



Doctor Watson's Neglected Patients

A Scion Society Of The Baker Street Irregulars &

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"His medical practice had been so punctuated by scandals that he had practically abandoned the practice the better to apply himself to the scandals."

JAMES WATSON (by Ruth Berman)

In the life of John H. Watson, M.D., four enigmas are perennially fascinating: Where was he wounded?--a question which, like Tristram Shandy's Uncle Toby, he would have done better to answer only in terms of world-geography. Why did his wife call him James in The Man with the Twisted Lip? What was the sad bereavement he had suffered by the time of Holmes's return in The Empty House? Who was the wife for whose sake he had deserted Holmes at the time of The Blanched Soldier? I do not intend to deal with the first question here, but rather to discuss the last three.

1. The Wife:

Probably most readers originally assumed that the "sad bereavement" referred to the death of Mary Morstan Watson. S. C. Roberts was the first to point out that the reference to a wife in The Blanched Soldier would therefore have meant a second wife, and he proposed Violet de Merville as a likely candidate.¹ T. S. Blakeney pointed out strong objections to the identification of Miss de Merville as the second wife.² H. W. Starr proposed an elegant solution to the problem by suggesting that the bereavement was a separation from Mary, not her death, and that the second wife was the first,³ and Starr and T. B. Hunt shortly thereafter suggested that the cause of the separation was mental illness in Mary, and that one sign of her growing illness was her confusion as to whether her husband was John or James.⁴

Most Sherlockians since then have accepted the identity of Mary Morstan as both the first and second wife (or, in the case of W. S. Baring-Gould, the second and "third"⁵), but variations on the relations between this question and the questions of "James" and the "bereavement" have been suggested,⁶ and I have yet another variation to suggest.

2. James:

In the "James" incident Mary's phrasing is peculiar. She says to Kate Whitney, "Now, you must have some wine and water, and sit here comfortably and tell us all about it. Or should you rather that I sent James off to bed"⁷ Send James off to bed? That is odd language for one adult to use of another adult and it is all the more odd, considering the fact that Kate Whitney had consulted both of them on previous occasions. One would not expect Mary to qualify her first assumption, that Kate wants to talk to "us" at all; or, if she did qualify it, one would expect her to speak of asking her husband to withdraw, not of sending him off like a child.

Perhaps Mary, in fact, meant a child. It is true that Kate thinks "James" is "the doctor," but Kate was Mary's "old friend and school companion," and, therefore, had probably met Watson only after his marriage. She herself would never have had occasion to address him by his first name, and, in her distress, she might very easily have only half-comprehended Mary's words and so imagined that "James" meant Dr. Watson. The Watsons, of course, would be too courteous to correct her at such a moment, so one would simply take care of sending James to bed while the other got the "wine and water" for Kate.

JAMES WATSON, continued

But, it may be objected, the Watsons had been married less than two years (or less than three years, for those who date The Sign of Four in 1886), and a year-old or even two-year-old child is put to bed; it is not old enough to be sent to bed.⁸ Furthermore, Watson himself was growing sleepy and thinking of turning in just before Kate Whitney arrived. A young child would not have been allowed to stay up that late (although James, who was obviously a quiet child, or Mary would have remembered his presence and sent him out of the room instantly, could perhaps have contrived to stay up past his bedtime).

Therefore, James was not the son of John and Mary. He could have been the son of either one by a previous marriage (or even, just possibly, by an early love affair) who had been raised by relatives in Australia or in India⁹ until his parent re-married and could offer the child a proper home. However, in the absence of any direct evidence for such an early marriage, it seems more reasonable to suppose that James was an orphan being raised by the Watsons.

James could simply have been one of the Watsons' charities, without any other claim upon them (as Watson said of Mary: "Folk who were in grief came to my wife like birds to a light-house"¹⁰), but the death of Watson's brother shortly before The Sign of Four suggests the possibility that James was Watson's nephew, the son of the unfortunate H. Watson, Jr.

Interestingly, Holmes's statement that H.'s watch showed the numbers customarily scratched in by "pawnbrokers in England"¹¹ indicates that H. had been in England for some years before his death. He had not been there at the time of A Study in Scarlet, when Watson said he had no kin in England. Perhaps H. returned to England in the hope of getting help from his younger brother; the "occasional short intervals of prosperity" noted by Holmes¹² may have been due to loans from John. The watch would normally have gone to James, because "Jewellery usually descends to the eldest son,"¹³ but it may have gone to

Dr. Watson as a partial return for many loans unrepaid, or it may have been given into his keeping to hold until James came of age.

Watson's attacks of self-hatred as he fell more and more deeply in love with Mary are understandable in an insecure man, and living with a man of Holmes's arrogant brilliance for half a dozen years must have given Watson something of an inferiority complex. Still, it is curious that he began condemning himself--when he first met her, before he had any reason to think there was any treasure involved (except, of course, the six pearls). "What was I, an army surgeon with a weak leg and a weaker banking account, that I should dare to think such things? She was a unit, a factor--nothing more. If my future were black, it was better surely to face it like a man than to attempt to brighten it by mere will-o'-the-wisps of the imagination."¹⁴ Actually, Watson's future was not black. He did not have money, but he had his medical training. All he had to do was to scrape together enough to buy a practice, and he could count on his own skill to earn him a comfortable living. Indeed, by the time of The Crooked Man, a few months after his marriage, he could speak of the "servants,"¹⁵ and, although one servant would be merely the the minimum demanded by the period's standards of gentility, two (or more) begins to sound like prosperity.

The depression Watson felt when he first met Mary was too deep to be justified by his situation. It was, however, justified by his unhappiness over his brother's death. He had already displayed considerable agitation on the subject just before meeting Mary: "I sprang from my chair and limped impatiently about the room with considerable bitterness in my heart. 'This is unworthy of you, Holmes,' I said. 'I could not have believed that you would have descended to this. You have made inquiries into the history of my unhappy brother.'"¹⁶ Watson's picture of his black future could simply have been a fear that he would come to a bad end, like his brother, but it is plausible that, in addition, he feared he was to be saddled with his brother's debts and the responsibility of caring for his brother's son. The telegram he had sent that morning probably had to do with his brother; possibly it was

JAMES WATSON, continued

a message to keep James at school and an assurance that Watson would pay for the boy's continued education. The school could keep James most of the year round, but it must have been a comfort to James when his uncle's marriage provided him with a home where he would be welcome during the holidays.

Holmes was probably speaking of James, away at school, when he came to stay overnight in The Crooked Man and remarked, "You told me you had bachelor quarters for one, and I see that you have no gentleman visitor at present. Your hat-stand proclaims as much."¹⁷ Indeed, the existence of the "bachelor quarters" corroborates the existence of James. Unless the Watsons had some such regular visitor, it would have been an unreasonable expense for them to take a flat with spare rooms so early in their marriage, unless they were sure of needing the space.

3. Bereavement:

It is possible that Watson meant only his separation from Mary when he spoke of his "sad bereavement" in The Empty House. However, it is unusual to refer to a separation as a bereavement; the word usually implies the death of the lost one. As Mary had not died, it was most probably James who had died during Holmes's absence. The cause of death is unknown. It may be that the death of the young man who had been like a son to them was the final stroke which drove John and Mary apart.

5. W. S. Baring-Gould, Sherlock Holmes of Baker Street (New York: Clarkson Potter, Inc., 1962), Chapters VII, XVI, and XXIII.
6. For example, Clifton R. Andrew, in "What Happened to Dr. Watson's Married Life after June 14, 1889," BSJ XA, 1958, 42-44, suggests that Watson's overnight desertion of Mary for Sherlock in The Man with the Twisted Lip was the last straw which pushed her to leave him. Daniel L. Moriarty, in "The Woman Who Beat Sherlock Holmes," BSJ (NS) 9: 69-82, (April) 1959, suggests that Holmes's demands on Watson's friendship put an intolerable strain on the marriage, partly relieved during Holmes's absence after Reichenbach, but resulting in separation after his return, and that the "bereavement" referred to the death of an infant born during the happy years of Holmes's absence.
7. The Man with the Twisted Lip, in The Complete Sherlock Holmes (New York: Garden City Publishing Co., 1938), p. 259. Page numbers for Canonical references following come from this edition.
8. I am indebted to the late Robert R. Patrick for this objection.
9. "I had neither kith nor kin in England," said Watson in A Study in Scarlet, Chapter I, p. 4; "I had no relative in England," said Mary Morstan in The Sign of Four, Chapter II, p. 97.
10. The Man with the Twisted Lip, p. 259.
11. The Sign of Four, Chapter I, p. 96.
12. Ibid., p. 95.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid., Chapter II, p. 100.
15. The Crooked Man, p. 474.
16. The Sign of Four, p. 95.
17. The Crooked Man, p. 474.

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1. S. C. Roberts, Holmes and Watson (London: Oxford University Press, 1935), pp. 83-89.
2. T. S. Blakeney, Sherlock Holmes: Fact or Fiction? (Morristown, N.J.: The Baker Street Irregulars, Inc., 1954), pp. 113-114.
3. H. W. Starr, "Some New Light on Watson," BSJ (OS) 1:55-63, 1946.
4. T. B. Hunt and H. W. Starr, "What Happened to Mary Morstan," BSJ (OS) 2:237-246, 1947.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB (by Jane Quinette)

During a recent visit to London my mother and I had the opportunity to visit the Sherlock Holmes Pub, 10 Northumberland St. WC 2, tucked away between pidgeon-laden Trafalgar Square and bustling Charing Cross Station, is primarily a London pub. The first order of business is to serve a thirsty and possibly hungry public.

THE SHERLOCK HOLMES PUB, continued

During the inconvenient Sunday pub hours of noon to 2 p.m. we stopped in to admire what one guide book describes as a "congenial and handsome pub."

It was a job to find two seats, to work one's way up to the busy woman expertly slicing a huge ham for sandwiches (no pre-mades in plastic wrappings) and then to edge up to the bar for service. But, there's plenty to see while one waits: Posters, playbills, old movie advertisements, cartoons of varying vintages, frosted windows with likenesses of Holmes and Watson, a deerstalker cap here and there and bits and pieces of memorabilia to catch the eye. It's all decor--no gimmicky souvenirs in sight.

We didn't detect another soul in the crowd interested in the Sherlockian aspects of the pub. There were no overhead conversations about the master detective. Only current newspapers, no books, were being read. No one but us wandered about peering at the portraits and enjoying the collection of cartoons.

As the barmaid deftly drew our draft stout I asked if the upstairs replica of the Baker Street study happened to be open as the diningroom, also upstairs, was not serving at noon. She didn't know a thing about it and no one working around her seemed to either. We deduced that a "museum" sign meant the study so we pushed through a doorway and climbed some narrow stairs. There was the study, surely smaller in scale than the original, but looking as though its lodgers would be in momentarily. We studied the room as best we could through the viewing window. The locked diningroom adjacent gave us no clue as to whether diners could get an even better look or perhaps even pay a call. We plan someday to return, book a table by the study and listen carefully for the sounds of a violin.

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Don't forget your 1976 dues!

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DR. WATSON'S MAIL (by Mary Holmes)

The Maiwand Jezails of Wayne, Nebraska, invite Dr. Watson's Neglected Patients to join a BSI trip to London, May 25-June 1, 1976. Their brochure, BAKER STREET IRREGULARS PRESENT "LONDON" describes this TWA charter, which is open only to members of at least six months standing prior to departure and their immediate families. Activities will include an evening get-together hosted by the Sherlock Holmes Society of London "for a light-hearted discussion of Holmesian and other matters." And on a day trip to Sussex, the group will be joined by a noted apiarist for a picnic lunch. I have tour information, including pamphlets. Or you can write BSI London Tour, P.O. Box 92408, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501. Gar Donnelson, our correspondent with the Jezails (he used to live in Littleton), says he has been getting expressions of interest from around the country and that it looks as if it will be a good tour. The Maiwand Jezails were negotiating with the Government of Afghanistan a while back for permission to put a monument to Watson on the battlefield at Maiwand. It sounds to me as if anything this group organized should be both suitably Sherlockian and a lot of fun.

Dr. Hugh L'Etang, a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and Editor of the British medical journal, The Practitioner, sends regards to the Neglected Patients along with his permission to reprint the two articles from The Practitioner in this edition of The Medical Bulletin. Hugh L'Etang himself is the author of SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE BLACK FORMOSA CORRUPTION AND TAPANULI FEVER, which is listed in Baring-Gould's ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES and Ron DeWaal's WORLD BIBLIOGRAPHY. In it Dr. L'Etang documents evidence that the Black Formosa Corruption and Tapanuli Fever, two diseases which it had long been assumed were invented by Sherlock Holmes, are in fact one Rickettsial disease, and related to Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. As soon as requested permission to reprint is received from The Sherlock Holmes Journal, the Medical Bulletin will bring you information about this revolutionary medical discovery.

Dr. Gordon Milliken, of DU's Denver Research Institute, is on sabbatical leave at the University of Sussex. Besides "carefully

DR. WATSON'S MAIL (by Mary Holmes)

searching for elderly bee-keepers on the Downs," he attended the September 30th dinner of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London to hear Surgeon Captain H.E.B. Curjel, R.N. (Ret.) and Ian McQueen, author of SHERLOCK HOLMES DETECTED, do a "retrospection" on THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES. Captain Curjel writes that in their correspondence he had identified himself to Gordon Milliken as looking like Dr. Grimesby Roylott, and Gordon "retaliated" by comparing himself to Mr. Grant Munro. Yes, they did find each other among the seventy people who were there.

Word just arrived from Penguin Books, publishers of Sir Hugh Greene's three volumes on British and foreign rivals of Sherlock Holmes, that the BBC series THE RIVALS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES is going to be shown on American ETV this season. Watch for it on Channel 6.

Reviewing the Broadway production of SHERLOCK HOLMES for the Denver Post, Glen Giffin writes--'Sherlock Holmes' comes across as Upstairs Downstairs with a whodunit twist. One would be hardput to imagine a better combination." This is the play, rewritten by William Gillette from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's script, which is booked for Denver From April 28th to May 2nd. Giffin goes on to say: "...this is a show to see and enjoy and perhaps see again--it has that much fun in it. This play by Arthur Conan Doyle and William Gillette has as many twists as 'Sleuth' and the great figure of Holmes to top it off."

And--if any of you are looking for deerstalkers, the Boutique International, Ltd. at Larimer Square (across from the Magic Pan) has them in a good range of sizes and colors, for \$14.50.

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WHODUNIT

The first article in this issue of the Medical Bulletin, "James Watson" was reproduced with the kind permission of the Baker Street Journal (BSJ) and its editor, Julian Wolff, M.D. It first

appeared in Volume 22, Number 4 (New Series) December, 1972. The author Ruth Berman also graciously approved the reprint. The BSJ, WHODUNIT, credit reads as follows:

"Ruth Berman, a recognized Sherlockian scholar and a contributor to our literature, is a member of The Norwegian Explorers. She is a graduate student of English at the University of Minnesota, where she teaches Freshman English. 5920 Edgewater Boulevard, Minneapolis, MN 55417."

The second short article, "The Sherlock Holmes Pub" was contributed by one of our own members, Mrs. Jane M. Quinette. Jane, who is now a Denver housewife, lived and worked in France a few years ago and travelled to the British Isles a number of times.

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SOME REPRINTS FROM ENGLAND

On the following pages we have two articles from England which were mentioned in Mary Holmes's column. Dr. Hugh L'Etang, editor of The Practitioner is now a member of our scion society.

The first item is a short article "The Jezail Bullet" by W. B. Heburn, M.B., B. Chiv., D. Obst. R.C.O.G.

The second item "Doctors In The Works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, M.D. - A Medical Directory" by Surgeon Captain H.E.B. Curjel, R.N. (Ret.) Captain Curjel is now a member of our scion group. He has sent on the following additions to his 1970 directory:

- Oakshott, Sir Leslie: Surgeon. Harley Street, London W.I. ('The Illustrious Client')
- Wilkerson, Dr. Adam: Physician, St. Swithin's Hospital and Lecturer on Pulmonary Diseases at Regent's College, London ('A False Start' from 'Round The Red Lamp').
- Wilkerson, Dr. Horace: of 114 Canal View, Sutton, Surrey. ('A False Start')

We have included the directory as a possible assist to any of the Neglected Patients who may be in need of medical care in the future and who again find the good Doctor Watson unavailable.

Our correspondence with both Dr. L'Etang and Cpt. Curjel, carried on by our able Transcriber Mary Holmes, indicates a very keen and knowledgeable Sherlockian interest and portends a most fruitful exchange of ideas and materials in the future.

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DOCTORS IN THE WORKS OF SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, M.D.

A MEDICAL DIRECTORY

By SURGEON CAPTAIN H. E. B. CURJEL, R.N. (RET.)

The following is a directory of the doctors who are mentioned in the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Those whose addresses I have been unable to discover I have not included.

- AGAR, Moore: Consultant Physician, Harley Street, W.1 ('The Devil's Foot')
- AINSTREE, Dr.: Specialist in Tropical Diseases ('The Dying Detective')
- ALTHAUS, von: Professor of Anatomy, University of Keinplatz, Germany ('The Great Keinplatz Experiment')
- ANSTRUTHER, Dr.: G.P., Paddington. Neighbour of Dr. Watson ('The Boscombe Valley Mystery')
- ARCHER, Mr.: Distinguished surgeon, University of Edinburgh ('His First Operation')
- ARMSTRONG, Leslie: Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge ('The Missing Three-quarter')
- ATHERTON, J. H.: G.P., Hartfield, Kent. Concerned in the investigations into the death of Mr. Joyce-Armstrong, the aviator ('The Horror of the Heights')
- BARNICOT, Dr.: G.P., Kennington Road, S.E.1 ('The Six Napoleons')
- BAUMGARTEN, Alexis von: Regius Professor of Physiology, University of Keinplatz, Germany ('The Great Keinplatz Experiment')
- BROWNE, Anthony: Laryngologist, University of Edinburgh ('His First Operation')
- CAMERON, J.: G.P., Gaster Fell, Nr. Kirkby-Malhouse, Yorkshire; formerly of Birmingham ('The Surgeon of Gaster Fell')
- CRABBE, Thomas Waterhouse: M.B. (Ed.). G.P., 81 George Street, Brisport. Author of 'Curious Development of Discophorous Bone in the Stomach of a Duck' ('Crabbe's Practice')
- DAVIDSON, Dr.: G.P., Brisport ('Crabbe's Practice')
- EASTERLING, John: F.R.C.P.Ed. G.P., Stranraer, Wigtownshire, Scotland ('The Mystery of Cloomber')
- FARQUHAR, Dr.: G.P., Paddington. Succeeded in practice by Dr. Watson ('The Stockbroker's Clerk')
- FISHER, Penrose: Consultant Physician, Harley Street, W.1 ('The Dying Detective')

- GREY, Ainslie: Edinburgh, Cambridge and Vienna. Professor of Physiology, University of Birchespool. Author of 'On the Mesoblastic origin of the excito-motor nerve roots' and 'Upon the nature of Bathybius with some remarks upon Lithococci' ('A Physiologist's Wife')
- HAMILTON, Dr.: G.P. and Coleopterist, Gower Street, W.C.1 ('The Beetle Hunter')
- HARDACRE, Dr.: G.P. Member of the Psychical Research Society. Nephew of Sir Dominick Holden and became his heir ('The Brown Hand')
- HARDCASTLE, James: G.P., 36 Upper Coventry Flats, South Kensington. Pot-holer and sufferer from pulmonary tuberculosis ('The Terror of Blue John Gap')
- HARTMANN, Fritz von: Medical Student, University of Keinplatz, Germany ('The Great Keinplatz Experiment')
- HASTIE, Jephro: Medical Student, Old College, Oxford ('Lot 249')
- HEWETT, Jack: House-Surgeon, Seamen's Hospital, Shadwell. Friend of Dr. Hardacre ('The Brown Hand')
- HOLDEN, Sir Dominick: K.C.S.I., C.B.: Rodenhurst, Dinton, Wiltshire. Indian Army Medical Service; then Civil Surgeon to Oriental Hospital, Bombay. Distinguished surgeon and comparative pathologist ('The Brown Hand')
- HORSOM, Dr.: G.P., 13 Firbank Villas, Brixton ('The Disappearance of Lady Frances Carfax')
- HORTON, Dr.: G.P., Basingstoke, Hampshire ('The Doctors of Hoyland')
- JACKSON, Dr.: G.P., Paddington. Neighbour of Dr. Watson ('The Crooked Man')
- JEPHSON, Joseph Habakuk: M.D. (Harvard). Consultant Physician to the Samaritan Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. Shipwrecked when passenger in brigantine 'Marie Celeste' ('J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement')
- KENT, Dr.: Resident Medical Attendant, c/o Colonel Emsworth, V.C., Tuxbury Old Hall, Nr. Bedford ('The Blanched Soldier')
- LANA, Aloysius Xavier: G.P., Bishop's Crossing, Nr. Liverpool. Son of Don Alfredo Lana, Foreign Minister of the Argentine Republic ('The Black Doctor')
- LAROUSSE, Dr.: Basseterre. Personal Physician to H.E. the Governor of St. Kitts, West Indies ('How the Governor of St. Kitts came Home')
- LINCHMERE, Lord: 77B Brook Street, W.1. Not in active practice. Brother-in-law to Sir Thomas Rossiter, the famous coleopterist ('The Beetle Hunter')
- LOWENSTEIN: Professor of Endocrinology, University of Prague ('The Creeping Man')
- MANSON, Charles: Medical Superintendent, Wormley Asylum. Author of 'Obscure Nervous Lesions in the Unmarried' ('A Medical Document')
- MARKHAM, Dr.: G.P., George Street, Brisport ('Crabbe's Practice')

H.E.B. Curjel

- MEEK, Sir Jasper: Consultant Physician, Harley Street, W.1 ('The Dying Detective')
- MERCER: Professor of Entomology and medical practitioner. Qualified in California. Died of cyanide poisoning at Ichau, North China, during the Boxer Rebellion ('The Pot of Caviare')
- MILES, Dr.: G.P. and Obstetrician, Bridport Place, Hoxton ('The Curse of Eve')
- MIDDLETON, Dr.: G.P. in old established practice, Ascombe, Leicestershire ('The King of the Foxes')
- MONTGOMERY, Robert.: Medical Student. Expert amateur boxer. Assistant to Dr. Oldacre, Wilson (Nonpareil) Coal Pit, Nr. Croxley, Yorkshire ('The Croxley Master')
- MORPHY: Professor of Comparative Anatomy, Camford University ('The Creeping Man')
- MORTIMER, James: M.R.C.S. (1882). Grimpen, Dartmoor, Devon. House Surgeon 1882 to 1884, Charing Cross Hospital. Winner of Jackson Prize for Comparative Pathology with essay 'Is Disease a Reversion?'. Corresponding Member of Swedish Pathological Society. Author of 'Some Freaks of Atavism' (*Lancet*, 1882), 'Do We Progress?' (*Journal of Psychology*, March 1883). Medical Officer for the parishes of Grimpen, Thorsley and High Barrow ('The Hound of the Baskervilles')
- MURPHY, Dr.: Pathologist, University of Edinburgh ('His First Operation')
- O'BRIEN, James M'Murdo: Professor of Physiology, University of Melbourne. Author of 'Remarks upon the Bile-Pigments with special reference to Urobilin' ('A Physiologist's Wife')
- OLDACRE, Dr.: Club doctor, Wilson (Nonpareil) Coal Pit, Nr. Croxley, Yorkshire ('The Croxley Master')
- PETERSON, Dr. Plumtree: Farlingford, Nr. Oxford. Old friend of Abercrombie Smith ('Lot 249')
- PETERSON, Mr.: Plastic Surgeon, University of Edinburgh ('His First Operation')
- PICTON, Dr.: Psychiatric Specialist, Castleton, Derby. 'The best mad-doctor in Derbyshire' ('The Terror of Blue John Gap')
- PRESBURY: Professor of Physiology, Camford University ('The Creeping Man')
- PRITCHARD, Dr.: G.P. and Obstetrician, City Road, Hoxton ('The Curse of Eve')
- RAY, John M'Alister: Medical Student, Dundee University. Acting-Surgeon of whaling ship 'Polestar' ('The Captain of the Polestar')
- RICHARDS, Dr.: G.P., Poldhu Bay, Cornwall ('The Devil's Foot')
- RIPLEY, James: G.P., Hoyland, Hampshire ('The Doctors of Hoyland')
- ROWE, Edward: G.P., Bishop's Crossing, Nr. Liverpool. Son of Sir William Rowe, the Liverpool Consultant ('The Black Doctor')

- ROYLOTT, Grimesby: Practised in Calcutta. Retired to Stoke Moran, Surrey, where he died suddenly of snake-bite ('The Speckled Band')
- SAUNDERS, Sir James: Consultant Dermatologist, Harley Street, W.1 ('The Blanched Soldier')
- SELBY, Horace: Venereologist, Scudamore Lane, W.C.1 ('The Third Generation')
- SEVERALL, Dr.: Medical Officer to Messrs. Armitage and Wilson, Ogowai River, West Africa ('The Fiend of the Cooperage')
- SMITH, Abercrombie: Medical Student, Old College, Oxford. Also studied in Glasgow and Berlin ('Lot 249')
- SMITH, Kavanagh: Chest Physician, Samaritan Hospital, Brooklyn, New York, U.S.A. ('J. Habakuk Jephson's Statement')
- SMITH, Verrinder: M.D. Lower Hoyland, Hampshire. G.P. and distinguished lady doctor. Studied in Edinburgh, Paris, Berlin and Vienna. Winner of Lee Hopkins prize in recognition of research into the functions of the anterior spinal nerve roots. Left General Practice for work in the Paris Physiological Laboratory ('The Doctors of Hoyland')
- SOMERTON, Dr.: Indian Medical Service, attached Blair Island Penal Settlement, Andaman Islands ('The Sign of Four')
- STABLE, Dr. 'Baldy': Originally in practice in Charleston, South Carolina. Became Fleet Surgeon to the pirate, Captain John Sharkey, of the barque 'Happy Delivery'. Retained powers as good spot diagnostician, e.g. the leprosy of Donna Inez Ramirez ('The Blighting of Sharkey')
- STODDART, Mr.: Ophthalmologist, University of Edinburgh ('His First Operation')
- STONE, Douglas: Surgeon, Harley Street. Skilled and progressive. Suffered severe nervous breakdown after excising lower lip of Lady Sannox ('The Case of Lady Sannox')
- STERNDALE, Leon: Medical practitioner, explorer and big game hunter. Beauchamp Arriance, Nr. Tredannick Wollas, Cornwall ('The Devil's Foot')
- TREVELYAN, Percy: Research at King's College Hospital. Later practised from 403 Brook Street, W.1. Winner of Bruce Pinkerton Prize and medal with a monograph on obscure nervous lesions, and author of research into the pathology of catalepsy ('The Resident Patient')
- VERNER, Dr.: G.P., Kensington. Purchased practice from Dr. Watson. Distant relative of Sherlock Holmes ('The Norwood Builder')
- WALKER, James: Neurologist, St. Christopher's Hospital ('The Surgeon Talks')
- WATSON, John H.: M.D. (Lond.) 1878. St. Bart's. Surgeon, Army Medical Services. Served with 5th Northumberland Fusiliers and Berkshire Regiment in the Second Afghan War. Invalided from Army. Lived for several years at 221B Baker Street, W.1. Afterwards in practice in Paddington and Kensington ('A Study in Scarlet')

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THE JEZAIL BULLET

By W. B. HEPBURN, M.B., B.CHIR., D.OBST.R.C.O.G.
Guildford, Surrey

WHERE was Watson's wound? In 1878 he tells us that it was in the shoulder:—

'I was struck on the shoulder', he roundly declares, 'by a Jezail bullet in the 2nd Afghan War'.

He goes into some details about the journey there and certainly he was not wounded en route, or on the way home. His convalescence, it may be remembered, was interrupted—fairly typically—by an attack of typhoid, and the doctors could not get rid of him to England quickly enough.

And that was that—No more East, no more war, no more Jezail bullets. How on earth, then, are we to explain his unqualified statement in 1888, after ten years spent exclusively in the company of Holmes, that his wound was now in his leg? 'I had had', he says, without batting an eyelid, 'a Jezail bullet in it some years before'.

A MEDIOCRE GENERAL PRACTITIONER

It is really just not good enough to say by way of explanation, as Holmes did, that he was only a general practitioner with very limited knowledge and mediocre qualifications. Not that there is much doubt that Holmes had taken his medical measure pretty accurately.

The wretched Lady Carfax, poisoned by chloroform, gets an ether injection, which to say the least, seems like taking coals to Newcastle. Seeing Holmes, his oldest friend, lying in bed painted like a whore to simulate decrepitude, he is taken in by an absolute torrent of tommy-rot about 'tampanili fever' and 'formosa corruption' which would not have deceived a first-year student. Faced with the least symptom of malaise he had but one remedy. Dr. Huxtable gets it. The wretched Phelps has it forced down his throat. The engineer is given his with a dash of water and Holmes refers more than once with ironic resignation to a 'certain remedy containing hot water and lemon'. Better than what Black Peter got, which was the cold muzzle of a revolver pressed to his temple, but surely even in those days there were some alternatives to brandy as a cure-all?

His admirers, of course, will point to the remainder of his treatment of the engineer's thumb, but how on earth can we be sure that Watson put the carbolized bandage on the right thumb? Indeed that it was the thumb that was avulsed at all and not the toe.

INTRACRANIAL INJURY THEORY

An ostensibly attractive although ultimately untenable explanation of Watson's confusion about the locality of his wound is that his brain had been damaged during a Rugby match in his youth. Meeting him years later

his assailant, Ferguson, remarks on the change. 'You don't look', he says, 'quite the man you did when I threw you over the ropes into the crowd at the Old Deer Park.'

Unfortunately the only support for this intracranial injury theory is derived from Watson's own descriptions of his two hallucinations. The first when he describes how a double-barrelled shotgun looked into his tent and he shot it with a tiger and the second when he urges the claims of large doses of strychnine as a sedative. A knock on the head might well give rise to such aberrations but surely there is a much simpler explanation. Why should he not be confused after all? It was at a time when he had found a woman in full possession of her faculties who was willing to throw in her lot with him. The wonder is that he did not force brandy between every set of teeth in sight and bandage up Sholto's aortic valve, about whose soundness its owner had imprudently consulted him.

THE 'TWO BULLET THEORY'

Nor does what you might call the 'two bullet theory' really have much to commend it. This postulates that Watson had not only one wound but two: the second inflicted perhaps by Holmes, who certainly had provocation enough to shoot him a dozen times and the skill and knowledge to do so whenever he fancied. But would Holmes, whose weapon was a Smith and Wbley, have used a Jezail bullet and would he subsequently have been so heartless as to make merry over an injury which he himself had inflicted? Come to that would Watson, seeing Holmes overcome by the fumes of the devil's foot, have been given an instant of 'savage strength' by the sight of the rigid features of a man who had once shot him? Would he not rather have embraced the opportunity of watching him go off his rocker?

THE REAL EXPLANATION

No. The real explanation is surely both less devious and somehow more subtly horrible than any of these. It is to be found in the passage when Holmes humorously inquires, after Watson's return from an errand on which he has rather callously dispatched him, if a half-pay officer with a damaged Achilles tendon is game for a six-mile trudge.

As the tendo achillis runs down the back of the leg, and one can trust Holmes for all the eccentricity of his anatomical experiment to identify it correctly, we can only deduce that Watson, so far from having been hit while tending the sick or advancing on the foe, had been wounded while running away.

Overcome by revulsion at the recollection of his shame he had subsequently invented an entirely fictitious version of his injury and only after his manhood had been proved in innumerable forays with Holmes could he bring himself to make the *amende honorable* and refer to the real seat of his shame. Poor devil. What he must have gone through hardly bears thinking of.

OCTOBER MEETING

Our meeting on Tuesday, October 7th at the Bemis Library had thirty-two members in attendance. Unfortunately Mary Ake was unable to present her portion of the program due to an injury to her son.

Ron DeWaal entertained one and all with his presentation "The Political and Pornographic Sherlock Holmes." Ron's talk was built around a portion of his fine collection of cartoons which he displayed via color slides.

DECEMBER MEETING

Our last meeting of 1975 on Friday, December 5th will be covered in our next Medical Bulletin. This meeting was scheduled in the Marathon Oil Company - Denver Research Center. Arrangements for the use of the auditorium were made by Jack Ellingboe. Jack's wife, Sonya, arranged for the Book House display. Our thanks go to them both for their continuing support of our society.

ON TO 1976

Arrangements are going forward for our Annual Meeting to be held in January. A special flier will be sent out in early January with complete details as to program, time, place, etc.

This annual meeting will include an election of officers. Your Medical Board asks that you make every effort to attend the meeting and participate in the selection of members who will guide our activities for 1976. There will be a number of vacancies on the Medical Board and a few new positions on the board are to be proposed. Please plan to attend.

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The Medical Board extends warmest holiday greetings to all!

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THE OLD TIN BOX

by Jay Finlay Christ

In the vaults of Cox was an old
tin box
With Watson's name on its lid.
What wouldn't we pay for that box
today
And the secret notes there hid?

Old Russian dame, Ricoletti the
lame,
The famous aluminium crutch;
For Alicia, the cutter, the parsley
in butter,
What would you give for such?

Story of Randall, Darlington scandal,
The coptic patriarchs,
The opal tiara, the Addleton barrow—
Dollars? or francs? or marks?

The tale of the pinch of Victor
Lynch,
The furniture warehouse mob,
The case at the Hague, the murder
at Prague
The powderless Margate job.

The giant rat, the cardinal's hat,
The Patersons (first name Grice),
The cormorant's bill, the Hammer-
ford will —
We'd take 'em at any price.

The Phillimore fella who sought an
umbrella,
The steamer Friesland (Dutch);
For Col. Carruthers or Atkinson
brothers
One never could give too much.

The Vatican case and its cameo face,
The slithering, unknown worm,
The Abergavenny were none too
many —
Where is this Cox's firm?

Oh, wonderful box in the vaults of
Cox!
You come with a touch of salt!
But I offer two blocks of choicest
stocks
For the treasure of Cox's vault.

New York, 1946



A list of books available from one of our members, Bob Alvis

GREEN TOAD, BOOKS
195 Seminole Drive
Boulder, Colorado
80302
303-494-4023

SHERLOCKIANA

1.	Pointer	THE PUBLIC LIFE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES The Dramatizations of Sherlock Holmes Drake Publishers, New York, 1975	\$ 7.95
2.	Council of 4	THE SCIENCE FICTIONAL SHERLOCK HOLMES Denver, 1960. 137 p. o.p.	7.50
3.	Strand Mag.	Volume 1, 1891 - January - June Bret Harte, no Doyle	10.00
4.	Strand	Volume 13, 1897 - January - June The Tragedy of the Korosko, pts 1 & 2	10.00
5.	Strand	Volume 11, 1896 - January - June Rodney Stone, first six parts	10.00
6.	Strand	Volume 15, 1898 - January - June no Doyle	10.00
7.	Doyle, A.C.	The Green Flag P.F. Collier, reprint	3.50
8.	Doyle, A.C.	THE ADVENTURES OF GERARD P. F. Collier, reprint	3.50
9.	Doyle, A.C.	THE PARASITE New York, Harpers, no title page, 1st.	5.00
10.	Doyle, A.C.	RODNEY STONE New York, Appletons, 1897, 1st. American	6.00
11.	Doyle, A.C.	A DUET New York, Appletons, 1899, 1st. American	6.00
12.	Doyle, A.C.	UNCLE BERNAC New York, Appletons, 1897, 1st. American	6.00
13.	Doyle, A.C.	THE EXPLOITS OF BRIGADIER GERARD New York, Appletons, 1896, 1st. American	6.00
14.	Doyle, A.C.	THE STARK-MUNRO LETTERS New York, Appletons, 1895, 1st. American	6.00
15.	Doyle, A.C.	THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES New York, A. Wessels Co., 1907, reprint	5.00
16.	Doyle, A.C.	The Complete Sherlock Holmes Stories, 9 volumes London, John Murray, 1975, new edition	60.00
17.	Doyle, A.C.	THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES New York, Schocken, 1975 facsimile edition	4.95
18.	Doyle, A.C.	THE RETURN OF SHERLOCK HOLMES New York, Schocken, 1975 facsimile edition	4.95
		THE 1976 CALENDAR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES	3.95
20.	Harrison	THE WORLD OF SHERLOCK HOLMES New York, Dutton, 1975	7.95
21.	Doyle, A.C.	MEMOIRS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES/ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES New York, A & W Visual Library DeLuxe Boxed Sets, Hard Bound, facsimile ed.	7.95
22.	Lewis, A.H.	COPPER BEECHES New York, Trident Press, 1971. o.p. 1st. ed.	10.00
23.	Woolcott, A.	LONG, LONG AGO (contains BSI article) New York, Viking Press, 1943, in dw.	3.00