

the escaping gas made their heads ache and they found that a few drops of vinegar taken inwardly relieved it. Every Boer was provided with a small bottle of vinegar to ward off the ill effects of lydite. I have said that I had the opportunity of seeing a good many Boer wounded, and as their condition presented special features of interest, I will venture to detain you a few minutes by referring to some of the cases I saw. When I was at Kimberley we had 147 Boer wounded in the roller rink, which had been converted into a temporary hospital. They were of all ages, from fifteen to sixty-five, and bore their captivity and sufferings with dignity and patience. They had been wounded at Paardeberg chiefly, and in many cases the wounds had been undressed for sixteen and seventeen days. I remember one man who had been shot through the elbow joint. His only treatment had been the universal Boer remedy, tobacco juice. The arm was enormously swollen and almost erysipelatous in appearance. Mr. Roberts, civil surgeon, opened up the joint freely and removed considerable masses of bone, and found a large piece of shell so firmly imbedded in the humerus that it could not be removed. The wound was very offensive. It was freely drained and douched with bichloride, dressed antiseptically and supported by a rectangular splint. This man made an excellent recovery, with a movable joint. Another man was shot through the body by a round ball from a shrapnel-shell. The projectile entered four inches below and to the left of the heart and came out through the sixth intercostal space on the right side and posteriorly. He had been wounded sixteen days previously, and at the time that I saw him he had practically no symptoms. This is the more remarkable when the character of the missile is considered. I have seen a good many penetrating wounds of the abdomen which have produced little immediate disturbance. One was the case of a medical officer who was shot through the stomach. He had little to eat for twelve hours before his wound. When he was wounded he had the sense to abstain from drinking, notwithstanding the urgent thirst; and further, he lay still where he was for twelve hours. He made an excellent recovery, but I observed that some three months after his wound had healed that he complained of dragging and discomfort in the neighborhood of the wound, and was eventually invalided home. Two of his companions who had been shot through the abdomen at the same time were so unwise as to drink water and died in a few days from peritonitis. This may have been caused by the filthy water. It was generally understood in South Africa that abdominal section in wounds of the intestine was inadvisable, judged by the results; but I know of one case where an excellent result was obtained. It was surprising how great joints like the knee could be pierced