

ACHIEVEMENTS IN RUSSIA OF SIR JAMES WYLIE BT., MD. - A SCOTTISH GRADUATE

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BACKGROUND

One of the authors (P. d'A. S) made a trip to the Military Medical Academy in St Petersburg in 1995. Unbeknown to him that institution had had strong connections with another medical Scot, James Wylie, who had spent most of his life as a physician and surgeon in Russia. Following the 1995 trip, collaboration with Russian colleagues in researching the early background, medical training and life's work in Russia of Wylie led in 1996 to publication of a paper describing his life.¹ In that paper, Wylie's early background in Kincardine-on-Forth, his apprenticeship to the local doctor and his medical training at Edinburgh University were briefly described, as well as what was then known about his contribution to the civil, military and royal court medical services in Russia. Since 1996 new archival documents have come to light; this paper focuses on this new material while also containing certain other facets not covered previously.

LIFE AND EDUCATION IN SCOTLAND

James Wylie was born on 13 November 1768 in the parish of Tulliallan. He was the second child of a middle-class family and, after a short apprenticeship with a local physician, he entered Edinburgh University studying there for three years between 1786 and 1789. This was the tail-end of the golden era of that medical school's history and it is likely that Wylie came under the influence of Alexander Munro Secundus (1733-1817), Professor of Anatomy; William Cullen (1710-1790), Professor of Clinical Medicine and Physiology; and Joseph Black (1728-1799), Professor of Chemistry, who were the foremost clinical teachers of their day. Daniel Rutherford (1749-1819), Professor of Botany; Alexander Hamilton (1739-1802), Professor of Midwifery and Diseases of Women and Children; and Francis Home (1719-1813), Professor of *Materia Medica* were probably also his teachers.

The excellent background of clinical teaching methods in the medical school in Edinburgh as well as the structure and organisation of the spacious Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, built in 1741, were major influences on Wylie, and subsequently through him on the medical teaching, and the military and civilian medical services in Russia in the early nineteenth century.

EARLY YEARS IN RUSSIA

Early in the eighteenth century, Catherine the Great had founded a number of hospitals and a medical college in St

Petersburg. As Russian medical training was in its infancy, she encouraged foreign doctors to settle in her empire in order to staff these facilities. Many of these were Scots who found that career prospects were better here than at home, and they tended to prosper. Therefore, after qualifying, like a number of doctors from other countries, Wylie signed a contract for service in Russia.

After arriving in St Petersburg, Wylie became known as Yacov Vasilievich Viliye. In accordance with the rules of the day, he sat the Russian State Medical Board examination for the right to practise medicine and, having been successful in that examination, on 9 December 1790 he was appointed physician to the Yeletsky Infantry Regiment, then stationed in Lithuania.

He soon attracted the attention of many by performing frequent and successful surgical operations as well as improving medical treatment, particularly of 'intermittent fever' (i.e. malaria), then a common disease amongst soldiers. He used his own remedy, which he named *Solutio Mineralis*, and this medication was apparently so successful that Wylie was recognised with a special award by the commanders of the Regiment on 12 January 1793. The original award certificate is preserved in the archives of the Museum of Medical Corps of the Defence Ministry of the Russian Federation and reads as follows:

This is to certify that the physician to the Yeletsky Infantry Regiment, Yakov Viliye, treated soldiers with fever in the regimental hospital with great success using the pharmaceutical he himself had invented and named *Solutio Mineralis*.

Attached to the certificate was a list of names of men '...who had taken medicines well known as remedies for the disease, but had not felt better, but then, after taking the new medicine, completely recovered and now perform their duties in the regiment'.² Accompanying the certificate is a Latin description of his medicine, showing that it contained arsenic, and also a short article '*De arsenici usu in febribus intermittans sanandis*', which Wylie had sent to the Medical Board as his first service report.

Wylie's surgical operations were particularly numerous during the regiment's participation in the Polish Campaign of 1794. One of these, performed on a soldier who worked as the servant of the cavalry inspector, Lieutenant General von Numens, was particularly praised by the Headquarters Physician, Dr Schenvogel. The lithotomy operation involved extracting an egg-sized bladder calculus.³ That same year Wylie also successfully performed a rare operation to extract a bullet embedded in a lumbar vertebra.

Further favourable recommendations, this time from the Army Commander, Prince Nicolai Repnin, and from the Regimental Commander, Colonel Andrei Fensch, along with the article which Wylie had sent, permitted the Medical Board to grant him the position of Senior Physician

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in the Army in December 1794. In the same month he received from the Board the diploma of Doctor of Medicine, which had been awarded by the University of Aberdeen 'in recognition of general and professional attainments' rather than by examination or thesis.

Wishing access to this highly successful surgeon, Prince Repnin submitted the following commendation to the Medical Board in 1795:

...with his diligence, hard work and skills in fulfilling his duties, he is worthy of a proper award, for which reason I implore the State Medical Board to appoint him to a position in the corps which I command and not to the regiment.

Prince Repnin also sought a higher salary for Wylie.³ It is probable that the Medical Board could not at that time fulfil these requests. However, Count Stroganoff suggested that Wylie should retire from military service and go to St Petersburg as his family physician. Wylie agreed to this, and in September 1795 he submitted a petition to Her Majesty, The Empress Catherine, for permission to resign his commission. This was granted and he resigned from the Army on 1 November of the same year.

The move to St Petersburg permitted Wylie to work as a general practitioner and soon his name became well known in the capital. His reputation also benefited from his acquaintance with Her Majesty's English physician, John Rogerson who, although referred to as 'English Physician' to Her Majesty, was not English but a fellow Scot from Dumfries. Rogerson, according to his biographer Yelnitsky, 'frequented the houses of all courtiers, knew everything that happened in each of the houses and played the role of a walking newspaper'.⁴

THE ROYAL COURT

Doubtlessly Dr Rogerson helped to spread the word about Wylie's medical practice among which were two operations of which the entire city soon became aware. The first of these was on the Danish Ambassador, Otto von Blom, who had urolithiasis and prostatic 'adenoma' with urinary fistulae and frequent retention of urine. During one episode of retention which caused him terrible distress, Wylie was invited to attempt the catheterisation which a group of court surgeons attending the patient had failed to perform. Initially Wylie did not succeed either but, demonstrating considerable inventiveness, he sawed off the end of a silver catheter and introduced a pointed piece of thick wire through its lumen. With the help of this improvised trocar, he was successful and the patient was relieved of his suffering. The second case was an operation on the influential courtier, Count Ivan Pavlovich Kutaysov who had impending mechanical asphyxia due to an enlarging paratracheal abscess. Wylie was called to the patient who was already suffocating. He made the only correct decision in the circumstances: he performed a tracheotomy and drained the abscess thus saving the patient from certain death. This must have been the first tracheotomy in the city. These feats enhanced Wylie's reputation in the eyes of Czar Paul I who had succeeded Catherine the Great in 1796.

In addition to these much quoted successes, Wylie had many others, resulting in his promotion to position of Court Surgeon by special edict on 25 February 1798. In the following year he became physician to the Czar Paul I and

throughout his reign Wylie enjoyed his absolute trust. Early in 1800, Wylie was awarded the title 'Doctor of Medicine and Surgery...for his skills and knowledge of medical science and for his success in the treatment of diseases'.⁵

The sudden death of Czar Paul I in 1801 and the accession of his son Alexander I to the throne did not effect Wylie's position at the Court. He remained the Czar's physician, enjoyed many privileges and retained his influence amongst the courtiers. Despite his exalted position he showed considerable interest in teaching students at the recently-founded Medico-Chirurgical Academy. After obtaining permission from the Academy Council, he taught topographic anatomy and instructed the students in performing operations, both on dead bodies and on living patients.⁶ In addition, according to Chistovich, 'there was seldom a day when Wylie did not visit the Central Hospital of the Land Corps and did not watch treatment of patients, especially surgical ones'.³

In 1804, Wylie returned to work in military medicine already so familiar to him, and was appointed 'Medical Inspector of Guards'.⁵ In September of the same year, by edict of the Czar, he was awarded the fourth degree Order of St Vladimir, the first of many awards bestowed upon him during his distinguished service to Russia.

THE EARLY NAPOLEONIC CAMPAIGN

Historically, the period from 1799 to 1815 is called in Russia 'the Epoch of Napoleon's Wars', and during this time Wylie participated in most of Russia's campaigns against Napoleon's armies. In the summer of 1805, Russia and Austria began the war against France, its purpose being to turn the French army out of the territories which it had occupied in Prussia, Bohemia and Silesia (modern day Germany and Poland), and to restore the monarchy to France. In August the army of General Kutuzov began its campaign abroad. A month later, Czar Alexander joined the campaign, accompanied as always by his personal physician, Wylie.

During the vanguard battle of Wischau on 28 November 1805, under the command of Prince Bagration, Wylie was actually on the field of battle directing the activities of the medical service. A few days later on 2 December, he participated in the battle of Austerlitz which resulted in a serious defeat for Russia and Austria, and which led to the retreat of the Russian army. During that battle Wylie showed great courage and nearly lost his life when his horse was shot and wounded, and when a cannon ball landed two steps away from him. Schilder wrote:

People were so much at a loss during the battle that those who accompanied Czar Alexander lost sight of him and ran in all directions only rejoining him late in the night. During most of the battle therefore only the physician Wylie, the coachman Jene, the hostler and two Cossacks accompanied the Czar.⁷

CONTRIBUTION TO MILITARY MEDICAL LITERATURE

After Austerlitz and until the end of 1806 a brief period of peace followed and, characteristically, Wylie used it to good purpose. One cannot help wondering how, during such a brief period of time, he managed to write three inestimably important books and have them published. Before this, in 1805, his pocket-sized volume *Concerning American Yellow Fever* had been published. This manual had also been

written especially for military physicians because of the prevalence of this disease within the ranks of the army. In his preface to the book, Wylie explains its purpose:

...it seems useful to give a description of this serious disease to physicians serving in the Russian army, so that they may first learn about the history of the disease, then about its character, its symptoms, how it differs from other diseases and ways of preventing and treating it.⁸

It is of special note that in this practical manual for physicians, Wylie warns about the danger of strong bloodletting which was at the time generally held to be one of the most effective remedies for different diseases. He also stresses that physicians alone could not curb infectious diseases and emphasises the great need for major government measures to prevent epidemics.

In 1806 Wylie's *A Brief Manual of Most Important Surgical Operations* was published.⁹ This book was the first manual of field surgery published in Russia. In the preface, Wylie states that he '...found it important to publish...not only the advice of famous surgeons but also from his own experience'. That small book of around 100 pages was published in large numbers and contained concise information about gunshot wounds, the peculiarities of their clinical manifestations in different sites, and methods of surgical intervention. As well as surgical techniques the manual also includes a list of surgical instruments appropriate for use in particular operations and could thus be considered a manual of general operative surgery. Although written almost 200 years ago, many of Wylie's recommendations remain appropriate in modern field surgery.

Often responsible in person for ensuring surgical aid in the field, Wylie realised the necessity of revising the contents of special sets of surgical instruments and drugs supplied to battalion, regimental or corps surgeons. He detailed lists of items for each type of set, and ensured the inclusion and implementation of these lists.

Wylie's recommendations to young surgeons are typical of his methods.

It is advised that each surgeon repeat all the most important surgical operations on dead bodies and never miss a chance to get practice for the operations you will later perform on living patients...I find it necessary to say that a surgeon, no matter how experienced and self-confident he may be, should not stop dissection of dead bodies, so that anatomical knowledge will always be fresh and skills necessary for surgical operations be improved.

Another important book of his was *A Manual for Physicians Performing Recruit Selection*, also first published in 1806 and again in 1810. It contains precise recommendations for estimating the recruits' fitness for military service and a list of 'diseases rendering recruits unfit for service in the army'. Wylie divides these conditions into several groups including psychiatric illnesses, internal diseases, external diseases and deformities, and describes methods for their diagnosis; a section is also devoted to detecting 'pretended diseases'. This manual became very important, and was widely used during the annual recruitment of soldiers.

The fourth important book written by Wylie in this period was *Russian Field Pharmacopoeia (Pharmacopoeia Castrensis Ruthena)*, the first edition of which was published in 1808. Wylie's assistants, Rusconi, Orlai and Tarasov

helped him write what was a voluminous book. The *Pharmacopoeia* was highly acclaimed by the Medical Board, two members of which; the Dean, Vallerian and the Research Secretary, Uden; declared in its conclusion:

Attentive reading of this book confirmed to the Medical Board that no matter the disease, what symptom, what epidemic or what special case there may be, a skilled physician will find here the most powerful remedies known to modern medicine.¹⁰

They added:

The greatest benefit of the book is its preference for effective local Russian remedies and efforts to prove their great usefulness. Through this book Mr Wylie has not only rendered a great service to the Russian army, to the Military Department and the Central Medical Department but he also gained the respect of skilled physicians from all foreign countries.

During Wylie's lifetime the *Pharmacopoeia* was published four times, in 1808, 1812, 1818 and 1840, and every edition had significant amendments and additions. All four editions were in Latin and unfortunately the recommendation of the Medical Board for a Russian translation was never fulfilled. The book was widely used until 1866 when it was superseded by a new military pharmacopoeia published in Russian.

CONTRIBUTION TO MILITARY MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION
By order of Czar Alexander, Wylie was appointed Chief Medical Inspector of the Army in 1806. But the peaceful period between two wars was brief. When, at the end of that year, Russia embarked on another military campaign, this time allied with Prussia against France, he had to resume his numerous duties with the combatant army. In addition to supervising the medical service, he had also to practise on the field of battle where he tended the wounded of all ranks during the battles of Gutstadt, Ankendorf, Passarget, Heilsberg and Friedland.

His considerable organisational skills were manifest when military hospitals were founded in Konigsberg: after the battle of Preissisch-Eilau around 17,000 Russian and 3,000 French wounded and sick had accumulated in this town. For his activities in this period of the war against France, Wylie was decorated by the army commander, General Benningsen, and he also received a special award from the Czar after the war.

Successful management of all parts of the medical service during the campaigns of 1805-1807, the development of several organisational documents as well as Wylie's participation on the fields of battle attracted the attention of Russia's allies, Prussia and Austria, who then applied Wylie's successful methods in their own army medical services. Wylie's great talent as an administrator was apparent even in the most difficult and complex situations of wartime and it contributed to his appointment, by a special edict of 26 June 1808, to the position of Manager of the Medical Section of the War Department.

In his reply to the Minister of Defence accepting the post Wylie wrote:

I will endeavour to do my best to improve every institution

of military medicine, even the smallest. By my own example I will encourage my subordinates to do everything for the benefit of the country and will stress the serious nature of this work.¹¹

With all his energy Wylie began to put in order the work of the Medical Section and on 3 August 1808 he signed brief instructions dividing duties between four Councillors of the Section: one was to manage the medical service in the Guards and the Army; the Pharmacy Councillor was to manage dispensaries, and the Commissariat Councillor was to manage medical logistics, while another was to manage military hospitals.

Only a man who was self-assured and who could appreciate all the deficiencies of the medical service and devise ways of resolving them could assume such obligations. Although the importance of writing case records had been stressed earlier by Kondoidi, by the time Wylie assumed office, most physicians had come to neglect them and only kept 'ward books' in which it was difficult to find all the required information about the treatment of individual patients. It was Wylie who established the rule of compiling case records for each patient admitted to a military hospital, and he also created and promoted the use of a special case-record form.

Another of the tasks he gave to the Medical Section was to reorganise medical data and statistics. By edict in December 1808, all army divisions were required to supply statistics on mortality and morbidity using a special form developed by Wylie while standardised medical and logistical data on the medical service were also required. Wylie applied his new methods of management to the Medico-Chirurgical Academy after being appointed its President later the same year.

MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL ACADEMY

In 1806, Dr Joseph Peter Frank (who had previously been working at the Physician's School in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania) had accepted a post in the Medico-Chirurgical Academy, and had drafted Academy Regulations which had been approved by His Majesty. Wylie, however, did not believe that these new regulations corresponded to the needs of the Academy and he acted quickly to intervene. Wylie's opinion was so highly regarded by Czar Alexander that, having approved Frank's version of the regulations on 18 December 1806, he rescinded them two days later!

One of the matters about which Wylie felt strongly was that teaching of all subjects in the Academy should be in Russian, although Frank had insisted that teaching should be in Latin and German. All Wylie's subsequent activities showed him to be an advocate of the training of local Russian physicians, and of their promotion to the highest positions in the medical service, whereas previously most prominent physicians and surgeons had been foreigners like him.

He further amended the Academy Regulations which were approved by the Czar three days before his appointment as President on 31 July 1808. Approval of this second set of regulations was celebrated by the Academy as its second foundation.² Wylie was the President of the Medico-Chirurgical Academy for 30 years, and during this time he developed it into a centre for medical research as well as the foremost educational institution in the country. In view of additional onerous responsibilities in running

the Medical Section of the War Department as well as the work of Dean of the Medical Council (after election to that office in November 1810), he could not attend the Academy every day. However, he kept himself abreast of developments in the Academy and it was he alone who administered that institution.

Under the new regulations the Academy became a university-type institution and was divided into two branches, one in St Petersburg and the other in Moscow. Wylie always insisted that the interests of the Academy should be paramount and consequently he selected professors and lecturers personally, being influenced primarily by the applicant's talent and clinical skills. As a result of such quality appointments, research and standards of teaching flourished, and so the Academy was permitted for the first time to award degrees in medicine to its graduates. The number of departments increased from 7 to 20: the number of students reached 720, divided between the faculties of medicine (400), veterinary medicine (240) and pharmacy (80). Special premises were allocated for clinics and a botanical garden was founded as well as a drug store. For the first time, men of all classes and backgrounds were permitted to apply for training at the Academy and the best graduates were given special awards, some involving scholarships for post-graduate studies abroad.

Despite these advances, the Minister of Education, Count Razumovsky, decided in 1810 that the Moscow branch of the Academy should close. Not surprisingly Wylie protested and successfully presented the Czar with a detailed justification for maintaining it, thereby saving a very valuable educational establishment.

In addition to all the aforementioned initiatives, Wylie's efforts resulted in the publication of the *Universal Journal of Medical Sciences*, the journal of the Medico-Chirurgical Academy. He also improved the financial position and legal rights of physicians and established the right of the Academy to hold examinations in order to certify foreign physicians, thus preventing foreign charlatans obtaining profitable positions in Russia.

WAR MINISTRY AND PUBLIC HEALTH MEDICINE

Wylie managed the Medical Section of the War Department from 1808 to 1812, whereupon he became Director of the Medical Department of the War Ministry (1812-1836) in which post his efforts were no less fruitful. His first years in this new post coincided with Russia's war against Napoleon (1812-1814) on her own territory and abroad, as well as being Chief Medical Inspector of the Army. He was continually on the battlefields, both supervising the medical service and attending the wounded in the home battles of Smolensk, Borodino, Tarutino, Maloyaroslavets, Vyazma and Krasny, as well as abroad at Lutzen, Bautzen, Dresden, Kulm, Leipzig and near Paris. All in all he participated in more than 50 battles.

In 1814, Wylie made one of his few trips to Britain and, in view of his increasing recognition as a distinguished military surgeon and medical administrator, he was knighted in London by the Prince Regent. Several days later, as a result of a special request by the Czar, he was also made a Baronet of the United Kingdom.

The experience of war against Napoleon's armies enabled Wylie to write *Regulations for Corps, Divisional and Regimental Hospitals* which was approved by the Czar on

31 March 1816. According to these regulations, military hospitals were divided into categories, each requiring a certain number of medical and logistical officers, physician-assistants and male nurses, thus promoting their further improvement.

For his courage in attending the wounded in battle as well as his skilled management of the medical service, Wylie was awarded many Russian and foreign orders and decorations (Figure 1). He received award certificates from Prince Kutuzov and Prince Barclay de Tolli (of Scottish extraction) as well as various precious gifts; in 1823 '...for his diligent service and work in the position of Chief Medical Inspector of the Army and contributing to considerable improvement of the medical service', His Majesty awarded him the title of Privy Councillor. In 1826 and again in 1828, as an award for his services, he received from the Emperor gold snuffboxes decorated with diamonds.

At about this time he had been reviewing the literature on plague and early in 1827 his article 'Practical Recommendations Concerning Plague' had been published in the *Military Medical Journal*, and in 1828 as a booklet in St Petersburg. A second edition was published in Moscow in 1829. As the title of the book suggests, Wylie, as with most of his works, tried to give practical recommendations to physicians and to help them improve their skills and knowledge. Although he stated that the cause of plague was infection of unknown origin, Wylie did express his own ideas as to the aetiology: 'It is transferred mainly by touching a sick person or an infected object...evaporation, breath and the excreta of sick people are also infected'. The final part of the book contained practical recommendations aimed at preventing outbreaks of the disease.¹²

Further practical advice for use in combat situations abroad was the article 'Method of Water Purification' published in 1827 in the *Military Medical Journal*. It dealt with problems of military hygiene, and in it Wylie describes several methods of water purification in the field, attaching explanatory drawings to the text. Among Wylie's works on military hygiene is the article 'Methods of Preserving Soldiers' Health in War Time' published in 1828, again in the *Military Medical Journal*. It contained practical advice about preservation of soldiers' health during campaigns in camps, trenches etc. and is written in Wylie's characteristic succinct comprehensible style. Wylie does not neglect to mention soldiers' food and even the importance of contentment. He wrote:

A cheerful soldier who is given everything necessary to support him is less likely to be influenced by harmful factors. In this connection special attention should be paid to recently recruited soldiers who having recently begun their military service may be homesick.¹³

The war against Turkey began in the spring of 1828 and Wylie, then aged 60 but still strong and fit, accompanied the army to supervise its medical service and he participated at the battles of Brailov, Shumla and Varna. When thanking him for his participation in the war and for his successful supervision of the medical service, Czar Nicholas wrote in appreciative tones:

This success is possible only when there is excellent



FIGURE 1
Portrait of Sir James Wylie wearing many of his decorations.

management of the medical service and when military surgeons are diligent and highly skilled. As the head of all military surgeons it was mainly you who contributed to reform of the army medical service. You set a good example to them when you attended the wounded among the dangers of battle. I find it necessary as I fulfil my pleasant duty to say how much I appreciate your heroic deeds aimed at decreasing the suffering of our brave soldiers and healing them. I believe that your heroic acts are as equally worthy of glory and respect as those of the combatants themselves.³

Experience in the battlefield enabled Wylie to write a number of works which were of great practical importance and which would be published several times in subsequent years. Among them were *Concerning the Diseases Common in Hot Climates* (1828), *Practical Recommendations Concerning Intermittent Fevers* (1828), *Practical Recommendations Concerning Diseases* (1828) and *Infectious Diseases from the Point of View of Medicine and Police* (1829).

In his preparations for military campaigns an almost prophetic view is apparent. Before the war against Turkey he wrote and delivered to the Director of the Chief Headquarters, Count Debich, *Principal Measures Preceding and Accompanying the Formation of a Large Combatant Army*. The 'Measures' were considered to be very promising and led to his writing *Regulations Concerning Temporary Hospitals in the Field* which was used during the war and subsequently included in the Code of Military Regulations.

After the end of the war against Turkey, Wylie continued his military medical activities. In 1831 when there was a cholera outbreak in St Petersburg, cholera departments were opened in military and civilian hospitals in Czarskoye Selo, Gatchina, Peterhof and Oranienbaum,

all of which he regularly inspected. It was typical of him that at the start of the epidemic, when visiting the Artillery Hospital in St Petersburg where the first cholera victims had been sent, he asked the physicians of the Guards regiments to accompany him on his rounds. He examined each patient personally and drew the physicians' attention to the symptoms and signs of cholera after which he asked them to repeat the examination in his presence.

True to his habit of documenting his practical experiences and observations, he wrote 'Description of the Symptoms of Epidemic Cholera and Dividing it into Different Types', which was published in the *Military Medical Journal* in the same year as the epidemic. The article was accompanied by detailed weekly reports revealing how he attended cholera patients, personally rubbing them with pharmaceuticals, prescribing medication and performing post-mortem dissections.

After the cholera epidemic had abated, Wylie went to Poland, then part of Russia, to inspect the military hospitals located there. In January and February 1832 he inspected more than 25 of these, sending detailed reports to the War Ministry. 'Without knowing what it is to be tired, he could spend some five or six hours at a time in a hospital. He would never leave any of its departments without inspection even though different sections of the same hospital were often in separate governmental and private buildings in different parts of the city', wrote Sakharov who often accompanied him.⁶ Wylie also had responsibility for inspecting civilian hospitals, giving advice and making recommendations for their improvement.

THE LATER YEARS

He retired at his own request as Director of the Medical Department of the War Ministry in 1836, and two years later as President of the Medico-Chirurgical Academy. In 1840, on the anniversary of the Battle of Borodino, Czar Nicholas had a medal struck bearing a portrait of Wylie (Figure 2). However, he remained as Chief Inspector of the Army for many years and in 1841 he was awarded the highest rank for a military surgeon, that of Acting Privy Councillor. In 1843, when almost 75, he was appointed Manager of the Court Medical Section and Chairman of the Military Medical Research Committee: his *Regulations of the Court Medical Section* remained valid without amendment for almost 20 years.

Until the day of his death on 10 February 1854, Wylie suffered no loss of his mental faculties, retaining an excellent memory and keen interest in current affairs both in Russia and beyond. He was buried in St Petersburg in the presence of the Czar and all the Court. As Wylie had never married, and having no immediate successors, he left his estate to the Emperor Nicholas and the Russian nation to be used for the construction of a large hospital in St Petersburg.

On Christmas day 1859, a handsome monument which still stands in the grounds of the Military Medical Academy was dedicated to Wylie's memory (Figure 3). The conditions of his will were fulfilled. Designed by the architect Constantine Sokolov, a fine hospital building consisting of five three-storied sections was constructed in 1872 on the corner of Samarskaya Ulitsa (now Botkinskaya Ulitsa) and Bolshoi Sampsonievsky Prospect. On the facade of the middle section was written 'The Baronet Wylie Mikhailovskaya Clinical Hospital'. In 1873 several clinical sections of the Medico-Chirurgical Academy were

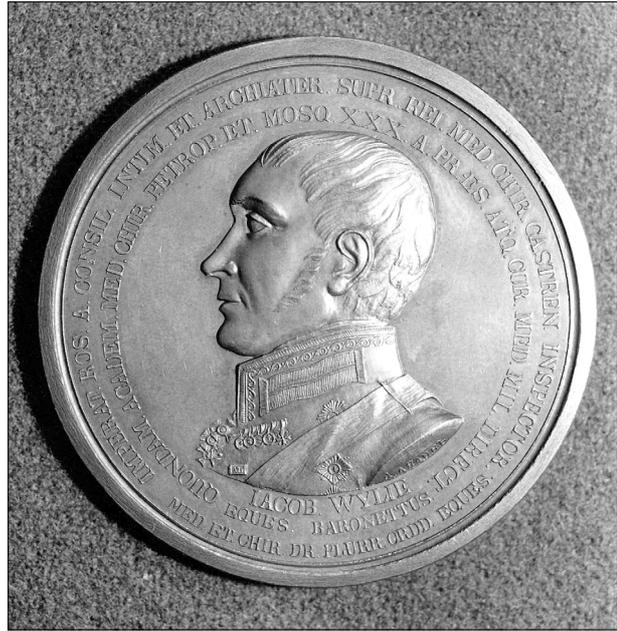


FIGURE 2
Medal struck by Czar Nicholas I in 1840 in honour of Sir James Wylie.



FIGURE 3
Monument to Sir James Wylie at the Military Medical Academy in St Petersburg.

transferred to the new hospital. Ever since that time, Wylie's legacy in the form of this busy hospital, serving the needs of the people of St Petersburg, has remained the most appropriate monument to James Wylie, a great Russian patriot, and proud son of Scotland and alumnus of Edinburgh University.

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