

Period Earplugs

The following article on period ear protection was printed on May 27, 1861 in *The Charleston*, on page 2, col. 3.

The following prescription is recommended as a protection of the membrane of the ear of gunners during cannonading: Prepared glycerine, mixed with belladonna, say about in the proportion of forty grains of the latter to the ounce of glycerine oil. Let each gunner be provided before an engagement, with Wool or Cotton (the former is preferable.) saturated with the mixture to place in his ears. It will not prevent his hearing the word of command or the drum, and will prevent a great deal of injury. The Therapeutics of the prevention, medical men will perceive, as it forms a coating over the membrane, which can be easily cleansed by a little warm water, and

will effectually prevent the vibration of the air striking injuriously upon it. It would also be useful to those exposed to dampness when camping out at night, the organ in question being extremely sensitive to the night air. By taking the precaution, that deafness to which gunners are now so liable may be prevented.