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কলিকাতা লিটল ম্যাগাজিন লাইব্রেরি
ও
গবেষণা কেন্দ্র
৯০/এম, চ্যাম্বার সেন, কলিকাতা-৭০০০০৯

Editor in Chief

K. F. Lobhan, J.P., J.P.



Mr. L. H. Colson C. I. E., I. P., J. P.
Commissioner of Police, Calcutta

THE CALCUTTA POLICE JOURNAL.

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To Our Supporters

The journal which is a quarterly one will be issued annually, in four parts, Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. The inland subscription is Rs 4 and foreign subscription is Rs 5/- per annum payable in advance. Each copy is priced at Re 1/-. The rate of the advertisements may be ascertained on application from the Manager Cal. Police Journal, 31 Bentinck St. to whom all remittance should be sent. Any change of addresses should also be promptly intimated to him. In case of nondelivery within a fortnight from the approximate date of publication the above office should be informed, at once.

The journal deals with topics relating to psychology, history, sociology, crime, news, sports, Law, medico-legal matters, detective stories, based on reality and other problems—all interesting and instructive from the police or administrative point of view. Editors will be happy to receive articles, notes, reviews etc suitable for publication from the members of the Police Force in India and abroad and also from the public. Contributions should be type written (double spacing) and should bear the name and address of the sender on the first page not necessarily for publication as articles can be signed with a nom-de-plume if so desired. All contributions should be addressed to the Chief Editor, Calcutta Police Journal and may be sent either to the journal's office at 31 Bentinck street or to the Chief Editor's residence at 113 Upper Circular Rd. Calcutta. The Chief Editor reserves to himself the right to accept or reject the whole or portion of the articles, notes, reviews etc. The rejected contributions are not returned to the authors if postage is not paid. Books for reviews, journals for exchange etc. should be sent to the Chief Editor, 113 Upper Circular Rd., Calcutta.

We would request all worthy scholars both within and outside the department to lend their full literary support to this journal. Its proper and timely publication depends entirely on their kind co operation. By regular and timely contributions they can make this journal their own and the best medium to broadcast to the world of scholars their views on crimes and criminals

and other related topics, which will benefit the public and police alike. It will also build up the Science of Indian Criminology which may solve many a problem and help the Government and the Legislature in their future dealing with the criminals.

The Editors acknowledge with sincere thanks the assistance of all who have devoted time and energy to help with contributions or otherwise for the publication of this journal, specially of, Sir Jadunath Sarkar Kt. C. I. E., Dr. B C. Law, M. A., Ph. D., Dr. N. Law. M. A., Ph. D. Dr. S. Mitra M. A., Ph. D. Professor of Expt. Psychology Cal. University, Mr. Ranga Swami Ayer, Edt, Indian Finance, Mr. N. Bose M. A. B. L., Mr. Ashu Chatterjee B.L., and Dr. Santosh Mukerjee M.B, Mr. Sagar Lahiri and Mr. Srikali Biswas.

We are also indebted to the Imperial Library Authority for kindly permitting Rai Sahib S N. Mukherjee, to take a photo print of the Imperial document of the Mogal Emperor Sajahan with the impression of his Panja for his article. We also thank Insp. S. K. Roy and Sregt. A. Eveen for supplying us with some interesting photographs. We also congratulate our departmental writers for their excellent articles.

The Editors want to impress on all that they are in no way responsible for the opinions expressed in the different articles by their writers and that the personal opinion of a contributor is not to be regarded as the official view of the department or the office to which the writer belongs.

With great pleasure the Editors announce an Essay writing competition on "Police and the public—their mutual co-operation, duties and responsibilities," for the members of the police force of all the provinces and States in India, Burma, Ceylon and Malaya. A gold and a silver medal will be awarded to the competitors who stand first and second respectively. The decision of the Editor in-chief will be final in their selection and both the essays will be published in the Calcutta Police Journal. Essays (type written) should reach the Editor in chief. 113 Upper Circular Rd. Calcutta on or before 15th Nov. 1939., positively.

The editors regret that owing to oversight at the time of correcting proofs, a few minor mistakes remain in this journal. The editor will be thankful if the readers will kindly read those mistakes in their correct form.

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Calcutta

R.K. Deb

Message from our Commissioner

This new venture into the field of journalism by the Calcutta Police is full of interesting possibilities. That it is necessary, few will question. By the very nature of their duties, policemen suffer a species of isolation from ordinary humanity and it requires no ordinary effort to break down this barrier. Modern conditions tend to exaggerate the gap between the police and the public. As long as police duties were confined to the suppression of vice, crime and disorder, such efforts as were successful could reasonably be applauded by the population as a whole. Those who disapproved, had to maintain a discreet silence. Nowadays, police responsibilities for the control of motoring offences has brought them also on the other side of the fence from the motoring public, which practically means the whole public and entails the creation of a totally new and far more vocal body of critics. An increasing effort therefore is required on the part of the police, in every direction, to disarm criticism.

A famous Scotch poet once voiced a heartfelt prayer,—
"Oh wad some pounce the gittie gie us
To see ourselves as others see us"

Perhaps this new magazine will, by providing articles of helpful criticism, play the part of a mirror and enable us to remove a few smudges from an otherwise fair countenance—smudges perhaps visible at present only to our outside critics and not to ourselves.

It has been emphasised that the police are "Servants of the Public". This means that they are "Agents" of the public appointed to protect the law-abiding citizen from crime and aggression. The mere fact of such an appointment postulates the possession of qualities of citizenship far above the normal courtesy, integrity,

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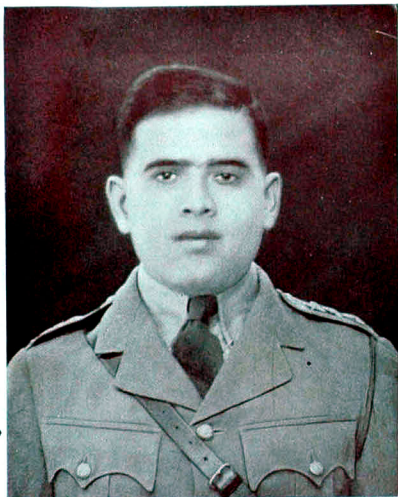
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Calcutta

CALCUTTA POLICE JOURNAL

firmness, impartiality dignity and restraint—a formidable category for a weak human being, especially when coupled with the wisdom of Solomon and the initiative and courage of Cæsar.

I look to this magazine to uphold this ideal, to work for co-operation between all ranks and among all ranks, so that even if every individual of the force may not embody all the desired qualities, these qualities may be found in the force as a whole, and it is as such a team that the Public should see and appreciate its Police Force.

C. M. Fairweather
1874/85.



K. F. Sobhan
6.12.31

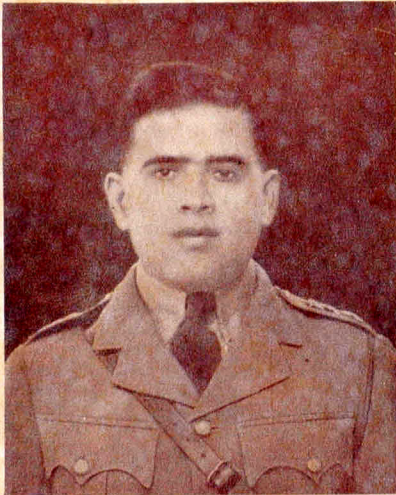
Mr. K. F. Sobhan I.P., J.P. Deputy Commissioner of Police North Calcutta
President—Calcutta Police Association

Foreword

K. F. SOBHAN, I. P., J. P.

The *Calcutta Police Journal* which today sees the light of day is not merely a further load on a market over-stuffed with journals and periodicals of every shade and description. It has definite purpose to serve; and it will set out to be a definite journalistic utility. It may be construed as a slur that the huge police force of the second city of the Empire has so long been without its own magazine. It is our earnest hope that, delayed as the start has been for an unconscionably long time, this journal will fully vindicate itself alike by its quality and utility. For ourselves, we need only say that we shall do our best to make it worthy of the great city of its birth and of the great force of which it will be the accredited mouthpiece.

Ours will be a three-fold duty. First, we shall endeavour, by the recounting of our considerable experience of criminals of almost countless complexions, to throw more light on the already comprehensive, though still obscure, science of criminology. The psychology of the criminal mind is an intriguing study; and in the crooked and perverted alleys of the criminal world are to be found curious and weird truths concerning humanity. The first offender, the juvenile offender, the kleptomaniac, the hardened criminal—these and other types are subjects for careful study; and we modestly claim that, by the very nature of our duties and opportunities, we are in a better position to study them than laymen or even the jail authorities. For, while jail authorities see these perverted types of humanity, as it were, caged and cribbed and confined, we see them in their "wild state". To study the tiger, we must go to the jungle and not to a zoo. The opportunities in a huge wilderness like the Calcutta's criminal world may readily be imagined. And the results of such investigations



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as we have to conduct would, we feel sure, be of benefit to the police and the public alike.

Second, we have a duty to ourselves. We can, with more justice than Shylock, say that we are a much wronged fraternity. There persists in the public mind an unjustifiable mistrust of, and misconception about, the police which complicates our duties and the smooth administration of law and order. The duties of the police are arduous enough and thankless enough without the additional handicap of the lack of public co-operation and sympathy; and if the *Calcutta Police Journal* succeeds, in ever so small a measure, in inducing and furthering good relationship between the public and the police, the journal would have justified itself. To this end, we shall keep the public informed of actual facts concerning the police force so that they may be enabled to judge us by other than the often perverted and frequently malicious reports in the press.

And, thirdly in another respect too, we hope to establish our utility. An organ such as that of the police will have failed in its purpose if it cannot bring about a livelier sense of friendship and accord among all ranks of the police force and an *esprit-de-corps* which is the essence of collective efficiency. We believe that newsy and topical accounts of the police, sister police organisations, sports, social contacts and so on will greatly help in that direction; and this journal will give prominence to such intelligence.

As for the study of criminology, it concerns us more than the public at large. Even so, the necessity of undertaking such a study is daily becoming more marked. The Indian criminal, unlike his western compeer, had, for long, been content with antiquated tools and methods even as the Indian peasant remained satisfied with primitive ploughs and agricultural implements. But, over the last two decades, the Indian criminal has been fast learning the application of "modern" methods in their own nefarious profession. His *modus operandi* has expanded; and, though, in the interior, the primitive *sindakathi* is still in vogue, in the metropolitan centres, more up-to-date methods of breaking open doors and rifling safes are being increasingly employed. In Calcutta particularly, as is to be expected, the criminal displays great versatility. One reason for this is, no

doubt, that, in Calcutta, the criminal is often an educated fellow who puts his training to diabolic use. It is also, perhaps, the reason why the Calcutta criminal is often a tolerably good hand at various types of crimes while the village criminal more often specialises only in particular "lines". There is thus, in Calcutta, a bewildering variety of methods of thieving and cheating, wherein figure members of the *bhadralog* class.

It has, therefore, become imperative that the police themselves have an apter understanding of the science of criminology and learn to make practical application of the various theories. As the criminal grows more astute, so must the police be more wary and alert in coping with him. In this respect, the study of European criminology, while instructive, is not likely to prove of much utility. The Indian criminal is a special product. The unique aspects of society, religion, superstition, food, climate, mode of life of the people and so on of a particular country, influence the mind of the people and naturally also of its criminals. We must, therefore, analyse the Indian criminal mind in its own setting; and we have, to evolve an Indian science of criminology. Since it is largely an empirical science, it is essential that we should sift, complete and collect as much records as possible. This task will be greatly facilitated if all police officers kept a scientific record of their experiences both in investigation and in detection and give the entire police force the benefit of their experience with relevant statistics where possible, not overlooking topics administrative, technical, psychological, medico-legal or sociological, all of which have an important bearing on the science of criminology. In this regard, we invite the co-operation of the Calcutta University and of the public at large in a task which will greatly lighten the task of those on whom will devolve the responsibility of maintaining law and order in future.

As for the duty towards ourselves, we may speak only with reserve. Yet no one can deny that the police force is a long-suffering body. Indeed, the Indian policeman is generally depicted in such unenviable colours that, far from being looked upon as a friend of the oppressed, he is widely feared as the oppressor. We do not suggest that there are no black sheep in the flock; but which flock is without them? Malicious propaganda of a political nature and misrepresenta-

tion of facts account largely for the prejudice against the police. If we may be pardoned for some amount of special pleading, the police in almost every civilised country are often more sinned against than sinning. The police often come in for rather undeserved and uninformed criticism. What is put down as tardiness is often nothing more than a legal inability, what is termed high-handedness is often only an effort to maintain law and order. Thus, police aid is often sought in noncognisable offences; and, if it is not speedily forthcoming, the police are hastily dubbed inefficient, tardy, corrupt, indifferent and what not. People often forget that the police are not the dispensers of law—there are the law courts for that purpose. Besides, there are invariably two parties to a quarrel; and it is the thankless task of the police to mete out justice to both. It is hardly surprising that they very often fail to satisfy either. It is not difficult to imagine that the lot of the police force of a cosmopolitan city like Calcutta with its vast and heterogenous population and conflicting and contradicting interests is hardly a bed of roses.

We feel that we shall be able greatly to remedy this lack of cordiality between the public and the police by presenting "our side of the case". We shall, we hope, be able to convince the public that even a policeman is not a human derelict.

A good deal of misunderstanding prevails in regard to the relation of the police to the public. If we may draw a somewhat hazy analogy the police are to the public what the physician is to the patient. The pills may be bitter, the medicine may burn, the operation may be extremely painful—yet the fact remains that the doctor is the patient's friend. The policeman likewise is the friend of the people if only they would recognise the fact. What is needed is to inspire a new attitude; and, in the new perspective, the policeman will no longer appear as the arch villain of the piece. We hope, by judicious dissemination of information, to help in the task.

It should also be remembered that the *personnel* of the police force today represents a higher stratum of the intelligentsia in the country than before. In former days, the police service was at a heavy discount; and only the never-do-well and the already damned

ever thought of entering the odious service which meant, in popular parlance, the rule of the rod. But to-day the police officers are recruited from the higher classes of society. Naturally, they expect, in their frequent contacts with the public, higher courtesy, greater consideration and finer *camaraderie* than their erstwhile predecessors of muscle and brawn but of a weaker susceptibility.

There is also another difficulty. The contacts between the public and the police are invariably established through individual cases. Mr. A of the public knows the police only through Mr. B of the police force, the rest of the vast organisation remains unknown to him and, perhaps, also unworthy to be known if the general denunciations in the press against the police in general are to be relied on. But the police force as a whole, if the public took any trouble to find out the truth, are not such a benighted fraternity as the newspapers would have the world believe. Fortunately, the activities of the Calcutta police Club and the Calcutta Police Athletic Club have created fresh opportunities for the public for meeting the police force on a common platform. Sports and social intercourse are, more frequently than is recognised, a panacea of many of the ills in our body politic.

In brief, the *Calcutta Police Journal* will strive might and main, to set the policeman higher in self-esteem, in esteem of the organisation, and in esteem of the public.

The Policeman

ASHU CHATTERJEE B. L.

The night is young yet.
Hurrying feet,
Din.
Bustle,
Elbowing,
Everybody to his own
And Devil take the hindmost.
When the Devil is blood thirsty
There's the Policeman to face him.

Don't worry
Don't worry for yourself,
There's the Policeman.
And Don't worry for the Policeman
Let him go to the Devil.
If he dies—
Well, let him die,
It is his duty to get murdered
Sometimes.

Past zero hour,
The streets are lonely,
Strong winter wind.
Even the Devil is sleeping comfortably
Under the warm cover.

THE POLICEMAN

Even the cats
Ah yes
And you
I mean you
You are snug beside your warm wives.

The Policeman slowly drags his feet along
Along the deserted footpaths,
The bitter cold wind
His only companion,
And of course—his dreams,
If he is capable of that ;
The dreams that hover around
A far-off household,
Where a bosom is warm in expectation of a home-coming
That rarely comes true.

Dawn breaks,
Life begins.
Din and bustle again,
Hope and activity.
But there's the inevitable Policeman
Trudging alone—
A feared, detestable, lonely figure
In the crowd.

The Police in the Mughul Empire of Delhi.

SIR JADUNATH SIRCAR, KT., C. I. E.,
M. R. A. S. (Lond.), D. Litt.

The founders of the Mahomedan Kingdom of Delhi brought with themselves the system of police administration with which they were familiar in their homeland and which had been first evolved in the famous Abbasside Caliphate of Baghdad and the Fatimide Caliphate of Egypt and later borrowed by most other Islamic States. Its basic principles were clear and simple: the villagers were left to the care of their headmen or chieftains or to that useful local servant the hereditary village watchman. In the capital, as also in the camp of sovereignty which was, in effect, a moving capital or city of tents,—there was the very important Prefect of Police, known by the Arabic title of *Sharta* and in India as the *Kotwal*. The larger cities, especially the provincial chief towns, had each its *Kotwal*.

We shall not here dwell on the rural police except to point out that under the indigenous practice of India, derived from the ancient Hindu times, the prevention, detection and punishment of local crime was a responsibility of the village headman or (as in Maharashtra and certain parts of the northern plains where the village organization was democratic) of the entire village community. Here the chowkidar was paid his wages in the form of a fixed share of the village crop which was divided among the village officers at every harvest. Sher Shah, the wise Afghan sovereign of Delhi (who died in 1545), strictly enforced this local responsibility for local crime by compelling the village headmen to find out the criminal, restore the stolen property, or suffer the punishment for the crime themselves. This policy was

THE POLICE IN THE MUGHUL EMPIRE OF DELHI

very successful for that age. The rural chowkidar also acted as watchman of the crops and carrier of letters to other places; near about. The maintenance of law and order, however, was the duty of the *Faujdar*, or military sub-divisional officer and his contingent of troops, and not that of the humble chowkidar, who had no means of dealing with riots, brigandage or rebellion.

Similarly, the city *Kotwal*, with his posse of men armed with sticks or spears, dealt only with what we may call private crime or crime on a small scale. Riots, gang robbery and seditious risings,—where the offenders were well armed and numerous,—could be put down only by the army quartered in the capital or the royal camp. Though every policeman in those days was armed in the sense of carrying a spear or stout lathi, the police department in those days had really no "Armed branch" in the modern sense of the term. That was the function of the army.

Again, the prevention and punishment of immorality or offences against the Islamic religious law, appertained to the department of a different officer altogether, entitled the *Muhtasib* or Censor of Public Morals, and the *Kotwal* had nothing to do with it. Even the regulation of markets, the checking of weights and measures and the keeping of prices down to the schedule fixed by the sovereign or custom, which was in the early times the *Kotwal's* duty, was later on, in India, transferred to the hands of this *Muhtasib*.

Hence, the Prefect of the City Police had in one respect, a more restricted sphere of activities than the modern British Commissioner of Police: his duty was the detection or prevention of private crime or small-scale infringement of law and morality. But in another respect he had a wider jurisdiction. He played the part of the Sheriff, detaining accused persons and presenting them before the judge (*Quzi*) for trial; he was the jailor and inflicted the punishments awarded by the judge; and he was the publicity officer of the Government as well. The raised platform in front of his office, called the *Kotwali Chabutra* was the place where new Government regulations and orders were hung for the information of the public, stolen property was exposed for identification by their rightful owners,

and heads and quartered bodies of rebels or murderers and the mutilated limbs of highwaymen were suspended as a warning to the public. As in mediaeval Europe, offender of a minor kind were put in stocks here. The flogging ordered by the judges was carried out here. Among the ancient perquisites of the police we read of butchers freely giving a quantity of meat to the *Kotwal* as they passed by his *Chabutra* on their way to the market place. This was ordered to be abolished about 1680, as an illegal *abwab*. In Bengal half a century ago, similar *dustoor* in the form of fish from the vendors was known.

The police system of the Mughal Empire was really not so crude and inefficient as it may seem to a modern reader. So long as our society went on its old, old ways, and there was no sharp impact of a totally different civilisation and a completely alien race and society on our country, the detection of crime (and consequently prevention in many cases) was surprisingly frequent and successful. A particular class (probably a special caste) of detectives grew up, called *Khojcees* (i. e. searchers), whose powers were sharpened by heredity and specialisation. And these men detected offenders in a way which suggests a modern crime novel. They came down from the Mughal times to the middle of the 19th century, and Lord Lawrence, when a Magistrate of Gurgaon (the Punjab) in the pre-Mutiny days, tells us of several fine pieces of detection work done under his eyes by these *Khojcees*, for which the credit went to him. His own story of them is given in Bosworth Smith's *Life of John, Lord Lawrence*.

The ideal of a Mughal *Kotwal's* duties was a very high one, as we find in the Persian manuscripts relating to this subject written in those days. One *farman* of that great administrative organiser, the Emperor Akbar, lays it down as follows:—"The *Kotwal* with the help of his clerks should make a list of the houses and buildings of the city and enter under each house the names of its inhabitants, stating what sort of men they are, how many of them are *bazaris*, how many are artisans, how many are soldiers, how many *dravishes* (religious mendicants). Taking security from every house, he should ensure their mutual co-operation and definitely marking out the wards (*mahallas*), he should appoint a headman for each *mahalla*, by whose advice all things should be done there. Spies should come to him every day and

night, and cause to be written down the occurrences of each ward. When a guest arrives, it should be reported to the headman of the ward. The *Kotwal* should keep himself informed about the income and expenditure of every man, because when a man spends in excess of his income, he is sure to do something wrong."

The *Kotwal's* men went their rounds in every ward daily, and he often got useful clues to crimes from the scavengers (*Halal Khors*),

Pick-pocket

P. N. GHOSAL M. Sc.

[A graphic description of the organisation, modus-operandi, and social life of the Calcutta Pick-pockets from the writer's own experience. It does not, however, aim at any personal character.]

CHAPTER I

Harrison road crossing. Immense crowd. All the races represented. As if the continuous flow of people would never end. A lot of fruit-stalls by the side of the street. In front of one of them some chaps were having a parley. Red jerseys and *loongies* constituted their dress and *biries* decorated their ears. Here again all the races were well represented. But one would never know to which race each belonged from his dialect and dress. But their general appearance betrayed their class.

One of them, a robust man, may be their leader, suddenly exclaimed, rolling his eyes,—Lallu, you blinking one, be prompt, don't secure a man even now ?

Lallu said in reply,—Let the right man come. No prey as yet.

He was taking fruit after fruit from the stalls with supreme unconcern peeling them and throwing the crusts on the pavement with expert aim.

A middle-aged Bengali gentleman approached the spot with a canvas bag in his hand. Suddenly he stepped on one of the crusts, slipped and measured his length on the footpath several feet away. His head crashed with a bang.

The gentleman lay there alright, but never loosened his hold on the bag. Tightening his hold on it he tried to regain his feet. But

PICK POCKET

before he was successful all those chaps rushed to him. They competed with each other as to who would lend him the greatest help. Some one patted the dust out of his shoulders. Some one straightened his dress. One of them patted his pocket and said—"See Gur'nor you narrowly escaped you are not hurt, I suppose ?"

The gentleman was all along viewing with suspicion this sudden appearance of so many benevolent friends. He was an old Calcuttan, and knew this sort of people. He held the bag more securely against his breast and exclaimed—When you threw the crusts on the footpath you ought to have known that somebody would be hurt. Don't try to fool me.

In reply to his satire, someone from among the gang said—What sort of gentleman are you? Your bag contains only two pieces of cloth and your pocket not a piece.

Giving no reply the gentleman hurried away casting occasional glances behind. The gang returned to the stall and started afresh their row. One of them said—The man was clever enough.

Another replied—You are'n't an expert. Spoil everything, Madu trained you so much.....

The man addressed was lucky that day, the rebuke was cut short by some one exclaiming—Run, disperse, the other gang is here.

Every one was eager for hastening away, but it was not to be. The other party had already confronted them. A tallish one from among the newcomers took by the neck a man from the first party and said—You scoundrel, left your own place and trespassed here ? Go at once to your Mirzapur corner.

The man addressed seemed to be the leader of the first party. He pocketed the insult quite easily. He had sneaked for business into other people's land. He stammered—Really Ramu, I was taking fruits. Believe me.....

But Ramu didn't listen to him. He slapped his face and exclaimed—Get out, you rogue, come here for business and now throwing lies to me.

The other ring-leader did not tarry after the slap and thought it best to hurry away muttering under his breath. But while he was leaving the place with his gang he only said.—You'll see what I do for this. Narin Babu has recently come to Barabazar Police Station. I'll inform him about you.

Ramu said in reply—I've seen many a Police Station man. I'll take your life first.

As is usual in Calcutta many people had crowded the place at the unintelligible quarrel. Some thieves were on their way to Howrah. They had, of course nothing to do with pick-pockets. Neither of the parties were their rivals. But all of them were known to one another. They occasionally met at a *chandu* shop at Ganartola. Although they had no experience about picking pockets they were sympathetic to pick-pockets as they belonged to an allied trade. So they intervened, settled the quarrel, dispersed the crowd and went their way.

The new gang began their job without hindrance. Each was in his post waiting for his prey.

Karim, of this new gang, was talking to his friend Chedilal leaning on a gas post by the side of the foot-path. Suddenly he looked at the crowd and exclaimed—Hush.

Taking unobtrusively a fountain pen from the pocket of a passer-by Chedi said—Why? What happened?

Karim boxed his shoulders and said—Prey, Here is one.

A middle-aged gentleman was hurriedly elbowing his way towards Chitpore road. Taking measure of the gentleman from the corner of his eyes Chedi said—The pocket seems to contain something. Examine him first.

Giving no reply, Karim approached the gentleman with strident steps. For a time he walked beside him, gave an unobserved tap to his pocket and fell back.

Observing Karim to fall back Chedilal hastened to him and asked—Something? or all rubbish?

Karim spouted out in jubilation—All currency notes. Call the men.

At the other side of the footpath two Bengalees with long hairs, several upcountrymen with cropped heads and some three or four Mohammedans with *loongies* were smoking *biries*. Casting a hint to them with a twist of his eyes Chedilal hurried past the gentleman while Karim walked just behind him, for reasons known best to him.

The gentleman in question knew nothing about the plot which had just been hatched for him. He went his way unconcerned. All on a sudden something packed in a paper fell on his head from above. He never knew whether it was cow-dung or human stool. But something semi fluid slid down his cheek and spoiled some portion of his dress. He looked up with a start and said—Damn swines.

The Mohammedans with *biries* decorating their ears were walking just behind him. Suddenly they stopped. One of them examined the condition of the gentleman and said—What a sight; foo: who did this?

A half gentleman Hindusthani jumped out of a cloth vendor's shop and said,—It seems you are in a fix. Come to my shop if you need any water for wash.

There was big crowd already. A well-wisher appeared from somewhere with a bucket of water, washed some portions of his dress and said—Lower your head a little, please. Let me wash it also. A gentleman like you shouldn't be in such a state.

The gentleman was all eagerness—Yes, Yes son, use the water well, do cleanse all right. All these fools. . . .

Karim was standing just behind him. The well-wisher blinked some hint to him and said—Lower your head a little more, please. I will wash it alright.

The gentleman lowered his head without a murmur. Just then Karim came nearer, neatly cut with a razor-blade some portion of the inside breast pocket, threw away the blade, took the currency notes with the help of two of his fingers and disappeared in the crowd.

The process of washing the head continued. After the wash the gentleman was drying the hairs with his cloth when he noticed with a start that some portion of his breast pocket was missing. He lost his power of speech and with faint sound collapsed on the foot path.

The man who was washing his head said anxiously—How is that, sir? Shall I use more water? What happened to you?

The gentleman cried aloud—Everything gone! I'm lost! Ten thousand rupees. Call the police, yes, do call the police.

Now a Bengalee stepped forward and said—Are you pick-pocketed? It is not strange at all. Why did you keep the money there?

Then another man came into the limelight. He also seemed to be a Bengalee. He commented like an expert—Surely, it ain't his money. Otherwise he should'n't have kept it there. The police won't take up his case.

Some other person exclaimed—No need calling the police. You won't get your money back. Return to your home and have a rest.

This one was a Marwari. He said again from among the crowd—You're a fool, I must say. This is Calcutta. Lot of big business going on here. Fools like you should'n't be in this city. Understand?

A Bengalee young man, may be a collegian, was coming that way with books in his hand. He halted before the crowd and asked—What has happened?

Somebody of the crowd pushed the young man and said—Nothing. You get away.

He was pushed and pushed to about ten yards away. Before he could regain his balance, the crowd had disappeared, one by one. Nobody could be seen on the spot.

The gentleman had by then stretched himself on the footpath. His nerves had lost their power. He was unable to raise himself.

The barber was sitting some yards away before his paraphernalia and observing the whole event. He observes scenes like this everyday. He was generally too afraid to intervene. But this day the condition of the gentleman awoke sympathy in him. He came near, helped the gentleman to rise up and said—Go to the police station, sir.

The gentleman was too upset with the loss of his money to speak. His lips only quivered a little.

The barber said again—Why could'n't you catch hold of the man?

This time the gentleman replied plaintively—I did'n't notice who took the money. They were washing . . .

The barber said—All those people were thieves. The man who took the money escaped all right. But if you could catch hold of any of the men who were showing such sympathy to you, you could later secure every one of them. They belonged to the same gang.

The gentleman again sat down. He only uttered—How terrible!

The barber was really sympathetic at the condition of the gentleman. He cast a hurried glance around to see if anybody of the gang was near about or not. Then he took hold of the gentleman, took him to the gate of the police station and then slipped off hurriedly.

CHAPTER II

Barabazar Police Station is the biggest in India. Lots of cases of pick-pocketing and petty thefts come there for enquiry everyday. But on that particular day the police-station was a bit quieter, the activity a bit less than usual. The officers were all out, some on business and some for a ramble. The policeman in charge of the gate was utilising this opportunity by leaning his body against the wall

and twirling his moustache. Suddenly he stood to attention on seeing the second officer Pronab Babu to enter. He saluted and said rather loudly—Everything all right, sir, everything.

Although this lack of activity in the station was a boon to other officers, Pronab was not lucky enough to take the benefit out of it. He had to run about the whole day in connection with an old case. He was dead tired when he entered the station. It was for that reason he smiled with pleasure at the news given to him by the policeman. He heaved a sigh of relief and without waiting for a moment left the office to snatch a bit of rest.

After Pronab had left the policeman was trying to regain that old posture of comfort with a twirl to his mustache when the pick-pocketed gentleman went past him, threw himself on the pavement of the office room and cried—The officer in charge, where's the officer-in-charge? Where's the inspector?

A Bengalee gentleman was writing something at a corner table. May be he was some lower officer. Putting a halt to his pen he asked—What has happened?

The gentleman cried—Theft, sir, pick-pocket.....

He could say nothing more. He lay again with his face downwards.

After seeing a man in this condition one generally gets sympathetic, inspite of his being a policeman. The man in charge of the gate said consolingly—You are in fix, all right, I am informing upstairs.

Giving no reply to him the gentleman cried aloud—Yes, do that, my son, do inform.

The second officer Pronab Babu was really very tired that day. After a particularly busy day his mind was also bored. He was dargging his feet upstairs when he heard the heavy beats of footsteps behind. He looked back and saw the man of the gate standing as if with a message.

Pronab asked with a frown—What's the matter again?

A case sir,—said the policeman.

This news unsettled him. His body was hankering after some rest at that time. He never imagined that a case would be coming then. After a pause he straightened himself and said—No other officer downstairs?

The policeman was touched at the condition of Pronab. A tinge of sadness crept to his face. He had been in service for the last twenty-eight years. He was then fifty years of age. Although Pronab was a superior officer, he was like a son to him. The old man was reminded of his own son by the tired condition of Pronab. He knew, moreover, that Pronab had no time to take anything that day. He sadly said—All of them out, sir. This is a day of trouble for you sir.

Pronab replied with gravity—T'is all right. Let us go.

He came down to the office room. Even then the gentleman was restless on the floor.

Pronab told him—Why are you acting that way? Stand up. If you don't tell me everything.....

At this the gentleman rushed to him, encircled him with both his hands and said—You are the inspector? Well son, shall I get back the money?

With much care Pronab helped him to a chair and replied—Do'n't be restless. We will try our best. It is not impossible to get it back. Now, tell me what happened.

The gentleman was all agitation—I'll be lost if I do'n't get it back. I banked my whole life's savings. I went to take the money out of Benares Bank. And now this disaster. On the second of the coming month.....

Pronab did not allow him to finish—I now understand. They followed you from Benares Bank. I'll station a man there to keep a watch from to-morrow.

The gentleman did not pay any heed to what he was saying and exclaimed—Do as you like. But what about my money? I'm absolutely undone!

His last farthing was deposited in this bank. He drew out the whole amount for his daughter's marriage. And then this disaster on the road. Pronab could easily understand the state of his mind. He said sympathetically—Do'n't worry. Pray to God. Your daughter's marriage.....

The gentleman burst into tears and said—Do'n't know how it'll take place. The other party wo'n't listen to me without money—they are such rogues ! Please help me. son. Give me some poison. He could not say any more. Pronab was going to tell him some consoling words when he lost his consciousness and fell flat on the ground.

The man who was writing at a corner desk now exclaimed—How is that, sir, fainted away ? Shall I call the ambulance ?

Every police officer knows some first-aid treatment. Pronab winked him to desist and ordered the policeman at the gate—Hey, you, hurry and bring some pieces of ice.

After application of some ice to his head the gentleman regained his consciousness. He opened his eyes and looked all right.

Pronab now said—Let us go and inspect the spot.

The gentleman was taking some time to collect himself. Pronab's utterance reminded him of his money. In fact, the marriage of his daughter was harrassing his mind more than the loss of his money. He said in an agitated voice—Well son. I won't be able to marry my daughter. But before this, everything was practically settled, my son.

Pronab was getting more and more perplexed as to what to do with the gentleman. Finding no other way to pacify him he said—Listen. You are of the same social order with me. If I can't secure your money back, I undertake to marry your daughter myself ; understand ? Now, come along with me.

The gentleman had never dreamed that he would hear words like these from Pronab. He was taken aback and remained speechless for some time. At first he did not take them seriously. But looking at the sympathetic face of Pronab he had no doubts. He

burst into tears again and said—All right, son. I need no civilian son-in-law any longer. A police-inspector will be all that I want. Even the police are sympathetic, but not so the scoundrel father of the proposed match. Well son, are you serious ?

Even the tired heart of Pronab was touched at these words of the gentleman. Tears gathered to his eyes. He controlled himself with an effort and said. You can believe me. By all means I'll detect this case, Compose yourself and give correct answers to my questions with a cool brain. I shall have to make a hypothesis about the gang by knowing the *modus operandi*. Understand ? Different gangs have different *modus operandi*.

The gentleman had by then collected himself. He laid the whole case before Pronab. He not even neglected the barber.

After listening to him Pronab said gravely—Now I understand.

The gentleman was going to say something more but Pronab stopped him and cried aloud—You at the gate ! Call Jamadar Ramsingh.

Almost immediately Jamadar Ramsingh appeared with his robust short club. He twirled his mustache and said with a salute—You called me, sir ?

Pronab said—There's a barber at the Harrison Road crossing, bring him up.

After the Jamadar had left Pronab took a book from the table and opened it before the gentleman. It was full of photographs of convicts. He told the gentleman—These are the photos of pick-pockets, Do you recognise any one ? Was any of these there ?

The gentleman ransacked the pages like one perplexed. All the faces seemd similar to him. Those inevitable moustaches, round or elongated evil looking faces, rotten shapes of bodies every page contained imprints of abject vice. He was quite at a loss and said with a sigh—Can't recognise. I not even had a square look at them at that time.

While both of them were preoccupied with the photographs there was a sound of boots halting beside them. Pronab looked up

and saw Jamadar Ramsing and two arrested up-country men standing in front of him.

The Jamadar said with a salute—Could't secure the barber sir, but these two confirmed burglars were roaming at the crossing. Their names are Kisnia and Madnia. Once I helped in their arrest and conviction at Beliaghata. I think they are the culprits in this case, sir.

Pronab asked—They did this! How do you say?

Jamadar Ramsingh said like an expert—Of course, who else?

At these words Pronab shouted at them—Hey, you, tell me who committed that crime. Tell the truth.

There was absolutely no doubt that Madnia and Kisnia were veteran thieves. But they had never dreamed that they would be required for a case of pick pocketing. They were used to unlocking doors and safes, but they never picked any pocket. They got surprised, Madnia was a pacific sort of fellow, was a bit timid too, particularly before the police. He said in a placid and courteous tone—We are at your service, sir. Be considerate. This is not our job.

Pronab rebuffed him—You were convicted at least twenty times. Are'n't you ashamed? Still lying!

Kisnia was ever a dare devil. This being in a tight corner with the police, was getting more and more intolerable for him, The mistake or injustice of the police in bringing them to the station did not infuriate him so much as this foolish and groundless suspicion. He had been to jail many times. He was afraid of nothing. The muscles of his face contracted with anger and annoyance. He said—You can study men almost perfectly, I see! Is this our job? We generally deal in keys and towels and,.....

Pronab was quite at a loss to understand what he meant by keys and towels, He asked the Jamadar—What does he mean, this fellow?

The Jamadar replied—By the key job, sir he means breaking open safes etc, and by the towel business he means stealing in to

house. If you please, sir, I can search him and there is every possibility of finding some implements with him.

Pronab said rather hurriedly—Yes, do, do search him at once.

Being searched Kisnia's loin-cloth revealed one house-breaking implement and one big knife.

Pronab exclaimed with round eyes—God! Clever enough! Hey you. The magistrate ordered you to report to the police station every day. Why don't you? Stealing things and loitering about alright. Put them in the lock up. I'll write a case and see later what I can do with them. Well, if they were not caught to day they would have committed some crime this very day.

Madnia remained silent, but Kisnia cried aloud dangerously—I knew this beforehand. I have no home that is the trouble, Of course I was a convict. Alright, lock me up. Put me up in section 109 you scou.....

Pronab did not allow him to finish—Take them away at once. I have written out a case for them. Now, lock them up.

With much trouble two policemen put them in the lock-up of the police station. But Kisnia was not to be silenced. He continued to throw indecent remarks at Pronab.

After sending Madnia and Kisnia to the lock up Pronab told the gentleman—Now, let us visit the spot and inspect it. Let us see if anybody can give us any information.

The gentleman seemed not to put much stock on Pronab's words. He had never hoped to get his money back. He said with a sigh—Let us go, son, let us go.

Pronab reached the Harrison Road Crossing with him and the Jamadar.

All the shops around were nearly empty. All the persons were expecting them every moment, but on seeing them arrive concentrated on their respective jobs. Their attitude tried to imply that they neither saw nor knew anything of what happened.

But the shop-holders must have seen something. They ought

to be questioned. Pronab asked a cloth dealer—Have you seen anything ?

The cloth-dealer was a Marwari. He said—No sir, I was not here at the time.

His attitude belied his words. Any way, Pronab wanted to take down his name. He said—What's your name ?

The Marwari said—Hukum Chand, Gambhir Chand Kanoria Swarup Chand.

Pronab looked at the signboard overhead and said—That's the name of the firm. What's your name ? I wanted to know that.

The cloth-dealer said in reply—What shall you do with my name ? I don't know anything.

However much Pronab entreated him the Marwari could not agree to tell him his name. Pronab had a great desire to twist his neck but as he was a public servant it was not his business to get angry. He was duty bound to tolerate many things.

The exchange of words continued. In the mean time Mir Saheb the gate-man of the landlord came to the spot to collect rent from the cloth dealer. The Mir Saheb was a retired police Jamadar. He well knew the difficulties of the police. He gave a rebuff to the Marwari—Do not be afraid, tell him your name. Without your name how shall he write his report.

With Mir Saheb's mediation and after much trouble the Marwari said—My name is Sukhon Sarwagi. But I won't go to the court. I don't know anything.

Pronab seemed amply gratified. After taking down the name of the Marwari he approached a Bengalee stationery shop and asked the shop-holder—Have you seen anything ?

The shop holder blurted out a delivery which seemed well committed to memory—Well, sir, I was out for my meal, that time. I know nothing.

Pronab said—That's all right. What's your name ?

The Bengalee got frightened and exclaimed—God preserve me.

I won't be able to go to the court. I am a business-man. I told you, sir, that I know nothing.

Pronab replied—I'm writing down exactly that. But tell me your name.

This man was also unwilling to tell his name. After much expostulation he said at last—Mahindra Ganguly. But kindly see, sir, that I am not dragged to the . . .

After an hour's troubles like these Pronab was able to take down six names. Taking further troubles to secure only names seemed unnecessary to him and he desisted.

Drawing the day's enquiry to a close he told the gentleman—You are not required any longer to-day. You can go.

The gentleman suddenly sat down on the footpath and said—Where shall I go, son ? How can I approach . . .

It was a difficult situation. Pronab could not leave the gentleman there in that condition. He therefore resolved to see him to his home. Pronab and Ram Singh some how helped him to a tram. It was past eight o'clock when they reached the gentleman's home at Bagh-bazar Street.

To be continued

The Ancient Panja and Modern Finger Print System.

RAY SAHIB S. N. MUKHERJEE, A. R. P. S. (Lond.)

"I carry that in mine own hand which I could never read of nor discover in another" (Sir Thomas Browne) is a well-known saying and there are not in the World people, whose finger impressions correspond. The finger print is the best method of identification of an individual and is, therefore, of medico-legal interest.

Study of Markings of Hands by ancient Hindus.

The finger print system is not new in India. It was discovered hundreds of years ago. The study of the lines on the palm of the hand can be traced back to the very earliest days of Hindu civilisation. The fact that the markings on the palm are peculiar to every individual and no two hands correspond was known to the ancient Hindus. This fact formed the basis of palmistry and also the Panja system of the Moghul Emperors. In palmistry there was a system of the comparison of two hands and the direction or termination or end of the line was distinctly noted.

In former days the palmist used to make casts of hands containing ridges and these casts were taken for comparison only. The astrologers for their study and also as a valuable record of their work still take thousands of cast impressions on paper and photograph of hands which help the study of the shapes and markings.

The Panja System.

The study of the Panja of the Moghul Emperors recalls the modern finger print system. 'Panja' is a Persian word meaning the palm of the hand with five fingers. In the Moghul period it was

found that this Panja was often used on important and confidential documents by the Emperors.

Use in Royal Documents to Prevent Forgery in Ancient India.

The forging of documents for establishing rights to property was a very ancient practice from which the priestly and ruling classes had not been more free than others. Forgery and impersonation were easier in those days owing to difficulty in communication from one place to another. The Panja was an efficient preventive to forgery and false personation. All confidential and administrative documents of the state contained the Panja of the Emperor. The Panja was the print of the right hand of the Emperor.

The Panja played a very important part in the administration of the empire in ancient times. Of the administrative changes made by the Moghul Emperors, the posting of an officer to the Viceroyalty of a Province in place of another was the most important. The Panja was the only system given to the Royal officer who relieved another officer. It appears that there was a system of comparison of characteristics of the Panja, as the officer receiving it handed over the whole administration, treasures, and secret documents to the bearer of the 'Firman' who might not have been personally known to him.

The characteristics of the Panja on a 'Firman' were apparently compared with the one in possession of the official. The two documents were compared and tested before it was accepted as trustworthy.

As the whole administration thus depended on the Panja, great secrecy was naturally observed in it. The knowledge was confined to the Royal family and high officials and was not divulged to others. With the downfall of the Moghul Empire the system was gradually forgotten.

A valuable photograph of a 'Firman' of Emperor Shah Jahan containing the Panja is kept in the Imperial Library, Calcutta.

On 29th March, 1658 (24th Jamadu II 1068 A. H.) a Firman was issued by the Emperor Shah Jahan asking the addressee to

THE ANCIENT PANJA AND MODERN FINGER PRINT

proceed at once to the Royal Court with his army. This bears an impression of the palm and the five fingers of the Emperor's right hand (Panja).

Introduction of the Indian Finger Print System in Modern Police Methods by Sir William Herschel.

In 1858 Sir William Herschel, while an assistant under the old East India Company in Bengal found that Hindus apply a finger dipped in ink on a document instead of signing and sometimes even after being signed. He noticed that papillary ridges are identity signs *par excellence*. In 1877 Herschel was appointed Magistrate at Hooghly and used the same method with prisoners and in the pension service. Herschel has published nothing in the scientific press. His efforts to introduce the system of general registration in India were, however, unavailing against official scepticism.

It was no doubt the great volume of experiments carried out by Sir Francis Galton which quieted official qualms as to the reliability of the finger print as an absolute mark of identification. yet it was not until 1901 that the system was adopted by the Police authorities in England. Sir E. R. Henry, Inspector General of Police, Lower Provinces and afterwards the Chief Commissioner of London Metropolitan Police improved the system.

Recent Improvements.

The impression by a thumb or fingers was no doubt being used as a distinguishing sign from remote times but an immense amount of work has been done in the nineteenth century before the ridges and creases, which occur to an infinite variety as patterns on human digital extremities could be employed as a means of identification. In 1823 J. E. Purkinje, a professor of Physiology, proved that the markings remain unaltered from youth to age.

The Panja System was an infallible one. The whole work of administration depended on Panja. The improved and infallible science of the finger print identification has been taken from the Panja system. It was indeed the black day for the resourceful criminals when the improved system was adopted for detection of crime.



Panja of Emperor Shahjehan

Policing Old and New

DR. NARENDRA NATH LAW, M. A., B. L., P. B. S., Ph. D.

Police and Politics go together etymologically, and functionally, and both are as old as organised social existence, the polity, i. e. State. The most primitive states had to maintain themselves and therefore had to devise measures for their own safety. The organs with which these measures were entrusted were the most vital and fundamental limbs of the state. Scientifically those functions are to be described as policing and the organ responsible for those functions the police.

Thus considered, policing is much too comprehensive and includes everything connected with what would now-a-days be called the executive, the judiciary and the legislature. The entire apparatus or machinery of all round administration might be taken as the police system of the people.

The differentiation of functions as well as functionaries began quite early. Policing in general came to be divided into diverse administrative items, one of which has ultimately developed into the police system as known to-day.

It is questionable if the police in the narrow sense has yet been sharply separated from the police in the wider and more comprehensive sense anywhere in the world. The history and the functions of the police in modern states are diverse. And this diversity is invariably but an index to the fact that a clear-cut differentiation between the two senses of policing has not been legally and formally effected in any country. In every police system of the world at the present moment there are certain functions which may be said to have come down from the primitive conception of policing as being identical with the all-round administration of the land. The police

systems of the different countries at the present moment differ because of the quantity and variety of these general policing functions in addition to the policing in the stricter sense.

The maintenance of law and order was entrusted to the *politia* by Emperor Augustus of the Roman Empire. Evidences are not clear as to the existence of an organised police system in medieval Europe down to the fourteenth century. Later, the towns,—and not the entire state,—began to make provisions for the maintenance of internal peace and security. The order and peace of markets, the regulations about weights and measures, the ordinances about good and pure food stuffs belonged to the "policing" as organised by the towns of the fourteenth century or fifteenth century, if this can be described as policing in the modern sense.

About the same time the state, especially in France, began to learn from the towns the importance of such policing and establishing an organ to discharge this function. Order, welfare and peace were the objectives of this kind of policing undertaken by the French state. The system was copied by Germany—the Holy Roman Empire of those days—from France towards the middle of the sixteenth century. Among other objectives of this kind of policing we find the control of immorality, prevention of vices, restriction of luxuries and even the furtherance of the people's welfare. For nearly three hundred years the category 'police' was getting well-known on the continent. But down to the end of the seventeenth century the functions of the police were vague, all-inclusive and almost identical with the functions of the state. It is interesting to note that in the French book entitled *Traite de la Police* (Treatise on the Police) by De la Mare, published between 1705 and 1719, the entire administrative system of France and especially of the city of Paris is described.

In ancient India, we find town governments attending to the same interests of the people as in ancient Europe. The *Nagarika* or chief officer of Pataliputra the capital of Chandragupta and Asoka Maurya in the fourth and third centuries B. C. discharged the policing functions in the old European sense of the term. He had to see to it, for instance, that the regulations against the breaking out of fire were duly observed by the residents of the town. He was in

charge of the conservancy and sanitation. Peace and order were likewise entrusted to him. He had, for instance, to enforce the rule that nobody could move from one place to another within the town or outside without a lamp between 2.3/4 hours after nightfall and the same number of hours before dawn. These are the regulations in Kautilya's *Arthashastra*.

Among the State officials mentioned in the *Artha* and *Niti Sastras*, i. e., the political text-books of ancient and medieval India, it is difficult to point definitely to the one that may be taken as the precursor of the modern police chief. But the officers responsible for the markets, streets, sanitation, security and so forth are well-known. Policing in the general and comprehensive sense as understood in Europe was taken care of by these old Hindu officials in the town.

In Kalidasa's *Sakuntala* there is a reference to one *Nagarika*, an officer who corresponds to the modern police officer. Raksins or guards who belong to the police system in the narrower sense are referred to in the *Sakuntala* and the *Mricchakatika* (another ancient Sanskrit drama). It is probable that the differentiation of functions between the general and the special led eventually to the institution of officials like the *Nagarika* and the *Raksins* with specialized police attributes.

In a Chola inscription of the early twelfth century we are told that the villagers of Southern India under the Empire of Kulottunga had to contribute a local cess in order to maintain the watchman who was placed over the *Vettis* (paths). Researches are likely to be rewarded with such information about ancient and medieval India bearing on policing in the stricter sense.

It is Louis XIV who in 1667 appointed for Paris a special head of the police as a state-official to replace the city police officer. His functions however were as wide as conceivable. The example was followed in Prussia by Frederick the Great in 1742.

With Louis XIV and Frederick the Great, however, commences the conception, theoretical at any rate, of the maintenance of public peace and security as well as protection of traffic as the special aim of the police as distinguished from its omnibus functions. It is the

Act of 1794 which finally placed the police on modern foundations in Prussia. The maintenance of public peace, security and order as well as the prevention of dangers to the public or the individuals were defined as the functions of the Police office. The modern French police was established during the period of the Revolution by the Act of 1795. The provisions of this Act are similar to those of the Prussian Act of the previous year.

The situation in England was not dissimilar. The elastic sense of the police is to be found in Johnson's *Dictionary*. While "Policy" is defined as the sum total of a State's functions relating to foreign affairs, the "regulation and government of a city or country so far as regards the inhabitants" belongs to the police. About the same time, i.e. in the latter half of the eighteenth century the economist and philosopher Adam Smith is equally very encyclopaedic in his conception of the police. The domestic regulation of taxes, bounties, monopolies, and exclusive privileges of corporations is described as the function of the police in his lectures. According to Blackstone who lived in the early nineteenth century the police is to be entrusted with the protection of the virtue, peace and wealth of the nation and held responsible for saving the people from bigamy, association with gypsies, disorderly inns, offensive trades, idleness, luxury, impropriety indecency and what not.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, the security of person and property was in great danger in London and other cities of England. The old conceptions of the police system were found to be too inadequate for the conditions, as Colquhoun describes in his book *On the Police of the Metropolis* (1796). In 1829 London was organised into a unified police jurisdiction and a militarily organised and uniformed police force established under the Home Ministry. Since then, the British police may be described as having been "the standing army for the suppression of crime and the apprehension of offenders." The functions of the police were narrowed down to very definite items, and in this respect, the British system differs still from the Continental, which is quite wide in its scope.

By the Local Government Act of 1888 the British police in London as well as in the countries was entrusted with a number of

specified functions. These are (1) prevention of crimes, (2) maintenance of order in traffic in streets and public places, (3) watching the hotels, theatres, brothels etc. No other functions belong to the police system unless specified by legislation from time to time according to requirements.

Be it observed in conclusion that the range of police functions has been widening in recent years in almost every country. Or rather, new branches are being opened by the Police Administration in order to take charge of new duties. For instance, there is what is called the Political Police. It is specially entrusted with protection of the people from politically unsafe tendencies and activities. Then there is the Industrial Police. This is very highly developed in the United States and seeks to protect the industrial and other establishments from the consequences of strikes and other manifestations of class-war.

Whatever be the sense and scope, large or narrow, policing has always implied social service and the police has ever been an instrument of people's welfare. With the advance of democracy in modern times, the police administration has come more and more into the control of the citizens and been treated as an organ for the furtherance of the people's wishes and requirements. The Government of India Act 1935 has transferred some substantial power into the hands of the Indian people. The orientations of the Indian police should therefore be transformed in order that policing may look not only as social service but also as a function of one of the organs of Indian democracy.

Air Raid And Its Precautions

—With Special Reference to Calcutta—

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Science has given weapons of destruction in the hands of man. With the advent of the aeroplane with its tremendous speed and the discovery of poisonous gases modern warfare has become a thing of terror. Previously only the military forces at the front bore the brunt of any attack; but now even the innocent citizens far removed from the area of actual war, may be subjected to air raids, leading to serious loss of life and property.

Though there may not be any possibility of war in India at the present moment, the risk of attack of Calcutta from the air, however remote, must not be ignored. It is wise to take preventive measures in time against any possible air raid. We should remember that Air Raid Prevention is a measure of insurance against the havoc of any war in future.

The Method of Attack from the Air

In modern warfare aeroplanes are used for dropping bombs or spraying poisonous gases on the cities of an enemy country. In an air attack during the day the aeroplanes attack in formation; while at night the attack is usually by single aeroplanes. Bombs containing poison gases are dropped from the aeroplanes. Poisonous gases in liquid form are also sometimes sprayed from above.

What is Gas?

The word 'Gas' ordinarily means something in the form of

vapour, but in warfare it is used in a broader sense. Any chemical substance—whether solid, liquid or gas—used for its poisonous or injurious effect on man is called 'Gas'.

Types of Gases

Several poisonous gases are used in warfare. They may be classified according to their effect on the body. Some of them produce blisters, while others do not.

1. *Gases which do not produce blister on the skin--*

(a) *Tear gases—*

The tear gases, as their name signify, cause a copious flow of tears and also a smarting pain in the eyes. They are generally used by the police for dispersing an unruly mobs.

(b) *Sneezing gases—*

Some gases irritate the nose, producing sneezing and coughing with a burning pain in the nose, throat and mouth.

(c) *Choking gases—*

Two gases, named chlorine and phosgene, give rise to coughing and a choking sensation.

Tear and sneezing gases are not so injurious and are mainly used to produce panic. The effect of some of the above gases do not last long. When a bomb containing such a gas bursts the content forms a cloud, which drifts along with the wind. By mixing with large quantities of air the cloud becomes diluted and consequently less dangerous. So the poisonous effect does not persist for a long time. They are therefore also known as non-persistent gases. Chlorine, phosgene, sneezing gas and a variety of tear gas belong to this class.

2. *Blister Gases—*

The most dangerous gases are the mustard gas and Lewisite. Both of them produce blisters on the skin. They are usually liquids which evaporate slowly. When a bomb containing mustard gas or Lewisite bursts, the liquid content is splashed on the place and continues to give off vapour until all the liquid has evaporated. So

their effect does not end with the bursting of the bomb but is persistent. Consequently they are more dangerous.

[It should be noted however that some of the tear gases are also persistent in their effect.]

(a) *Mustard Gas*—

Mustard gas is an oily liquid with a peculiar smell. Some people consider it like mustard, others like garlic or onion. It is sometimes difficult to recognise it from its smell as it is so apt to be mistaken.

When mustard gas is sprinkled on the ground or any object, it begins to give off poisonous vapour. Even walking on such a place is risky.

Effect on the body—

(i) Mustard gas produces blister on any part of the body with which it comes into contact. If the liquid falls on the skin, the part becomes red and blisters appear in 12 to 24 hours.

(ii) On exposure to mustard gas vapour the eyes become red and swollen in a few hours. If the liquid falls on an eye, it will become out of action in an hour.

(iii) When the gas is breathed in, the result is cough and loss of voice, sometimes ending in a day or two in bronchitis or broncho-pneumonia.

The danger from mustard gas lies in the following facts :—

- (i) The smell of mustard gas may not be detected.
- (ii) It does not produce any immediate sensation or effect.

The symptoms of poisoning generally appear after two hours or more when it is too late to rectify the mischief already done.

For these reasons the mustard gas is regarded as the most dreaded of all the gases used in modern war.

(b) *Lewisite*—

Lewisite is also a blister gas with persistent effects. Its smell is like that of geranium flower. It is however easy to detect this gas not only from its peculiar strong geranium-like smell, but also from the sneezing and coughing caused by it.

Detection of Gases

How are we to find out which gas was used by the attacking aeroplanes during an air raid? The gases may sometimes be detected from the nature of the cloud formed at the time of bursting of a bomb, peculiar smell, effect produced on the persons and certain test.

1. *By Visible Signs*—

A gas bomb has a thin shell with a large amount of gas in it. It is made especially to explode and discharge its contents on the surface of the earth.

In some cases, a cloud appears on the part where the bomb drops and drifts down wind. The cloud of gas is dangerous, but as it travels down wind and becomes more and more diluted, it soon loses its power of doing harm. *Non-persistent gases* like chlorine, phosgene, sneezing (nose-irritant) gas, choking gas and one type of tear gas form clouds of this nature.

When however a gas bomb containing *mustard gas* bursts, there is a *splash of liquid* at the place where the bomb drops. The liquid drops, sprinkled on the ground or any object, continue to give off poisonous vapour for a long time until the liquid is all evaporated.

2. *By Peculiar Smell*—

Some of the gases used in warfare are known from their smell.

Mustard gas—has a faint smell somewhat like that of *mustard oil*, garlic or onion.

Lewisite—has a geranium-like smell.

3. *By the effect on the body*—

Tear gases—only give rise to a copious flow of tear from the eyes.

Sneezing gases (nose-irritant)—produce sneezing and coughing.

Phosgene and Chlorine—cause a choking sensation.

Lewisite—produces a *burning sensation in the eyes and nose*. It is however easily detected from tear or nose-irritant gases by its strong *geranium-like smell*.

Mustard gas does not produce any immediate sign, and is therefore the most dangerous and treacherous of all the gases used in war.

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(4) *By Testing Apparatus--*

There is a chemical which has been found to change from yellow colour into red on coming in contact with liquid blister gases. Advantage is taken of this quality for the detection of these liquid gases.

This chemical detector may be had in the form of a *yellow paint*. If the liquid content of a bomb containing *blister gas* is *splashed* on anything painted with this yellow detector, the *yellow colour is at once changed into red*. By this means it is possible to find out the presence of liquid mustard gas or Lewisite whether sprinkled after the bursting of a bomb or sprayed from above.

Electric and telephone poles and letter boxes in the streets should be painted yellow with this chemical. The window ledges of buildings in towns and cities should also be painted with it.

After an air raid the change in colour of the window ledges will help a citizen to take immediate measures for counteracting the bad effects of the poisonous liquids.

Organisation of Air Raid Precaution

Any measure for the protection of the lives and property of the civil population, in peace as well as in war, comes within the duties of the police. Air raid precautions are mainly measures for the protection of the civil population and so ought to be undertaken by the police force. In the event of an air raid the public will naturally depend on the police for guidance and protection not only from the explosives and poisonous gases but also from the hands of the thieves and robbers.

The difficulty however lies in the fact that the police force is already overburdened with its duty of protecting the lives and property of the citizen, while it has not sufficient men to undertake preventive measures against an air raid. It is therefore necessary to get the co-operation of the public.

Volunteer organisations for air raid prevention may be formed in each locality on the model of the Territorial Army.

The Territorial Army consists of volunteers. Each unit is controlled by a regimental officer of permanent cadre. A regular army is



Decontamination Party
Calcutta Police A.R.P. Cadets



Sub-Inspector J. B. Dutta
in protective attire
Calcutta Police A.R.P. Cadet



Calcutta Police A.R.P. party
Facing gas with Muskas on



Sub Inspector J. B. Dutta wearing protective attire
A.R.P. training, Calcutta Police

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thus maintained at a small expense ready for mobilisation at a moment's notice in case of an outbreak of war.

An Air Raid Preventive (A.R.P.) volunteer corps may be formed on the above line under the direction and control of trained police officers. Each unit may be under the charge of an officer not below the rank of an Inspector of Police, having a thorough knowledge of A.R. P. work. In time of peace the volunteers will meet now and then for revision courses. During war they will be required to be on duty at their posts full time. Volunteers should be trained in air raid preventive measure. The efficiency of the force may be maintained by courses of practical instruction from time to time. Rehearsals should also be arranged, so that there may not be any disorder during an actual air raid.

It is necessary to make the citizens conversant with the nature of war gases because those who are ignorant of them would be in a panic. We must remember that panic may nullify any effort at prevention of the after-effects of an air raid. The public should be instructed as to the measures to be taken by them in case of an air attack and in the use of gas masks.

The time of peace is the best time for taking preventive measures against any possible air raid in future. When war breaks out there may not be any time for such measure.

A. R. P. Centres—

In large cities and industrial areas there should be A. R. P. centres in suitable buildings preferably attached to the police stations.

The A. R. P. force of a station should consist of :—

1. Air-raid Wardens—Their duty is to enquire and report air raid damages.
2. First Aid Parties—for bringing and giving first aid to persons injured in an air raid.
3. Decontamination Parties.—Their duty is to treat the places contaminated with gases in order to make them harmless.
4. Fire Brigade.

A stock of gas masks, protective clothing etc. should be kept in each station.

Rooms should be kept apart for treating persons contaminated with the gases.

Gas Mask

Most of the war gases attack the nose and the eyes ; so it is necessary to protect them. The best means for the protection of the nose and the eyes is the use of a good gas mask (Respirator). It will prevent gas vapour from passing through it.

Two types of gas masks are available in the market—one for the general citizens and the other for those who will have to work for long hours in area contaminated with poisonous gas.

1. Service Respirator—

A 'Service Respirator' consists of :—

- (a) A face piece.
- (b) A Tin Container.

The face piece is connected with the tin container by a flexible tube.

Face-piece—

The face piece covers the eyes, nose and mouth. It is made of rubber and is shaped to fit the face. In front of the face piece there is an outlet valve. Attached to this valve is a flexible tube through which the air comes from the container. The eye-pieces are made of glass discs which do not splinter. The face-piece has elastic bands for fitting it on the head.

Tin Container—

The tin container is filled with layers of charcoal and cellulose. The cellulose catches up the smoky particles in a gas ; while the charcoal absorbs the gas itself. The container thus serves as a filter of poisonous gases contained in air.

The air enters and passes through the container. It is thus freed of any poisonous gas. After purification the air passes through the flexible tube into the rubber face-piece.

2. The *General Civilian Respirator* is smaller in size ; and its tin-container is placed just in front of the face piece. An oblong celluloid sheet passes across the eyes.

Precautions for those Out of door

1. In case of the public—

The public should be warned to avoid going out of door during and after an air raid. If anyone is obliged to go out he must wear a gas mask. The General Civilian Respirator is recommended to the public.

2. In case of Police Officers and Volunteers on Duty—

An officer on duty may be required to go into streets and areas contaminated with poison gas after an air raid. Any unnecessary exposure to poison gas should however be avoided. Whenever there is suspicion of the presence of gas, a gas mask and protective clothing must be worn to avoid risk.

(a) Use of Service Respirator—

The Service Respirator is made for the police officers and the people who may be on duty during an air raid and have to work for long hours in an area contaminated with gas.

(b) Protective Clothing—

The gas mask will protect the nose and eyes from the poisonous vapour ; but it cannot protect the other parts of the body. The skin is liable to injury by the liquid or vapour forms of gases. Officers on duty in gas-contaminated area should therefore wear protective clothing. Oil-skin clothes, gloves and rubber boots are used for this purpose. This dress prevents penetration of gas. One cannot however work long hours in this equipment and it should therefore be worn only for short periods—say, half an hour when necessary.

Order of wearing Protective Dress—

Before putting on protective dress, it is necessary to remove one's clothing. The order of dressing should be as follows :—

- (i) Put on clean under-clothing and socks.
- (ii) Put on trousers.
- (iii) Put on boots and the boot covers.
- (iv) Put on coat.
- (v) Put on gas mask in upright position.
- (vi) Put on gloves and tie them at the wrists.
- (vii) Put on head dress or helmet.

Order of undressing—

The various articles of clothing should be removed in the reverse order as given below :—

- (i) Head dress or helmet.
- (ii) Gloves.
- (iii) Gas mask and haversack.
- (iv) Coat.
- (v) Boot covers and boots.
- (vi) Trousers.
- (vii) Under-clothing.

When the boots are taken off, the man must not put his feet on the ground at that place as it might have been contaminated by the boots and clothing. He should move his feet to another side of the stool on which he is sitting, and put them there.

Precautions for those In-door : Gas Protection of Buildings

In Calcutta and other industrial towns and cities, every building must have a gas-protected room for the safety of its inmates.

In the selection of a room preference should be given to a room on the ground floor. As gas drifts along with the wind, it is advisable to select a room least exposed to the prevailing winds. In Calcutta a room on the ground floor situated on the western side of the building may be utilised.

The windows of the room should be small and fitted with non-inflammable cellophane sashes. Glas sashes are liable to be broken by the shock of bombs even exploding at a distance, and so should not be used.

The doors and windows should fit well. They should be covered with gas-proof curtains. An ordinary blanket damped with water makes a good gas-proof curtain.

The room should be sufficiently large to accommodate all the members of the household. In India, closed rooms may be safely occupied upto 12 hours if the surface area is 100 square feet for each person. An ordinary room 10 ft. long, 10 ft. broad and 10 ft. high is sufficient for 5 persons.

First-Aid

Mustard and Lewisite have serious effect on the skin and eyes of a person who comes in contact with it. Liquid Lewisite penetrates the skin very quickly. The most important factor in the treatment of these gases is *speed*. Treatment to be of any use must be prompt.

Bleaching Powder destroys the poisonous effect of the blister gases.

The following ointment is generally applied to the skin,—

Bleaching powder	1 part
Vaseline	2 parts.

The ointment is applied to the part of the skin contaminated with the liquid gas.

In case of emergency, bleaching powder may be made into a paste with a little water just before use and applied over the part of the skin.

Bleaching powder should not however be applied to the eye.

1. *Contamination of the skin—*

If the skin is contaminated with liquid gas, the treatment should be as follows :—

- (a) When the patient is seen at once,—
 - (i) Remove all clothing without delay.
 - (ii) Apply bleach ointment.—

First wipe the part with a swab of cotton : throw away the swab in a special tin because it is contaminated. After this rub in the bleach ointment for a minute. Wipe it off with a swab.

- (iii) Finally wash the patient thoroughly from head to foot with soap and hot water.

- (b) When the patient is seen after some time—

Bleach ointment should not be applied if the blister gas liquid has already penetrated the skin. Once redness has appeared, rubbing in the bleach will increase the irritation. So in such cases the patient should only be washed thoroughly with soap and hot water, after removing his clothing.

2. *Irritation of the nose—*

In case of irritation of the nose and throat, *sodi bicarbonate solution* may be used for douching the nose and also for gargling. The solution is easily prepared by mixing the following :—

Sodi bicarbonate—gr. 10
Warm water —1 pint.

3. *Irritation of the eyes—*

Gas in the eye must be treated *at once*.

Wash the eye immediately with water, if no eye lotion is available.

The following simple eye lotion may be useful—

Sodi bicarbonate—gr. 10
Distilled water —1 pint.
Mix.

After washing with water or sodi bicarbonate lotion, put in a drop or two of liquid paraffin into the eyes.

Contaminated Clothing—

If the clothing is contaminated remove them from the body of the patient, and keep them in a closed bin.

All washable clothing should then be boiled in water for an hour and then washed with soap and water.

Shoes should be brushed with bleaching powder.

At each A. R. P. Station there should be arrangement for the treatment of clothing and other articles contaminated with gas. The contaminated clothing should be sent to the centre as soon as possible for necessary treatment.



Mr. E. Hodson I.P., J.P. Deputy Commissioner of Police,
Head quarter, Calcutta.

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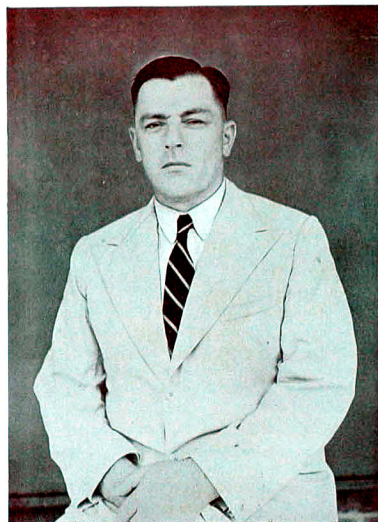
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Crimes in Ancient India

BY

DR. F. C. LAW, PH. D., M. A., B. T.

The earliest form of Indian civilisation may be traced in the pre-historic remains at Mohen-jo-daro and Harappa. This civilisation takes us back to 3000 B. C., if not still earlier. In ancient India in the 7th or 6th century B. C. human nature in all its perversities was manifest then as now and the state had to adopt all stringent measures to restrain it by means of penal laws and police surveillance.

There were many crimes such as theft, dacoity, robbery, adultery, cheating, fabrication of accounts, misappropriation of Government revenue, trespass, killing harmless beasts, neglect of duty, causing outbreak of fire, throwing dirt in public roads, throwing carcasses of animals inside the city, making fraudulent agreements, giving false evidence, making false complaints, cruelty to women, obstructing the use of any part of a building intended for common use, destroying boundary marks, encroachment upon boundaries, obstruction to roads, encroachment upon a neighbouring land, illegal marriage and remarriage, damaging neighbouring houses, murder, unlawful dismissal of employees, receiving gratification by intimidation, defamation, assault, house breaking, miscarriage, manufacturing counterfeit coins, poisoning, abetting robbery, abduction, spreading false rumours, helping murderers, treason against the king, insulting the king, castration, rape, etc.

It is interesting to know what constitutes theft according to ancient Indians. A person is guilty of theft, if the following conditions are there : (1) the thing stolen must belong to others who can use that thing, according to their wish, and by using which they are

not liable to be punished, (2) the thief must be conscious at the time of stealing that the thing which he is stealing, belongs to others, (3) he must have the intention to steal, and (4) he must make effort to steal and that effort must bring about the theft of the thing belonging to others. If the thing stolen be of greater value, then the offence will be greater, and if it is of less value, the offence will be less. Likewise in the case of falsehood, we find that consciousness due to the application of word or bodily deed with the intention of bringing about dissension, is called speaking falsehood. If a witness gives false evidence, he becomes liable to a greater fault. One is guilty of falsehood, if the following conditions are there, namely, (1) his subject or object must be false, (2) he must have the intention of creating disunion or dissension, (3) he must make the effort created by that intention, and (4) his act of creating disunion must be known to the parties concerned. He must commit the offence himself. If a person instigates others to commit falsehood and persuades others to commit the offence by letters or by writing on walls, etc., and if he himself commits an offence, in all these cases, the nature of offence must be the same. We find the same principle governing the offence of uttering words with the intention of wounding the feelings of others, and such offences as cherishing ill-will, entertaining erroneous views, speaking frivolously, etc.

Diverse punishments were inflicted on the offenders for their offences which were punishable by the penal laws of ancient India, e. g., by flogging, by caning on soles of feet, by using heavy-headed sticks, by cutting off hands or feet, hands and feet, ears or nose, ears and nose. The offenders were subjected to various indescribable tortures, such as, (1) the skull was first trepanned and then a red hot ball of iron was dropped in, so that the brains boiled over like porridge. (2) the mouth was fixed open with a skewer and a lighted lamp put inside, (3) the whole body was oiled before ignition and then burnt, (4) from the neck downwards the skin was very roughly creased but not severed at the ankles and then plaited like a hay band to suspend him till he fell by his own weight, (5) the victim was skewered to the ground through elbows and knees with a fire lighted all round him so as to char his flesh, (6) the victim was

slung up by double hooks through flesh and tendons, (7) little discs of flesh were shaved off all over the body with a razor, (8) the head was nailed to the ground by a skewer through both ear-holes, (9) the skin being left intact, the bones and inwards were pounded till the whole frame was as soft as a straw mattress. Besides the offenders were given to starved dogs to devour or were impaled alive. The offence of theft, if proved to have been committed, was usually punished with impalement. The thieves were also killed by throwing them from a precipice. Thus we see that severe punishments were meted out to the offenders in order to set an example to others to refrain themselves from committing such offences.

We often find that in ancient times, comparative serious cases had to be sent to the royal court for decision. A band of robbers was guilty of robbery and the headman instead of trying that band himself sent it to the king for trial.

In some non-monarchical tribal organisations of the sixth century B. C., we find a very interesting system of administration of criminal justice prevalent amongst them. In such organisations there were officers whose business it was to make enquiries and examine the accused with a view to ascertain whether he was guilty or innocent. If the man was found to be innocent, he was released and if they considered him guilty, they instead of proceeding to inflict punishment on him, made him over to officers learned in law and custom. They could discharge him, if they found him innocent; if they held him guilty then they transferred him to certain officials who kept up the thread of law and custom existing from very ancient times. They in their turn made further investigation and if satisfied that the accused was not a culprit, they discharged him. If he was considered guilty by them, then he was made over to a judicial institution composed of judges representing eight non-monarchical tribes. If satisfied of the guilt of the offender, this body sent him to the commander of the army who used to make him over to the sub king and the latter in his turn handed him over to the king. 'The king released the accused if he was innocent.' If he was found guilty, the king used to consult the book recording the law and precedents and prescribing punishment for each particular offence. The king used

to inflict a proper sentence after having measured the culprit's offence according to that book. It seems that the king was the highest authority in the administration of criminal justice. He was perhaps the seniormost among the ordinary kings who constituted the popular assembly. The king was elected from time to time to administer criminal justice. Thus we find a very interesting account of the judicial procedure followed by some non-monarchical tribal organisations of India as early as the sixth century B. C.

For the detection of crimes, there was an organised institution of spies. There were spies in the guise of a householder, recluse, merchant, nun, class-mate, colleague, fire brand, fraudulent disciple etc. Neither the Institutes of Espionage nor the wandering spies knew each other. They supplied secret reports to the Government. They were well-paid servants of the Government and great confidence was placed in them.

The village community under a headman was mainly responsible for the maintenance of internal order and peace of a rural area. In urban areas, on the other hand, an officer known as *Nagaragutika* with his assistants was placed in charge of a city or town and he was the highest Police officer of his time. There were city judiciaries who acted as Magistrates. The state had in its service executioners for dealing with the condemned criminals according to the punishment meted out to them.

King Asoka who flourished in the 3rd century B. C. granted respite of three days to the criminal upon whom the death sentence was passed by the court either for a review of his case or, at least for getting himself prepared for death by the observance of fast and the acts of charity. He took care to see that no person was arrested and imprisoned without proper trial. The prisoners were released either on payment of ransom, through the intercession of some influential persons, or if they were found to be aged or overburdened with the maintenance of their families. The criminal law was completely humanised with the progress of time, although capital punishment was not abolished in any period of Indian history.

Pagla Murder Case

P. N. GHOSAL M. Sc.

The most complicated case based on circumstantial evidence that had been investigated by the Calcutta Police during the last decade was perhaps the Pagla Murder case, as it would be evident from the remark of the Hon. Justice Khondkar who was also pleased to observe.—“It was a triumph of Police investigation.” Full two years have passed off, but still the poor victim and his murderer, remain a household talk in North Calcutta. Beautiful “Molina”, and the romance behind her are still now jealously discussed, but very few people know the risk and the hardship the Police underwent in unfolding the mystery and bringing the culprits to book. I shall narrate the story now discussing the salient facts regarding investigation and evidence which, I believe, will be helpful to our junior brethren investigating similar cases.

First Information

About 8 a.m., on the 5th of September 1936, Babu Benoy Kumar Roy a Corporation overseer, rushed to Shampooker thana and intimated about the discovery of a headless trunk, by his cooly Mohan when myself with Inspector S. K. Roy, ran to a sewered ditch, off Balaram Mazumder Street, where we found the body, lying on its back inside an aperture, at a level much higher than that of its floor. The head was found to have been chopped off, from the base of the neck, the body had two deep wounds in the abdomen, even the tendons of both legs were partially severed. Such a brutal murder indeed shocked us much, but soon we recovered, and closely viewing the body, discovered underneath the body, a torn blood-soaked ‘ganzi’ and a sacred thread. Two patches of half clotted blood were also found on the ditch below, 4 or 5 feet away from the body, from which

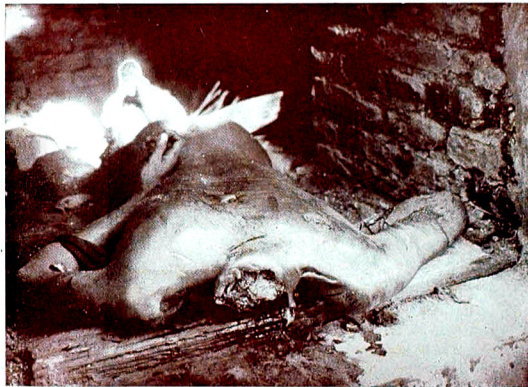
the poor victim appeared to have been killed on the floor, whence his body was picked up and placed in that aperture.

Apparently it could not be the work of one or two, but at least more than two were required to do it. The place being a lonely one, nobody in the locality could say anything about it. The only witness who appeared to have seen the gruesome murder committed was perhaps, a dog, found seated stupefied near the body. It might have seen the act, but it had no language to speak. The corporation cooly Mohan identified the dog as an original dweller of the place, and, so we dropped the idea of tracing its ownership to the deceased. Inspector S. K. Roy on closely inspecting the body, discovered a small tattooed flower, on his left arm which indeed helped us much in establishing his identity, though that very day we could do nothing beyond concluding (1) from the sacred thread that he was a Hindu male Brahmin by caste and (2) from half clotted blood that he was murdered sometime the previous evening between 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. We however, took a photograph of the body and sent it to the Police Morgue for P. M. Examination.

Vigorous Investigation

Now to start with we were to find out first as to who the murdered man was, the motive behind the murder, and then to trace the murderers. Assisted by D. D. Officers, we started vigorous investigation, but darkness prevailed around us, and our position was the same like that of a scholar searching after truth, and we had also to think out a theory to work upon. Some one suggested that the deceased was probably a servant of a local house, the inmates of which had him murdered for his intimacy with a lady of their family. The suggestion was not sound enough but at the same time we had nothing else to work upon. Reluctantly we were contemplating to work it out, when at 8 p.m. the next evening one Ambika turned our investigation to a somewhat different direction. I quote below a relevant portion from Ambika's statement, which I believe, would be interesting to the readers :-

" I knew one Atul alias Pagla, whom I saw on the 4th of September seated beside one Monindra on the ledge of a house at Sonagachi, covered by some vicious looking men. One of them said,



The Headless body in the aperture. (Pagla Murder Case)



The Scene of Murder
The Sewered ditch showing the aperture and blood Patches

PAGLA MURDER CASE

"I am none but Khoka. Don't you know me? I shall kill you, cut off your nose." Pagla replied "Forgive me sir I won't go to her again." Monindra requested "Spare him this time." They then left Pagla and went away. I then proceeded with Pagla, towards Garanhatta, when Khoka and a fair man, jumped on Pagla from a ledge there and caught him by the neck. Khoka then asked the fair man to get a taxi. He was going away to get a taxi, when I tried to slip off. But the fair man stopped me, saying "Where are you going sala"? I replied, "Why are you abusing me?" He replied, "One word more and I shall kill you." Khoka said, "Let him be alone now, he can be dealt with later, if necessary". Being let off I went back to Monindra, informed him about it and then returned home. On the way I saw a taxi in the rear seat of which I noticed Pagla, the fair man, Khoka and four or five others.'

Inspector Roy traced Monindra in no time, who corroborated Ambika's statement and also added that he knew Khoka, an externed goonda, visiting the house of Molina, a beautiful film actress, at 35 Imambux Thanader Lane.

Khoka the Terror of the Locality.

On our way to Molina's house we made some more enquiries on the route. Everybody in the locality appeared to be afraid of Khoka and his associates in as much as nobody came forward to say anything against them. So Inspector Roy sent us all away, to a distance, and himself went to one Naki Bina at Nilmony Mittra Lane, in disguise of her intended visitor and informally examined two of her servants, who stated that they had known Pagla for the last ten years, and that he was a popular figure among the women. They also stated that on 4th of September at about 8.30 p.m., they came downstairs on hearing a hulla and saw eight or nine men, who rushed into her house, seized Pagla who had taken shelter there, dragged him out, put him in a taxi and drove off, but none in that locality dared to rescue him.

These witnesses could not say anything about the identity of those men, but it could be well guessed that Pagla somehow got himself free, but was secured again from Naki Bina's house by the very people with whom he was seen in the taxi by Ambika.

Next we hurried to Molina's house at 32 Imambux Thanader

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Lane where we found Molina's mother Sorojini about to leave for Uttarpara with her bags and baggages, where, she stated, Molina had gone with Khoka. Inspector Roy remained there for further investigation when myself at his instance, rushed to Uttarpara with Sorojini in a taxi. But I found only Molina there who took me straight to one Usha at Sonagachi, Calcutta. Both Usha and Molina were examined and they made statements almost on the same line, in pursuance of which I arrested one Bhupen the paramour of Usha, whom I also found there. The interesting portion of Molina's statement is noted below :—

"I am in the keeping of Khoka for eight or nine months. A few days ago Khoka enjoined me not to allow Pagla, whom I knew for eight or nine years, in my room, when Pagla accused him to be an externed goonda and also threatened him to inform the police about his presence in Calcutta. A week ago, two constables came to my room and enquired of Khoka, but Khoka who got scent of it made himself scarce. At 9 p.m. on the 3rd. September, Khoka's friend Kali took me to Usha's room, at Sonagachi, saying that I was wanted by Khoka. At 10 p.m. Khoka came there with Kesto, when I noticed a red mark on his blue shirt. Khoka explained it to be betel juice and left the place with Kesto and Kali. At 1.30 a.m. that morning, Khoka again came there with Kesto wearing this time a cream coloured shirt. Khoka had bathed and was smelling a strong scent. After a while Bhupen also came and we all spent the night there. Next morning, Khoka intended to leave Calcutta as he apprehended a warrant for his arrest, so he took me to Uttarpara, asking my mother to follow us early."

Further enquiry disclosed that two constables of goonda department had actually gone to Molina's room to arrest Khoka (he being an externed goonda), acting on an information from someone other than Pagla. We further learnt that almost at the same time Khenda's friend Kesto was arrested in a petty case by a constable of Bartalla Thana on the complaint of another woman who was in no way connected with Pagla and that Kesto was let off with a fine by the Court next day. The coincidence of these two incidents though obviously accidental might have led both Khenda and Kesto to believe that Pagla was at the root of it, in consideration of the fact that these two



Khenda alias Khoka (The principal Murderer)



Malina Dassi (the heroine)



Gopi



Kesto



Haripado

PAGLA MURDER CASE

incidents took place only a few days after Khenda was threatened and abused by Pagla. We could come to some conclusion, now, from the evidence adduced above, after which we escorted Molina to her house and put two constables to guard her there.

Body Identified

Next morning all the above witnesses were taken to Police Morgue where they identified the naked headless body as that of Pagla, whom they saw often naked in a state of drunkenness. Inspector Roy also traced one of Pagla's brother, an eminent physician; and brought him down to Calcutta from Bongong. He also readily identified the body as that of his brother, though, he stated, that they were not in touch with him for several years. It was however, left for the jury to decide if the identification of a headless trunk from such marks was at all a possible factor.

'Khoka'—Who He Is ?

Now who is this Khoka ? We were to establish his real identity first. People knew him as an externed goonda but none of them could give his whereabouts or other particulars. Goonda department had no records of this Khoka, but they kept the records of one Khenda, another externed goonda. All on a sudden an idea flashed in my mind on the 10th September. About a year ago, I was about to arrest him (Khenda) on the identification of an old offender, Sewcharan, at his father's house at 10 Krepa Nath Lane. But Khenda managed to escape. Next morning Sewcharan was murdered. I also wanted this Khoka in a revolver theft case. Khoka and Khenda appeared to me to be the same man, so we searched their house at 10 Krepa Nath Lane, dug out its floors, in expectation of the missing head, but instead of that we recovered a large quantity of jewellery and other valuables. I also recovered from the room a blood-stained Dhoti, a blood-stained underwear and two blood-stained Panjabis and several clothes, belonging to Khenda, all marked "S". I also ascertained that only Khenda's clothes bore the mark "S".

Blood-stained Clothes.

Soon after Inspector Roy appeared there and started examining

the tenants of that house, which was a semi-brothel. Three of the women there stated that they heard Ashu, the father of Khenda and Sashi, his uncle speaking in a low voice with him behind the closed doors at about 12.30 a. m. or so. And they also saw them, later, washing some clothes in a bucket, containing redish water. We arrested Ashu and Sashi on whose statement S. I. P. K. Dutta of D. D. ran to a washerman's house from where he recovered some more blood-stained clothes marked "S". A note book was also recovered from Khenda's room, with entries, showing that those clothes were sent to the Dhoobi's house, on the 5th of September. Inspector Roy found out again a very important witness, Deben, living in that locality, who knew Khenda from his boyhood. His statement threw considerable light on the case and made our investigation so easier, that I could not help but put it down below. The interesting portion of his statement runs as follows :—

'On the 4th of September 1936 at 12.30 a. m. I was seated on the ledge of Khenda's house at 10 Krepa Nath Lane, when I saw Khenda coming there, bare-footed, wearing a blue shirt with Kesto. I saw blood marks on his shirt and Dhoti and white handled knife in his hand, with its blade inside his sleeve. Khenda alone entered his father's house and came out after an hour or so. He had bathed and was wearing then a cream coloured shirt and was smelling a strong scent. Seeing me Khenda showed me his revolver, signalled me to keep my mouth shut and then went away with Kesto who stood outside".

Our Definite Conclusion.

On conjointly taking together the statement of Ambika, Molina and Deben and noting the different times therein, we could come to the definite conclusion that at about 8 or 8.30 p. m. 'Khoka' alias Khenda secured Pagla, stabbed him to death at about 9. p. m. or so inside that ditch after which they all changed their dress somewhere in the neighbourhood from where they went to Usha's place and saw Molina there. Shortly after they again went back to the ditch, cut off the head and dropped it somewhere after which Khoka and Kesto only came to Krepa Nath Lane. Khenda alone appeared to have taken part in the second operation, so he alone

required a change of dress. Apparently he had bathed and changed his dress twice that night. *

But we had to overcome some difficulties too in putting forth the above noted theories. We have read that Molina had told us that she had seen red stains on the blue shirt of Khenda. For two reasons we doubted if they were really blood stains. Firstly, the shirt would have been greatly tinged with stains by jets of blood in case Khenda had stabbed Pagla with that particular shirt on. Some suggested that while Khenda changed his blood-soaked dress the blue shirt accidentally came in contact with it and red stains appeared on the shirt. But on the other hand it could be proved that at night blood stains on a blue cloth would look black and not red. The duty of the prosecution was not to overlook this advantageous side of the defence. So our Standing Council Mr. S. M. Bose Bar-at-law carried out the experiment himself which fully supported the theory that blood stains on blue cloth look black, and betel juice red, particularly so at night.

So Khenda had spoken the truth when he said that it was betel juice. Then again we had to account for the discovery of more than one set of blood stained clothes recovered from Khenda's room. Witnesses saw Khenda coming to his house at Kripanath Lane once only and possibly after the second operation. One suggestion was that Khenda and Kesto came to that house after the first operation through the back door unnoticed by anyone and changed their clothes. The other suggestion was that Khenda probably had placed his blood soaked cloths on the heap of garments which his father had kept ready for sending to the washerman's house. And so, more than one set of blood stained clothes were found, Deben again saw Khenda entering that house with his clothes tinged with blood, evidently after the second operation but his clothes in that case would not have been so tinged with blood, if it was a fact that he had cut off the head of a dead man who had been stabbed to death long ago, in which case the chance of blood flowing out in a jet would be remote. But the evidence of the Police Surgeon who held

* The twice change of shirts (blue and cream coloured) within a very short period of time on the night of the occurrence as seen by Molina and also by Deben was again, of much evidentiary value.

the P. M. Examination on Pagla's body proved that Pagla was not absolutely dead, even after the stabbing and that his head was chopped off, when he was still alive.

Thus we find that we were quite right in holding the above noted conclusion.

Gopi Arrested At Howrah.

From the description given by Ambika and others we soon found out that the fair man was one Gopi, another convict of desperate character. I traced the room of his mistress Dolly at Gopi Sen Lane but learned from the inmates of that house, that Gopi had suddenly left the room with Dolly, shortly after the incident, leaving their articles behind. One Tincori, a co-tenant in that house stated again that he saw Dolly washing some blood-stained clothes in her room in the morning of the 5th of September. I however kept a secret watch over that house. On the 19th of September the constable on duty there arrested Gopi's brother Nitai who had come there to get some clothes at the instance of his said brother. Nitai took me to a house at Howrah where I arrested Gopi after a hard struggle. The following statement of Dolly, the mistress of Gopi would be interesting:—

"On the 4th September at about 1 a.m. Gopi came to my room. He was intoxicated. As I asked why he was so late, he replied, "Shut up "Sali", everything you will know, in the papers next morning." Next morning I noticed blood-stains on his Dhoti, which at his request I washed off. On 11th September, Gopi, took me to Howrah. I have kept that washed cloth in my trunk."

Coincidence of Time

Here again, the time 1 a.m. is to be noted, in view of the fact that Khenda too, returned to Molina for the second time at 1 a.m.; so it was clear that Gopi was also present with Kesto and Khenda at the second operation in that ditch. The findings of the two set of clothes at the house of Khenda and his washerman's, also proved that there were two operations for which the murderers had to change their clothes twice.

In pursuance of Dolly's statement, her steel trunk was searched by S.I.B. L. Roy who found therein the said dhuti bearing faint stains of blood and a paper containing some astroligical calculations which stated that Gopi would be saved if he could evade arrest till October next. Gopi admitted the murder, stating that he with Khenda and Kesto took the principal part in it and further implicated Subal, Kali and Bhupen in it. On Gopi's statement I arrested Kesto's brother Subal and later, Kali too. They all admitted the murder but admission before a Police Officer is no evidence, so it did not help us in any way.

Our Risky Adventures.

Now Kesto and Khenda remained to be apprehended. But both were desperate criminals; Khenda again possessed a loaded revolver. Lalbazar, at this juncture, left to our disposal a fleet lorry, and also supplied us steel helmets, armours and shields, at the request of our Dy Commissioner Mr. P. Norton Jones I.P., J.P., who gave us all possible facilities in the investigation and also guided us with sound advice.

Thus equipped, we went out in the said lorry in search of the culprits whenever occasion required. We carried loaded revolver in our right hand and shields in our left and armed in this way searched house after house every night, not only in Calcutta, but also at Howrah and other places. It was a very dangerous job on our part, as those desperate characters knew us and could strike us any moment, whereas, we did not know them, nor could we open fire on anyone at random. Kesto and Khenda after this became more active and desperate. They very often came near our thana; visited the house at 10 Kripa Nath Lane and started threatening witnesses. They also visited the place of murder and it was very difficult to make out whether it was instinct or sheer bravado responsible for their action. It is said that the instinct often leads a murderer back to the scene of his crime. In the present case it appeared to be true. Khenda even went so far as to come once near our police station in the guise of a Rikshaw puller. Luckily for us it was a pleader who engaged that Rikshaw that evening. Khenda, we were told, escorted him to his destination and remarked " Luckily Sir,

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it is you, I expected in your place an Inspector or their informer Haripado".

Khenda Visits Molina

Khenda dearly loved Molina, and this, we were sure, would lead him to the girl; consequently we kept a strong vigil over her. One night the expected visit came, Khenda entered the girl's room through the window. Stark fear had left the girl sleepless, she at once spotted Khenda and raised a hue and cry. The constables on duty immediately rushed inside her room, but Khenda escaped through the window. He jumped on the road from the first floor of the building, fired three shots from his revolver at the crowd that had collected there and took to his heels.

After the incident we became more vigorous in our attempt to capture the villains. Our Asst. Commissioner Mr. Khondkar Reza (now Khan Sahib) who was hitherto assisting us with his valuable advice and supervision now personally spent much of his time with us. Even the members of the public rich and poor alike, came forward at this stage, offered their private cars for quick transportation of force and rendered all possible assistance to us, whenever we required it.

Raid At Howrah.

On the 20th of September 1936 acting on an information which seemed to be definite, I raided a certain house at Howrah. There we found a man lying on his bed; the moment our informer saw him, he began to tremble and cried out in a faltering tone " Sir, Khenda, there he is. " We instantly covered the man with our revolvers and arrested him. There was no exchange of shots, not the least resistance; the man calmly courted arrest. I suspected whether he was actually the man we wanted, we brought him to Calcutta and several people unhesitatingly identified him as Khenda. We compared his profile with Khenda's photo published in the Calcutta Police Gazette and it coincided to the nearest degree. The cut marks on the lip and on the brow, the tattooed flower, frog etc. on the chest, the coconut tree, the snake, the writings on the right arm, all were there, the measurement was the same, but still it was



Khan Sahib K. H. Reza B. A. Assistant Commissioner of Police Calcutta
Supervising officer Pagla Murder Case

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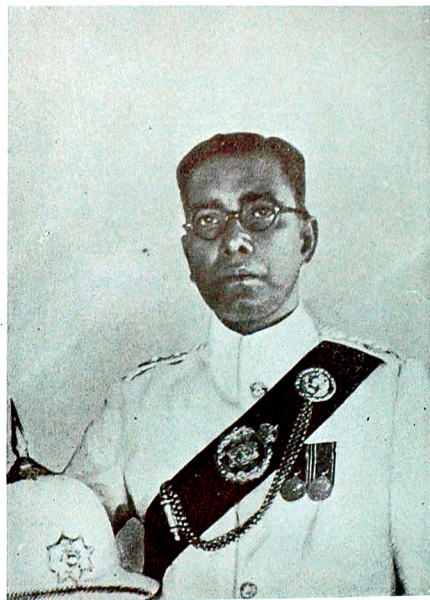
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PAGLA MURDER CASE

not Khenda. Those who knew Khenda intimately said so after close observation. We also believed this. Subsequently we learned that the man was Khenda's associate and Khenda had him put on those marks on his body so that he could personate Khenda, if occasion required.

Kesto Arrested.

One of our men, who was deputed to keep a vigil over the place of occurrence and its neighbourhood, arrested Kesto on the 22nd, Sept., when he was evidently on his way either to Molina's house or to the scene of murder. Kesto appeared to be a hardened criminal and refused to make any statement and we soon discovered in him scientifically a true type of "habitual criminal". Born of a respectable Brahmin family, he fell in bad company and became a criminal. To some extent he was educated, and his type of criminal required a different mode of tackling. So in the evening we gave him enough food he liked, so that a full stomach will make him light-headed and his brain will cease to function acutely for some hours. After midnight we took him to a semi-dark room with a dimly lighted background. The time and his immediate surroundings had an uncanny effect on his mind and it was very suitable for psychological exploitation. We started interrogating him. With soft tone we talked of his boyhood, his family life and so on, before we came to the proper case and went on asking him question after question. At 1 a. m. we all retired for rest, leaving Inspector S. K. Roy to carry on. Thanks to Inspector Roy's unrelenting efforts, at 2 a. m. Kesto confessed most of the incidents, but with the advent of dawn he halted and became cautious. Now Inspector S. K. Roy was wise enough to make room for another officer to question him at length so that a fresh man's grip could be mentally more effective, but Kesto yielded no further. He only admitted the murder, gave the names of the abettors, and whereabouts of Khenda at Deoghar and spoke nothing else.

Khenda Arrested At Deoghar.

In pursuance of Kesto's statement and with a plan sketched by him, I proceeded to Deoghar with Haripada Sircar a local gentleman with detective abilities. Thanks to Haripada and the local police,

Khenda could be arrested on the road without bloodshed. We next went to Khenda's house at Sanyasi Kutir, searched his room there, and recovered a six chambered loaded revolver with six additional live cartridges, a blood stained knife, clothes marked 'S' and some jewelleryes. The finding of the clothes marked 'S' here in Khenda's room, was also of double help to us, as it conclusively proved that the blood-stained clothes also marked 'S' found in the room of Khenda's father at Kripanath Lane, and also at his washerman's house in Calcutta, really belonged to Khenda.

Thus the most notorious public enemy of Calcutta, responsible for many a case of house-breaking, theft and robbery in the city, was at last arrested, but he refused to make any statement. But I required a statement from him to prove the case, so by way of tackling him I asked "don't you feel for the murdered man?" "Not the least sir" he replied, why should I? He made my life miserable, tried to take away my peace, my Molina too. So before disposing of the severed head I took it to Molina, and showed it to her. That ungrateful traitor, I believe, did not disclose it to you." Khenda then asked for a 'Biri' from me and said. "Does'nt matter sir, I drank life to the full and enjoyed every moment of it. So today I find nothing to repent". With great amazement I looked at Khenda who continued after a pause. "But one thing torments me sir, I have married recently, and if after my death, instead of leading a widowed life like the average Hindu ladies, she addicts herself to drink and merry makings, as I did, my soul is sure to have peace. otherwise, sir, I will have to come down again". I then asked, "Aren't you afraid of God? Am I to believe that you aren't?" Khenda replied, "Do you think of God when you kill a rat? Life is like a motor car, sir," he continued, "shut off the petrol and it stops. I don't believe in anything beyond death and consider death, a mechanical stoppage of the heart." I was asking some more questions when Khenda came to realise that I was trying to get facts out of him. He all on a sudden laughed aloud and said, "You are clever enough to get out a confession by putting these silly questions yea." Then he refused to indulge in further conversation, abused me and asked me to go away saying, "A thief is lost as he falls in love with a woman, and a woman is lost when she believes a thief".

Khenda, An Instinctive Criminal

I soon discovered in Khenda scientifically a true type of instinctive criminal, so I came back to Calcutta leaving him with the Deoghar Police to be escorted to Calcutta later. At Calcutta I saw Kesto first at the court Lock-up and gave him the news of Khenda's arrest, which obviously brought in him an absolute mental upset. I observed this temporary weakness taking advantage of which I started questioning him, when, luckily enough he made the full confession, a portion of which I quote below :

"We all took Pagla in the taxi and proceeded along Garanhatta by the side of a Siva temple, when Pagla shouted out 'They will kill me'. The driver stopped the cab, when two of the passers-by Satya Goala and Hira Gossain, whom I knew, stood around our taxi with others not known to me. They enquired about what the matter was, Khenda said that they were going to drink and that Pagla was shouting under the influence of liquor; we discharged the taxi at Strand Bank Road where we met an old offender, Gouri, who, after crossing the river then, just landed at that place. Gouri at the request of Khenda consented to accompany us. Kali then brought wine and we all drank, after which Khenda said, "Let us stab Pagla here". Gouri who was a receiver of stolen property, disliked the idea and slipped off. At this Khenda remarked "Sala fled away, alright, we shall see him". Khenda then took Pagla to the river side, asked him to drink the holy water and also say his last prayer. Pagla seemed absolutely stunned, so he, obeyed all our orders calmly.

After this, Pagla without the least resistance, followed us to that sewer ditch where Gopi and myself caught hold of Pagla, others standing nearby. Khenda then drew out a knife, and said "Say your last wish now". "Let me see Molina once", replied Pagla. "See her then" said Khenda, and then he stabbed Pagla thrice aiming his abdomen. We all then lifted the body placed it in that aperture, came out of the ditch, and then changed our dresses after which all of us went away, but myself. Gopi and Khenda returned to that scene again, half an hour later, with a Nepali dagger, Khenda chopped off Pagla's head when Gopi wrapped it up in a gunny bag stolen by me. Khenda took the bag asking Gopi to clear off. He then went with me to the river and dropped the head in it.

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A Sadhu Baba who was sitting there on a step, with a dog in his lap, and who appeared to have known Khenda from before, asked as to what he had dropped. Khenda replied "Only a dead cat". As Khenda's shoes got soaked with blood, I advised him to leave them in an aperture of another sewer-ditch near the river Ganges. So he came with me barefooted to his house at Kripa Nath Lane where he changed his dress.

Next day Gopi, Khenda and myself went to Sheoraphuli, met Gouri there and slapped him for slipping off that evening from our company. We also assaulted one Fani who came to his rescue. Later we decided to get hold of Molina at all cost. Khenda proposed to break into Molina's room and drop her down by means of a rope, after having chloroformed her. I was to take her up from below and put her in a taxi. Our plans however got frustrated, and we had to flee. Khenda and myself thereafter went to Deoghar where we rented a house. Khenda introduced himself as the Raja of Kumartoli and me as his worthy minister."

Though the confession of Kesto, before the police, was not admissible as evidence, still it finally decided the fate of the three principal accused, Khenda, Kesto and Gopi. It helped me to trace the most important witnesses Satya Goala, Hira Gossain, Gouri, Fani and the Sadhu Baba. His statement also helped me to recover the blood-soaked shoes of Khenda from the sewer-ditch. Molina and her boy servant readily identified those shoes as that of Khenda, stating that he purchased those shoes at Puri where he went with Molina on a pleasure trip only six months ago.

Now the accused persons were shown to the witness in a test identification parade held by a magistrate, when the witnesses Satya Goala and Hira identified all the accused as the persons whom they saw in the taxi with Pagla, but the old offender Gouri only identified Gopi, Khenda and Kesto as three out of six or seven persons whom he saw on the riverbank with Pagla, before he had finally slipped off; the witness Sadhu Baba only identified Khenda as the man who had dropped the bag in the river. He also saw another black figure (undoubtedly Kesto) on the steps above but he could not say, who he was. So, when the case came up



Mr. S.K. Roy B.A. Officer-in-charge Shampukur Police Station
I. O. Pagla murder case



Mr. P.N. Ghosal M.Sc. Officer-in-charge Amherst St. Police Station
I. O. Pagla murder case

to High Court Sessions for trial, the charge of conspiracy for murder could not be proved against the accused Bhupen, Kali, Subal and Nitai as the proper evidence of conspiracy started only with the saying of Khenda "Let us stab Pagla here" on Strand Bank Road. Khenda was however sentenced to death, while Gopi and Kesto were transported for life.

Molina's Love For Khenda.

Khenda's death sentence finally rang down the curtain of the sensational drama but before I end the narrative, I must not forget to say something about its heroine Molina. On hearing the death sentence she wept bitterly and cursed herself for deposing against her lover, who, she stated loved her most. We also came to know later, that after she had finished with her deposition she went to an eminent bar-at-law secretly, and tried to engage him to defend Khenda. I once tried to challenge Molina for this and wanted to ask her about it, but Inspector Roy, who was there, was wise enough to stop me saying "A woman's mind remains always a mystery. If you hit her now she may turn hysteric and spoil your case".

I should also say something about Khenda's personal character, which widely differed from that of other members of his gang. The special feature of his character was that he had a great sympathy for the city women. He always prevented his associates from bullying those unfortunate creatures and rebuffed them saying "when we, the thieves are chased from one place to another, by the police like pariah dogs who gives, us shelter? No body! But these women never hesitate to provide us with food and lodging and a temporary wife too, without which our lives would have been tasteless."

In fact the rooms of these unfortunate women—specially, the instinctive ones, served as the only place of resort and comfort for these instinctive thieves. They assembled in their rooms before they went out to commit any crime and were well received there after they came back with the booty.

But inspite of this it was strange enough that Khenda was not liked by these women till last, as some of his acts indirectly harmed

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the habitual prostitutes who preferred people other than thieves, Khenda never oppressed these women, but at the same time he never hesitated to snatch away articles from the person of their visitors and thus to scarce them away. And for this reason, these women even though paid enough by Khenda came in batches later, to depose against him after his arrest.

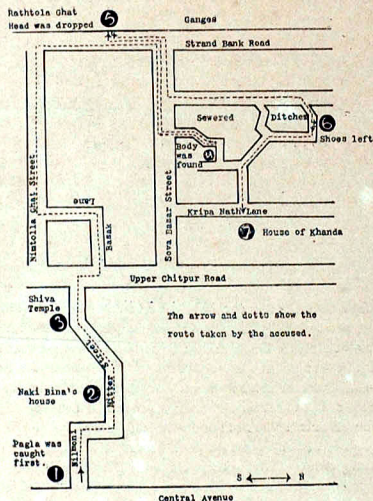
Inspector S. K. Roy who made some enquiries regarding the character of Khenda came to know that on one occasion he paid a poor widow Rs 500/- as expenses for her daughter's marriage while on another occasion he was ready to help a woman with a sum of Rs 10,000/- for purchasing a house and in return he wanted her only to write on her forearm "Khenda my love" in tattoo. Thus we see that though Khenda was an instinctive criminal, the social and religious conditions prevailing in our country had great influence in forming his character. *

Now on the 31st. of July 1937 at 6 a.m. in the morning Khenda got up from bed, asked for a phial of scent and a few flowers as his last wish, and, as we were told, he smilingly ascended the scaffold.

Thanks to the endeavour of our standing Counsel Mr. S. M. Basu Bar-at-law, our Public Prosecutor Mr. P. G. Mukherjee, and Mr. S. Chowdhury, Solicitor. (specially appointed for this case) who had laboured hard with us day after day till late at night, perusing the pages of diary weighing 4 seers, containing the names of 61 witnesses and 132 exhibits, and thus bringing this thrilling case to a successful end after a prolonged trial for 31 days

Thus, the citizens of North Calcutta were relieved of a living terror. And it was once again proved that co-operation among themselves and with the public will enable the police to render the greatest help to society.

* Khenda stabbed many persons including a constable. He had 13 convictions for house breaking, theft and stabbing cases, 2 convictions for escaping from legal custody and 5 convictions for returning to Calcutta, violating Govt. order, under Goonda Act.



Plan showing the route taken by the accused with Pagla in a taxi

Abide By the Traffic Rules

AND

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That will save your own LIFE

and the LIVES of others.

The Problem of crime—A Psychological Study

BY

S. C. MITRA, M. A., D. Phil

&

A. DATTA, M. Sc., B. L,

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The problem of crime is one which has attracted the attention of serious minded people all over the world. Various theories have been formulated from time to time to explain the fundamental factors in the causation of crime and attempts have been made to find out suitable remedies for the eradication of the evil from society. But none of the theories could do more than touch the mere fringe of the subject and explain a few of the criminal behaviours. Modern researches tend to show that the problem of crime is, in fact, ultimately problem of the criminal mind. Therefore a better understanding of the psychological processes of the criminal behaviour is necessary for determining effective preventive methods. Psychologists have taken up the problem in right earnest and have already made some valuable contributions towards understanding the criminal mind. We shall in this paper discuss some of their findings in this matter and see how far these contributions help us in understanding the complex problem of crime. But before doing so let us first consider some of the current legal and popular views about the various problems of crime.

Crime is held by the lawyers to be "an act or omission made punishable by any law for the time being in force." The very definition shows that from the legal point of view it is the nature of the

act itself that is to be considered and not the mentality of the agent who does the act. The interest of the lawyers is accordingly confined to the consideration of conformity or otherwise of the act in question with the prevailing laws, the causes of criminality lie outside their sphere.

It is often said that the sooner a criminal is detected and punished the greater is the chance of diminishing the number of crimes. However true the above view may seem to be in theory actual observation shows that speedy detection and punishment do not always reduce the number of criminal cases. Such a procedure may check to a very small extent the spread of the crime but does not succeed in stopping altogether the perpetration of criminal acts.

Unfavourable environmental conditions, e. g. poverty, bad home surroundings, defective family relationship, etc., are held by some to be the causes of crime. Although bad and degrading environmental conditions favour the development of the criminal urge, they cannot be regarded however to be the basic factors of crime. Bad environment and criminality do not necessarily go together. Criminals are sometimes met with among the upper strata of society and some men living in the dirtiest environment turn out to be excellent citizens in the full sense of the term. The environment makes the selection, as it were, of persons who are to be turned into criminals. The selection is primarily determined by the character trends of the individuals. Thus if an individual is specially predisposed to crime, he may become a regular criminal even under the most favourable environmental conditions.

Ignorance of law is sometimes said to be a cause of crime. But this view is not tenable on the ground that among the criminals, there are persons whose knowledge of laws and the legal system is as good as that of any of the successful lawyers.

It is a mere truism that an individual is not free to act as he likes. His actions and behaviours are regulated by the social order. In course of his development from infancy onwards he learns to adjust his behaviours to the demands of society. This method of

gradually modifying one's behaviours is a highly interesting psychological process. In the beginning of life an individual's behaviour is regulated by what has been described as the *Pleasure-Principle*. The one motive of action, then, is the acquirement of pleasure and avoidance of pain. He soon finds out for himself that all needs cannot immediately be gratified and that there are irremovable obstructions on the path of the realisation of his desire. With the increase of age he learns to postpone gratification, endure a degree of pain and altogether renounce certain sources of pleasure in order to secure greater gratification later on. Thus an adult's behaviour is controlled by the *Reality-Principle*, i.e. by the recognition of the fact that there is an external reality opposing his pleasure seeking actions. At bottom however the reality-principle is merely a delayed pleasure-principle. This period of life is the most important for the proper development of personality; for it is with this change in outlook that the growth of idealism, moral sense and other such virtues are bound up. But this translation from the pleasure-principle to the reality-principle is not accomplished very smoothly in all cases. There are persons who may be constitutionally, or for other reasons' incapable of renouncing the pleasure-principle or who can only with the greatest effort accept the reality-principle and stick to it. It is these persons in whom a proper adjustment between the two principles has not taken place who are prone to be either neurotics or criminals.

The new psychological method of approach to the problem has revealed some of the root factors of crime. Many criminal acts are the results of the conflict between the two guiding principles of life mentioned above. Stealing is often a symbolic act giving vent to pent up emotions rather than an act for any material gain. Eminent persons have been known to have suffered from 'kleptomania'. Deprivation, discontent, etc. are potent factors in inducing an individual to criminal acts. But as has been stated above these factors are necessary conditions, the criminal urge being primarily determined by the acquired and constitutional character trends of the individual.

A feeling of inferiority sometimes serves as a stimulus to criminality. An individual suffering from the inferiority feeling often

makes an attempt to prove his superiority by showing disrespect towards established codes. Here the compensatory wish is the chief determinant of the criminal behaviour. Stealing and robbery are not infrequently a compensatory reaction to the unconscious infantile wish to be supported by others. Taking things by force in such cases is to satisfy the wish to get things without taking the trouble of earning or undergoing the humiliation of asking for them.

An unconscious hatred against the father reveals itself in many political murder cases. Here the aggressive behaviour is nothing but the unconscious wish to enjoy the mother earth and to challenge the lawful claim of the king—the father.

Sadism, the tendency to cruelty and masochism, the wish to suffer pain, both component elements of infantile sexuality are also factors in determining the criminality of an individual. Here the object is to get pleasure by inflicting on others or by being inflicted pain and torture at the hands of the loved object. In a similar way fetishism also determines many antisocial behaviours. In such cases both the object and aim of love have altered. Stealing of clothes or shoes or hair-pin of a woman is an expression of the unconscious desire of the fetishists.

From what has been said above we see that the criminal behaviours are largely determined by the unconscious psychological processes similar to those found in the neurotic cases. Criminal behaviours are often expressions of jealousy, hostility, envy, protest against deprivation all, strengthened by early suffering or torture. Though criminal behaviour bears such a close relationship to neurosis as regards its origin, yet there is a difference between the two types of cases. In the case of neurosis all the actions are determined by the unconscious emotional conflict. The symptoms of the disease are symbolic gratification of the unsatisfied wish. But in the case of criminal behaviour certain conscious and rational motives are present and they are utilised for covering the more powerful unconscious emotional motives. That is to say in criminal behaviour the overt misdeed is the result of both the conscious and unconscious motives.

Thus we see that psychologists have gone to the very roots of the problem of crime. Though they cannot as yet explain the origin of every particular tendency which is regarded as criminal, it may be hoped that with the method that they have given us it will be possible in course of time to get a better understanding of the whole problem. Penal codes and methods of dealing with criminals will have to be revised then.

Suicide in Calcutta

NRIPENDRA NATH BASU B. L.

I think one of the objects of The Calcutta Police Journal is to encourage a *study of the criminal science* amongst the Members of the Force and the general public. I shall deal with *Suicide in Calcutta* in this article. Suicide is one of the chief subjects of *Social Physics*.

At first sight, *Suicide appears to be dependant on the individual*. But *statistical researches* have shown the astonishing fact "that *Suicide is merely the product of the general condition of Society*" and "that in a given state of society, a certain number of persons must put an end to their own life. This is the general law; and the special question as to who shall commit the crime depends, of course, upon special laws; which, however, in their total action, must obey the large social law to which they are all subordinate" and that "the power of the larger law is so irresistible, that neither love of life nor the fear of another world can avail anything towards even checking its operation."

Henry Morselli, in his "*Suicide*," has shown that, in different countries for which there are *Moral Statistics*, the same proportion of persons put an end to their own existence, year by year, and that the *statistical law* applies to voluntary human acts, such as suicide, homicide, marriage, as it does to unconscious phenomena, such as births, illegitimate births, general mortality and accidental deaths.

Henry Thomas Buckle, in his "History of Civilization in England", pointed out that a remarkable regularity existed in the number of deaths from *Suicide in London* and observed that "about

240 persons every year make away with themselves; the annual suicides oscillating, from the pressure of temporary causes, between 266, the highest and 213, the lowest. In 1846, which was the great year of excitement caused by railway panic, the suicides in London were 266; in 1847 began a slight improvement, and they fell to 256; in 1848 they were 247; in 1849 they were 213; and in 1850 they were 229".

I have collected the number of deaths from suicide, in the town and suburbs of Calcutta, from the Administration Reports of the Calcutta Police for the period extending from 1878 to 1937 excepting the years 1880, 1881, 1893 for which the Administration Reports were not available to me. I have also prepared a *graph* showing the mortality from suicide from 1878 to 1937. The figures are given in Appendix A and the *graph* is annexed herewith. In the *graph* there is a break for the years 1880, 1881, and 1893.

The figures given in Appendix A show that *there is a periodicity of 6 years, in the case of suicides in Calcutta, as in the case of small pox*. The number of suicides has been increasing with an *increase in population* but there is still a *remarkable regularity in progression*.

Between 1879 and 1884	it oscillated	between 45 and 60.
" 1885 and 1890	"	65 and 85
" 1891 and 1896	"	66 and 87
" 1897 and 1902	"	89 and 134
" 1903 and 1908	"	110 and 136
" 1909 and 1914	"	107 and 154
" 1915 and 1920	"	100 and 135
" 1921 and 1926	"	92 and 108
" 1927 and 1932	"	82 and 123
" 1933 and 1937	"	109 and 144

The annual average for the said periods was as follows:—

Period.	Average.	Population.
1879-1884	53.7	6,12,307
1885-1890	73.6	

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Period	Average	Population
1891-1896	72.2	6,82,303 (?)
1897-1902	104.8	
1903-1908	119.0	9,49,144
1909-1914	123.0	10,43,307
1915-1920	114.5	
1921-1926	98.5	10,77,264
1927-1932	103.0	11,96,734
1933-1937	121.0	

During the period 1896 to 1879, when the population was about 6 to 7 lakhs, the average of suicides oscillated between 53 and 73; and during the period 1897 to 1937, when the population increased to 10/11 lakhs, the average oscillated between 96 and 123.

On a study of the figures given in Appendix A, another remarkable fact appears, viz. *the maximum number of deaths is reached every 12th year.* Between 1879 and 1890, the minimum was 45 in 1882 and the maximum was 85 in 1890, the 12th year. And between 1891 and 1902, the minimum was 66 in 1891 and the maximum 134 in 1902, the 12th year.

Again between 1903 and 1914, the minimum was 107 in 1912 and the 2nd minimum was 110 in 1903, while the maximum was 154 in 1914, the 12th year,—*the year of the Great War.*

The figure 154 is the highest recorded figure for Suicide in Calcutta during the period 1878 to 1937. It is remarkable that there has been a decline after the maximum 154 was reached in 1914. Between 1915 and 1926, there has been a gradual decrease from 131 in 1915 to 92 in 1926. After this period, there has again been a rise from 98 in 1927 to 144 in 1935 and 113 in 1937. The figures for 1938 are not yet available. I am afraid, when the figures would be published, they would show that the maximum for the 12th year was also reached in 1938.

We should also study the relationship between the moral actions and external phenomena. The relation between the number of Suicides and variations in temperature, pressure and humidity, the

SUICIDE IN CALCUTTA

influence of the season, the phases of the Moon, appearance of the Sun spots and other astronomical conditions of the earth, should be carefully studied.

Actions of men—whether virtuous or vicious—show remarkable regularity. Murder, for example, is committed with as much regularity as the movements of the tides. That great savant, M. Quetelet, who had spent his life in collecting and methodizing the statistics of different countries, stated, so far back as 1835, that "in everything which concerns crime, the same numbers re-occur with a constancy which cannot be mistaken". Subsequent investigations have confirmed its accuracy.

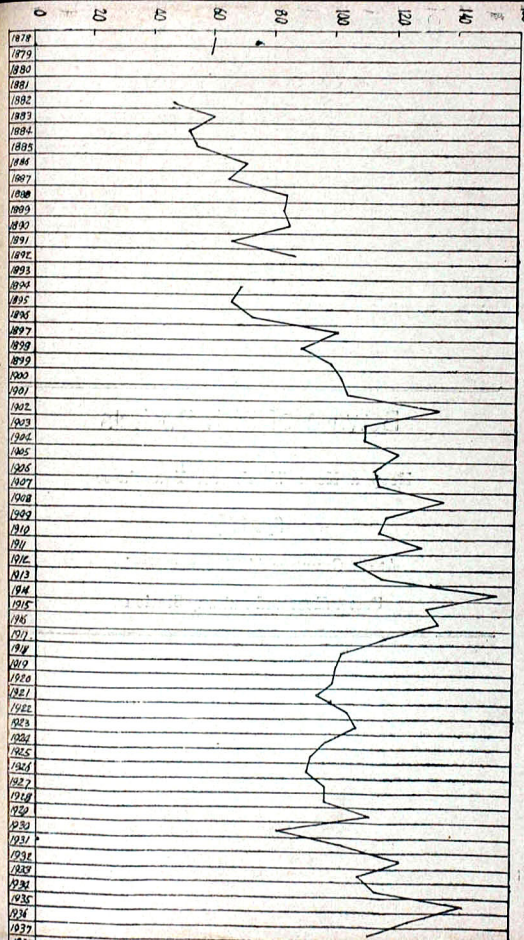
Statistics show the great regularity with which the same crimes are reproduced, in the same state of Society and that "the offences of men are the result not so much of the vices of the individual offender as of the state of Society into which that individual is thrown."

Appendix A

Year.	No. of Suicides.	Population	Year.	No. of Suicide	Population
1878	60		1894	69	
1879	59		1895	66	
1880			1896	73	
1881		6,12,307			
1882	45		1897	101	
1883	60		1898	89	
1884	51		1899	99	
			1900	102	
1885	54		1901	104	9,49,144
1886	71		1902	134	
1887	65				
1888	84		1903	110	
1889	83		1904	119	
1890	85,		1905	121.	
			1906	113	
1891	66	6,82,308	1907	115	
1892	87		1908	136.	
1893					

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Year.	No. of Suicides	Population	Year.	No. of Suicide	Population
1909	117	10,43,307	1925	93	11,96,734
1910	115		1926	92.	
1911	129		1927	98	
1912	107.		1928	98	
1913	116.		1929	113	
1914	154	1930	82		
1915	131	1931	104		
1916	135	1932	123		
1917	132	1933	109		
1918	108	1934	115		
1919	101	1935	144		
1920	100	1936	126		
1921	95	1937	113.		
1922	105	1938.			
1923	108				
1924	98				



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Crime & Criminals : Their classification

P. N. GHOSAL, M. SC.

Before we proceed to discuss about the above subject so commonly known to the human society in a varied and diverse form, I think it proper to dwell on their gradual growth and development.

Offence and crime are the elements yet remaining intermingled in the progressive human civilization in spite of all restrictions imposed upon them.

A crime as reckoned commonly is an act which encroaches upon the safety of others and hampers his liberty, and we generally call a man as criminal who endangers the life and property of others. But it is very difficult to give a correct interpretation to proper crime, as an act, however anti-social, is not always a crime punishable in accordance with law or other systematic social procedures. This is also commonly seen that an act which is legally punishable in one state may not be likewise in another (e.g. attempt at suicide* or likewise). But a proper crime is counted as a criminal act in all times and all places, and we may regard those who commit theft, robbery, murder, abduction, burglary, criminal breach of trust, cheating etc as criminals as they generally lead to social degeneration.

Now, these true criminals may be classified. So in dealing with their classification I intend to restrict myself to true criminals as defined above. Our experience for this classification earned at the cost of extensive analysis and intensive care will but arouse sympathy, for them instead of anger or other wise. Our experience has proved further that the number of criminals may be reduced by adoption of some scientific devices.

*In Japan attempt at Suicide is not an offence.

Classification of Criminals

Generally we may classify the criminals as (a) instinctive, (b) habitual and (c) occasional.

(a) The instinctive criminals have an addiction to an inborn tendency for an uncontrollable desire of it, which is equally potent even upto the day of his death. In analysing the reason for the development of this tendency we cannot accuse the hereditary factor as responsible in view of the applied fact of our observation that a boy coming from a good lineage may turn into a rogue, and that a son of a burglar to a good citizen.

Nature of Instinctive Criminals

The instinctive criminals owe their nature as described above to the complex factor of "atavism", which means a reversion from the parental nature. Atavism means the sudden development of physical or psychic characteristic which existed in our remote ancestors. We have observed that a family having black complexioned children for some successive generations—both from paternal and maternal sides is fortunate enough to have a bright complexioned one. It is not a matter of wonder as the scientific analysis will reveal that there was some body with the physical characteristic of fair complexioned skin before 5 or 6 generations, which, lying in a dormant state for some time, had suddenly manifested in the child. This sudden exposition of physical quality is known as physical atavism, which is but an instance of "clan atavism". Akin to this we also come across "sect atavism", A Bengali youth with a Mongolian face as shown in the fig 6 is not a rare instance. It is an example of the latter and an explanatory evidence of the admixture of Mongolian blood in Bengali race in some by-gone days. The Russian dog man as shown in Fig. 5 is another instance which proves our descent also from a furry animal. The atavistic growth of hair (see, Fig. 5) even on his face is to be noted. This is an instance of race "atavism". This recurrence of some unprecedented attribute remaining in a dormant state for million or thousand of unit generations are all instances of physical atavism. Likewise there are instances of psychic atavism also, which may appear together with or independent of physical atavism..

The birth of an instinctive criminal in a good lineage owes its origin to this psychic atavism. The contention needs a bit explanation. The uncivilized human society of the primitive ages did not reckon many acts as crimes according to the moral standard of the present day society. The most heinous crime of the present era was coloured as the most chivalrous deed in the primitive society (e.g. dacoity, abduction etc). Theft and abduction were social incidents of every day in that era. Subsequently the gradients of human civilization was attended with a proportionate change in nature. Man has shunned many of his habit and nature of the past, but possesses in him some remnants of his primitive instincts, till now, in his subconscious state varying in the degree of quality. It is only the conventional excess of the sense of decency and fear of law which protect one from the exhibition of this primitive instinct. In weaker moments, however, this dormant faculty is manifested in our actions. The undermentioned confession will explain the statement.

"I passed a long journey without smoking. Abruptly I found an inscription 'smoking prohibited' my primitive criminal instinct was kindled. I could not check myself in spite of strenuous effort. Unintelligible it was to me, but an uncontrollable desire to smoke at that particular place overtook me."

This is but only a small fraction of the instinct of our primitive ancestors till retained by us in our subconscious state, but apart from that a man also possesses in him criminal instincts in a far greater degree (exactly what our primitive ancestors possessed) than what I have described above, in his germ plasm or germ cells * in a dormant state, which however he can not exhibit unless accidentally imbibed in him with his birth as psychic atavism which means the accidental reappearance of the instinct once possessed by man in his primitive stage, after lying dormant for thousand of years in an unfortunate member of a subsequent generation.

* There are two kinds of cells in a man. Germ cells and somatic cells. The whole of his body, including the nerve system, is composed of this somatic cells. The criminal instinct in the normal man as described above is a quality of the nerve system, whereas the germ cells which are set apart to from the body of their offspring retain various hereditary or acquired qualities for their transmission to the next generation—all of which may not appear in the subsequent generations.

I have stated before that even a normal man possesses criminal tendency in a lesser degree in his subconscious state which he manages to suppress partially or totally either by hereditary tradition acquired habit, culture or fear of law and that such tendency retained in our nerve system can be kindled in case he is a man of weaker temperament. Now, this being the natural condition of a normal man, we can well imagine, how this complexity of mind becomes intense with atavism, the trend of which accidentally being imbibed in a generation, will but turn the unfortunate member into a criminal in heart and soul as justified by our present day society. To commit a crime is the natural inclination of the mind due to our existing primitive habits and the union of atavism only makes these habits potent, thereby turning the victim, an acute type of instinctive criminal. By nature he is akin to a primitive man. He cannot realise what a crime is. Stealth is conceived by him to be a birth acquired right. He remains unconscious of the baseness of crime in spite of an explicit analysis, not satisfied till he has committed some offence, not for the gratification of his interest but for his intense desire to commit it. He has in him the same allurements for crime as wine is to a drunkard or gambling to a gambler. These criminals are acute and desperate and bold. They regard life as enjoyment and they are absolutely inattentive to their future provision. They are susceptible to excitement at a trifle. Their crooked and beastly nature is exposed in their countenance. They are guided by instinct and not by intellect argument or rationality.

The baneful effect of the transmission of primitive instinct through atavism in a man has attracted the notice of the scientists and the subject has been regarded as an object of research and discussion. There are some scholars, again, who like to defy the theory.

According to their theory, environmental influence of evil association, bad education etc., is responsible for moral degeneration. But instances can be found where a child can be seen to show his addiction to crime though being brought up amidst a family of culture and education. He exhibits evidence of intellect, only in the role of a criminal as he grows up, but he shows idiocy outside his scope of criminality, making no difference whether he is born and brought up

in a bad or good family. I made some researches regarding this personally and my conclusion of reckoning these inborn criminals as instinctive criminals was based on their criminal propensities shown even before they were able to distinguish right from wrong. Once I collected the biography of 60 adult criminals accustomed to commit crimes from their infancy, without any change in habit with their growth of age. Of course all of them were not unfortunate enough to have the sad experience of prison life. I have made the list mentioned in table "A" from their biography which stands as a favourable support to my argument.

Table "A"

(i) Born in good family and brought up in good environment.	20
(ii) Born in bad family and brought up in bad environment.	12
(iii) Born in good family but brought up in evil environment.	10
(iv) Born in bad family and brought up in good environment.	18

There are scholars who are in concurrence of opinion with the theory that a good environment deprecates the criminal instincts of the instinctive criminals. The influence of good atmosphere only moulds the activities of the instinctive criminals, (as it happens in Europe where compulsory education prevails) but how far it succeeds in the truest sense would be very difficult to say. The experience I have gained can be seen in table "B". There are others again who tempt to prove from the non-criminal temperament of a man bearing physical atavism such as receding forehead, protruded jaw, unsteady eyes and other primitive features the instability of such theory. But this view they hold due to their failure to

discriminate the aspect of physical atavism from that of psychic atavism. They forget that physical atavism alone has got nothing to do with it and it (physical atavism) may appear independent of psychic atavism which alone only makes a man an instinctive criminal; but occasion arises when both psychic and physical atavism appear together, in which case, however the instinct gets more acute, turning the unfortunate victim more an animal than a man. The photos of two such Indian criminals may be seen in the attached plate. Fig. (3) is the photo of an up country boy in whose case both physical and psychic atavism appeared; and Fig. (4) is the photo of two Bengali boys in whose case only the psychic atavism prevails. But the former was more akin to a lunatic and the latter to a little child in some of their behaviours. The primitive features in that up country boy could be well understood, if his photo is compared with those of a monkey, shown in Fig. (1) and a primitive man as shown in Fig. no. (2).

The up country boy came to my notice as an accused in a burglary case. Apart from his physical features he had an animal gait and that he could climb walls or walk along the narrowest cornice of the roofs with the greatest ease, he could crawl into a house through the small opening of a house drain, just like an animal, but he always remained satisfied with the few pice offered to him, for his daily food by his adult employers. As for the two Bengalee boys, shown in Fig. 4, they are uterine brothers and they were brought up with several other boys (of their family) who, however, never showed any sign of criminality like those two brothers, (shown in Fig. 4), at any stage of their growth.

Woman Criminal.

The possibility of the application of instinctive criminality in women may also be a subject for discussion. In my opinion a woman never turns into an instinctive criminal. Women criminals should be always reckoned as habitual or chance ones, but even in the sphere of habitual criminality, the woman gets less chance of falling a victim to it, even in their association of thieves. The responsibility for rearing the children is entrusted with them in their youth for which they are not furnished with the opportunity to commit crimes. Some of them are found to commit crimes either before or after their



A Chimpanzee (Fig. 1)



A Primitive man (Fig. 2)



An up country boy (Fig. 3)
Juvenile offender with both physical
& psychic atavism



Bengalee Brothers (Fig. 4)
Juvenile offenders with
psychic atavism only



(Fig. 5) Russian dog man
Showing descent of man from furry animal
(Race atavism)



(Fig. 6) A Yellow complexioned Bengalee Brahmin
of Culture and Education
(Mongolian Atavism)

CRIME & CRIMINALS

period of womanhood, but that is habitual, and not instinctive. The special reason for this may be ascribed to the fact that the same propensity or atavism which makes a man an instinctive thief, turns a woman into a prostitute. The crimes like theft etc. and prostitution are two primitive professions, which were not recognised as vicious acts in the primitive stages of society. So it is no wonder that the acute train of polygamy in a woman (which existed in the primitive ones) is also retained in their germ cells (or sex hormones) in a dormant state in addition to the normal polygamitic tendency of lesser degree, that lies in their subconscious state, being imbibed in the nerve system, just like the existence of criminality in the case of a man. And this being the case, the tendency of prostitution in woman like the criminality in a man is also transmitted through atavism too. So women also living on prostitution may be classified into three groups viz, instinctive, habitual, and occasional. It is seen that if in a family, a brother is found to be a thief, his sister is found to practise prostitution ; an instinctive criminal brother mostly gets an instinctive rough sister, which, I believe, is due to the atavistic transmission of such primitive habits. To an instinctive prostitute her trade is not regarded as condemnable. Being guided by all the sentiments of a primitive woman, marriage is conceived by her to be immaterial. She gets accustomed to the practices of polygamy, with a sincere attachment to her time-being paramour for whom she can sacrifice her life and can commit murder even.

Habitual Criminals.

So far I have said of instinctive criminality. Now, I intend to say something about habitual and chance criminals but before describing the case of habitual criminals, who, unlike an instinctive criminal could be found both in man and woman alike, I would like to cite a few instances of our criminal instincts which are to be found in the subconscious state of each and every individual and which we have not been able to avoid in spite of all our acquired culture, and which may manifest in any weaker moment. Evil company, lust, want of mental strength etc., are the agents to arouse these instincts, and any good man may be degraded into the role of a criminal at a momentary offence either for want of mental strength or due to the influence of

evil association. I have already said about it when discussing about instinctive criminality. Now, the theory will be clear from a confession enumerated below.

"Once I visited a shop to purchase an article, where I did not hesitate to take a string to bind my bundle. I did this unnoticed by the shopkeeper with the understanding that it was a trifle. But I felt at ease to see that it did not come to the notice of the shopkeeper. I could not understand that my inborn criminal instincts were on the way to be developed. Later on when I visited that shop the influence of the law of association acted on me I recollected my activity of the other day and my mind became eager to commit crime. I took an article and I apparently waited to pay for it. But the shopkeeper could not notice me as he was busy with other customers. I cannot even understand what all on a sudden came to my mind. I did not pay price and left the place. Lust prevailed on me. I applied the same tactics to other shops too. I was next attended with evil association and vicious instruction. I got addicted to cocaine. At last I was caught on a day and sent to prison, where I had the chance to come in contact with other criminals. The influence of prison life only emboldened my mind and turned me an expert thief, and I had the necessity to revisit prison several times again for my activity. At present I am an old convict."

The above case is an example of a habitual criminal. This will also show as to how the suppressed criminality can be kindled, turning a normal man into a habitual criminal within such a short period. The distinction between an instinctive and a habitual criminal is that while the former cannot realise his activity as criminal, the latter is entirely conscious of his crime. Often he repents for his bad activity yet he commits crimes as it is a habit to him and he is a slave to his habit. Society is closed to him and he is helpless as a habitual prostitute. But he is not unconscious of his self. He is quite particular to the necessity and demand for money. He is guided by intellect and not by instinct, and his activity is conducted by reasoning and consideration. So when a gang is formed consisting of both instinctive and habitual criminals we found him to take the lead and often exploiting the instinctive ones to his own interest. This happens in every sphere of criminality with the exception of a few e.g. pick-

pocketing, the reason of which I shall describe in a subsequent article. The habitual criminal is never reckless. As this criminality is pregated in him with the influence of bad association, so in an equal proportion, goodness may be imbibed in him with that of a good company. But society does not care to afford him that chance; on the contrary, only forsakes him and makes his degenerating way smoother.

At the first stage the habitual prostitutes are conscious of their offence like the habitual criminal, and under favourable circumstances, they might have been chaste wives instead of turning into prostitutes. It is our society only which is to be condemned for this.

The inborn criminal instinct in man and polygamy in woman may also be germinated by the influence of artificial drugs which can stimulate the instincts just as it is done by lust or evil environment. Due to this reason old criminals are found to spare cocaine to young boys who surrender to them at first for addiction to drug, which later on stimulates their criminal instincts and turns them into expert offenders. The same theory can be applied to women also, who, under the influence of cocaine, may develop the tendency to prostitution. This is why, the thieves and prostitutes are generally found to be addicted to cocaine. * In the same way, procuresses of women are found in Calcutta, who pay occasional visits to the girls of the family and try, to kindle their dormant polygametic tendency by secretly administering cocaine in betels.

In India specially, where the purdah and over-modesty on the part of women are important factors, the number of women criminals are not considerable in number. But they are sometimes found to be closely associated with poisoning cases, which they prove generally to tackle in a comparatively better way than men. This special capacity, in woman tempted some of the scholars to hold the view that in poisoning cases, the woman shows criminality, akin to an instinctive one; but here too they forget that this special capa-

* It is to be noted that with the gradual fall in the number of cocaine smuggling cases in Calcutta, there is a distinct fall in the number of crimes, criminals and prostitutes also.

city on the part of a woman was due to their inherent instinct which they had acquired in primitive ages in self defence, they being a weaker sex. It is probably this instinct of theirs, found in them from the remote ages, which they apply in self defence, when occasion demands. For this reason, the aforesaid views of those scholars we are afraid is not tenable as women are weaker physically and farther more an enquiry in such cases would reveal some purpose or motive to take revenge unlike that of the instinctive criminals.

Occasional Criminals.

The occasional criminal may not be included in the role of the criminals considering the fact that they are often found to correct themselves and their offence is in most cases based on either chance or starvation. Of course contrary may happen as the chance to commit frequent accidental offence may turn an occasional criminal into a habitual criminal. In such circumstance the occasional crime is the first stage of habitual crime. Akin to the occasional criminals occasional prostitutes are also seen. It is needless here to discuss them in detail.

Confirmed Opinion

It is my confirmed opinion that the habitual and occasional criminals as well as the habitual and occasional prostitutes may easily be restored back to honour and position in society provided they get a chance. But it is very difficult to hold the same view in regard to the instinctive criminals (luckily they are fewer in number) and instinctive prostitutes. I think it should be vested in the medical science to carry on a research work, if the instinctive abnormality may be adjusted and counter-balanced by the application of some medicinal measures; If the hems and drugs like cocaine stimulate the criminal instincts, should not there be any blessed counter herbs which can stimulate our good nature and diminish the evil one? I myself had the occasion to treat an instinctive boy criminal in the same way as we treat a mad man in which case the boy was mostly cured.



Mr. Abu Yusuf B.A., B.L. Calcutta Police
All India High Jump Champion, Highest record 6½ feet



Mr. Jnan Dutta B.A. Calcutta Police
All India weight lifting champion, 1937



Mr. Abani Gupta B. A. Calcutta Police
Secy. Calcutta Police Association

Can The Police Laugh ?

PRABODH CHATTERJEE

Associated Press, Calcutta.

Do the police laugh ? It is no poser. It is a simple question I put and the reaction time in between the question and the reply was longer than expected. I looked for a plain answer, but it came out halting. I am afraid I do not remember having seen a policeman or an officer break into a guffaw—one of those side-splitting performances which a human being can only indulge in.

Few and far between though my contacts have been with the police and those too of a very brief duration, I felt they could but did not exercise this franchise—our precious birth right, speaking in the manner of a politician.

But why should not they laugh ? They are as human as the citizens they look after, the criminals or other law-breakers, they hunt down. Is it that they take their duties too seriously ? They are onerous no doubt, but such are those of the cabinet ministers and very many others who toil a good many hours of the day to render valuable service to the state. Still they do laugh—even at the wrong moment.

The "paharawalla" supposed to be regulating traffic is nothing if not pompous. The "Chotasahib" watching a meeting of his fellow citizens is severely dignified, while the "Specials" guarding the gate of—does he not look herculean ? My friends suspect, they do not laugh, lest they get off the perch. They stand on their dignity. It is precious, particularly when you are placed in control of so many fellow men and all sorts of men.

They represent law and order which are essential if we are to carry on the normal business of life and thrive with security and

safety. But need they ride Law and Order like the car of Jaggernaut claiming victims ?

To be frank, this pomposity, this grandiose attitude, this standing on dignity on the least or no occasion hurts. It is only people dressed in brief authority who chuckle when they can hurt or scare those in their charges. Terrorism is the tactics of the bully. It cannot be the method of the rightly appointed guardians of the people, which the police really are and ever aspire to be.

Bullying people is so easy that the "Paharawalla" makes himself an adept in the first few months of his job. It pays, particularly when the clientele is ignorant and weak. Was it not said that people of Bengal a few decades ago blessed their benefactors with pious hopes for their being appointed "Darogas" ?

Days have changed, so have men—even the Daroga ! We welcome the change. We know the personnel has improved and if there are aberrations, we do not accuse the police. They are human, all too human ; if they try to drink to the dregs the cup of authority they find themselves favoured with. "Ce est moi" is a human feeling with which many are imbued.

But if so human, why not humane ? No, we do not expect the police to be dripping with the milk of human kindness. They need not drip. Dripping is messy. But why should not a policeman laugh when the "Veteran" blind beggar blinks at the sight of him—as if nothing is wrong with him or the world, the confirmed cripple slinks away with a speed which can safely be considered a record for human legs.

The police are much too pre-occupied. They have drilled themselves to efficiency to a degree. Like doctors in a hospital they look at fellow human beings only as so many cases ordinary, peculiar or otherwise. The fundamental respect for and readiness to appreciate the individual which alone could engender fellow feeling is lacking and this alone could make the police humane and not merely human.

I wonder, if I have yet earned the right to prescribe, but is it not apparent that I have a prescription up in my sleeves, when I

started the boomerang. I will be out with it, come what may. It will help you to laugh whenever the opportunity presents itself. Get down the stilts. If one can drill oneself into efficiency, one can just as well laugh himself into humaneness. Efficiency is precious, but humanity is much more.

Gather together and laugh—if the cause of laughter is not forthcoming create one—but laugh and let others see you indulge in this noble practice. The Arab does not harm the man who takes food with him. Men we laugh with are friends. Club together and—

But am I not treading on risky ground ? Have I not ridden the stilts much too long ?

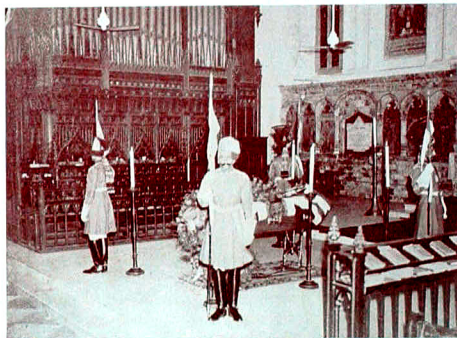
Editorial Notes.

P. K. CHATTERJEE, B. A.

The sudden and premature termination of the life of the late lamented Lord Brabourne, Governor of Bengal was a great tragedy, as Bengal expected much of him, encouraged as she was by ample evidence of his remarkable administrative abilities. He won the hearts of the people of Bengal, rich or poor, official or non-official alike, by his fundamental goodness of nature, genial personality and exceptional qualities of head and heart. He came to India with a wealth of cultural tradition behind him, a sincere determination to do good to the people and a conviction that the spirit of righteousness and fair dealing must be victorious in the long run, which earned for him the Governorship of two of the most important provinces of India and for sometime the Viceroyalty. He had a flair for governing Parliamentary constitution in Bombay and later in Bengal with remarkable tact and astuteness and ably tided over threatened constitutional crisis of grave nature. In the midst of conflicting communal bitterness he held the scales of justice evenly which promises fair towards a satisfactory solution of this vexed problem. With his worthy consort he spared neither time nor trouble towards tackling the most pernicious scourge of Tuberculosis which has been ravaging Bengal at the present time. With problems of sanitation he evinced keen interest besides rural reconstruction, and industrial development of the country. He studied the river problem of Bengal and the resuscitation of the dead rivers which have been affecting the health and vitality of this province and actively supported schemes of such nature. He encouraged arts and the cultivation of literary and scientific pursuits and was always an enthusiastic patron in the field of sports.

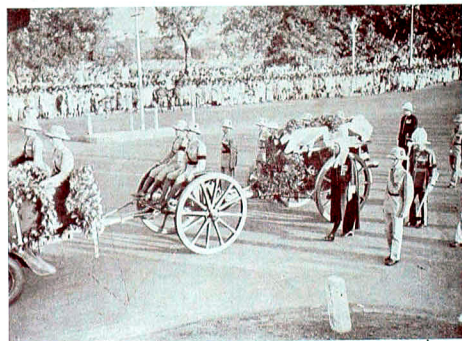
The magnitude of his popularity was amply demonstrated on

Passing Away of Lord Brabourne.



Lying in state at the St. Pauls Cathedral

Photo by Courtesy "THE STATESMAN"



The Funeral Procession

Photo by Courtesy "THE STATESMAN"

EDITORIAL NOTES

that memorable melancholy evening when the whole city spontaneously turned out to pay respectful silent homage to their beloved Governor on his last farewell journey from St. Paul's to St. James Church. As the Cortège (ital) slowly wended its way along its pathetic flower bedecked State Bier, with the soft music solemnly trailing behind it under the most touching glory of a fading spring sunset, a spontaneous wane of grief passed around, and all heads were bowed down in solemn reverence and all eyes were moistened. It was an unprecedented scene which will leave an indelible impression in the history of this city.

The courtesy, tact and consideration with which the Calcutta Police handled the heavy traffic problem on the occasion deserves more than a passing commendation. The comment of the Statesman in this connection is worth a quotation here :—

"The behaviour of the Police who lined the whole line of route was excellent and left nothing wanting and they were exceedingly courteous to the public in directing them where to stand. This is an improvement which was marked by several persons. We all hope this spirit of co-operation between the Police and public will continue, particularly when large crowds have to be controlled."

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The first anniversary of the Calcutta Police Club was celebrated with great eclat at the Y.M.C.A. hall on the 14th March last under the distinguished presidentship of Mr. L. H. Colson C. I. E., I. P., J. P. when the elites of the City graced the occasion and heartily enjoyed the most interesting programme, and we take this opportunity of thanking them for encouraging us by their presence. The attendance itself is indicative of the growing popularity of the Calcutta Police Club in particular and the Calcutta Police in general. It is a matter of no small satisfaction to record the growing popularity of the Calcutta Police as the public have been approaching the Thana officers to seek advice and guidance even in private matters. For instance, they want the Thana officers to give their opinion about the desirability of an intended groom residing in their section, selection of servants, establishing girl schools, health association etc. holding Board of arbitration, social gathering and the like. This indicates the

change of hearts which is due largely to the endeavours of the cultured Thana Officers who always try to be helpful to the public despite the heavy strain of their duties. In the sphere of sports, social movements and the like, the public want us to be associated wholeheartedly for the maintenance of harmonious relationship among all, for the ultimate benefit of all concerned.

Mr. Colson's striking presidential address, in particular, regarding the fostering of a brotherly feeling among the force through work and play deserves more than a passing notice and we cannot help quoting extracts from his speech delivered on this occasion.

"The Secretary of the Calcutta Police Club has told us that the objects of the club are to afford facilities for outdoor and indoor games and sports to the members and to foster brotherly feelings among them. The last of these objects is not the least. It is as important as anything that is expected of the club. The consciousness of all the members, being brother officers in the discharge of their duties should be always kept in view to enable them to discharge those duties with justice, impartiality and unity among themselves. Unity is a very important factor in the successful working of the department."

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It is no exaggeration to say that the next war will be fought on air. The lurid picture of the grim effects of air raids by German, Italian and Japanese air raiders are within our distressing memory. Nations all over the world have been making rapid strides in imparting training in anti-air raid measures which are not without its repercussions on India as well. The two demonstrations of air raids over Calcutta are our recent experience. Special training in anti-air raid measures are to be imparted to the public, schools and colleges and it is satisfactory to note that the Calcutta Police are well ahead of others, having already organised an Air Raid Precautionary Corps and it will be their endeavour to train up the entire force in the line. It is needless to say that the Calcutta Police will have to bear the brunt of the attack should such air raids ever come over Calcutta. They should therefore be fully equipped beforehand. It is hoped that under the initiative already taken by the Hon'ble Home Minister, we

would find the Calcutta Police and the public of Bengal trained up in air raid precaution before long.

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Our popular Chief, Mr. Colson has just sailed for Home on six month's leave and we wish him and Mrs. Colson Bon Voyage and perfect repose in their sweet country home in England situated amidst peaceful surroundings.

+ + + +

We accord our hearty welcome to Mr. C. E. S. Fairweather, C. I. E., I. P., J. P., who has just taken over the important office of the Commissioner of Calcutta Police, in the absence of the permanent incumbent.

News & Views

Crime Discussion —

Keen discussion was provoked by the thoughtful and well-documented paper on "Juvenile Criminality" by Mr. Abul Hasanat Police Superintendent, Rajshahi, and author of "Crime and Criminal Justice" at a meeting of the Bangiya Sama Vijnan Parishat (Bengali Institute of Sociology) which was held at the residence of Dr. Narendra Nath Law under the chairmanship of Advocate Keshab Chandra Gupta on the 6th of June 1939. It was largely attended by Research Fellows, members and guests.

Introducing the subject the President of the Institute, Professor Benoy Sarkar of Calcutta University, said that the classification of behaviours and duties according to age-groups was the basic foundation of Hindu sociology. The treatment of crimes and punishments also occupied a prominent place in Sanskrit and Pali socio-legal treatises as well as story books. Modern penology had been making some advance in India during the last two decades. Children's Acts, Borstal Institutions, After-care Associations etc. were getting well-known. Prison reform was in the air.

As it was not possible for Mr. Abul Hasanat to be present at the meeting his paper was read by Mr. Subodh Ghosal, Associate Editor, "Samaj-Vijnan" (Sociology). The paper dealt with the problems of crimes historically and statistically. His data were derived as much from European and American as from Indian sources. In France, juvenile criminality increased 140 per cent. While the number of criminals between 16 and 21 increased 247 per cent. Such statistics were available from other countries as well. The treatment of first offenders by probation had been going on in the U.S.A. since 1880. It was a method of correcting without the use of prison or reformatory. Another American system was the parole which meant the

release from a correctional institution of an offender who however remained under control of the authorities. The British Borstal Act of 1908 provided for the reformation of young offenders and the prolonged detention of habitual criminals. By the criminal Justice Administration Act of 1914 it was intended to diminish the number of cases committed to prison.

One of the Jail Administration Reports published by the Bengal Government discussed at length the difference between the functions of the Borstal School at Bankura and the ordinary prisons. It was made out that detention in the Borstal School ought not to be treated by the Magistrate or the public as equivalent to imprisonment.

According to Dr. Profulla Biswas, the principle of segregation should be followed at the Alipore Reformatory. The hereditary factors in criminality were stressed by Research Fellows, Rabi Ghosh and Nebendu Datta-Majumdar as well as Professor Banervar Dass. The importance of the family environment was stressed by Sushil Das-Gupta who observed that the community must be taught to do away with the notion, "once a criminal, always a criminal." Advocate Pankaj Mukherjee wanted a stricter and more scientific classification of criminals.

Criminality, like disease, could not be treated except with sympathy, said S. Sudhakanta Dey. In the judgment of Biren Bose, editor "India-Tomorrow" the indomitable spirit of the juveniles required to be directed along constructive and socially useful channels. He considered the methods of the Reformatory School at Chunar (U.P.) to be very efficacious. Reference to psychiatry was made by Dr. Sarasi Sarkar.

Dr. Narendra Nath Law was of opinion that heredity was not very important in criminality. He stressed the role of environment, and especially such factors as poverty, domestic conditions etc.

Professor Sarkar observed that the two greatest breeding centres of criminals in all ages were, first, the family, and secondly, the street-corner or the neighbourhood. These were at the same time the foster-grounds also of virtuous and law abiding persons. From time immemorial the scoundrel and the saint were born and bred in the

same atmosphere. The two were very often combined in one person because of the eternal duality of human nature, as would appear if saints and scoundrels were understood in the sense of relatively good and relatively bad persons and if it were possible to examine at first hand the details of their social relations.

Advocate Keshab Gupta in his concluding speech attached importance to the diverse factors involved in crime. He was emphatic that hundred percent criminals were unknown, human personality being a complex phenomenon. The care of criminals could be taken properly only by such directors of reformatories and Borstal institutions as were enthusiasts in regard to character-building, and remaking of man. It was very necessary to hold that crime was but a manifestation of human energy and required to be handled in a humane manner said the Chairman in bringing the discussions to a close.

A Farewell Party—

On the afternoon of 16th June 1939 a pleasant function was held in Sealdah Court on the eve of retirement of the popular 2nd Police Magistrate Mr. T. P. Bhattacharjee B. A. He was born in Oct. 1884 and would be 55 years of age in Oct. this year. He joined the Provincial Judicial Service on Feb. 1907. The Court premises was tastefully decorated and the function took place under the Presidency of Mr. A. Raza Police Magistrate Sealdah. An address was read out on behalf of the Bench Bar and Staff of Sealdah Court by Mr. M. M. Bose M. A. Hon. Magistrate. Speeches were delivered by Mr. A. K. Chatterjee, senior lawyer of Sealdah, Mr. K. D. Khosla, Court Inspector, Sealdah Court, Mr. D. N. Ray, Court Sub Inspector, Government Railway Police, Mr. P. N. Ghosal, M. Sc., Officer-in-Charge, Amherst Street Police Station, Inspector S. K. Roy B. A. Officer-in-Charge Shampukur Police Station and several others, praising the qualities of head and heart of the Magistrate and of his impartiality, politeness and calm temperament amidst even exasperating circumstances. Mr. T. P. Bhattacharjee made a suitable reply in a touching language full of emotion. Light refreshments were served on the occasion, and a group photograph was taken. Mr. K. F. Sobhan I. P., J. P. Deputy Commissioner, North Calcutta, Rai M. M.

Chakraborty Bahadur, Assistant Commissioner, North Suburb, Mr. J. K. Biswas, Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate, Mr. M. L. Mallick M.B.E., Mr. Hem Chandra Naskar, M. L. A., the Hon. Magistrates of Sealdah and several others attended the function.

Club Anniversary —

"The Secretary of the Calcutta Police Club has told us that the objects of the club are to afford facilities for outdoor and indoor games and sports to the members and to foster brotherly feelings among them. The last of these objects is not the least. It is as important as anything that is expected of the club. The consciousness of all the members, being brother officers in the discharge of their duties should be always kept in view to enable them to discharge those duties with justice, impartiality and unity among themselves. Unity is a very important factor in the successful working of the department."

"Whatever communities you belong to, whatever religions you may have, just remember that in regard to work we are first and last police" with these words Mr. L. H. Colson, Commissioner of Police addressed the members of the Calcutta Police Club on the evening of the 14th of March 1939 while presiding over the first anniversary meeting of the club at the Y. M. C. A., 25, Chowringhee.

Mr. Colson complimented the members for a successful record achieved during the club's first year of existence and wished it many more anniversaries and beneficent work. He welcomed the formation of the Ambulance Division of the investigating staff. It had, he said, now taken shape on a permanent footing and he hoped that it would turn out successful in training and in the competition in which they might take part.

As regards the formation of the Calcutta Police Association Mr. Colson welcomed more men and hoped to take the advice and co-operation of this body in dealing all questions affecting the conditions of service.

He touched on the question of the crying need of the Club viz a suitable building of its own. Reference had been made by Rai

CALCUTTA POLICE JOURNAL

Sahib S. N. Mukherjee, the secretary, to the plot of land lying in the compound of Amherst Steet Police Station in this connection and Mr. Colson said that something might be done in that direction.

Lastly Mr. Colson complimented Rai Sahib S. N. Mukherjee, the energetic Secretary, for taking the initiative, and the members generally in the establishment of the club and making it an ideal institution.

Rai Sahib S. N. Mukherjee, the Honorary Secretary, presented the annual report showing an all round success and describing the manifold activities of the club, particularly in the field of various sports.

A long and varied programme of entertainments was gone through. It was a very enjoyable programme and was highly appreciated.

The whole function was a great success and most of the eminent citizens and Government Officials were present.



Sergt. Preston Calcutta Police
Display of chest muscle



Sergt. Preston Calcutta Police
Display of back muscle



Mr. K. D. Ganguly B.A. Calcutta Police
Capt. C.P.C. Foot ball team
winner C.P.C. Tennis tournament 1939.



Mr. H. K Gupta B.A. Calcutta Police
Assist. Secy. C. P. C. Tennis team
winner C.P.C. Tennis tournament

Recent Crime

Jewellery Theft

Mr. J. K. Biswas, Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate Calcutta, passed judgment in the sensational jewellery theft case of North Calcutta on the 17th of April 1939, convicting six of the accused persons to various terms of rigorous imprisonment. It was the most interesting case of the current year in view of the fact that out of the stolen properties valued at about Rs 350,000, properties worth Rs 300,000 were recovered in no time.

On the 31st of July 1938, the house of Mr. Gopi Kisson Khetry the renowned jeweller, at Keshab Chandra Sen Street was burgled and jewellery worth about Rs. 350,000 were stolen from a strong room. The local Police in collaboration with the officers of the Detective Dept., Calcutta and the North Dist. Detective Force took up the investigation and arrested a servant and a darwan of the complainant. On search the Police found that the culprits had left in a hurry and some of the valuables worth about Rs 204,500 including an ancient emerald "Siva Linga" valued at about Rs. 200,000 were lying scattered at different places in the complainant's house and garden.

In course of investigation Detective Inspector Rai Sahib Satyendra Nath Mukherjee and Mr. Aswini Kumar Mukherjee Officer in-charge of North Calcutta Detective Force traced and arrested several outsiders including a few old offenders who had apparently had some hand in the theft. The foot print of one of the accused tallied with the foot print found on the complainant's Guddi inside the strong room. Some more jewellery of considerable value were also recovered on the statement of these accused from various other places.

On the 15th October 1938 in pursuance of information received by the North Calcutta Detective Force, Sub inspector Md. Israil went to Gaya and brought down a woman who made a very interesting statement and took the officers to a room at Howrah which could be opened with the key of one of the accused already under arrest. The officers dug out the floor of the room and recovered jewellery worth about Rs 45,000. Thus the total value of the recovered properties reached at Rs 300,000 to the great credit of the investigating officers concerned.

The case was sent up after careful enquiry under sections 457, 380, 120B, and 411 of the Indian Penal Code and the trial ended in convictions as noted above on the 17th of April 1939.

CAUTION ! CAUTION !!
CAUTION !!!

Beware of Thieves posing as coolies.
 Keep your coolie carrying your
 Goods always within view.

Legal Notes.

(English)

R. V. Harrison ; R. V. Ward ; R. V. Wallis, R. V. Gooding (1938), 3 All. E.R. 134 ; 26. Cr. App. R. 166.

Criminal law—unlawful carnal knowledge of girl under sixteen—accused persons under twenty-three—reasonable cause for belief as to age—actual belief as to age—Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922, s. 2 ; Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1928, s. 1.

The Court of Criminal Appeal (Branson, Humphreys and du Parcq, JJ.) dismissed the appeals of these four appellants who were convicted at the Central Criminal Court of having had unlawful carnal knowledge of a girl less than sixteen years of age, and each were bound over for two years in the sum of £5. The appellants were all youths between the ages of sixteen and eighteen years.

Evidence to the following effect was given at the trial, The girl herself stated that the prisoners had not asked her age. The doctor called by the prosecution and a police officer said that the girl appeared to be over sixteen. Each of the appellants said that he thought that the girl was over sixteen, but that at the time of the offence he did not trouble about her age one way or the other.

Branson, J. (delivering the judgment of the Court), said that the question which the Court was asked to consider was whether the appellants could bring themselves within the proviso to the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1922, s. 2, as amended by the Criminal Law

Taken from Metropolitan Police College Journal, London. We intend to publish similar judicial decisions Magisterial and of the Appellate Court both of India and England in later issues.

Amendment Act, 1928, S. I. The section says that "reasonable cause to believe that a girl was of or above the age of sixteen years shall not be a defence to a charge inter alia of unlawful carnal knowledge of any girl between the age of thirteen and sixteen years. Provided that in the case of a man of twenty three years of age or under the presence of reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over the age of sixteen years shall be a valid defence on the first occasion on which he is charged with an offence under this section."

These youths were under twenty-three and sought to bring themselves within the proviso. The evidence which they gave, however, made it quite clear that, though, in fact, there might have been evidence that they had a reasonable cause to believe that the girl was over the age of sixteen years—none of them had, in fact, directed his mind to the question at all, and none of them, in fact, could say that he believed the girl was over sixteen years of age. It had been decided in R. V. Banks (1916), 2 K. B. 621, that, in such circumstances, a proviso similar to that in s. 2 of the Act of 1922 did not help the accused. Avoey, J., in that case said that the phrase "had reasonable cause to believe" meant "had reasonable cause to believe, and did, in fact, believe....." The Court was not only bound by the decision in R. V. Banks, but they thought with respect that it was correct.

The appeals were dismissed.



Mr. H.K. Sen Gupta E.A. Officer-in-charge, Ballygunj Police Station
On the role of the Marhutta General Bhaskar Pandit
(Recipient of gold medal)

Theatrical performance by the Calcutta Police Club in aid of the King
Emperor's Anti Tuberculosis Fund



Rai Bahadur Tarak Nath Sadhu C.I.E.
Public Prosecutor Calcutta from the year 1916-1935

Book Review

"Crime and Criminal Justice".—By Abul Hasanat I. P. Foreward by Sir Hari Singh Gour, M. A., D. Litt., 1933. Dacca ; Published by The Standard Library, pp. 768 with an appendix pp. 132 ; Rs. 5/8/-(8s. 6d).

Written in a spirit of research, this book can be highly commended to every student of Sociology. The book has been divided into four parts with a useful appendix at the end. The first part deals mainly with the "Criminal", the second with "Crime", the third with "Society and Reaction to the Criminal's Punishment", fourth with 'Criminal Justice'; and the appendix contains the statistics of criminals in India. The author has considered crime and criminals from the legal, social and economic aspects. The current western theories on the subject have been carefully studied and suggestions given by the author.

While treating of "Juvenile Criminality" the author refers to Glucks and observes.....the attention of the thinking humanity has been rightly shifted to an emphasis towards stopping delinquency and criminality at the source rather than being largely preoccupied with the arrest, conviction and punishment of those already criminal. The problem of juvenile crime is too vast and can hardly be left to the policeman or the jailor alone. The treatment should consist firstly in co ordinated constructive programme at home, at school, and in society and by parents, teachers, friends and guides, not exceeding the police—and secondly, in reformative techniques aiming to discover and eliminate emotional conflicts and to adopt desires to more social ends."

As a student of criminology, I cannot but emphasise on the social responsibility in the elimination of crime. Penology wants to

teach people to have regard for the lives of criminals and to utilise them for social development.

In course of discussing "The psychology of the criminal" in Section IV the author has taken into consideration the thoughts of Herbert Spencer, Lamark and Darwin down to Lombrozo, Menier and Parmelee. He rightly remarks that "Psychology is said to be the Cinderella of the sciences" and aptly points out the necessity of its elementary knowledge in the investigating officers, prosecutors, judges and prison officials.

For the betterment of the society as a whole, the police and an ordinary member of society should stand shoulder to shoulder. This book admirably serves the purpose of making the bond between the policemen and the citizens closer.

Pankaj Kumar Mukherjee, M. A. B. L.
Advocate, High Court, Calcutta.

Books Received for Review

1. **Murder of Prostitutes for Gain**—By Rai Sahib Satyendra Nath Mukherjee A. R. P. S., Inspector of Police, Calcutta. With an introduction by Rai Bahadur Late Tarak Nath Sadhu, Public Prosecutor, Calcutta. Price Rs. 3/-

2. **Prostitution in India**—By Dr. Santosh Kumar Mukherji M. B., Editor. Indian Medical Record. Pages 525 (cloth) Price Rs. 7-8 only. Publishers: Rai Sahib B. N. Mukherji & Son, 44, Badur Bagan Street, Calcutta.

THE CALCUTTA POLICE CLUB

Annual Report
1938—39

For the first time in the history of the Calcutta Police Force the Calcutta Police Club was inaugurated on Friday, the 4th February, 1938 by Mr. L.H. Colson, C.I.E., I.P., J. P. Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, at the Club premises at 31, Beatinck Street. Our long-felt want of a club-house has now been removed.

The club has just completed the first year of its existence and a brief retrospective survey may render an interesting reading.

The object of the club is to afford facilities for out door and in-door games and sports to the members and to foster brotherly feeling among them.

Members:—

The club consists of members who belong to the investigating branch of the force including A. S. Is, L. Cs and Clerks. Any member of the Bengal Police Force of 24 Parganas and Howrah may become a temporary member. The club has been registered under the Societies Registration Act (XXI) of 1860.

The number of members are on the increase and it is a good sign that they are taking a great interest in our Club.

The members may participate in—

(1) In-door games, such as Table-Tennis, Carrom, Cards, Chess etc.

(2) Out door games—such as Hockey, Football, Cricket, Badminton, Basket ball, Swimming and Tennis.

- (3) Theatrical performances.
 (4) Social Functions—to foster friendship and brother-hood amongst the police officers of Calcutta and outside.
 (5) A reading and lending Library,
 (6) An Ambulance Brigade.

A Regent Telephone has been installed in the club-room for the facilities of the members.

Although our institution is yet in its infancy we have achieved rather a remarkable success in all the sections of the activities of the club in the very first year of our existence.

Outdoor Games

Hockey :—

Our Club is affiliated to the Bengal Hockey Association and joined the Entrance Division Hockey League and annexed the honour by topping the list.

In the Kaivan Cup we defeated Rangers and lost to Punjab Sports in the second round.

In the Hemmalini Challenge Cup we were defeated in the Semi-final.

The success on this behalf was due to Mr. Abu Yusuf, Mr. K. D. Ganguly, Mr. Ranjit Ray Choudhury, Mr. K. Shah (Capt) and Mr. Permand Giri (Vice-Captain).

Football :—

The club is affiliated to the Indian Football Association and competed the following tournaments :—

1. Bengal Soccer League
2. Trades Cup
3. Cooch Behar Cup
4. Younger Cup
5. Griffith Shield
6. Lakshmbilas cup
7. Khagendra Shield

In the following tournaments the club was defeated in the semi-finals.

- (a) Nasker Shield
- (b) Kobinoor Shield
- (c) Jabakusum Cup

Mr. Abu Yusuf, Mr. K. D. Ganguly, Mr. D. Marley, Mr. A. K. Sinclair, Mr. Anil Ghose and Mr. K. P. Bhadra took keen interest in the organisation.

We are grateful to Mr. E. Hodson, Mr. P. E. S. Finney, O.B.E. and Mr. K. F. Sobhan for selecting some L. Cs who have special qualifications in sports at the time of recruitment.

Cricket :—

Our club is affiliated to the Bengal Gymkhana.

The club had a very good fixture and played a good number of matches and did well.

In the Maharaja Cooch Behar Cup we defeated Campbell Medical School,

The success of the Cricket team was due to Mr. Samar Mitra and Mr. Subodh Roy who spared no pains to make the cricket season a success.

Thanks are due to Mr. Binoyendra Nath Mitra of Aryana Club and Mr. Birendra Nath Mitra of South Calcutta Club for coaching our players.

Basket ball :—

The club is affiliated to the Bengal Basket-ball Association and played the Basket Ball Tournament and was defeated by Sanskrit College.

The compliments of the season are due to Mr. Tofazzal Hossain and Mr. Bidhan Banerjee.

Swimming :—

Our club is affiliated to the Bengal Amateur Swimming Association. Our team played the Water-Polo League competition. Our club won 7 miles Swimming Competition at Katwa organised by Arya Byayam Samity, Katwa, in 1938.

We are grateful to the Chief Executive Officer, Calcutta

Corporation for granting permission to our club for holding the swimming activities in the College Square Tank.

Special mention for organising this be made of Mr. Nirmal De, Mr. Ranjit Ray Choudhury and Mr. Kali Kinkar Nath.

Thanks are due to honorary trainers Babu Satyendra Nath Dhole and Babu Kalidas Mukherji.

Badminton :-

Our Club is affiliated to the All India Badminton Association. The double competition was started and Mr. H. K. Gupta and Mr. K. D. Ganguly were the winners and Mr. A. Ghose and Mr. Alarm were the runners up.

The members are having their games daily on the maidan.

Thank is due to Mr. Gora Chand Banerjee.

Tennis :-

The Tennis season was opened on Sunday, the 13th November, 1938 and Mrs. Cowgill, wife of Mr. J. F. Cowgill, O. B. E., Deputy Commr. of Police, Special Branch, performed the opening ceremony of the Tennis Court, on our ground at Maidan.

The Tennis Double Competition was started and Mr. H. K. Gupta and Mr. K. D. Ganguly were the winners and Mr. S. C. Chatterjee and Mr. N. Banerjee the runners up.

Thanks are due to Mr. Shib Chandra Chatterjee, Secretary, Tennis Section, Mr. Himangsu Gupta, Assist. Secy., Tennis Section and Mr. Samar Mitra.

Tent and Ground :-

We had at first a share in the Town Club ground where we also got permission to pitch a tent.

The opening ceremony of the tent was performed by Mrs. L.H. Colson on 23rd June 1938 and the Armed Police Band played music under the kind permission of Mr. E. Hodson.

We have now shifted our tent to the Aryan Ground, south of the Ochterloney Monument where we have got a share.

Indoor Games.

Our club is affiliated to the Bengal Table Tennis Association and arrangements have been made in the Club House in all the indoor games.

The prize distribution ceremony of the indoor games competition was held at the Y. M. C. A., Chowringhee Branch at 25 Chowringhee Road at 6 p. m. on 24th September, 1938. Mr. E. Hodson, Deputy Commr. of Police, Head Quarter, presided and Mrs. Sobhan gave away the prizes. There was a large gathering and the function was successful. The success was due to Mr. Abani Mohan Gupta, Mr. Ranjit Ray Chowdhury and Mr. Dharendra Sanyal.

Theatrical performance in aid of the King Emperors Anti-Tuberculosis Fund

The members of the club staged 'Bange Bargee' on board of the Corinthian Theatre on 4th August 1938 in aid of the King Emperor's Anti Tuberculosis Fund under the presidency of Mr. L. H. Colson, C. I. E., I. P. J. P., Commissioner of Police. The opening song was sung by the well-known singer Babu Mrinal Kanti Ghose and Miss Tara Adhikary and Miss Kamala Sircar gave a display of Oriental dances. It was a great success due to the amusement section under the efficient supervision of its President Mr. D. Bhattacharyya I. P. J. P.

Medals were swarded to Mr. Hemanta Kumar Sen Gupta as Bhaskar by Dr. Santosh Kumar Mukherji M. B., to Rai Sahib S. N. Mukherjee as Upananda, to Mr. Sunil Krishna Roy as Chidam by Mr. Gopiram Dhanuka, to Mr. Ram Chandra Choudhury as Mohanlal by Mr. T. C. Mullick, to Mr. Mrityunjay Mukherjee as Nawab Alibardi, to Mr. Kali Bhaduri as Mirzaifar, to Mr. Tarapada Sen as Shiraj, to Mr. Sudbir Bhattacharjee as Umatar, and Mr. Kanai Lal Mukherji as Madhuri by Mr. Ramratan Das Bagree.

In view of the floods intervening in the meantime causing widespread havoc the executive Committee placed in the hands of their Chief Mr. L. H. Colson, C. I. E., two cheques for Rs. 1500 and Rs. 500 for transmission to the Treasurer, Anti-Tuberculosis Fund and

the Secretary, Bengal Central Flood-Relief Committee respectively. The Commissioner of Police has congratulated the club on their collections.

Our success was due to Mr. Hemanta K. Sen Gupta, Ram Chandra Choudhury, Mr. Bijali Bhusan Bose, Mr. Mansur Ahmed, Mr. Jiban Krishna Chatterjee and Mr. Bimal Jyoti Goswami.

Social Gathering :-

Farewell party was given to Mr. W. E. Duckfield I. P., J. P., Deputy Commissioner of Police in our club premises on 4th June 1938 on the eve of his departure on long leave.

On 25th December 1938, an Annual Social gathering was held at the club premises and police officers who came on duty with H. E. the Viceroy from the different provinces of India were invited. An interesting programme was gone through, which included songs by well known blind singer Babu Krishna Chandra Dey and Manipuri dance by famous Mr. Mani Bardhan. The opening concert was played by the members of the club. The principal guest of the evening was Mr. Jogendra Nath Sen. Dy. Superintendent of Police, Mymensingh. The success was due to Mr. Ranjit Ray Choudhury, Mr. Nirmal Dey, Mr. Satyen Acharjee and Mr. Jyotish Ghosh.

The club was also able to render great help to the pickets and force detailed in last Moharrum in the streets by free distribution of green cocoanuts to all of them and this act was highly appreciated by all concerned.

Library :-

The club has been fitted with a library with up to date books for the use of the members.

Mr. Panchanon Ghosal took keen interest in organising it.

We appreciate the help rendered by the publishers and authors for presenting their books to the library.

Calcutta Police Club Ambulance Division.

The Ambulance Division was formed under Calcutta Police Sub-District and affiliated to the St. John Ambulance Brigade as

not forming part of the Police Ambulance Corps from 1st April 1938, with the following office-bearers :-

President—Mr. P. Norton Jones I. P., J. P.,
 Vice President—Rai Sahib L. M. Banerjee,
 Divisional Surgeon—Dr. Santosh Kumar Mukherji M. B.,
 Divisional Supdt.—Rai Sahib S. N. Mukherjee,
 Ambulance Officer—Mr. I. Badiali,
 Sergeant— „ Subodh K Roy, M. A.,
 Treasurer— „ Anil Kumar Mukherjee B. Sc.,
 Dn Secty, „ Panchanon Ghosal M. Sc.

Our Ambulance also competed in the last St. John Ambulance Brigade competition on the Mohammedan Sporting Ground in the Police and Brigade events.

The Commissioner of Police has now passed orders that the Calcutta Police Ambulance Sub district shall consist of two branches "Investigating Staff" and "Non-Investigating Staff" and accordingly the Calcutta Police Club Ambulance Division will cease to be styled as such and will henceforth emerge into a Corps known as 'The Calcutta Police Investigating Staff Ambulance Corps' consisting of four Ambulance Divisions for the present. The investigating staff will consist of A. S. Is and L.Cs. Mr. Abanmohan Gupta and Mr. Ram Ch. Choudhury have taken great interest in the organisation.

We express deep sorrow at the death of Babu Subodh Kumar Sanyal' M.A., B.L who helped us in the organisation of the Ambulance Division.

Accommodation of outside Police Officers :-

Arrangement has been made to accommodate all outside Police officers who come to Calcutta on official business in the club premises. Thirty three Police officers from different provinces (Agra, Nagpore, Lahore, Allahabad, Rangoon, Madras and other places) came and stayed in our club. They also expressed their satisfaction for the comfort they received.

Calcutta Police Association :-

The Association has been formed with the approval of the Commr. of Police on the same line as Bengal Police Asscn. It has been registered under Act XXI of 1860. It is open to members who

are either members of the Calcutta Police Club or Police Athletic Club. The executive committee has undertaken to pay to the Association subscription of the members of our Club who have not to pay, any extra subscription for the Association.

Arrangement has been made to start a quarterly journal "Calcutta Police Journal" under the Association. Our sincere gratitude to Mr. K. F. Sobhan, I. P., J. P., for taking charge of the Calcutta Police Journal as its Chief Editor and we expect that under his guidance the Journal will be a foremost one in India.

Finance :-

It is very difficult to collect subscription from members posted in different parts of the city. It will be an advantage not only to the club with its small staff but to the members also if the subscription is realised at the time of distribution of their pay as is done in case of the members of the Police Athletic Club. We appeal to the Commissioner of Police to grant us similar permission.

We want to make the club an ideal institution but we could not carry out many of our schemes for improvement for want of funds. We appeal to the Commissioner of Police to grant us a portion of the money granted by the Government each year towards sports and athletics.

Building :-

The crying need of the club is a suitable building of its own in Calcutta. The fitness of the force depends mainly on the sound health of its members. Many other Government Departments such as Custom, Railways, Telegraph etc. have their own club buildings provided by the Government for the benefit of their employees. We pray that our chief will kindly make it possible for us to own a portion of land lying in the compound of Amherst Street Police Station by inducing the Govt. to get such a plot for us.

Thanks :-

We shall be failing in our duty if we do not mention to you the help and guidance that we received from our worthy chief, Mr. L. H. Colson, but for this support it would not have been possible for us to start any club which was a long-felt want.

THE
CALCUTTA POLICE CLUB
MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Mr. L. H. Colson, C. I. E., I. P., J. P.

Vice Presidents

- 1 Mr. A. K. Robertson, M. B. E.,
- 2 Rai Bahadur P. N. Mukherjee,
- 3 Sardar Sahib Natha Singh,
- 4 Khan Sahib K. H. Reza.

Hony. Secretary.

Rai Sahib S. N. Mukherjee

Hony. Asst. Secy.

Mr. M. Muhammad.

Hony. Treasurer.

Mr. R. N. Gupta

Hony. Asst. Treasurer.

Mr. N. Roy.

Members.

- 1 Mr. R. D. Khosla.
- 2 „ Pulin Kumar Chatterjee
- 3 „ Shib Ch. Chatterjee
- 4 Khan Sahib A. Gaffar.
- 5 Mr. Mansur Ahamed
- 6 „ S. M. Haque,
- 7 „ Subodh Kumar Roy,

CALCUTTA POLICE JOURNAL

8	„	Abu Yusuf.
9	„	Satyendra Nath, Acharjee,
10	„	Mrityunjoy Mukherjee,
11	„	Dhirendra Kumar Sanyal.
12	„	Sudhir Chandra Majumder
13	„	Nalini Kanta Chatterjee

Sports Committee

President :—	Mr. K. F. Sobhan, I. P., J. P.,
Secretary :—	„ Abu Yusuf.
Asst. Secy :—	„ Ranjit Roy Choudhury,
Hockey Captain :—	„ K. Shah.
Vice Captain :—	„ P. Giri.
Football Captain :—	„ K. D. Ganguly.
Vice Captain :—	„ Ranjit Roy Choudury,
Cricket Captain :—	„ Samar Mitra.
Vice Captain :—	„ Anil Ghose.
Cricket Secy :—	„ Subodh Kumar Roy.
Swimming Captain :—	„ Nirmal De,
Basketball Captain :—	„ Tafazzal Hossain.
Tennis Secretary :—	„ Shib Ch. Chatterjee.
„ Asst. Secretary	„ Himangsu Gupta.

Tent & Ground Committee

Secretary :—	Mr. Samar Mitra,
Asst. Secy :—	„ Gorachand Banerjee.

Library Committee

President :—	Rai Bahadur B. B. Mukherjee I.P., J.P.
Secretary :—	Mr. Panchanan Ghosal.

Club House Management Committee

President :—	Mr. E. Hodson I P., J.P.
Secretary :—	Mr. Abani Mohan Gupta,
Asst. Secy :—	„ Jibanbandhu Dutta

Amusement Committee

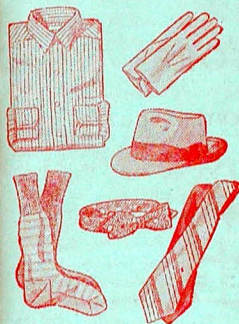
President :—	Mr. D. Bhattacharyya, I. P., J. P.
Secretary—	„ Ram Chandra Choudhury.

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