

the field, the whole eighteen pieces directed their fire upon a Russian column advancing half-way between the ridges. Unable to face the storm of shot, the column retired precipitately down the ravine to its left, where our skirmishers fired into it, and completed its discomfiture. Another strong column then showed itself over the ridge, and, after facing the fire of the batteries for a minute, retired the way it came. Presently the first column, having passed along the ravine, was descried ascending, in scattered order, the height beyond; at fourteen hundred yards every shot and shell pitched among them, our skirmishers also pressing hard on their rear and flank. When they had disappeared over the hill, the only enemy visible was the body of skirmishers fighting with our own on the space between the ridges, and to them our guns were now turned. From the circumstances of those of our men who had been on outpost duty that day wearing their great-coats, it was difficult to distinguish them from the grey-clad Russians, especially as all were hidden to their waists in coppice, but an occasional speck of red enabled us to avoid mistakes. The Russian skirmishers, under the fire of our guns and musketry, retired, as I have always seen them retire, without precipitation, turning to fire as they went; and, in less than an hour from the beginning of the combat, the space between the ridges was cleared of them. As their columns retreated towards Sebastopol, they came within range of the Lancaster gun in the right siege-battery. The naval officer in charge (Mr. Hewett) blowing away the right cheek of the embrasure, to obtain the requisite lateral sweep, fired nearly a dozen rounds into them with very great effect; and the men of the second division, pressing on their rear, were with difficulty recalled from the pursuit. The Russians left a hundred and thirty dead within our pickets. We took forty prisoners, and a great number of wounded were brought into our hospitals. Next day parties from the fortress were seen on their own side of the hill, burying numbers slain in the retreat. Altogether, the Russians were estimated to have lost 1000 men, while we had ten killed and sixty wounded; so that this brilliant affair made amends to the army for whatever was unsatisfactory in the combat of the preceding day.

The regiments engaged in this action were—the 30th, 55th, 95th, 41st, 47, and 40th. The batteries were Turner's, Franklin's (commanded by Captain Yates), and Wodehouse's.

While the Russians were retiring, a French staff-officer came to General Evans, with an offer from General Bosquet of immediate assistance, which Sir De Laey declined with thanks, requesting him to inform the French general that the enemy were already defeated.

Parties of the attacking force were observed to carry intrenching tools in this enterprise. The design of the enemy probably was, after driving back the troops in front, to throw up cover on the opposite ridge, from behind which they might afterwards attack the same point of our line with sufficient force to follow up any advantage, and meet the allies on the plains. Had they succeeded in intrenching themselves, we must either have dislodged them at once in a pitched battle, or have allowed them to collect troops and artillery there till it should suit their convenience to attack us with every advantage on their side. The value of the service done in repelling them with so inferior a force (there were 1500 men of the second division engaged against 8000 Russians) was perhaps not quite appreciated. It is scarcely too much to say, that the presence of a strong intrenched force upon that part of the ground would have been a more serious disaster than the loss of Balaklava. However, even had they succeeded in driving back the second division, they would have been encountered by the other divisions coming to its support. But the Russian general probably calculated that the attack on Balaklava of the previous day would have induced us to strengthen that part of the position at the expense of the rest, and that we should be able to oppose but a weak force in an opposite quarter.

All that afternoon waggons were bringing in wounded Russians. Passing the hospital tent of the first division on the way to my own that evening, I saw a neat boat steking out of the door-way, the wearer's leg being supported by an orderly. I looked in, but quickly withdrew. A young Russian officer, extended on a table, whose thigh-bone had been splintered by a ball, was undergoing amputation of the hip joint. As I turned away, the booted limb was detached from the bleeding mass and laid on the ground. He died in an hour. Outside the same tent next day, I saw a guards-man making soup in a large camp-kettle, while within a stride of his fire lay the bodies of five Russians, in different postures, who had died of their wounds, and had been laid there for burial. The young officer's body was laid apart, covered with a blanket, and near it, covered also, but not hidden, was a heap of amputated arms and legs.

On the night of the 25th, a body of horse, galloping from the valley through the French outposts, up the Woronzoff road, rushed through the divisional camps on each side, and were supposed to be cavalry on some desperate errand, the darkness preventing it from being discovered that the horses were riderless. About a hundred were captured. They were completely accoutred, some for Hussars, some for lancers. Bags of black bread hung at the saddle-bows. All were bridled, but the bits were out of their mouths, as if they had broken from their pickets; and it was surmised that they had been startled by some rockets which the French had fired at troops passing along the valley.

On the 27th, a new parallel was opened as a place of arms in front of our left siege-battery, and a day or two later the French trenches were pushed to within two hundred and fifty yards of the place.

Great anxiety prevailed as to the officers and men missing since the action at Balaklava. It was said that the Cossacks had been seen riding over the field, transfixing the wounded with their lances. On the 28th, Captain Fellowes was sent with a flag of truce to ascertain their fate. He was civilly received—told that the dead were already buried and the wounded cared for—and that, if he would return next day, the names of the survivors should be ascertained and given him, with any messages or letters they might wish to send. On returning the day after, he learnt that only two officers were alive in the enemy's hands, and that but few prisoners had been made. The Russian general is said to have ex-

pressed his surprise at the desperate charge of the light brigade; saying, the English cavalry were always reputed brave, but this was mere folly.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

* THE HALF YEARLY ABSTRACT OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES being a practical and analytical digest of the contents of the principal British American and Continental Medical Works published during the preceeding six months, together with a series of critical reports on the progress of Medicine and the collateral sciences, during the period; edited by W. H. RANKING, M. D., Physician to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, and C. B. RADCLIFFE, M. D., Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, London, No. 20, July to December. 1854. Philadelphia, Lindsay and Blakiston, 1855. Quebec, P. Sinclair: Enlarged and engraved.—Terms \$2,00 per annum.

The above work is so well known and has secured so large a circulation as scarcely to require a notice at our hands. It is a faithful abstract of every improvement as well as novelty in the Art and Science, of Physic, Surgery and Midwifery, and this portion of the work is divided into three parts, severally devoted to Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, and embracing a brief analysis of a large number of interesting cases comprised under 145 heads or articles.

The references are the concentration or essence of fifty of the best British and Foreign periodicals extant, and the selections are conclusive evidence of the discrimination and judicious catering of the editions and their coadjutors.

Each volume concludes with reports on the progress of the Medical Sciences divided like the abstracts into three branches, consisting of Reviews of the various works that have been ushered into existence during the half year. The spirit of these reviews is most just as well as liberal. We will make an extract or two from the volume:—

ART. 1.—How to prevent "the Lucifer-Match-Maker's Disease."

By DR. FARADAY, D.C.L.

(Faraday's Lectures on the Non-Metallic Elements. By Dr. Scoffern. London, 1853. 12mo.)

In these lectures, Dr. Faraday mentions a fact which promises to make the manufacture of Lucifer matches a perfectly harmless occupation. It is well known that many elementary bodies may be *allotropic*—may exist, that is to say, in various forms, and be endowed with very different properties. Oxygen, in the form of *azone*, or oxygen in the state in which it is during combustion, is very much more active than the oxygen which is ordinarily met with in the atmosphere. Chlorine acquires more intense affinities when it has been tilthized by exposure to the sun's rays or to spongy platinum. Sulphur may be in transparent or opaque crystals, or it may be a deep brown elastic substance, like india rubber. Carbon may be in the form of charcoal, plumbago, or diamond. Phosphorus is also *allotropic*—colorless and transparent, white and opaque, black and opaque, and dark red. Now the dark red form, which has been recently obtained by M. Schrötter, is far less active than the ordinary colorless and transparent form; but it is sufficiently active for all practical purposes. It does not ignite without a fair amount of friction, and it may be even carried in the pocket with impunity; and more than this, it is not poisonous. In a word, this allotropic phosphorus answers all the purposes to which ordinary phosphorus is applied, and there is great reason to hope that when this fact is recognized, the Lucifer-match-maker disease will be at an end.

The following will be read with interest, as the class of diseases to which they refer, are by no means uncommon:—

ART. 39.—*Gymnastics in Chorea.*

By M. BLACHE, Physician to the Hôpital des Enfants at Paris.

(Comptes rendus, July 19, 1854.)

In a paper recently read before the *Académie de Médecine*, M. Blache speaks very highly of gymnastic exercises as a means of treatment

* Original.