in Canada. I am at this moment looking out on the broad expanse of the German Ocean, a great many vessels are seen in the offing; looking southerly the Isle of Sheffey can be distinctly seen, and towards the western end, Sheerness. The Isle of Sheffey, it is my intention to spend a little time at, on another occasion, where I hope to gather a large number of the London clay fossils. One's appetite gets sensibly sharpened by the sea air, and the change from the atmosphere of London to the sea coast, is particularly invigorating and refreshing.

It has been a source of pleasure to me, on many previous occasions, to speak of honours conferred upon Canadian Physicians. This agreeable task it is again my province to perform. I feel sure it will gratify the numerous friends of Dr. Von Iffland of Quebec, to learn that he was elected a corresponding member of the Epidemiological Society of London, on the 7th July last. His services in the cause of science have been fully recognised by that influential body, which numbers some of the first in the land among its members, and we may look for communications from his able pen, which, I have no doubt, will appear in the Transactions of the Society. Speaking of the Transactions, I will mention, *en passant*, that the forthcoming volume of the Pathological Society is expected to outdo any of its predecessors, and will contain a large number of original researches and a great many drawings, colored and plain. Contrasting this volume which is issued to Fellows for an annual subscription of a guinea, with the one emanating from the Medico-Chirurgical Society for a subscription of three guineas annually, the comparison is very much in favor of the former. This is a reason why the number of fellows of the Pathological is so large, and this enables the society to publish such excellent volumes.

The chapter of accidents this year in London, appears to beat hollow, anything of the kind that has been known for many years past, and a great many sad occurrences are due solely to carelessness. To give but a single terrible example—a poor carman, the other day was about to load a van with bags of sugar at the St. Katherine's Dock. His vehicle was placed under one of the loop-holes in front of the building to receive the sugar, each bag of which weighed 3 cwt. Two of the bags were suspended, and while in the act of lowering them, the rope suddenly became liberated, when they both fell with fearful violence