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*Wind of Cannon Balls.*

Mr. Ellis has published an interesting paper in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, "on the accidents ascribed to the wind of a ball." He has adduced many instances to prove that these accidents are not imaginary, as has been often supposed. Among the effects of the passage of a ball near an individual, are the tearing of epaulets and buttons from the clothes, producing extensive lividity of that part of the body near which the ball passed, causing a sudden or gradual blindness, fracturing the

bones to a thousand pieces without tearing the skin. The following is an instance of its most singular and violent effects. At the siege of Bassain, near Bombay, in the year 1780, a sepoy, who was placed in the trenches to look out for shot, was too late in *dipping* ; and a shot in consequence knocked off his turban into the trench behind him. The sepoy jumped down to pick it up. A surgeon, who happened to be near the spot, immediately went to him ; but found on examination that the head was not in the least touched by the ball. From the state of the pulse, however, the surgeon deemed it proper to send the man to the hospital ; and though no external injury could be discovered, he died in 48 hours after. The officer who was in the trenches at the time, thinks he heard it said, that the surgeon examined the sepoy's head after death, and found an extravasation of blood. Mr. Ellis seems to think that electric or other similar matter existing in the air, may be accumulated or developed by the motion of a cannon ball in a quantity adequate to produce the extraordinary effects ascribed to the "wind of a ball."

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