

“ Several small fragments of bone escaped through a fistulous orifice formed near the seat of the original wound.

“ About eighteen months later an abscess opened on the front of the chest below the fifth rib and to the left of the sternum.

“ Through this sinus his surgeon was able to carry a probe upwards and backwards towards the top of the shoulder several inches, and which sinus was supposed then to communicate with the seat of the ball on the back.

“ Pleural adhesions were recognized by the medical attendants as having occurred in the upper part of the left thoracic cavity. He has been troubled occasionally ever since the injury with cough, expectoration, and violent palpitations of the heart. A suspicion has even been entertained that the fistulous canal which remained open a period of eighteen months, and then became permanently closed, communicated with the bronchial tubes, but at no time was a suspicion entertained by him or his medical attendants that the ball was not lodged in the back and there closely encysted.

“ We are disposed to mention as an evidence of Col. Clayton's loyalty and faithfulness as a soldier that within six months of the receipt of the injury, and while the wound was still discharging pus and blood, he returned to active duty with his regiment and remained in the field until the close of the war.

“ In the presence of the gentlemen assembled Col. Clayton exposed his chest, and Prof. Bell proceeded to move the coils across that portion of his back where the ball was supposed to be situated, the colonel indicating the point underneath the superior angle of the scapula as that which had been fixed upon by himself and all the surgeons who had examined him as its exact seat. Although being buried underneath the scapula, they had not been able to verify their diagnosis by the sense of touch. Repeated examinations were made over this region without any response both by Prof. Bell and several of the gentlemen who were present.

“ The instrument was then moved in every direction across the back and shoulders with the same result. There was an evident feeling of disappointment on the part of Prof. Bell and all the gentlemen present, for no one entertained a doubt up to this moment that the situation of the ball was known and correctly stated by Col. Clayton.

“ It was not until the lapse of half an hour, and a thorough examination on the part of Prof. Bell to determine if there was not some imperfection in the working of the apparatus, that it was suggested to move the instrument along the front of the chest.