

NOTE 15.—*Letter to Dr. Bliss.*

VOLTA LABORATORY, 1221 CONNECTICUT AVENUE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., July 31, 1881.

DR. BLISS,

Executive Mansion:

DEAR SIR: We have made experiments this evening upon the person of Private John McGill, an old soldier, who was wounded at the battle of Gaines' Mill, in 1862, and who still carries the ball that shot him.

I found no difficulty in finding a sonorous spot in his back, where undoubtedly the bullet lies imbedded.

Mr. Tainter also located the bullet in the same place. Upon pressing with the fingers upon the spot a lump could be felt between two of the ribs. We experimented upon this same man yesterday, using a similar form of Induction Balance to that we tried upon the person of the President the other day, but could obtain no indications.

The new form of Induction Balance is so sensitive that a new difficulty is introduced by the effects produced by large metallic masses—for instance, gas lustres, iron fire-places, &c.

I think also that the earth's magnetism affects the result. We shall investigate these causes of disturbance to-night.

Yours, sincerely,

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL.

NOTE 16.—*Report to the surgeons published in the daily papers Aug. 2, 1881.*

VOLTA LABORATORY, 1221 CONN. AVE.,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Aug. 1st, 1881.

To the Surgeons in attendance upon President Garfield:

GENTLEMEN: I beg to submit for your information a brief statement of the results obtained with the new form of Induction Balance in the experiments made this morning for the purpose of locating the bullet in the person of the President. The instrument was tested for sensitiveness several times during the course of the experiments, and it was found to respond well to the presentation of a flattened bullet at a distance of about four inches from the coils.

When the exploring coils were passed over that part of the abdomen where a sonorous spot was observed in the experiments made on July 26th a feeble tone was perceived, but the effect was audible a considerable distance around this spot. The sounds were too feeble to be entirely satisfactory, as I had reason to expect from the extreme sensitiveness of the instrument a much more marked effect. In order to ascertain whether similar sounds might not be obtained in other localities I explored the whole right side and back below the point of entrance of the bullet, but no part gave indications of the presence of metal, except an area of about two inches in diameter, containing within it the spot previously found to be sonorous. The experiments were repeated by Mr. Tainter, who obtained exactly corresponding results. We are therefore justified in concluding that the ball is located within the above-named area.

In our preliminary experiments we found that a bullet like the one in ques-