

Adventure LVI – The Adventure of the Blanched Soldier



Paul Churchill once quipped he had a hard time studying for Sherlockian quizzes, so inspired by Simon Goodenough's *A Study in Scarlet – A Sherlock Holmes Murder Dossier*, Paul began collecting Canonical artifacts around 1990 to help him remember each story. Over 1,500 artifacts later, Paul's 'Evidence Boxes' became legendary in the Sherlockian world as he displayed them at numerous Scion meetings.

What Paul could not find, he made. He became known as a master forger, and 'created' numerous 'genuine faux' objects, such as letters, documents, and telegrams. Paul was invested in the Baker Street Irregulars in 2006 as "Corot." After Paul's passing, the Evidence Boxes were bequeathed to Watson's Tin Box Scion Society, a Society Paul co-founded in 1989. Debbie Clark has maintained the Boxes and continues the practice of displaying the items from one of the Boxes at each society meeting.

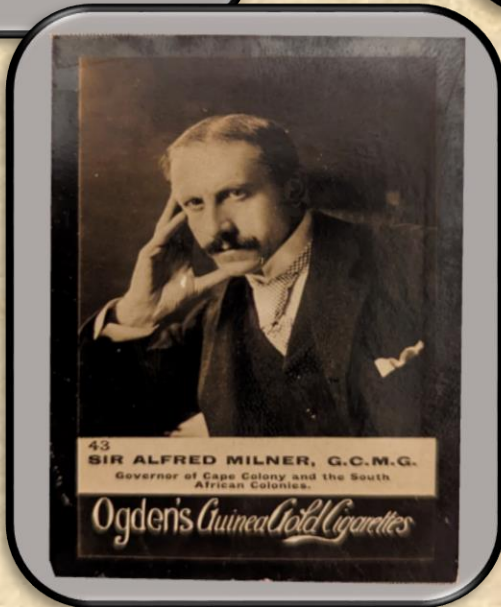
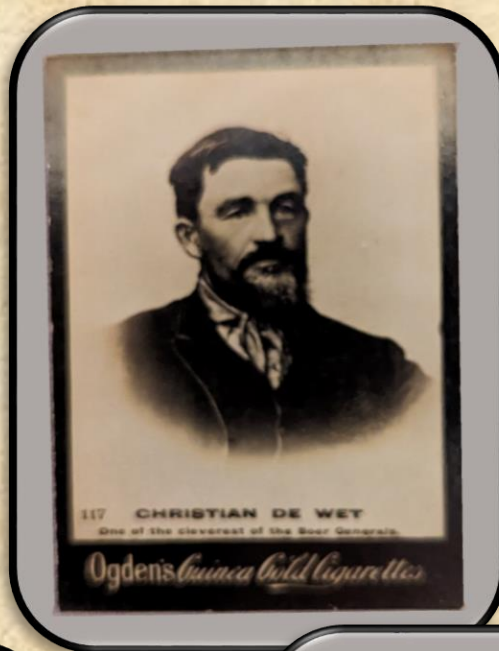
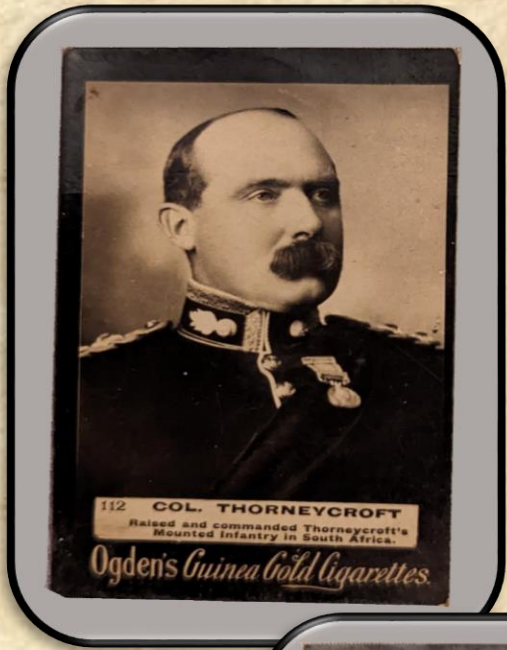
Beth Austin assisted in this effort by photographing, annotating the items, and finding the quotes for many of the items, while Denny Dobry and Rusty Mason supported Paul's efforts by photographing each of the items, as well as developing a comprehensive inventory with notations of item's mentioned in the story. Each of the Boxes is posted with permission of Debbie Clark and Jacquelynn Morris.



Pictured is a tin of chocolate which was provided to British soldiers during the Boer War.

From the story:

I find from my notebook that it was in January 1903, just after the conclusion of the Boer War, that I had my visit from Mr James M. Dodd, a big, fresh, sunburned, upstanding Briton.



Pictured are cigarette cards of British soldiers and statesmen involved in the Boer War.

From the story:

I find from my notebook that it was in January 1903, just after the conclusion of the Boer War...

James M. Dodd
AGENT

H. J. Armour & Sons

9 Throgmorton Avenue
London WC

Pictured is James Dodd's calling, or visiting, card presented to Holmes upon his arrival at Baker Street.

From the story:

'As to Middlesex, your card has already shown me that you are a stockbroker from Throgmorton Street. What other regiment would you join?'



Pictured is Victorian Cross and Ribbon, awarded to Colonel Emsworth for his service during the Crimean War.

From the story:

‘When I joined up in January, 1901 - just two years ago - young Godfrey Emsworth had joined the same squadron. He was Colonel Emsworth's only son - Emsworth, the Crimean VC - and he had the fighting blood in him, so it is no wonder he volunteered.’

TUXBURY OLD PARK
Bedfordshire

Tuesday, 6 January 1903

Dear Mr. Sherlock Holmes,

I will be arriving in London to-morrow morning at St. Pancras Station via the Midland Railway. I beg you with all the intensity which I can summon up to make time in your no doubt busy schedule to see me in regard to a matter which has beset me recently. It concerns the apparent disappearance of my old chum from the army in South Africa. There are points about the matter which will shock and dismay even so skilled a detective as you. I confess that I am at a loss to discover the truth in this case, so I call upon you to aid me in unraveling the tangled skein that surrounds this delicate matter. It's a damned dash business! I shall therefore call upon you at 221B Baker Street to-morrow morning at around nine o'clock and trust that my plea has been stated urgently enough to convince you to see me. I remain

Very truly yours,

James M. Dodd

Pictured is the letter sent by James Dodd to Holmes concerning his friend Emsworth, and asking for Holmes' assistance.

From the story:

'Your letter came with that heading, and as you fixed this appointment in very pressing terms, it was clear that something sudden and important had occurred.'



Mr. Dodd,

Be advised that my son Godfrey has left
on a long voyage and will not return for at
least a year.

Good day,

Colonel Reginald Emsworth

29 December 1902

Pictured is the note from Colonel Emsworth to James Dodd concerning his son Godfrey.

From the story:

‘This time I had a reply, short and gruff. Godfrey had gone on a voyage round the world, and it was not likely that he would be back for a year. That was all.’



3 January 1903

My dear Mr. Dodd,

I can't tell how thrilled I would be to have you visit and share with us your stories about your time with Godfrey.

Please come at your earliest convenience and plan to spend the evening with us.

Most gratefully,

Beatrice Emsworth

(Godfrey's Mum)

Pictured is the note from Mrs Emsworth to James Dodd, inviting him to come visit their home.

From the story:

'I wrote to the mother, therefore - I had had quite enough of the curmudgeon of a father... In reply I had quite an amiable answer from her and an offer to put me up for the night.'



Pictured is the thank you note from a Turkish Sultan to Holmes for his undisclosed services.

From the story:

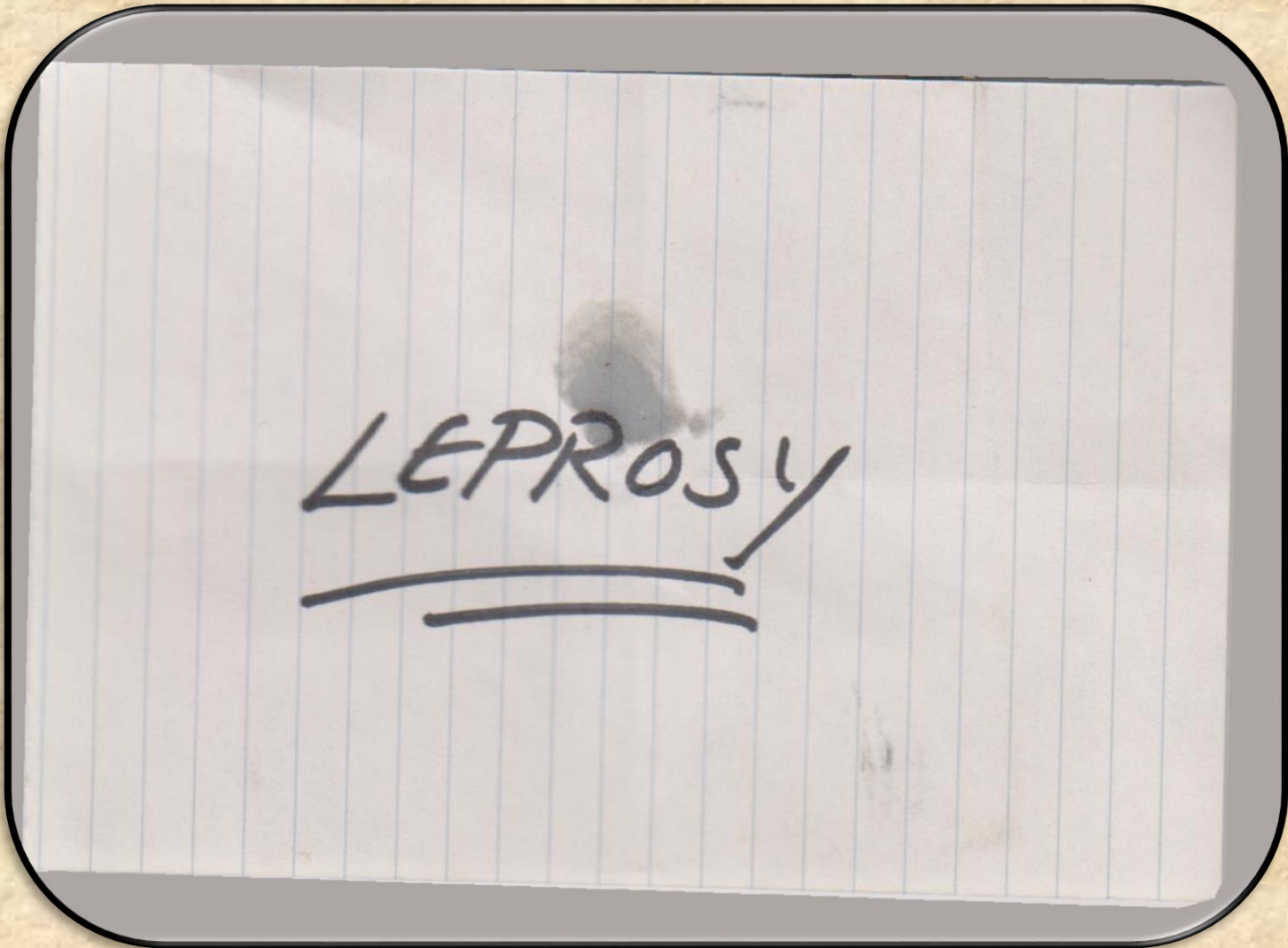
I had also a commission from the Sultan of Turkey which called for immediate action, as political consequences of the gravest kind might arise from its neglect.



Pictured are the disinfectant-smelling brown leather gloves worn by the Tuxbury Old Hall butler, Ralph. Holmes recognized the smell as a clue to the mystery.

From the story:

I turned, placed my hat there, knocked it off, stooped to pick it up, and contrived to bring my nose within a foot of the gloves. Yes, it was undoubtedly from them that the curious tarry odour was oozing.



LEPROSY

Pictured is the note Holmes wrote on a piece of paper and handed to Colonel Emsworth.

From the story:

‘Any police interference would bring about the very catastrophe which you dread.’ I took out my notebook and scribbled one word upon a loose sheet. ‘That’, said I, as I handed it to Colonel Emsworth, ‘is what has brought us here.’



Sir James Saunders, MD
Dermatologist

414 Harley Street
London



Clark Kent M.R.C.S.
GENERAL PRACTICE

24 Old Kinston Road
Bedford, Bedfordshire

Pictured is the calling cards for Mr Kent, who was treating Godfrey Emsworth, and Sir James Saunders, a noted dermatologist.

From the story:

‘Under pledge of secrecy, Mr Kent, who is a surgeon, was prepared to stay with me.’

‘I was able once to do him a professional service, and he is ready to advise as a friend rather than as a specialist. His name is Sir James Saunders.’

Army Form B. 2077.

Should this Parchment be lost or mislaid no duplicate of it can be obtained.

PARCHMENT CERTIFICATE of Character on discharge, or transfer to Army Reserve, of No. 7150 (Rank) Lance-Capt

(Name) Godfrey Emsworth

(Regiment) B Squadron, Middlesex Regt., Imperial Yeomanry

His conduct and character while with the Colours have been, according to the Records:—

Excellent

Wounded at Buffelspruit, outside Pretoria, the Transvaal, South African Republic, during the Battle of Diamond Hill; treated at Boer-Lepros Hospital; treated; transferred to Pretoria

(Place) Cape Town Hosp. Signature of Commanding Officer J. P. Probyn Major

(Date) 24 November 1902

Description of the above-named man:—

Age 23 Height 5'9"

Complexion tan, bleached in places Eyes gray

Hair Brown Trade Farmer

Marks or Scars, whether on face or other parts of body

Scar from elephant gun bullet, left shoulder
Mottled, bleached skin, especially of the face and forehead, possibly leprosy

If a person joining this Certificate is requested to forward it, in an unstamped envelope, addressed to the Under Secretary of State, War Office, London, S.W.

Pictured is the Character Evaluation as part of the Discharge Certificate for Godfrey Emsworth, after Godfrey had spent time in a general hospital at Pretoria.

From the story:

‘He put me in a private room, treated me kindly, and within a week or so I was removed to the general hospital at Pretoria.’

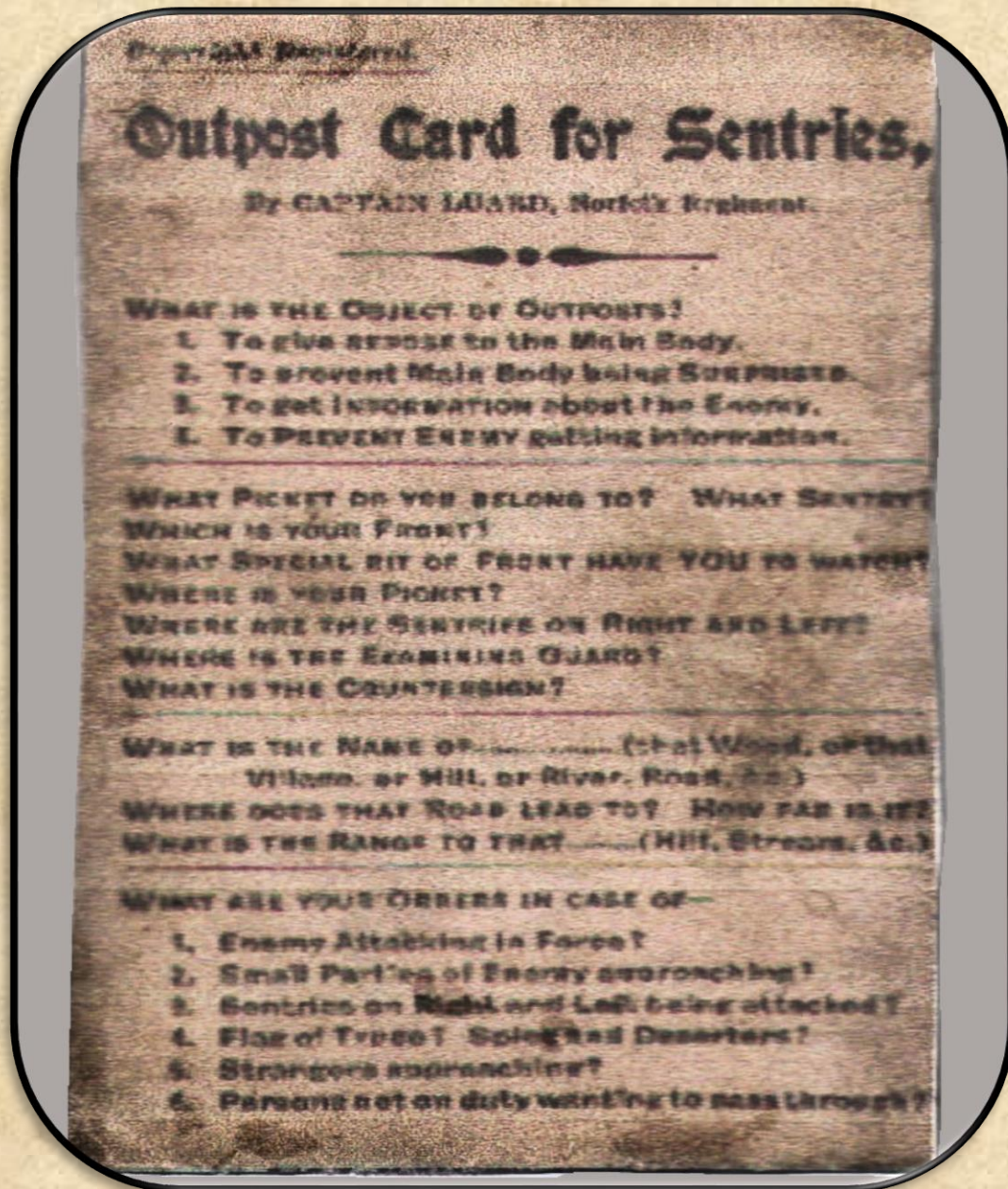


Pictured is a signed photo of Lord Roberts, Sir James Saunders, a famous dermatologist.

From the story:

‘His name is Sir James Saunders.’

The prospect of an interview with Lord Roberts would not have excited greater wonder and pleasure in a raw subaltern than was now reflected upon the face of Mr Kent.



Pictured is the genuine card of instructions and duties of sentry guards in the service of the Middlesex Corps.

From the story:

‘Middlesex Corps, no doubt.’

‘That is so. Mr Holmes, you are a wizard.’



Pictured is the cap badge for Dodd and Emsworth's Service Regiment, the Middlesex Corps.

From the story:

'Middlesex Corps, no doubt.'

'That is so. Mr Holmes, you are a wizard.'

THE FAMILY DOCTOR

AND PEOPLE'S MEDICAL ADVISER.

No. 135.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1887.

PRICE ONE PENNY

VARIOUS FORMS OF MADNESS.

INSANITY, imbecility, mental alienation, unsoundness of mind are all terms used for a disorder of which it has puzzled the most acute to give an accurate and at the same time sufficiently comprehensive definition, although all are aware of the general sense of the terms used to indicate

symptoms. The one class of cases is marked by mental exaltation and expansive ideas, and the other by mental depression and circumscribed and painful ideas.

MANIA.

This general term is subdivided, according to the duration and severity of the symptoms, into acute, sub-acute, and chronic forms; and further into paroxysmal, periodic, and recurrent. Acute mania, or the raving madness of popular belief, is easily recognised. Most cases present disturbances of health as precursors of the attack. There is sleeplessness, variability of appetite, disturbance of the stomach or bowels, or of the secretions of the skin, kidneys, or other parts of the physical organism. There is usually, preceding the maniacal disturbance, a period of depression varying from a few days to several weeks, varying in degree in different individuals. He loses interest in his affairs, is inclined to avoid people, or to seclude himself. This is succeeded by a state of excitement and restlessness.



MANIA.

the malady. It is sufficient for our purpose here to mention that the most general division of the subject is into mania—that is, insanity along with more or less violence in domestic and action; moroseness, in which either the understanding or the will is perverted on one particular point; and dementia, or incoherent thought verging on imbecility.

The main character of insanity in a legal point of view is said to be the existence of a delusion—that is, that a person should believe something to exist which does not exist, and that he should act upon this belief.



DEMENTIA.

In classifying the various forms of madness, the principal divisions are mania, a state of mental exaltation; melancholia, a state of depression; and dementia, enfeebled or diminished mental activity. Mania and melancholia are both states of increased mental activity. They are produced by the same causes, present the same morbid conditions, but differ in the character of the mental

MELANCHOLIA.

Melancholia, or the form of insanity characterized by mental depression, occurs next in frequency to mania, and in its inception closely resembles it. There is the same insomnia, loss of appetite, and physical disturbance. The person is despondent and apprehensive, seeks to be alone,



CHRONIC MANIA.

and is absorbed in gloomy contemplation. The thoughts are turned inward and so concentrated on self that there is an inability for exertion, and following this a loss of interest in business and affairs generally.

The melancholic is unhappy and restless; there is to him nothing cheerful or hopeful in his condition or prospects. This gloomy view may be limited or extend over his whole life. He may consider his ordinary acts wicked or even criminal. All the misfortunes which occur, or



MELANCHOLIA.

his enemies, and are trying to poison or injure him in some way, and for this reason turns against them. On the other hand, he may be cheerful, gay, and express himself as feeling well, better than ever before; that he can undertake anything in the way of business or physical exertion. Soon these delusive impressions assume definite form, usually regarding personal affairs: that he is possessed of great wealth or power, and he may form plans for using these for the benefit of friends or the community, or his enlarged views may include all mankind. He becomes restless, perhaps attempts to carry out his plans, and, if opposed, breaks out into threatening speech or open violence.

Of the physical conditions at this period, it may be observed that there is usually inability to sleep, perhaps for days together; the appetite may be good or impaired, and the muscular activity is marked by the rapid play of the features and the movements of the body. Occasionally there is increased temperature, dryness of the tongue, feebleness of the circulation, and such vital depression as betokens danger to life.



FATALE.

of which he may hear or read in the papers, he may attribute to his own wickedness, and accuse himself of the most heinous crimes. Remarks of persons which have no reference to him or his state he may construe into accusations against himself. He often asserts that he is pursued by officers of justice for his crimes, or believes he has committed the unpardonable sin, or that he has lost all his property and has beggared his

Vol. VI.

Pictured is a *Family Doctor Magazine* listing types of madness. Insanity was one possible explanation for isolating Emsworth.

From the story:

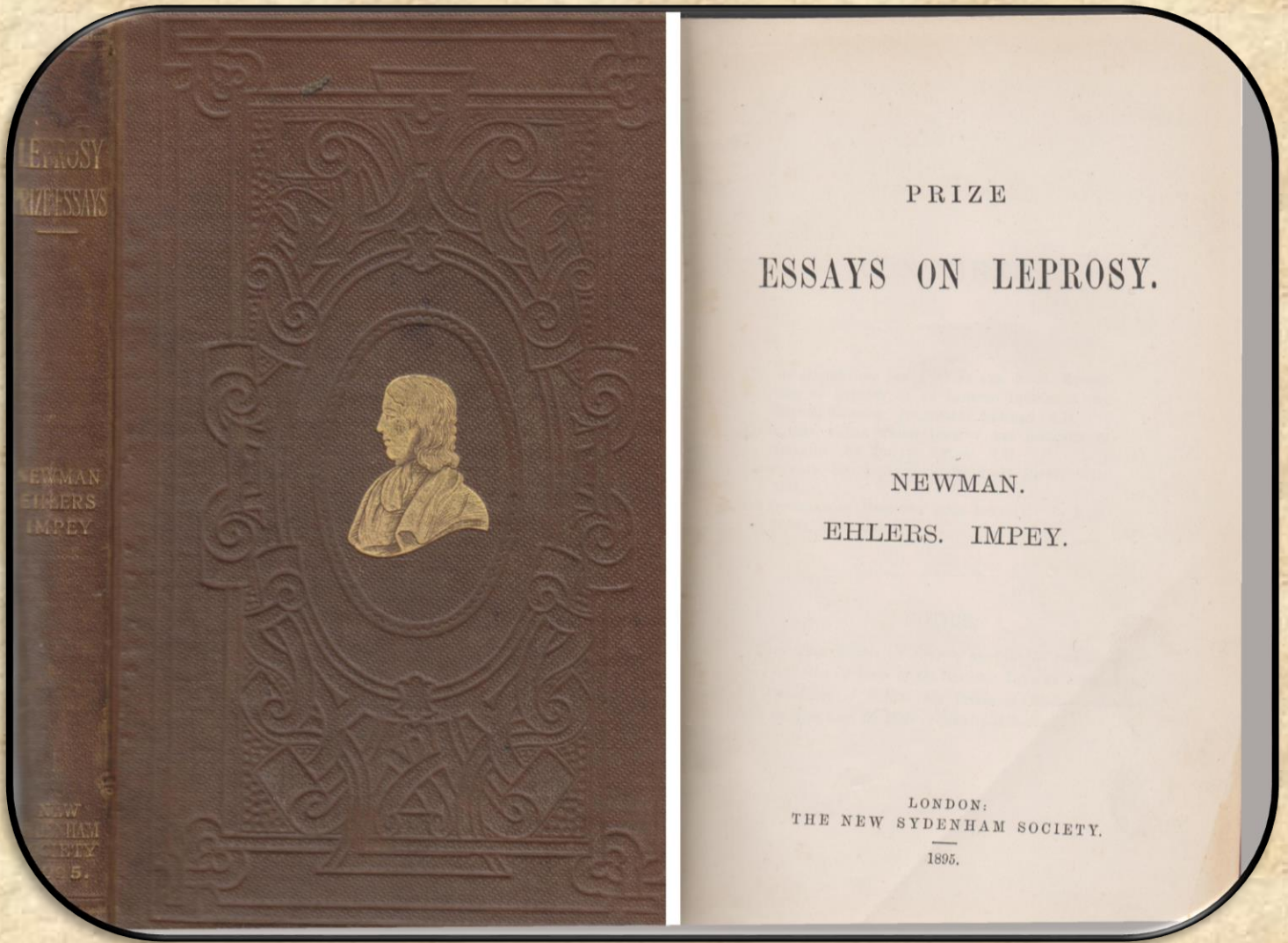
‘Insanity was more plausible. The presence of the second person in the outhouse suggested a keeper.’



Pictured is an edition of the Lancet, a primary medical journal. Holmes references the magazine.

From the story:

‘You will remember, Mr Dodd, that I felt round for points, asking you, for example, about the paper which Mr Kent was reading. Had it been *The Lancet* or *The British Medical Journal* it would have helped me.’

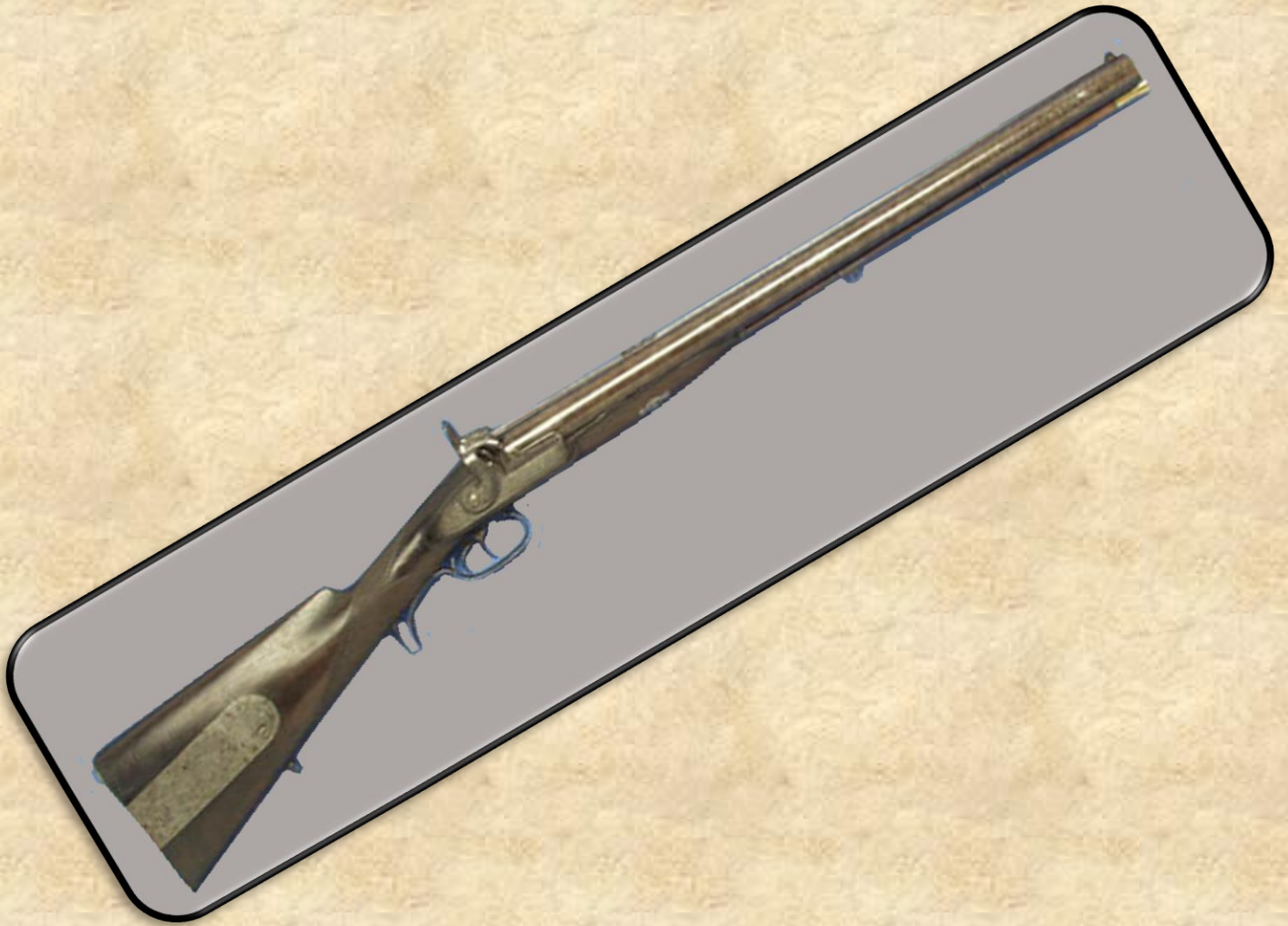


Pictured is a book on leprosy, which may have assisted Godfrey Elmsworth in his own diagnosis of his ailment as pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis.

From the story:

‘A well-marked case of pseudo-leprosy or ichthyosis, a scale-like affection of the skin, unsightly, obstinate, but possibly curable, and certainly non-infective.’

Additional items of interest
in “The Adventure of the
Blanched Soldier” not
included in the original
Evidence Box.



Pictured is the H.M. Reiley & Co rifle, an elephant gun, which wounded Godfrey Emsworth during the Boer War.

From the story:

‘Then he was hit with a bullet from an elephant gun in the action near Diamond Hill outside Pretoria.’



Pictured is a postal card for the town of Bedford, north of London. Tuxbury Old Park, the residence of the Emsworth, was near Bedford.

From the story:

‘My first move was to get down to his home, Tuxbury Old Park, near Bedford, and to see for myself how the ground lay.’



Pictured is the Queen's South Africa Medal, issued to those who served during the Boer War, which was issued to both Godfrey Emsworth and James Dodd.

From the story:

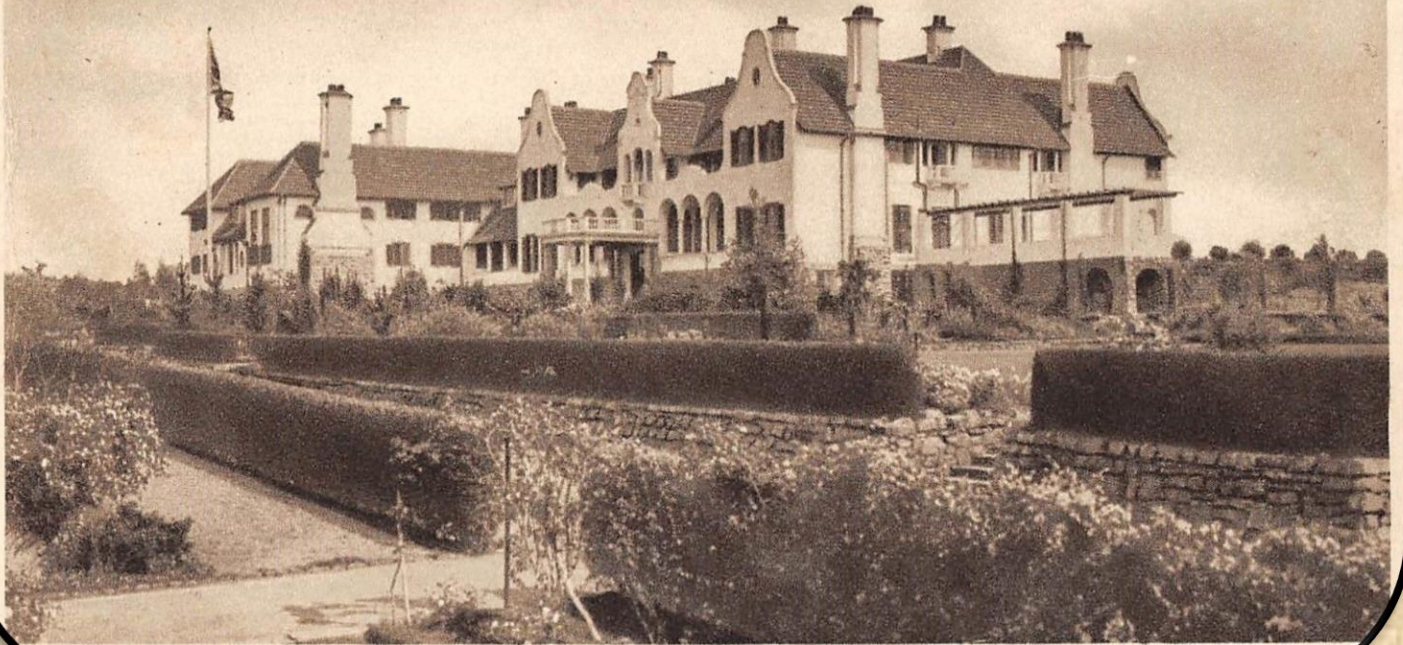
‘There was no braver man in the regiment. He pulled me out once from under the rifles of the Boers, or maybe I should not be here.’



Pictured is an issue of the Spectator, a weekly magazine, which James Dodd guessed might be the reading material of Mr Kent.

From the story:

‘Now that you mention it, it was not large. It might have been *The Spectator*.’



28. TRANSVAAL : GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PRETORIA.

Pictured is a postal card from Pretoria, South Africa, where Godfrey Emswoth treated for his gunshot and other injuries..

From the story:

‘He put me in a private room, treated me kindly, and within a week or so I was removed to the general hospital at Pretoria.’