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পদকল্পতরু।

সম্পূর্ণ হইয়াছে
মূল্য ৩॥০ টাকা।
পরিশিষ্ট যন্ত্রস্থ।
অমৃতবাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্তব্য

অনুরাগবল্লী।

শ্রীমনোহর দাস প্রণীত।

এ খানি উপাদেয় বৈষ্ণব গ্রন্থ। দুই শত বৎসর পূর্ব্বে লিখিত।

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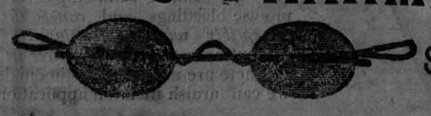
BEST PEBBLE  STEEL FRAME RS 5

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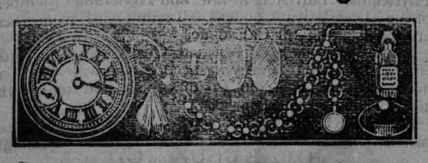

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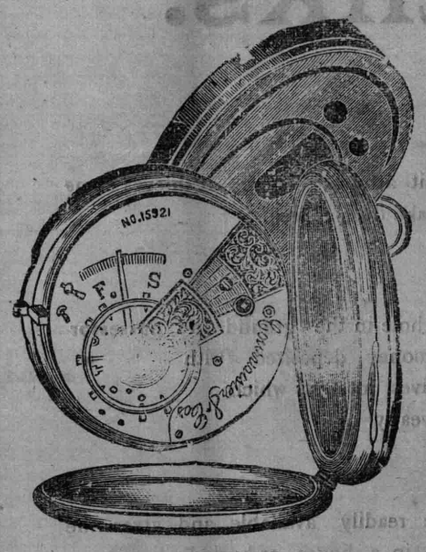

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THE
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CALCUTTA, MAY 8, 1898.

HOME SEGREGATION.

MR. H. W. SPARKES, whose letter is reproduced elsewhere from the *Indian Daily News*, proposes that the only way out of the present difficulty is to do away altogether with the so-called precautionary meaures, and leave the members of communities to treat plague cases in their own private houses as they do cholera and small-pox patients. If such a proposal had emanated from an Indian gentleman, however high his position might be, he would have been, perhaps, misunderstood; but, coming as it does from an Englishman, strongly backed by the editor of the *Indian Daily News*, who is also an Englishman, it is entitled to the serious consideration of the Government. It goes without saying that the Indians are entirely at one with Mr. Sparkes in this matter; for, they see only the evils and not the alleged benefits of these plague regulations. And how terrible these evils are! We shall try to discuss the question from both the scientist's and the people's points of view.

The present rules, under which segregation is rigorously enforced, and patients, *suspected* of being attacked with the plague, are forcibly removed to temporarily-improvised public, or, in a few cases, to private, hospitals, were originally adopted in the name of sanitary science, and were implicitly relied upon, as fully capable of "stamping out" the plague. But the experience of the last two years in Western India, has proved that they were not able to do anything of the kind; for, the plague did not show any sign whatever of being "stamped out."

Of course, those sanitary authorities on whose advice the rules were adopted, may say that the plague would have been considerably more severe and extensive if these measures had not been adopted. Such an assertion cannot be demonstrated, and, it is very much like that of a physician whose treatment fails, but who asserts that if it were not for his treatment, the patient would have died much earlier.

Another assertion of these sanitary authorities is that the plague would have, by this time, been stamped out, if the people had not opposed the carrying-out of the regulations. Firstly, willing or unwilling, they were compelled by force to obey the regulations. Secondly, if they opposed, why did they do it? Were they not quite as much interested in having the plague "stamped out" as anybody else can be?

It has been said that the religious and social prejudices of the people are the cause of their opposition. But is it religious or social prejudice that drives a man mad, when a woman or a child or other member of his family is forcibly dragged away from home, on *suspicion* of being attacked with the disease, to a public hospital where, even if the case were not one of plague, the infection of other plague patients would very likely bring on the disease and cause death; or, where the strange and uncongenial surroundings, coupled with the incidents of forcible removal, would themselves be sufficient to kill the patient from fright?

That such a state of feeling is not peculiar to Hindus and Mahomedans on account of their alleged absurd notions regarding female honour and so forth, or their religious and other prejudices, and that it prevails in Europe as well as in India, is amply shown from the fact, stated by the London *Spectator*, as quoted in our former article on the subject, viz., that in European countries, sanitary measures, *unaccompanied* by segregation, were tried under similar circumstances, and proved successful. If sanitary science peremptorily requires segregation, why is that measure not adopted in Europe, if it were not for the circumstances that people there are as much opposed to it as people in India? Dr. Cook, Health Officer of Calcutta, says in his Note that "if the system, adopted in Bombay, were enforced in an enlightened European city, there is very little doubt that there would be concealment of cases, and not improbably, resistance to authority."

The sanitary authorities who advised the adoption of such drastic measures of segregation in India, may themselves be above all such contemptible failings of the human heart; but it behoves statesmen, placed in the position of rulers of men, to take note, before carrying out the recommendations of those medical men, of the feelings of the masses of population to be affected by their measures. It behoves them to consider whether the good, expected from the measures, is not likely to be neutralised, and whether serious evils of other kinds are not likely to be produced, by the opposition of the very people for whose benefit the measures are adopted. It would not do for our rulers to think that there is sufficient force at command to enable them to carry out the measures, in spite of the opposition of the people; for, our rulers certainly know that for most of the evils that afflict humanity, 'force' is not the proper remedy.

It would be superfluous for us to point out that men are often completely maddened through severe shock to their feelings and become totally careless of their lives. Who can say to what great an extent the number of attacks of the diseases in Western India was swelled by those who, driven to frenzied despair owing to forced segregation of members of their families, utterly disregarded all sanitary precautionary measures, and brought on themselves the disease which they probably would have escaped if it were not for the terrible shock to their feelings? There must have been numbers of men who, from a feeling of exasperation or resentment, lost all control over themselves, and, in their madness, wilfully did those very things which the authorities wanted that they should not do, and, through sheer recklessness, helped to spread the disease. It is quite certain that men, influenced by such feelings, are in the most favourable condition for the attack of an epidemic disease.

But more than all, the various untold methods of concealment of plague cases, to which the people were driven on account of the utter disregard of their feelings, shown in carrying out forcible segregation, must have contributed very largely to the spread and virulence of the disease. Concealment is possible only in places, impervious to fresh air and sun-light; and the absence of these offers the most favourable conditions for the vigorous growth and multiplication of such germs as are believed to produce the plague.

In addition to all these ways in which the regulations for forcible segregation help to spread the disease which it was their object to check, the very removal of the sick and their belongings to segregation camps, through crowded and cramped streets, must have produced the same deplorable effect; for, it is always considered dangerous, in cases of epidemic diseases, for people to come in contact with, or be in close proximity to, patients and their clothes, &c. If plague patients, carried through the streets, be not considered to be a source of danger to men passing close by them, why should it be so dangerous to allow a plague patient to remain segregated in a separate room in his own house?

Segregation and disinfection are only possible when the authorities know where people have been attacked. But when the rigorous application of segregation rules furnishes the strongest motive for people to conceal their cases, even search-parties can not always be successful. Moreover, when rats are believed to carry the disease from house to house, it almost seems to be a mockery to segregate only human patients with so much rigour.

We leave it to our rulers to consider whether all this does not make out a strong case for a complete revision of the segregation rules, and the substitution, for it, of home segregation, such as recommended by Mr. Sparkes and which has all along been advocated by the people, who, being the real sufferers, whether from the rigorous application of ill-judged rules or from the disease itself, may reasonably be supposed to have some claim to be heard in the matter.

THE TWO OUTRAGES.

THE SATARA SALAM CASE.

ONE of the most important and difficult functions of the authorities here, said Sir R. Temple, was to guard the gentle people of this country from the insolence of Europeans, disposed to be mean and tyrannical. This was how an Englishman was described by Goldsmith:—

> Pride in his port, defiance in his eye,
> I see the lord of human kind pass by.

That was nearly two hundred years ago, when the English were not so great and powerful as they are now, and that was the character of an Englishman in his own country. That being the case, one can form some idea what it is like to be now when Englishmen are in the heyday of their glory, and of one who is in the midst of a thoroughly conquered and submissive people.

The higher the official, the more polite and considerate he is. But the number of officials who are higher, must be very small in comparison with those who are lower. And then again, the Englishman who has lesser power is more haughty than he who has greater. From this theory, a Magistrate ought to be less haughty than the European Professor of a College, or a European Medical Officer. This is the story told in the columns of the *Maharatta*:—

Sir,—A friend remarked the other day that we have now begun to feel that we are under British rule. I do not know what the gentleman exactly meant. But it seems he had in his mind the following remarkable incident. For plague purposes the Satara District is divided into circles, each of which is put in charge of a European supervising officer with his native staff of a doctor, inspectors, police and disinfecting parties. Circle No. 14, including infected places in the Satara taluka, is in charge of Mr Rowecroft, a Military officer. This gentleman was returning from one of his bi-weekly visits on 23rd March to Yawateshwar, a hill station about 3 miles off from Satara. Mr. V. A. Sohoni, B. A., first Assistant Master, Satara High School, was also returning from his plague duty in the town to his hut at the foot of the hill with two of his colleagues at a place somewhere near the Mahardara tank. Mr. Rowecroft reined in his horse on meeting Mr. Sohoni and disdainfully accosted him in these words: "Well, fellow, man, who are you? You passed by me nearly a dozen times and never once raised you hand in salutation" Mr. Sohoni replied: "I am the first Assistant Master in the Satara High school; I am not personally acquainted with you, but do you recommend salutation only as a course of gentlemanly conduct or lay it down as a rule?" "Yes, I lay it down as a rule." Mr. Rowecroft insisted on being saluted. Mr. Sohoni thought no harm in pleasing the Saheb with a salam. Mr. Rowecroft, however, complained, the hand was not sufficiently raised, and rode on. Mr. Sohoni thereupon wrote to the Saheb, asking him to give detailed instructions as to what he expected of him when they met next. The Saheb wrote in reply that the hand must be raised to the centre of the forehead, and a proper salam made. Mr. Sohoni quietly treasured up the hint. On the 11th instant, Mr. Sohoni encountered the Saheb about the same place. He sat tired by the roadside, his back turned to the road. His colleague walked ahead. The Saheb with the native doctor, came riding on two ponies from the Yawateshwar side. Mr. Sohoni has an abnormally weak sight, and being a man of nearly fifty with half-a-dozen children, is practically a short, plump, week old man. Hearing the trap of the horse's feet, he turned and saw the Saheb. He salameed him by motioning his hand. It did not satisfy the Saheb. The Saheb called out to him to raise his hand. Mr. Sohoni replied that he had done what manners require, and that was the way he saluted even the Collector. Mr. Rowecroft looked round to make sure that nobody was near enough to succour the man, got down from his horse, leaving it in charge of the doctor, who had also followed the example of his master, proceeded to Mr. Sohoni, and said: "Will you raise your hand or not?" Mr. Sohoni was stubborn. Whereupon the Saheb gave him two slaps on one of his cheeks. The old man was taken aghast. He was standing in the gutter. He merely replied: "I am too week and old to retaliate; you have caught me single. You have physically triumphed; the moral victory will be with me. I shall do your bidding." Whereupon Mr Rowecroft gave more slaps on the parallel cheek, and said: You must know how to salute a man of the ruling race." One version of the story is that he even used his horse-whip. This is not, however corroborated. A communication is forwarded to the Collector who has promised inquiry. Let us see if the coward of the ruling race crowns his dastardly act with a lie The act coming from a military officer, is regarded deliberate cowardice and has created an amount of sensation. Many of the students of the venerable master, members of the subject race, are prepared to pass the man of the ruling race without raising a hand in salutation. The aggrieved party is waiting to know the action of the Collector in the matter, before proceeding legally

Satara, 16th April, 1898. | Yours, Subject race v. ruling race

Is not the idea funny, of a man insisting that he must be saluted? And then, as to the direction how he is to be saluted! "The hand should be sufficiently raised," said Mr. Rowecroft, and he rode away, very much dissatisfied; for, Mr. Sohoni had not, according to the officer, given the required lift to his hand. The idea is irresistibly amusing,—Mr. Rowecroft describing how the hand should be raised, in saluting him, to the centre of the forehead. And this he did in writing, probably in this manner: "In reply to your letter," probably said Mr. Rowecroft, "I have to state for your guidance that in saluting me you must raise your hand and touch the centre of the forehead." This was, no doubt, the way Mr. Rowecroft wrote his important letter. That letter is sure to be preserved.

The proceedings were hitherto funny; but then, they became serious when they ended in actual blows. Just imagine the spectacle. A strong British Military Officer assaulting an old and weak man, a gentleman like himself, because he had shown some reluctance to salute a man simply because he was a European!

It is sedition to create hatred and ill-will against the Government; and who does so, is liable to be sent to jail for life. Can any act be more likely to create hatred and ill-will, not only against the Government but the English race, than the one described above?

There is a baser faculty in some, which leads them to hanker after authority. In India, every European has ample opportunities for encouraging and developing this faculty. Those who are in office, have their desires satisfied by law; and those who are not, have to resort to other means to have them satisfied. That is the situation. But it is absolutely necessary, in the interests of the Empire, that the natives of the soil should be afforded adequate protection from the violence of Europeans, disposed to be tyrannical. And if *prestige* is the chief strength of the British Empire in India, it is sadly undermined by exhibitions such as are attributed to the officer alluded to above.

We hope, if the facts alleged be found to be correct, the authorities will give the offender a severe lesson. That is the only way of protecting the innocent and inoffensive people of this country and guarding the fair fame of the British people from the mean and tyrannical acts of their own countrymen.

The case is such a one as to elicit universal sympathy for the aggrieved. We know that if the story has pained us, it will pain every Englishman also. It will give us immense satisfaction to know that the whole thing is a mistake.

BARRACKPORE MURDER CASE.

THE above outrage is of a far more atrocious character than the other one; and if it has not yet moved the Indian society as powerfully as it ought to have done, it is because men's minds are just now wholly engrossed with the unprecedented panic caused by the plague. Indeed, the incident occurred on the very day, that is in the evening of Friday last, when and the following day Calcutta was denuded of more than half of its population by the plague scare. The news of the event reached us so late as Tuesday; and we published the main details in our next morning's paper.

Now imagine the character of the outrage! Dr. Suresh Chunder Sarkar was an eminent medical practitioner of Barrackpore. He held the same position at that station as Dr. Surjo Kumar Sarbadhikarry or Dr. Lal Madhab Mookherji does in Calcutta. His services were often availed of by the military officers stationed at Barrackpore, and other Euroan residents of the town. A man of benevolent and gentle disposition, he was loved and respected by all he came across. Of all persons, he was the last to be molested by anybody. But, alas; the three British soldiers selected *him* for their victim, and murdered him in the cruellest manner possible.

Dr. Suresh Chunder's family resided in Calcutta. Every evening between 9 and 10, he came down by railway to pay them a visit. His carriage was waiting in front of his dispensary, to take him to the Barrackpore Railway station, Just then three soldiers came, got into his carriage and asked the coachman to drive. He refused, and was beaten and thrown down. The horses were then let loose, and the carriage was damaged with brickbats, which they threw at it with considerable force. Babu Suresh Chunder heard of the row, and came down from his dispensary to see what the matter was. He was used to this sort of molestations at the hands of soldiers; but, as he was well known to the regiments stationed at Barrackpore, his presence, as a rule, made them go away without doing him any serious injury. This time, he calculated without his hosts.

He saw the soldiers and remonstrated with them. He told them that he would report their conduct to their Officers. They backed out, apparently in fear. Babu Suresh Chunder then went out into the street; but, before he had advanced a few steps, one of the soldiers gave him a blow from behind his back, which stunned him, and he fell down senseless on the ground. Then occurred a blood-curdling scene. We once witnessed three bull dogs, belonging to an indigo-planter, killing a pariah dog. The bull dogs saw and ran after the pariah. The latter jumped into a river which was close by, and did its best to swim over to the other side. But before it could reach land, it was caught by the three powerful bull-dogs, torn into pieces, and each came back with a piece of the dead pariah's carcass in its mouth. The three English soldiers showed their valour in a similar way.

When Dr. Suresh Chunder fell down senseless by the shock of the blow, the three soldiers made a foot-ball of him and began to kick him with their boots. He was thus kicked over and over again, sometimes by a single soldier, and sometimes jointly by the three, and rolled down to a considerable distance from the spot where he fell. The spectators were simply paralysed by the acts of the soldiers. They, however, recovered their presence of mind, and came to the rescue of the unfortunate gentleman; but to their horror, they found that if life was not yet extinct in him, he was all but dead. His skull which was fractured, was bleeding terribly, while all his consciousness was gone. He was removed to the Station Hospital, where he died next evening at 5 P. M.

As regards the soldiers, one was arrested on the spot. Another fled into a neighbouring *musjid*, but was caught and made over to the Police. The third bolted away, but was afterwards identified by his helmet and stick, which he had left behind. The *Statesman*, evidently in extenuation of the enormity of their offence, says that they were all drunk. Drunkenness is, however, no excuse for a murderous assault. But the manner in which the three soldiers sought to escape, after having almost murdered the deceased, shows, conclusively that they were quite sober.

When a strong man commits a murderous assault upon one who is physically weak, he is called a coward and held up to the scorn of all generous-minded people. Here, however, three stalwart young British soldiers fell upon an elderly man who was no match for any one of them. Nor was this all. Like a dark assassin, one of the soldiers felled him him down by an unexpected blow from behind, and then all three kicked the life out of him. And all this they did, because Babu Suresh Chunder had remonstrated with them for having beaten his coachman and broken his carriage without any provocation whatever!

Now where would the safety of the people be if soldiers were allowed to roam in the country and perpetrate these unparalleled outrages? A good many Indian gentlemen live in Barrackpore with their families. Any of them may be murdered, or assaulted, or otherwise maltreated, if some soldiers take into their head to invade their houses. Who is safe when a man in the position of Dr. Suresh Chunder Sarkar can be murdered in this atrocious manner? O'Hara murdered a poor villager; but here is an eminent member of the Indian society, who also met the same fate at the hands of the soldiers.

Government cannot any longer ignore these outrages which are occurring in rapid succession in all parts of the country. It is a sad fact that the culprits, connected with these cases, are either let off scot-free or with very slight punishment. The result is this utter contempt for Indian life by the British soldiers residing in this country. In the present instance, we hope, the soldiers who committed the dastardly murder, would receive exemplary punishment, according to the enormity of their offence, so that others, similarly disposed, might be deterred from committing similar crimes and disgracing the fair fame of the British people.

MOB RULE IN INDIA.

CALCUTTA was in a state of siege on Wednesday last, though there was no plague and no enforcement of oppressive plague rules; on the other hand, the plague policy, inaugurated by the Government, was a generous one. Are riots encouraged by the authorities? Certainly not. Those who commit riots, are more severely dealt with here than their confreres in other civilized countries. The police massacre of the inhabitants of Garhshankar is a proof that riots are not encouraged here by those in power. There was a regular massacre in that town, though we are glad to know that it was the work of a panic-stricken police who had acted without orders, and that the officials had no hand in the affair. Wherever there is a riot, the *badmashes*, of course, succeed in doing some mischief in the beginning; but eventually, a good many are shot down and a large number of men sent to jail.

No, riots are not encouraged by the authorities. But yet, they are increasing day by day. Now-a-days wherever there is a grievance, there is a riot. Nay, wherever there is a supposed grievance, there is also a riot. Now the authorities in Calcutta had done nothing to deserve the fury of the mob. If the Government is willing to introduce inoculation, it is from the best of motives. But if it is willing to introduce inoculation, it has not the slightest intention of applying force. Why was then Calcutta in a state of siege?

And, above all, how have the gentle people of this country come to be so bold? They know that rioting is followed not only by imprisonment, but death. They know very well that all riots have been followed by the most severe punishment, Why are they getting day by day so reckless?

These are questions which we would venture to ask of the authorities, who have taken upon themselves to rule this country without any help from the natives of the soil. We ask these questions; for, we are intersted in them, perhaps more vitally, than the Government itself. shaWe ll explain, why.

There is an "upper ten" and a "lower million" in India. The upper ten are just now absolutely at the mercy of the lower million. The upper ten do not like that the lower million should, whenever it suits their fancy, invade their houses, loot their property and commit other outrages. Mob rule means insecurity of property and person. The mob is day by day getting stronger. Who is to protect the upper ten from the mob?

Let us see who are these upper ten. They include the wealthy Indians,—Indians having property and education. They include the Europeans, high and low. Just now a European in the streets of this city is not safe. Any European may be, at any time, mobbed by a company of *badmashes*, emerging out of a dark lane.

Then, we have only to take a bare notice of another higher and more delicate phase of the question. How will the Government rule if it cannot afford security of property and person in the metropolis itself?

The Government has provided against every danger,—probable, possible and impossible. But it has not yet been able to provide against the greatest of all dangers, namely, mob rule. Yes, the Police can shoot the mob down. But what is the good? Volleys have not checked the vitality of the feeling that is moving the masses. And the enlightened Government is surely not for mowing down men by buck-shot, who have lost their heads! Mowing down the mob, is a method which the enlightened Government of India will never be able to adopt for the purpose of governing the country.

It is a large question to enter into the causes of this state of affairs. Undoubtedly, poverty is at the root of this recklessness, displayed by a proverbially gentle and law-abiding race. They have something to gain by taking the law into their own hands. That is probably the cause of this lawlessness displayed. Enforcement of the plague rules is, no doubt, the immediate cause. But why was there a riot at Tallah? And why was there a Hindu riot at Benares? The plague is the immediate cause, but not the origin of this state of affairs.

The Government has a stronger hold upon the higher classes of Indians, and very little upon the lower. The former enjoy blessings under British rule, which lead them to cling to it. Under British rule, their property and person are safe. It is to these classes the Government can appeal for confidence, affection and support.

But what cares the poverty-stricken, ignorant, and bigotted ryot as to who rules the country? The proper, and we believe, the only course open to the Government is to rule the masses in India through the upper ten. It is with the help of the upper ten that the Government can secure peace in this country of the masses. Yes, even the Congresswallah is a very good friend; for, he sides with law, order and constitution.

The Government policy took, however, a shape, which produced mischief in two ways. The upper ten were flung away as a seditious lot; their friendly offers were rejected with scorn, and everything was done to throw them into apathy and despair. The upper ten have always and must always, from the nature of things, keep the lower classes in order. But they were distrusted, and the lower classes find themselves without responsible leaders and advisers.

The time has now come for the Government to take the natives of the soil into its confidence. Mere strong men and strong measures will not help the authorities governing the country properly and

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There is alarm, discontent, confusion and unrest all over the land. It is now high time for the Government to change its methods and to adopt a more confiding policy. Able and good as British officials and statesmen generally are, they yet took upon themselves an impossible task, *viz*, of governing a country with an alien population of 250 millions without native help. Who could have thought ten years ago that there was any possibility of Europeans being assaulted in broad daylight in the streets of Calcutta and Bombay? No, the Bombay method of ruling India has failed.

It may be said that home segregation cannot be effective on account of the stolid ignorance of the people. But when the plan of the sanitary authorities, most rigorously carried out at so much expense, and at the cost of such suffering and exasperation of the people, has signally failed in the Bombay Presidency, it is not reasonable that the alternative European plan of adopting real sanitary measures in the shape of cleansing &c, *unaccompanied by segregation*, or with home segregation, as proposed by the people, should be tried, at least for the sake of experiment, in Calcutta.

The stolidity and ignorance of the people are more fancied than real; and it is quite certain that their instinct of self-preservation and regard for the lives of those nearest and dearest to them, are quite as powerful in their minds as in those of people in other parts of the world. It is these feelings that ensure the application of sanitary measures and precautions in the case of epidemics of cholera and small-pox. Why not let the same influence operate in respect of the plague also?

Let the sanitary authorities do their proper function of advising the people; let them issue in millions, directions in English, Bengali, Hindi aad Urdu detailing what measures people should take to avert an attack, how best to segregate a patient in a separate room of the house, what measures to take for the cure of the patient and the safety of the other inmates, and so forth. The doctors themselves, as well as attendants at plague hospitals, certainly take some precautions to avoid contagion. Let the people at large know what these precautions are. Let the doctors visit those houses where attacks have occurred, and give advice, suitable to the circumstances of each household. If the notification of a plague case is not followed by forcible segregation, the authorities may rest assured that all real or suspicious cases will be notified with the utmost alacrity and promptness, the dangers of concealment will be entirely avoided, and the visits o the sanitary agents of Government will be hailed as those of saving angels, instead of those agents being regarded as messengers of an avenging Deity.

As we remarked the other day, the value of the concession, granted by our Lieutenant-Governor, namely, the exemption of the inoculated from the segregation rule, has been neutralized by the doubtful character of the Haffkine prophylactic. When the members of the Plague Commission will not come forward to get themselves inoculated and show the good example, it is idle to expect that any considerable number of people will care to avail of this method of treatment. The illiterate masses, again, have shown their decided hostility to the proposal. The concession is thus quite valueless to the vast body of the population. The notice, issued by Mr. Greer, Chairman of the Calcutta Corporation, contains the following para:—

Encouragement will be given to the public to provide family hospitals for treatment of their relatives in their private houses where proper accommodation is obtainable.

The above is evidently founded upon the following rule, at page 199, of Vol II of the Plague in India, under the head of "General Regulations for the City of Calcutta"—Regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act—para 12:—

Segregation para.—directs, when in any dwelling there is a patient suffering or suspected to be suffering from the plague, the Health Officer may enter that dwelling at any time of the day or night, after giving such notice of his intention as shall, under the circumstances, appear to him to be reasonable, and may take measures for segregating and *isolating the patient within or in a temporary structure attached or adjacent to such dwelling.* When patients of whatever sex and age cannot be properly isolated at or in the immediate vicinity of their own houses, the Chairman may cause them to be removed to hospital.

This is rather a restricted form of home segregation. What the Government has to do, is to make the rules so comprehensive as to include all houses where some accommodation can be provided for segregating the patient either inside or outside of them. Such apparatus as are absolutely necessary for the treatment of plague cases, should also be supplied by Government to these private home hospitals.

Who is the plague nurse who complained against one of the Natu brothers, and therefore both were deported, according to Lord George Hamilton, under the Regulation? Who is this grand lady whose position was so high that a mere complaint from her was enough to secure the life-long imprisonment of two Maharatta Sardars without a trial? Was she queen in disguise? Lord George Hamilton the author of this startling disclosure, was asked to disclose the identity of the nurse. A similar request was also made to the Governor of Bombay. But they would not enlighten the public on the subject. The friends of the Natus, however, instituted an enquiry, and they believe they have at least got hold of the identical party. She is, however, neither a queen, nor even a lady, but only a nurse who was paid Rs. 2 per diem for being employed as an examiner of plague cases. She rented a house from the elder Natu, but would not pay him the rent due from her. The result was a suit in the Small Cause Court where she and her husband declared on oath that they had paid the money. The Judge, however, disbelieved them, and gave the Natu a decree against her for Rs. 180. An application for realizing the amount, we are told, is at present pending before the Court. The elder Natu had also an occasion in crossing her way in public. She insisted on examining a Sannyasee from head to foot. This was considered indecorous, and the elder Natu, who was then a plague volunteer, severely reprimanded her. All this goes to show that she had no reason to nourish a kindly feeling for the Natus. Her subsequent career is the most interesting of all. She behaved in a most extraordinary manner towards a Maharatta lady of high position, while examining her at the Poona Railway station; and the matter having been brought to the notice of Colonel Creagh, her services were dispensed with. The account of this outrage was given in a letter, addressed to Colonel Creagh, which is published in another column. Every one should read it, and see how, in the name of plague regulations, ladies of the first rank were treated by persons like the two-rupee-per-diem nurse. Even an eminent Doctor trembled before her when she announced herself over and over again, "Don't you know who am I? Don't you know I am a Government servant?" These two-rupee-per diem men and women were invested with unlimited powers, and they did whatever they liked with the unfortunate people. Need anybody wonder if the Poona Maharattas shrieked and beat their breasts, and preferred plague to the arrangements made to eradicate it? Well, upon the mere complaint of this two-rupee-per-diem nurse, the truth of which was never inquired into, was the Regulation put into force, and the Natus deported!

If Dr. Haffkine has discovered inoculation as a prophylactic against plague, the *Englishman* has discovered a prophylactic against inoculation scare. Our contemporary has taken one column of his space to describe his method, though, we think, it is clearly explained in the following few lines. Well, says the Hare Street journal: 'the Government should issue gratituously to all who come to ask for it, a ticke- which promises freedom from police interference with regard to inoculation." Somet body told our contemporary,—perhaps his khansama—that "the ignorant regard tickets and chits and badges, and in fact, all things of a like nature, coming from the Government or a saheb, as almost talismanic in their properties;" and hence this grand discovery. It did not occur to the intelligent editor of the *Englishman* that "the ignorant" being furnished with the ticket, might show it to one who is not "ignorant", and thus the whole imposture might be exposed. Surely, it would not enhance the reputation of the Government with the masses if they came to know that the authorities had sought to pass a fraud upon them! And then, how will the "ignorant" secure these tickets? Will the Government carry these bits of papers to their homes, or will they have to come to the police or some other office for the same? As the "ignorant" consist, not of hundreds, nor thousands, but tens of thousands, the distribution of these tickets is in itself an impossible feat. And will not those who shall not be able to secure the tickets, be oppressed by the police? The police constable asks a man, "where is your inoculation ticket?" "I have not got one", replies he. "Then I shall get you inoculated,' threatens the constable; and the poor man extricates himself by paying him something. They are, however, not so very ignorant as the *Englishman* takes them to be. Some men were actually sought to be inoculated either by Municipal employes or some who personated as such. Two such false inoculators, we hear, are in police custody. The *Englishman* has been pleased to remark:—

It is not likely that this antagonism will generally take any other shape than a passive resistance to the mild measures being taken by the authorities to stamp out the plague; but it cannot be denied that without the active co-operation of all classes of natives, the difficulties in the way of sanitary reform will be considerably increased. In this connection we must again earnestly press on educated Hindus and Mahomedans, journalists in particular, the duty of doing everything in their powers to warn their more ignorant countrymen against believing the falsehoods, circulated by bazar badmashes.

So, the Hindu journalists are not an unmitigated evil!

Can it be that Lord Salisbury is going to transfer the Foreign Office to Lord Lansdowne? Of course, a good many English people are under the impression that His Lordship is a man of abilities; but, as a matter of fact, in India, it was discovered that he was wanting in intelligence. Of course, he served here as a Viceroy; but it is not altogether a difficult feat for a man without brains to serve as the representative of the Queen in India. For, he has only to place himself entirely into the hands of his advisers, who are, generally speaking, all very shrewd men, to prove a success. But the man to manage the Foreign Office of the British Empire, must be one who is competent to hold his own against the shrewdest and most astute men in the universe. In India, nobody even thought Lord Lansdowne to be in possession of more than average intelligence. One Anglo-Indian writer said of Lord Lansdowne that as a head clerk in any department, he would do very well. As a Viceroy, he was a mere tool in the hands of others. But as a Foreign Minister, we do not see who will help him. In India, the only independent ruler he had to deal with, was Abdur Rahaman, the Ameer of Cabul. His Lordship wanted to bully him, but was bullied in return. Lord Lansdowne wrote to the Ameer that, as an ally of an enlightened Government like the British, he should not treat his subjects cruelly. Abdur Rahaman replied to the effect that Lord Lansdowne should mind his own business and must not thrust his advice upon others. And His Lordship stood corrected. The *Saturday Review*, though a Tory Paper, considers him to be "lamentably weak." If, from motives of ambition, Lord Lansdowne accepts the office, he will only betray himself and let the world know, what we know here, that he is not more than an ordinary man.

Elsewhere is reproduced from the *Review of Reviews*, to hand by the last mail, an account of "Authentic messages from the dead," verified by the "Psychical Research Society." Mr. Stead justly remarks that those who are continually clamouring for evidence for tests, for confirmation of the authenticity of communications alleged to come from the so-called dead, will find ample material here. The importance of the proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research for February, 1898, in this connection, which have been published in the form of a report by Dr. Richard Hodgson, cannot be overestimated. Dr. Hodgson himself, it appears, is not a thorough believer in modern Spiritualism. Indeed, as Mr. Stead in the opening paragraph observes, the Doctor has tried to minimise the significance of so momentous an event by disguising its importance under the title, "A Further Record of Observations of Certain Phenomena of Trance" and advancing different hypotheses and theories to explain the startling facts. Yet, in the end, he has been obliged to confess that, notwithstanding certain failures and mistakes, and other real or supposed deficiencies which can be very easily explained, he has come to the conclusion that the communications actually proceeded from the spirit of his dead friend! If this be a fact, what are your Rontgen rays and the scientific researches of Edison before this grand discovery? If it can be proved beyond doubt by material evidence that man will live after what is called death, then human miseries will cease to exist in this world.

In the following precious paragraph, which escaped our notice and which is too rich to be lost, the *Englishman* tries to be funny over the fact that the *atrika* has praised an official, *viz*, Sir John Woodburn. This is the elegant way our contemporary is pleased to express his sentiments:—

The humours of the Bengali Press are inexhaustible; but it is not often that we are privileged to observe them engaged in the pleasing process known as the pot calling the kettle black. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has lately made its appearance in an entirely new role, as an enthusiastic admirer of the new Lieutenant-Governor. "Sir John Woodburn," His Honour will be pleased to learn, "is a sweet-tempered official, who is incapable of hurting a man by word or deed. He is also, we are told, keenly alive to the fact that India has fed and clothed his family for several generations." Under these circumstances, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is justly indignant at the "disparaging way" in which *India*, the English organ of the Congress party, has thought fit to speak of Sir Alexander Mackenzie's successor. It is so angry that, in defiance of all its cherished traditions, it shrilly calls upon *India* to "substantiate its charges against the new Lieutenant-Governor, or to withdraw them with an apology." These are admirable sentiments; and everyone will hope that the *Amrita Bazar* will see the propriety of practising what it preaches, and give up its favourite habit of indiscriminately flinging mud at public officials in the hope that some of it may stick. But one is really tempted to ask whether Saul is also among the prophets, or whether the sweet reasonableness of this fire-eating journal is not due to recent legislation? If this is so, it must, indeed, be an ill-wind which blows nobody good.

Yes, it is a slip, and we plead guilty. But we never pretended to be immaculate,—no man is, no, not even our contemporary of the *Englishmen*. For, it is on record that if we have praised a British official, he was also led, at one time of its existence, to praise an Indian official, to wit, Justice Chander Madhab Ghose. This illustrious Hindu official, when wantonly attacked by the *Pioneer*, was defended by the *Englishman*. So, you see, it is impossible for us, puny and frail creatures, always to stick to our resolutions. As regards Sir J. Woodburn, his antecedents are suspicious; for, he never came across the enlightened people of Bengal, he having passed his official life in the midst of the barbarians of the backward Provinces of India. But here we must divulge a secret why we expect him a success. When it was announced that Sir J. Woodburn had been selected to rule Bengal, there was consternation in this country. An impression prevailed that Sir J. Woodburn had much to do with the proceedings at Poona; besides, his Minute on the Simultaneous Examination question, which contained adverse remarks on the Bengalees, was known. But just at this moment, some enlightened barbarians outside Bengal, who were intimately acquainted with Sir John Woodburn, one of them being a European gentleman, "who has known Sir John for more than one-tenth of a century" and whose letter was published in our issue of April 18 last, came to our help, to assure us that Sir John was "brave in heart and angelic in spirit." And as they knew Sir J. Woodburn and we did not, and, as we had confidence in their judgment, we preferred to abide by their estimate of the new Lieutenant-Governor's character. If eventually Sir J. Woodburn unfortunately proves a failure, which, we are assured, is not likely to be the case, it shall be our duty to pitch into him, in spite of the Sedition Law. Our contemporary, the *Englishman*, has no need to take fright: we have no desire of encroaching on his long-established right of writing to please the strong.

The *Englishman* is in ill-humour, because the Municipal Commissioners came to the resolution to wait upon His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor and request him to practically do away with plague segregation. As expected, he has vented his anger upon the devoted head of the Bengali Babu. "But even if the Bengal Government were willing to try the dangerous experiment of practically leaving the disease alone," says the *Englishman*, "have the promoters of memorials and members of deputations ever paused to consider the fact that Foreign Governments are not likely to look at the matter from the point of the view of the Bengali?" Our contemporary is very unreasonable. It is not the "Bengali" who condemns segregation, but his own countrymen. It was Dr. Blaney who showed the way, and gradually Dr. Weir, Dr. Cook and others came forward to expose the thorough hollowness of this so-called precautionary measure against plague. As regards the proposed deputation, it was composed of both Bengalis and such eminent European medical practitioners as Dr. Sande s and Dr. Wallace. The full text of the speech of the latter is published elsewhere. Then, this movement is not being supported by the *Statesman*, which, according to the *Englishman*, is a "native paper" but by the *Indian Daily News*, who is as much a *pucka* Englishman as he himself is. So, you see, it is not the view of the Bengali alone that segregation should be knocked on the head.

Our contemporary proceeds on to say: "In giving way any further, the Bengal Government would be practically breaking the provisions of the Venice Convention, and would thus be likely to induce the Powers to declare an absolute quarantine against all goods and vessels coming from Calcutta. In case the disease should in future make any headway, there must be a limit to the concessions to the prejudices of the natives of Calcutta. There are vast Imperial interests to be considered. The extreme demands of the journalists and politicians come with particular ungraciousness just at the time when Sir John Woodburn has given a signal example of his sympathy and kindly feelings for the native inhabitants of this city." Curiously enough, some of the above sentiments were expressed by Mr. Risley also when delivering his speech on the Calcutta Municipal Bill. Said he: "A glance at the proceedings of the recent Sanitary Conventions of Geneva, Paris and Venice will show the importance of what I may venture to call international hygiene and the prominent part that is played in it by scientific experts." So it is the Venice Convention which must guide our affairs? The Governments in India must give up their independence, and bow down to the decisions of some scientists who know nothing about the conditions of life in India and the tendency of whose fads is to add to the miseries of the human race. We do not know what good bacteriology has done; but there is no doubt of it that but for these bacteriologists, India at least would have been saved from the terrible sufferings to which she has been subjected during the past eighteen months. It is, however, not at all necessary for the advocates of bacteriology to lose their common sense. It has been established beyond doubt that segregation does not check the progress of the disease. It was tried with great rigour in Poona and Bombay and found wanting; and it is being just now tried at Kurrachee with stlll greater stringency without any advantage whatever. Why would you then insist on adopting a measure which has been so thoroughly discredited after a sufficient experiment? If the Venice Convention comes to the decision that, in a plague-stricken country, a man must walk with his head, surely, nobody will listen to it. Similarly, it is ridiculous that our Government should enforce segregation, because that is the *hukum* of the Venice Convention, though we here know from bitter experience that it has done us no good, but is fraught with unmitigated evil. What we submit the Government should do, is to notify to the Powers that the system of segregation was tried in all its phases in India and that it has signally failed, and, as it means untold misery to the people of this country, they should cancel or modify the decision of the Venice Convention. It does not stand to reason that, in order to humour the Convention, our Government should continue a policy which is attended with such disasters.

The *Englishman* and those who think with him, should examine the subject from another stand-point. The inoculation scare has shown how unreasonable the masses of this country are. They will not spare even an educated countryman of theirs if he will say anything which will hurt their prejudices. The Government Pleader of Howrah narrowly escaped being killed by an infuriated mob, simply because he tried to reason with them. Now, if a measure of humanity like that of inoculation, and which is not compulsory, is apt to exasperate them to such an extent, would they not lose all control over themselves and be impelled to do dreadful things if segregation were sought to be enforced upon them? Of course, they could be cowed down by the discharge of a few guns; but, what, if they all strike? Will not then trade and commerce be completely paralysed? Both Bombay and Calcutta have shown that they can do us immense mischief by this sort of passive resistance, and they must on no account be driven to it. It is both to the interests of the Europeans and the higher-class Indians that such a catastrophe should be avoided. The *Englishman* talks of "the prejudices of the natives of Calcutta." The educated Indians have no prejudices whatever in this respect. They will submit to any regulation that the Government in its wisdom may deem it fit to introduce for stamping out plague. But it is the illiterate people,—who are so necessary to the Europeans either as coolies, carters, mill-hands, khansamas and so forth, and who form the vast majority of the Indian nation—whose prejudices cannot be ignored without inviting serious dangers.

With reference to the Barrackpore outrage case, noticed in our yesterday's issue, we have been able to gather a few more particulars. The incident happened on Saturday, and not Friday, evening at about 9 P. M. The soldiers not only damaged the carriage of Dr. Suresh Chunder Sarkar, but also the panels of his dispensary, by pelting brick-bats. There were no other servants of Suresh Babu present at the time except a young compounder and his coachman and syce. When the soldiers felled him down and began to kick him with their boots, the neighbours, consisting mainly of syces and coachmen of ticca-gharries, collected on the spot, and caught hold of two out of the three soldiers, one having escaped, leaving his stick and helmet behind. The Medical officer who held the *post mortem* examination, is said to have remarked that the head was fractured from temple to temple, and that the fracture was caused by some blunt substance. If this is the result of the *post mortem* examination, then there is little doubt that it was the booted kicks of the soldiers that broke the skull of the deceased gentleman; and a more horrible form of brutality cannot be conceived. One of the soldiers, we hear, is lying in the hospital, as the men, who caught him, gave him a good thrashing. Two others are in the lock-up We hear, the Cantonment Magistrate has taken up the matter in his hand in right earnest, and that the Government is determined to see that the culprits are adequately punished.

The "funny case", reported by our Gya correspondent, of the Magistrate himself running after a boy to catch him, who had plucked some fruits, deserves a second notice. We regret, the Magistrate received some falls and bruises; we hope, that will not be put against the offending boy during the trial. He was subsequently arrested and put on his trial. Considering the fact that he had the honour of a chase by the District Magistrate himself, we hope, he will be leniently dealt with. When a distinguished Magistrate saw a date-tree-tapper putting something in his earthen vessel, he inquired what it was. The man said, it was *dhutur*. The Magistrate was horrified. "And you put this poison? Do you know it is deadly?"—he asked angrily of the tapper. "Yes, Saheb" said he, "it is poison but not deadly; for, we put only a small quantity. We have to do it to prevent boys drinking the sweet juice." The Magistrate was for the second time horrified. "But that would be theft", said he. "Yes, theft, Saheb. But we in this country take rather a lenient view of such things. Boys are always boys: if they drink a sip of our date-juice or pluck a ripe mangoe, we object, no doubt; but we take no other notice of osuch offences."

Since the above was in type, we are amazed to learn from our Gya correspondent that the boy has got six months with hard labour! Can this be true?

Arab Rowla, who committed murder in Yerrowada Jail recently, killing a warder, named Narsu Tingu, and wounding another, named Imam, was placed before the Hon'ble Mr. Crowe and a jury, and tried on the two charges. The jury found him guilty, and he was sentenced to death for killing the one warder and to six months' imprisonment for wounding the other warder. So, the convict will be hanged after having been incarcerated in jail for six months! This may be law, but it is

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not in consonance with the dictates of humanity. To torture a man for more than 180 days with the sure prospect of his being ultimately hanged, is a form of punishment which we owe to the cold and calculating sense of justice which characterises the soulless civilization of the modern times.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

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POLICE OPPRESSION IN JAMALPORE.—A sensational case of police oppression was disposed of the other day in the Court of the District Magistrate of Monghyr, in which a head-constable, attached to the Monghyr Police lines, was charged with illegally keeping in *hajut* a respectable Marwari. The facts of the case are that a servant of the Mawari's was found implicated in a theft case, and the head-constable took it into his head that the Marwari himself must have been at the bottom of it, and so had him arrested and dragged to the lines, where he was kept in *hajut*. Mr. Scott, barrister-at-law, prosecuted, and Mr. Jones, barrister-at-law from Bankipur, defended. The Magistrate after hearing the barrister for the defence, sentenced the accused (head-constable) to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment, and to a fine of Rs. 40, or in default to a further imprisonment for four months.—*I. D. News.*

MORTUARY RETURNS. The total number of deaths registered in urban Calcutta during the week ending 30th April was 304 against 271 and 234 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 42. There were 18 deaths from cholera against 32 and 14 in the two preceding weeks, the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 49. There were 6 deaths from small-pox during the week, against 2 in the previous week. There were 6 deaths from tetanus against 1 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 113 and 34 respectively against 106 and 19 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 34·0 per mille per annum, against 35·4 the mean of the last five years. The total number of deaths registered in suburban Calcutta, during the week ending 30th April was 150 against 138 and 131 in the two preceding weeks, and lower than the corresponding week of last year by 55. There were 14 deaths from cholera, against 10 and 10 in the two preceding weeks; the number is lower than the average of the past quinquennium by 13. There were 2 deaths from small-pox during the week, against nil in the previous week. There were no deaths from tetanus against 1 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 48 and 16 respectively, against 39 and 26 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 36·3 per mille per annum against 42·6 the mean of the last five years. The general death-rate of the combined area is equal to 34·7.

Mofussil News.

BARRACKPUR, APRIL 28.

ON the 1st current, Kristamma, a sepoy of the Madras Infantry, stationed at Barrackpur, snatched away a bangle from the hand of a Bengali lady, of the village Dhitara. He has been sentenced to six months' rigorous imprisonment by the Deputy Magistrate of Barasat.

DACCA, MAY 2.

IN reference to the interpellation in the Bengal Legislative Council by the Hon'ble Surendra nath Banerjee regarding the qualifications of Mr. Lomax, the newly-appointed Sanitary Inspector to the Dacca Municipality, a question was lately put to Dr. Macrae in the Municipal Board, who replied that he was not aware that the said Mr. Lomax had any sanitary or engineering qualifications. He further said that he had not as yet seen that gentleman. The Magistrate in this connection is said to have written to the Municipality to the effect that he (the Magistrate) is not aware of the qualifications of Mr. Lomax; but that, in deference to the wishes of the late Commissioner, Mr. Hare, he appointed Mr. Lomax under the plague rules. I understand that our new Commissioner proposed the appointment of a Sanitary Engineer, on Rs. 500 a month, and to do away with the services of Mr. Lomax. A Resolution was accordingly brought forward at the last Municipal meeting by Dr. Macrae. Baboo R. K. Nandy proposed that a Sanitary Engineer be appointed on Rs. 300, as it is not so much an engineer that we want, but mehtars, carts and bullocks and for which funds must be provided. The amendment was carried by a majority. This is said to have greatly offended the Doctor (who is also the ex-officio Health Officer) who was heard to mutter that he must not associate with the Municipality any longer.—

—As I am writing I learn that Nawab Sir Ahshanullah Bahadoor, K. C. I. E., has just placed a lac of rupees in the hands of the Divisional Commissioner, to provide for the better sanitation of the houses of the poor in the town of Dacca, and for their proper treatment in the event of plague breaking out here. This is, no doubt, a princely and opportune gift; and we are glad that our good Nawab Bahadoor is following in the foot steps of his great and illustrious father. I further learn that Sir Ahsanullah Bahadoor is ready to lend the Municipality a lac of rupees without interest for some years, provided the Municipality spends the amount for the sanitary improvements of the town. I do not know if the Municipality will avail of this help.—The "Johnson Hall" was opened the other day by the Divisional Commissioner. Rai Kaliprasanna Ghose Bahadoor made a neat little speech in which he styled the Hall as the temple of peace, as it is intended to be a public resort when friends shall meet for a little relaxation after the day's labour. The Commissioner also echoed the sentiment when he said that he hoped that people, visiting the Hall, would forget their differences for the while, and enjoy an hour with a full and free heart.

THE POONA OUTRAGE.

PRISONER BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE

STATEMENT BY THE INJURED GIRL.

THE hearing of the case in which Alfred Charles Parker is charged with having caused hurt to a woman of low character named Jai by throwing her over the Bund Gardens wall was resumed by Colonel Newnham-Smith, Cantonment Magistrate, Poona, on the 3rd. As the complainant's statement had to be recorded, the Magistrate went to the Sassoon Hospital and examined the woman as she lay in bed.

Complainant in her evidence said her name was Jai. She was 14 years of age. About fourteen days ago, at 6-30 P. M. she and one Wuni were going to the bazaar. Tookia met them and asked her if she would meet with a saheb. She consented. Tookia brought a carriage, and she and the saheb went to the Bund Gardens, which they entered. He paid her two rupees. When she started to go home accused caught her by the waist and stopped her, and when she cried out, he lifted her up twice and threw her clear over the wall. She became senseless for about twenty minutes and after recovering her senses she tried to get up, but her right leg began to tremble. She cried out loudly but no one came to her assistance, and then she crawled up to the water and drank some of it. About 5 A. M. some fishermen came, saw her and went to tell the *mali*; they appeared to be afraid. The *mali* on seeing her went to tell the police. A native constable came up, saw her and said he would go and tell a soldier. Two soldiers came and one (Sergt. Field) lifted her up and put her into a gharry. She was sent to the Sassoon Hospital. Complainant identified the gharriwalla who had driven them to the Bund. Continuing, she said the consequence of her being thrown over was that her leg was broken and had to be amputated. She had been fifteen days in the hospital and was still confined to her bed.

Cross-examined, complainant said that she never saw accused before the day he took her to the Bund Gardens. She carried no liquor with her, but accused smelt of liquor at the times. Witness was not drunk and did not put her hand into accused's pocket. Witness said that her statement was taken at the hospital some time ago, when she was not in her proper senses. Not a soul spoke to her when they first saw her except that they asked her what was the matter and she replied that accused had thrown her over. She never said a soldier had thrown her down. Wuni, witness said, was no relative of hers, but that treated her as a sister and gave her what she earned. Accused did not push her, but lifted her up and threw her down. She did not tell anyone that she was pushed and then fell. She was thrown over about at 8 P. M. There was no chain to the corner from where she was thrown over. She knew she was in hospital and was being examined, and she was in the full possession of her senses.

At this stage the House Surgeon, Surgeon-Captain Easdon, was asked by the Court to examine complainant, and he was also asked whether he considered the woman in a sound state of mind. He replied in the affirmative and added that complainant would be fit to be discharged from hospital a week hence.

The Court then continued the further hearing in the consulting room of the hospital, when accused was examined. His statement made before Mr. H. F. Carvalho, was first read out to him, the gist of it being as follows:—

ACCUSED'S STATEMENT.

Accused stated: His name was Charles Parker, European inhabitant of Bombay. He had arrived in Poona on the Sunday previous to the occurrence and was staying at Collett's Hotel. He knew the woman Jai ten months ago, but not her name. She visited him about four or five times during that time. On his arrival in Poona she came to him again. That was outside the Railway Station. He drove her in an open phaeton to the Bund Gardens, where they got out and went in. They went down a flight of steps. The place was dark. Afterwards he gave her a slight push and she went over the wall. He was in liquor at the time. He did not know they were so close to the edge. He was scared as he looked over and saw the water rushing past. He did not go back in the carriage, but walked back to the hotel, which he reached at half-past nine. He had not seen the gharry driver since. Accused also added that he made that statement of his own free will,

This statement bore the usual certificate of the Magistrate.

Questioned, accused said that the foregoing statement made by him to Mr. H. F. Carvalho and read out to him was correct, but that he wished to add to it that an altercation took place between complainant and himself over some liquor money i.e., some *buksheesh* for liquor. The woman tried to feel his pockets and he pushed her and she fell over.

The remainder of his evidence was as given before Mr. Carvalho. In reply to a question accused said his proper name was Alfred Charles Parker though he had signed the statement as "Charles Parker." Asked if he had anything further to say, he replied nothing, except that he was drunk at the time the thing occurred.

Further hearing has been adjourned till the 4th instant.—*Advocate of India.*

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

HAVANA HARBOUR MINED.

TELEGRAPHING on April 3rd the Havana correspondent of the *New York World* said:—Forty floating submarine mines were secretly planted in Havana Harbour last Wednesday night by the Spanish Government. This information comes from official sources and is absolutely correct. The mines were laid in the narrowest part of the channel between Morro and Punta, in two lines of twenty mines each. They are spherical and float about twenty-four feet under the surface. Each is attached by an anchor chain to a heavy cable anchored on the bottom. The detonating wires run up the chains. There is sufficient force there to paralyse the biggest ships afloat. But if an entering fleet should use countermines or bow torpedoes on approaching the narrowrest part of the entrance to the harbour the mines could be exploded. Havana is in a state of tremendous but suppressed excitement. War with the United States is regarded as certain. It has been expected at the Palace for a week. The steamer Mascotte was crowded on Saturday with refugees of the more timid sort.

EXTRAORDINARY STORY FROM LONDON.

The London correspondent of the same paper telegraphed early in April. The Queen Regent of Spain bought Hugh McCalmont's fast yacht *Giralda* for herself and her children in case they have to fly from Spain. This fact leaked out to-day, when the man who negotiated the sale of that crack 1,200 ton steam vessel said to the *World's* correspondent: "None of the newspapers here, or, so far as I know, in the United States, has appreciated the true significance of the purchase of the *Giralda* for Spain. I can tell you that though she was bought ostensibly for the Spanish Government, the money for her was paid by the Queen Regent herself. The *Giralda* is not intended for ordinary war service. She is to be kept on the Spanish coast, ready to put in any port ordered and take on board the Queen Regent, the young King and his sisters in the event of an emergency. The Queen Regent and her advisers evidently apprehend either a Carlist or a Republican revolution as a sequel to the loss of Cuba. The *Giralda* is not to undergo such alterations as would be necessary if she was intended for war service. She is sumptuously fitted inside, has six Maxim Nordenfelt machine guns and 100 stands of Lee-Metford magazine rifles."

PLAN TO BUY DANISH ISLANDS.

In the Senate, on March 31st, the Committee on Foreign Relations reported a bill for the purchase of Danish West Indian Islands by the United States. The bill authorises the President to negotiate for the purchase of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John, for a naval and coaling station. The sum authorised is 5,000,000. The bill is not essentially a war measure. The Massachusetts Senator introduced the bill during the extraordinary session of last year and it was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. It has been considered by the Committee from time to time since Congress convened in December, as has been reported by the press. But no definite action could be agreed upon until recently, when the war scare appeared.

Senator Lodge called the attention of the committee to his bill and asked its immediate consideration. Senator Lodge said that in the event of war with Spain the islands would be of great value to the United States as a naval and coaling station for the davy. Finally the committee agreed at its regular meeting yesterday to favourably report the bill. In the argument in favour of the purchase, the report says that as long as the island are in the market there is danger that they will be acquired by some foreign government. This would be an infraction of the Monroe doctrine and involve the United States in a serious difficulty with the European Power which sought possession of the islands. The United States has always been anxious to acquire a naval station in the West Indies.

Senator Shelby M. Cullom, of Elinois, a member of the Senate Foreign Regulations Committee, say concerning the resolution for the purchase of the Danish West Indies: "The plan to acquire St. Thomas is not of recent origin. When Secretary Seward was a member of the Cabinet he negotiated for the purchase of these islands, and the sum of $7,500,000 was named as the price to be paid. The negotiations were successful and a treaty of purchase was formulated, but it failed in the Senate. As I said, aside from getting a good investment as a strategic point, the islands are necessary as a coaling station for our naval vessels. The sum named in the resolution—$5,000—is not exorbitant. In fact it is a small price to pay for such a valuable piece of property."

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

SOME interesting particulars of a new application of the Rontgen rays for curative purposes were communicated by Dr. Edward Schiff, lecturer at the Vienna University, at the last sitting of the Imperial and Royal Medical Society. A series of experiments conducted by Dr. Schiff and his assistant proved that these rays could be used for the cure of disease in a manner capable of perfect control by means of a more or a less intense application for a longer or shorter period, producing reaction in the exact degree required. In this way it has been possible for the lecturer, on the one hand, to remove hair from parts of the body where it constituted a disfigurement without causing the slightest inflammation, while, on the other hand, he has been able to treat lupus, with uniform success by means of an artificial inflammation, the intensity of which he was in a position to increase or reduce at will. The results secured by the new method both in the removal of superfluous hair and the treatment of lupus were demonstrated in the persons of some of Dr. Schiff's patients.

THE Paris correspondent of the *Standard* writes: The annual meeting of the already rather old Channel Bridge Company recently took place in Paris, under the presidency of the Comte de Chaudordy. The scheme which is now in favour with this rather unfortunate company is incontestably original. The minutes of the recent meeting contain the following explanations:—

M. Thevenet le Boul, chief engineer of the Ponts et Chaussees, member of the Technical Committee of the company, explained that the new method proposed for crossing the Channel consists in rolling on a bridge submerged to the depth of nfteen metres below low water mark, an immense platform emerging above the water. It is to be propelled by electricity, and capable of carrying four railway trains. The rails on the platform join the rails on land at the departure and arrival, so that the trains will simply steam on to the platform and steam off it when the platform reaches the opposite coast. It is the amplification, on a vast scale, of the little platform which is used to convey foot passengers between St. Malo and St. Servan. The new project has just formed the subject of careful study by the Compagnie de Fives-Lille, whose high reputation is a guarantee for success. That study has shown the practicability, the facility of execution, and the relative economy of that method of transit by rail between France and Eagland. This scheme has the advantage over its predecessors of being very simple, and of possessing absolute safety both during its execution and in its working. That solution has also the advantage of escaping the principal international objections raised against the project of the bridge above the water. No obstacle to navigation would be created by it, and the insular situation of England would remain intact. This new work could be completed in five years. The total cost would not exceed 350,000,000 frs: or three times less than the bridge above the water. Three rolling platforms, working simultaneously, and only during the day, would suffice for a traffic of 3,000,000 tons of merchandise and 2,000,000 passengers, which would produce an annual income of ove 60,000,000 frs; or a net income of 50,00,000r frs Considering the facility of brilliantly illuminating the platforms with electricity, they could also travel at night. The great English Company, the Thames Ironworks and Shipbuilding Company, Limited, is in accord with the French Compagnie de Fives-Lille for the grouping round this project of the principle iron working firms and companies of the two countries into a vast international *consortium*, which, with the present Channel Bridge Company, will demand the concession and secure the execution of the work.

M. Thevenet le Boul's communication was applauded unanimously by the meeting. The platform on which it is proposed that the trains should stand while being conveyed across the Channel would be 150 metres long and about fifteen metres broad. It would be supported by five iron pillars on each side. These pillars, braced together in pairs by iron girders, and supported by iron stays, would rest on a submerged platform provided with wheels rolling on rails fixed on the bridge. This submerged platform would be thirty metres wide, so that the pillars supporting the platform above the water would incline inwards since that upper platform would be only about fifteen metres wide. The motive power, which it is proposed should be electricity, would be generated by steam engines and dynamos installed on the upper platform, and transmitted directly and separately to each of the fifteen pairs of wheels with which the submerged platform is to be provided.

TELEPHOTOS IN NAVAL SERVICE.

THE United States Navy is being rapidly, equipped with the new signalling apparatus to which the name of telephotos has been given and which is considered by American naval experts the most rapid, powerful, and effective night signal system yet invented. The electric current plays a leading part in working the apparatus, rendering it thoroughly effective and brilliant on the darkest nights. It is the conception of Mr. C. V. Boughton, general manager of the Telephotos Company of Buffalo, the company which is manufacturing the apparatus. The telephotos consists of a series of four double lanterns, lighted by groups of glow lamps, the four double lanterns being hung vertically on a strong wire cable, the upper end of which can be run up to a mast-head or yard-arm, while the lower end is intended to be fastened to the deck of the vessel. The upper half of each lamp is white, and has within it a group of three lamps surrounded by powerful magnifying lenses. The lower half is red, and has four lamps, in order to make the red beams the stonger, which are surrounded by heavy red lenses. The carefully insulated cable connects the lamps, and passes from the lower one to the deck or bridge, where a keyboard enables the operator to spell out the code signals about as rapidly as a typewriter is manipulated, and very much in the same manner The keyboard is fixed to a standard and enclosed like a binnacle, the operator standing in front of it while manipulating the keys. By a simple automatic arrangement each key as depressed lights a combination of the four red and the four white lights, making a letter or a number according to the code of signals. All the operations are automatic, and the combination is made by one touch of the key. Another feature of the keyboard is that when one letter is down all the other keys are locked, so that another cannot be accidentally pushed down, thus confusing the signals. Any key pressed down can be turne done quarter way round, like a screw, which motion locks it in place and leaves the signal burning, in case it is desired to use it as a standing signal for an order in the Secret Naval Code. Thus the keyboard can be used to telegraph ordinary instructions by the usual letters to send a cypher despatch, or a special code order. Notwithstanding all this apparent complication the keyboard is compact and its mechanism so simple that it cannot be readily disturbed or got out of order. It is stated that the telephotos has been tried in the British Navy, and that a number of sets of the apparatus has been ordered for some of the largest English vessels.

TURKESTAN AND THE AMUR.

COMMENTING upon the appointments of General Duchovskoi and General Grodekoff as Governors General of Turkestan and the Amur territory respectively, the *Navoe Vremya* attributes them to the importance of the present political situation in the Far East and Central Asia. The journal says:—

"General Duchovskoi will be entrusted not only with administrative union of the Trans-Caspian territory, Turkestan, and Semirechensk, but also with the mission of preserving peace in the Far East by means of a steady and firm policy on the Afghan frontier. General Grodekoff is thoroughly acquainted with the Russian possessions in the Far East, and is a capable general of the Skobeleff school."

THE PARIS EXHIBITION OF 1900.

ALTHOUGH the International Exhibition in Paris will not be opened for two years to come, the public interest in the enterprise continues to grow space. One serious drawback, says *Engineering*, will attend the 1900 Exhibitions. This is the insufficient area of covered spaces. Although a large part of the Champs Elysees has been added to the site, and although the broad river fronts on each side of the Seine will be included, besides the Esplanade des Invalides, the unfortunate fact remains that the size of the buildings will be little, if any, greater than it was in 1889, while the requirements for space will be indefinitely larger, and the vast industries of Germany will, for the first time since many years, claim a proper recognition in the French capital. It is true that to a certain extent the large open spaces on the Champs Elysees and the Trocadero will be free for the erection of pavilions; but this advantage is by no means so great as might appear, on account of the restrictions imposed on the Exhibition authorities by the Paris Municipality. Probably no foreign nation participating will be satisfied with the amount of space accorded, and certainly many large French exhibitors are already smarting under the same grievance.

As regards fine arts, it is provided that all exhibits must be original; no unframed paintings will be admitted, neither will engravings or pieces of sculpture produced by industrial processes; no artist will be allowed to exhibit more than ten specimens; and all exhibits coming in this group must be received before December 1st, 1899, by the Commissariat General of Exhibition, at the request of the special Commissioner representing the exhibitor. As to commercial exhibits no restrictions as to their nature are made excepting as regards objectionable or dangerous objects such as matches, fuses, explosives, etc. These can only be represented by models. Inflammable oils and essences will be admitted in small quantities when contained in approved receptacles. For those exhibits which will require power—gas, water, air, or eletricity—a proper application must be made, together with an exact statement of the amount of energy desired.

The question of jury organisation and the character of awards is one to which the British exhibitor attaches as a rule, a high importance; the following will give an idea of the arrangements that will be carried out in Paris. he juries will be international and, will be divided into three grades: class juries, group juries, and a superior jury. The class juries will have a total number of members equal to one-sixtieth the number of exhibitors; the strength of each class jury both as regards numbers and its international composition will depend on the importance of the exhibits in the class and its international character. All foreign members of juries will be elected by their respective Commissions and approved by the Commissariat-General before the opening of the exhibition. Every jury will elect a president and a vice-president, one being a Frenchman and the other a foreigner. They will also select a *rapporteur* and a secretary, and they will be empowered to call in special expert advice if they require to do so. The group juries will consist of a president, two or three vice-presidents, and a secretary chosen by the Minister of Commerce: they will also include the president, vice presidents and *rapporteurs* of the class juries.

A few words must be added about the classification to be adopted. It is the intention to distribute exhibits according to their nature, and not by nationality, so that foreign sections, as the public has learned to understand them at previous exhibitions, will form no part of the 1900 Exhibition. It has, of course, always been a necessary practice to follow some principle of sub-division; Fine Arts, Machinery, General Industries, Social Economy, and Agriculture, evidently call for distinct buildings to display them. In Chicago, 1893, finishing, mining and transportation industries were added to the foregoing, while the international character of the exhibition was carefully preserved in each building. In Paris, 1900, the system of sub-division will be carried much further by distributing the French as well as the international exhibits among the eighteen groups of the classification. Whether this system will be carried further from the groups to the classes has not yet been made clear; but unless this is done the sacrifice of characteristic foreign sections will have been made without attaining the desired object.

From what has been said, it will be gathered that the contents of the Paris Exhibition of 1900 will, to a large extent, consist of severely selected classes of exhibits, arranged certainly by international groups and possibly by classes and that the old and impressive feature of characteristic national courts will be absent. The experiment is a somewhat bold one, and the results will be watched with anxiety. especially by exhibitors who, while being widely scattered may be brought into much closer contact with foreign competitors than has been the case hitherto.

A GOOD FIND OF PLUMBAGO IN CEYLON.

A GOLD BOOM NOT LIKELY YET.

IT is pleasing to hear that Capt. Tregay, the mining expert, who came out some time ago to search for plumbago on Morankande, for the owner, Mr. Tottenham has, says the "Ceylon Times," been fortunate enough to meet with success. He has found plumbago on the estate in such paying quantities as to make it worth his while to stay in Ceylon and work the mines. Speaking of the matter to a representative of this paper, he said that the plumbago was of very good quality. "In fact, said he, "we have had samples examined by the manufactures, and they quote the highest price for the stuff, almost tip-top price. Several veins have been got into working order, and a start will be made this week, while, it is expected, the mines will be working in full swing next week." Capt. Tregay says he is employing all Sinhalese labour, as it is more suitable for mining work than Tamil. He has not a very good labour force just at present, but he expects to be able to get as much as he wants when the men come off the paddy fields. When Capt. Tregay came out he intended stopping in Ceylon a few weeks and then going on to Australia, where he had several engagements to prospect for gold. Since, however, he came from home with the intention of doing something in Ceylon in the way of gold, he made his engagements elsewhere conditional, and subject to what might happen here, and as manager of the Morankande plumbago mines, he means to stay.

In reply to a question by the writer Capt. Tregay said he was quite aware that no plumbago mining operations worked by Europeans had yet been made to pay in Ceylon. He put this down to bad management; and expensive management. As for Morankande, he has no doubt he will make it pay. And with tea on the surface and plumbago underneath it should.

"Are you as sanguine about gold in Ceylon as when you came out, Capt. Tregay?" asked the *Times* man. "I am sure there are gold-reefs in Ceylon," was the reply, "but there seems to be a want of faith on the part of those who own land, and I have not been asked to prospect for any. I have had any amount of letters from people who own land where indications of gold have been found, but none of them came to business. There seems to be a want of security in regard to Government. The land-owners do not know when Government would step in if they found gold."

In the course of further conversation, Capt. Tregay said that the cheap labour in Ceylon and the abundance of water power would enable a much smaller output to pay here than would pay in Australia. "I should think half the quantity would pay here" he said, "and you have not the great difficulty that is always cropping up in Australia, want of water. People, however, seem to have a want of confidence; they do not believe it will pay them."

"So you do not think we need fear a gold boom in Ceylon just yet?"——"No; I am afraid there will never be anything done in gold here unless some one blunders on a reef by accident. This is done not in frequently."

"Have you seen any Ceylon gold yet?"——"Yes, I have seen specimens of alluvial gold, and they must have come from reefs somewhere. One sample shown to me was a little piece of quartz surrounded by spires of gold. If there was nothing else to go by one could say, 'well, it came from quartz, because there is part of a reef.'"

Among the letters Capt. Tregay has received from planters, most say they hear there is gold on their land, or that gold is said to have been found there. Some have seen indications in the river beds, and one writes and says "there is quartz on my land, and understand gold is found in qurtz." This man has better stick to tea.

THE Maharaja Scindia's visit to Simla is believed to be connected with the currency changes in the Gwalior State.

SIR JAMES LYALL and the members of the Famine Commission are making good progress in the preparation of their report. The mass of evidence taken, is now in the hands of the printers.

IN the seditious preaching case at Agra, the District Magistrate, after considering the evidence produced, asked the accused Moulvi Mahomed Yusuf Ali, if he had anything to add to his former defence, and, receiving a reply in the negative, ordered him to furnish bail in his personal recognizance of Rs. 1,000 and two sureties for 1,000 each, failing which the accused would suffer simple imprisonment for one year. The Moulvi having failed to furn the required security

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

Telegrams.

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

LONDON, MAY 4.

It is reported that the American flag is flying over Manila.

The *Times* publishes a telegram from New York stating that President McKinley will retain the Phillipines till the close of the war, and that if Spain fails to pay an indemnity he will sell the Phillipines to a European Power and in preference to Great Britain.

In the Cortes yesterday scenes of the wildest popular excitement took place. Senor Sagasta was fiercely attacked on account of the disaster at Manila, and the state of unpreparedness which existed there, in spite of the immense Colonial credits which had been voted. Senor Sagasta, in reply, disclaimed any responsibility in the matter, and made an appeal for the union of parties to maintain the honor of Spain. The Premier's speech was received with howls and execrations intermingled with cheers and counter-cheers. One speaker openly denounced the monarchy, and said that the man destroying the present regime would be a great patriot.

There is still no further news from Manila, and the story of the American flag being hoisted there is entirely guess work.

The bulk of the American fleet which forms the blockading squadron at Havana, suddenly went off to Key West where they coaled and sailed again, it is supposed, for the purpose of encountering the Spanish fleet.

The swiftest American scouts are now searching the Atlantic for the Spanish fleet. The Naval Board at Washington have decided that the Spanish squadron must be destroyed before Havana is captured.

In consequence of riots, partly political and partly bread, martial law has been proclaimed at Valencia, Oviedo, and other cities.

LONDON, MAY 5.

Nothing is definitely known of the whereabouts of the Spanish fleet, but according to the latest reports combined squadrons intend assembling at Cadiz.

The Sierra Leone rising now practically involves the whole colony. The bulk of the factories have been burned by the rebels and the native managers and the missionaries massacred. The rebels are now in the Waterloo District, close to Freetown, where the Governor has enrolled a body of Volunteers. Reinforcements of West Indians and West African troops, besides some artillery, have been despatched to the Waterloo District. The cruiser Blake left Gibraltar to land a Naval Brigade at Freetown.

LORD SALISBURY'S SPEECH.

LONDON, MAY 4.

Lord Salisbury, speaking at a demonstration of the Primrose League at the Albert Hall to-day lauded the surpassing courage and skill of the officers conducting the Soudan campaign. His Lordship said that work in that quarter was not yet done, and would be accomplished with no laggard hand. He believed that posterity would regard the present time as an age of heroes, producing soldiers like Sirdar Kitchener and Sir William Lockhart, and administrators and diplomats like Lord Cromer and Sir Claude Macdonald.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

LONDON, MAY 5.

Lord Lansdowne announced last evening at a banquet given by the medical profession in the Mansion House that it has been decided to organise a separate Medical Corps to be named "Royal Army Medical Corps," within which members will bear the same titles up to that of Colonel, as other officers of the Army. The highest grade in the new Corps will be called Surgeon-General."

THE CURRENCY COMMITTEE.

LONDON, MAY 5.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, Lord George Hamilton said the Currency Committee would commence deliberations immediately.

SUSPECTED PLAGUE AT SUEZ.

LONDON, MAY 5.

A suspected case of plague has been landed at Suez from the Red Sea coast.

PRINCE Ranjit Singhji is now at Abu, and wil remain there for some time with his uncle Colonel Sir Pertab Sing.

HIS Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab arrived at Bareilly from Kathgodam by ordinary train on Wednesday evening and proceeded at once to Cawnpore, thence he goes to Allahabad by special.

ORDERS have been issued for the withdrawal of the Bara Brigade, which, after being reconstructed, will be stationed at Rawalpindi until the Chitral Reliefs are completed.

A TRICHINOPOLY correspondent writes to the *Madras Mail*: "Mr. Ramasawmy Naitu, Inspector of Police, Manapuri, Trichinopoly District, was standing in his room after supper at about 10 P.M., on the night of Wednesday, the 27th instant. It was raining outside with thunder and lightning. All of a sudden, a flash of lightning struck through the terraced roof of the house and went down the wall and struck the poor man to instantaneous death."

ROWLA ARAB, a famous life convict, who murdered a warder in the Yerrowda Jail, Poona, last January by jamming him against the cell wall, was sentenced on Wednesday to be executed, by the Hon. Mr. Justice Crowe, Sessions Judge. Hassan and Jeevan, both Mahomedans, were also sentenced by the same Judge to be executed on a charge of murdering one Bhairoo at Lom, near Poona, by assaulting him with sticks last month. There are now seven convicts in all under sentence of death at the Yerrowda Jail.

MR. JOHN PETERSON, of Patoutville, La., was very agreeably surprised not long ago. For eighteen months he had been troubled with dysentery and had tried three of the best doctors in New Orleans, besides half a dozen or more patent medicines, but received very little relief. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhœa Remedy, having been recommended to him, he gave it a trial and to his great surprise, three doses of that remedy effected a permanent cure. Mr Wm. McNamara, a well-known merchant of the same place, is wel acquainted with Mr. Peterson and attests to the truth of this statement. This remedy is for sale by all dealers.

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THE PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THERE was no fresh case or death from plague reported to the Health Office on the 5th There were, however, two fresh cases reported on the 6th,—one from 44, Mott's Lane and another from College Street, just in front of the Medical College Hospital. A Hindu barber who was living in 44, Mott's Lane was attacked with fever, attended with glandular swellings and he died within a few hours. On receipt of notice, Dr. Chambers went to the spot and under his directions the belongings of the deceased were burned and the place disinfected. The other man was removed to the Isolation Hospital at Manicktolah.

DEPUTATION TO THE L. G.

The deputation of the Corporation did not wait on the Lieutenant-Governor on the 5th evening as the terms of the memorial to be submitted have not yet been settled. The members of the deputation met that day at the Municipal meeting to settle the terms.

THE STRIKE.

The Municipal coolies, carters and mehters who were on strike have resumed work. The mass of refuse collected on the road-sides for the last three days during which the carters' strike lasted was so vast that it was impossible for the carters to remove the whole lot in a day. From some of the streets the filth was not all removed. Most of the jetty labourers and cartmen, however, still held and there was not much work done in the jetties, in railway yards and in the docks also. The exodus continued on a small scale.

SEGREGATION CAMP AND PLAGUE HOSPITAL.

The construction of the segregation camp and plague hospital at Manicktolah has been retarded owing to the difficulty of getting men, the Mahomedans in the neighbourhood having threatened the men from joining in the work.

THE SHARE MARKET.

The share market which was deserted by the Marwarees for the past two days on account of the inoculation scare, resumed its usual animation and bustle the Marwarees having turned up in numbers.

THE MARKETS.

The New Market, which had been deserted for two or three days, showed signs of animation agin. But the price of fish, meat, vegetables etc, were exorbitant. It is said that this state will continue for some days. The result of the panic has been felt in every other market in the town. The price of fish, vegetables, fruits, etc, are selling at famine price. The only thing cheap is milk owing to the enire exodus of the children population from Calcutta.

A VIGILENCE COMMITTEE.

A vigilence committee has been formed in Ward No. XI by the exertions of the Ward Commissioners Babu Deba Prosad Sarbadhicary and Dr. Jogendra Nath Ghose. Mr. Atkins of Messrs. Mac intosh Burn and Co., has also joined the Committee, which is looking into the sanitary needs of the locality and adoptin means to secure houses in the ward for the purpose of segregation and isolation.

SCARE AT COSSIPORE.

Babu Lalit Mohun Ghosal writes to us from Cossipore under date the 5th:—

Even now a sort of panic prevails throughout Cossipore, Chitpore, Baranagore and neighbouring places. Still they are under the impression that the cause of their fear is not altogether removed. Gentlemen with pants and coats and with a packet in hand are not safe everywhere. On Wednesday last when the local municipal doctor was passing by Cossipore Road, some low-class people called aloud that he was the *tikiz* Babu, and it was not without efforts that he escaped their grip. Reports have reached me that two other gentlemen were also in that plight and somehow escaped from the suscipion of some carters.

A large number of mill-hands belonging to the Cossipore Shell Factory, popularly known as Lohar Khana, unreasonably believed that when they would work in the compounds of the factory, they would be forcibly inoculated. This false belief led a large number of them to absent themselves from the factory these two days. On my enquiry as to how they came to believe so, I was told that they saw a notice inside the factory where it was so written that they would be inoculated or not just as they willed. They reasoned that what free will they had of their own? Everything was done according as the 'saheblogs" thought fit. So they were sure to be inoculated if they entered the precincts of the factory. Fine reasoning indeed. However I have tried my best to remove their baseless suspicion and also I learn that the factory authorities are doing their best to make them think aright. The attendance is still smaller this day.

The other day information reached me that a peon attached to the Dakshineswar Powder Magazine, while passing by the North Baranagore Mills, was represented to be one connected with plague inoculation. Certain low class people readily believed this. The result was that the infuriated mob so belaboured him that the poor man died soon after. The information having reached Calcutta a band of armed Sikh soldiers repaired to the spot at evening. But it is said that the real aggressors are yet at large.

A number of representative gentlemen came to see me on Wednesday afternoon asking my opinion as to the desirability of holding a monster mass meeting here to explain to the people the real intentions of the Government in respect of plague precautions and to hear their suggestions on the matter and thereby striking at the root of their wild alarm, and groundless distrust. I assured them that I was also of the same mind and I was just thinking of that. So a meeting is shortly going to be held here.

BURNING OF A SEGREGATION CAMP.

The segregation camp at Belgatchia belonging to the Cossipore-Chitpore Municipality has been burnt down this morning. The police promptly repaired to the spot. Three arrests have been made, Considerable unrest prevails.

"I WOULD not be without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for its weight in gold," writes D. J. Jones, of Holland, Va. "My wife was troubled with a cough for nearly two years. I tried various patent remedies, besides numerous prescriptions from physicians, all of which did no good. I was at last persuaded to try a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, which promptly relieved the cough. The second bottle effected a complete cure." For sale by all dealers.

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THE PLAGUE.

A SERIOUS epidemic of plague prevails in certain districts of Formosa.

THERE are no signs of plague abatement in Honkong, the returns for the week ending 9th April being 106 cases and 87 deaths.

AT a plague meeting held at Government House, Lahore, on Wednesday morning, further measures for the suppression of the plague were considered and decided on. It is understood that inoculation is likely to be introduced.

THE Bangalore City Municipality has determined to free the rate-payers from the rat plague. It has now increased the reward for the destruction of the species from ½ to 1 anna, and the President said at recent meeting that a Mr. Witting was killing from two to three hundred rats a month, thereby earning a decent livelihood.

THE plague is steadily decreasing in Bombay, there having been 37 attacks and 37 deaths on Thursday. In Karachi, however, there was an increase, 101 cases and 80 deaths occurring on that day. Almost all the quarters have been affected, and the type is virulent. Cases are also occurring in the villages of Karachi taluka daily.

The District Magistrate of Krishnaghur convened a public meeting of the residents of that town, to consider what steps should be taken to fight the plague should it take a lodgement there The meeting was held on the 5th instan, and about a hundred residents attended. It was decided to erect a plague hospital and a plague camp, in what is known there as "the Company's Park or Garden."

A SUSPECTED plague case was discovered on Wednesday in Hyderabad City, and a feeling of unrest exists in consequence. Dr. Lawrie has acquainted the izam's Government of the fact and suggests that he may be accompanied at once into the city on search work by Nawab Fukhrul Mulk, the Minister of Justice, Nawab Shahab Jung, Public Work Minister, Nawab Akbar Jung C. S. I., Police Commissioner, and by the Home Secretary as several other cases may likely be hidden away.

REPORTS have been in circulation for several days of an outbreak of plague at Tundla. We have instituted inquiries, and are able to state on the best authority that the position of affairs is as follows:—On the 1st instant the Government of these Provinces received a report that a *mali*, a servant of the medical officer at Tundla, was ill. He had not come from an infected part, but had been suffering from fever and buboes. He had, however, had no fever for four days and is now getting all right. By way of precaution, however, the buboes were cut, and the contents sent to Mr. Hankin, who has cultivated the microbes, and states that they are most probably not plague. It is understood that the Civil Surgeon visited Tundla and segregated the suffer er and all connected. The locality also has been disinfected and all precautions taken. No other cases have been reported, and this particular case is not believed by the authorities to be plague.—*Pioneer.*

PLAGUE IN KARACHI.

A DEPUTATION of the Hindus and Mahomedans of Karachi waited on Mr. Cadell, the acting Collector of Karachi, last week with a view to request him to arrange to have the plague measures altered in those respects in which they were found to operate harshly on the people. But, as our contemporary the "Phoenix" remarks Mr. Cadell did not receive the deputation courteously. He betrayed crass ignorance, when he said that the people were satisfied with the measures and that discontent and noise were due to the English-knowing agitators, or again when he said that the Brahmans alone objected to corpses being touched by doctors for medical examination. Mr. Cadell would, however, place the proposals made to him by the deputation before the Commissioner in Sind for decision. The proposals made by the deputations were as follows:—

(1) That the funeral parties be not taken to the segregation camp on the Lawrence Road for disinfection, since that makes men unwilling to carry corpses for burial or cremation, and entails other hardships on the relatives of the deceased.

(2) That the dead body should not be touched by the Doctor called in to give death certificate, if a certificate has been obtained from a qualified doctor a few hours before death.

(3) That the passengers on steamships to Cutch and Kathiawar ports should not be detained in the observation camp at Kiamari for ten days as they are again detained for as many days on arrival at those ports.

(4) That separate segregation camps should be allowed in connection with caste hospitals, since then there would be less motive for concealment of cases.—*Probhat.*

MR. G. IRWIN, Officiating Resident, Jeypore, will probably act as head of the Thuggi and Dacoity Department.

THREE was a great storm at Kolhapore last week. The lightning struck the road near the Sudder Bazaar, and killed 28 sheep.

THE Hon'ble Mr. Justice Mahadeo Govind Ranade, who is now at Mahableshwar, is passing his vacation in writing a History of India and its Religions.

THE Belgaum Police are enquiring after the persons, who took part in the Shivaji ceremony at that place, and who subscribed for the ceremony.

AT a meeting of the members of the Madras Bar Association, presided over by the Advocate-General, it was resolved to exclude the local Advocates from the Bar Association and to confine the membership to Barristers of any one of the Inns of Court.

L. F. Farley conducts a large mercantile business at Liberty Hill, Ga. He says: "One application of Chamberlain's Pain Balm relieved me of a severe pain in my back. I think it O. K." For lame back, rheumatism, neuralgia, swellings, sprains, bruises, burns and scalds and no other liniment can approach Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is intended especially for these diseases and is famous for its cures. For sale by all dealers.

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THE PLAGUE REGULATIONS IN CALCUTTA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "TIMES OF INDIA."

SIR,—With reference to a statement by H. E. the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, it seems to have been forgotten by his Honour that since last year the utmost endeavour has been made by the Municipality and a number of the people of Bombay to encourage inoculation. Not only were 53 inoculation stations opened, but travelling inoculators (two of whom were ladies) were sent round from house to house and are still at work.

In regard to the cases of plague seen by Dr. Simpson in Calcutta in 1896, I have already expressed an opinion in my report on plague that Dr. Simpson was absolutely right, and justice was not done to him. I have not the least doubt that plague has been occurring sporadically in Calcutta since 1896, or possibly even previous to that, and that possibly it is epidemic in Bengal.

In regard to the measures that are to be taken against plague in Calcutta, I may say that they are practically the same as the measures that were carried out in Bombay in 1896—except that inoculation may be used, as let us hope, on a larger scale. Rule 17 of the instructions issued by me in Septmber, 1896, for the treatment of cases of plague was as follows: "Whenever the medical officer of a ward is satisfied that the isolation or proper treatment of a patient suffering from bubonic fever is not practicable in the house where the patient is, the medical officer is forthwith to call on the ward inspector to make arrangements for the removal of the patient to the hospital appointed for that purpose at Arthur Road."

The methods about to be used in Calcutta are practically the same as those that were used in Bombay by the Health Department in 1896-97. The idea that cases of plague will at once be followed by an epidemic is a delusion, which may cause a confidence in measures that will not be fulfilled, and a loss of all faith in the right measures when the epidemic comes. The fall in the mortality previous to the recognition of cases of plague is an ominous sign often observed. In Kurrachee the same phenomenon may be studied.

In the calamity gathering over Calcutta, let not the people think that there is any new method, except inoculation about to be used, that will save them, for if they do, they will be disappointed, and great as the hopes excited, deeper will be the despair afterwards. If in the warfare against this disease the pest was easily to have been destroyed, it would not have brone in all ages the terrible designation given to it.—Yours, &c,

T. S. WEIR,
Brigade-Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel.

DR. WALLACE ON SEGREGATION.

THE following is the full text of Dr. Wallace's speech at the last meeting of the Corporation of Calcutta:—Dr. Wallace said: "Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I have listened with attention and interest to the addresses of the Hon. Mr. Mitter, and the Hon Mr. Banerji, and I have been much impressed with the earnestness of their appeal to the Government for a due and proper regard for those sacred rites and ceremonies and those religiously guarded sentiments and usages of caste which are so dear to the Hindu and Mahomedan. I am sure I express the feeling of the entire European community when I say that such sentiments have the warmest sympathy of the European community, and that our Hindu and Mahomedan fellow-subjects may always look with confidence to receiving the unanimous support of the European community for the protection of all their social and religious rights and privileges. I feel sure the Government is now directing its policy in regard to its plague regulations with a keen sense of the consideration and respect that are due to the feelings of our Indian brethren, and I hope that nothing will ever be done that will violate the regulations or social ritual of the home life of our Indian fellow-subjects.

The speakers who have so eloquently dwelt upon these aspects of the Government regulations as they affect our Indian brethren, have rendered valuable services, not only to their countrymen, but to the Government. I have also heard with interest and pleasure what has been said by my learned friend, Dr. Sanders. He scouts the ideas of segregation and inoculation, and he says if the former measure is to be adopted, it should be so carried out that afflicted persons may be accommodated in their own homes under certain precautions. Now it is very gratifying to me to state that the method of segregation which Surgeon-Colonel Sanders advocates was placed before the Bengal Government by the Council of the Indian Medical Association in 1896 at the time of the last plague scare. That body dealt very fully with the whole matter of segregation and represented the lines on which such a measure could be carried out with efficiency, and at the same time obviating all the features that would prove objectionable to our Hindu and Mahomedan brethern. The warning then given to the Bengal Government by the Indian Medical Association has turned out to be prophetically and characteristically true; for had the Government acted on it, our city would not have been devastated of its population by panic. Now, as to the presence of plague in our midst, I for one, with all due deference to the gazetted opinion of the Government, do not believe we have this dread visitor in our midst. I do not believe a single case of plague has occurred. I saw, on behalf of the Municipality, all the cases that were admitted into the Manicktolah Plague Hospital, and I must admit that, after a careful examination of each case, of all of which I have kept notes, that not one of them was a case of plague. I believe contrary opinions have been expressed, but there is the old and unfortunately true saying that "doctors differ." Now did not the doctors differ in their opinions regarding the suspected cases of plague that caused the great scare of 1896. You know the story. The same scientist who now pronounces our suspicious cases as true plague cases, said the same in 1896, but then we had rebutting evidence, and the great weight of Dr. Cunningham's scientific opinion which saved our city from being pronounced, as plague-stricken. Now, however, things are different, we are without Dr. Cunningham and among the highly-paid, highly-cultured scientists whom the Government maintains in the Indian Medical Service, there is not one man in Calcutta who can be pitted against Mr. Haffkine. So we find the Bengal Government compelled to own its unfitness to give a competent opinion through its own official experts, and it is driven to seek confirmation of its fears from Mr. Haffkine, a chemist, and not a medical man. We observe to our horror that the fate of our city, its commercial prosperity, are at the mercy of one man's opinion, and it turns out that that man, whose interest it is to back up every thing about plague, gives his verdict against Calcutta and dramns us as a plague-stricken people. Are we plague-stricken? I venture to say we are not. The Government has been most inconsistent and imprudent in arriving at this unfortunate conclusion. In its regulations it describes plague as a disease having its origin in filth; it says nothing of the plague bacillus. Yet it prosecutes segregation rather than conservancy as the means to eradicate it. It also prosecutes inoculation. Now inoculation is an expecimental measure which has not yet reached the domain of scientific certainly. It is quite true that some favourable reports have been made as to its protective effieacy, but a measure of this kind is surrounded with subtle dangers, and it should not be boldly and confidently advocated till it has been pronounced safe and useful, after the most extended trial and after the most unprejudiced enquiry. Before an experimental measure of this nature receives the seal of Governmental approval, and before it is authorised by State orders, it is the serious and solemn duty of the Government to be perfectly assured that the verdict of the medical profession is in its favour, and that such verdict is supported by independent, disinterested and unprejudiced experiments. I cannot assert that plague inoculation has reached this necessary position of safety. Personally I feel that the people of Calcutta, both Native and European, owe a debt of gratitude to the Bengal Government and to the Chairman of the Municipality for the recent modifications that have taken place in the plague regulations of Government in deference to public opinion in regard to segregation and inoculation, and I believe that if the conciliotory and generous policy of the Government be fully explained to the native population, much will be done to allay panic and restore peace and order in a city that has had its commercial and social machinery practically paralysed by a little want of prudence and proper consideration of the views of those outside the circle of the Government and its most responsible advisers.

THE Chitral reliefs reached Sadu all well on 4th May.

THE Bank of Bombay has reduced its rate of interest on demand loans on Government Paper to 12 per cent.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Burma considers it unnecessary to appoint an Officiating Recorder in reply to the letter from the Bar Library Association.

FOR more than a month, *gooti* amongst the cows has appeared in Akna and its vicinity under thana Palba. It is doing considerable havoc without any remission. A large number of cows are dying daily

A VILLAGER of Satara, who has been poisoning cattle and s tting fire to hay stacks for some time, was caught poisoning a cow belonging to a native gentleman. The people took the law into their own hands and cut off his hands and his feet. They are to be prosecuted.

TWO Brahmins, Gonesh Sinai and Keshow Sinai, Barker and Veisha Keshow Sheft Barker, and one Sudra Luximon Naik, will be the representatives of the Hindu castes at the forthcoming exhibition of the Vasco da Gama centenary in Lisbon.

A VACANCY has occurred on the Bench of the Punjab Chief Court owing to Mr. Justice Stogden being ordered by his medical advisers to proceed to England without delay. He probably returns to Lahore next cold weather.

THERE was an unfortunate accident at Landi Kotal on Thursday morning, by which one man was killed and two others received severe injuries. All three men belong to the 34th Pioneers. The accident occurred while the men were blasting a rock with dynamite, and was due to a faulty fuze. The Pioneers have had very heavy blasting work on the road. They are making up the Suffolk Hill, and this, owing to their care and caution, is the first accident that has occurred.

NOT KNOWING WHAT ELSE TO DO.

To save ourselves trouble and suffering by learning from the experience of others—that is the wisdom of history. Otherwise every generation, and every man and woman therein, would have to begin back where their ancestors did. Every soul of us has to learn the alphabet for himself; but *after that* he can read and benefit by what others have written. Is that idea plain as peas in a split pod? Yes. Well, then, let us see whether it has anything to say to the facts set forth in the following letter:—

"After my confinement," writes a woman, "in August of last year (1893), I could not get up my strength. My food did not seem to be of auy use to me. In some way I was ill, but I could not give a name to the ailment. My tongue was swollen and thickly coated, and I was constantly spitting out the thick phlegm which gathered in my throat and mouth. No matter how little food I took—even a morsel—it gave me great pain at the chest and sides; and sometimes it would dart through to my back between the shoulders.

"Often I would be sick, and heave and strain until I was quite sore. Then, again, a pain would take me in the stomach and cut through me like a knife. I had a dry, hacking cough which never left me, and I sweat terribly at night. The cough was so bad that I often had to hold my sides when I had spells of it.

"Nearly every bit of flesh went off my bones, and I got so weak I couldn't put my foot to the ground. People said I was in a consumption, and I had little hope of getting better. I was so nervous that the least noise would startle and upset me. Those who called said it was pitiable to see the condition I was in.

"I saw two doctors who gave me medicines, but I only got worse. At the end of October (1893) I came by a small book telling about Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup and, *not knowing what else to do*, I sent to Mr. Baxter, the druggist, Brookhouse, and got a bottle. After I had taken it but a few days I was better. I could eat something, and it stayed on my stomach, and the pain was less severe. As I took dose after dose of the Syrup the improvement went on, all the bad feelings abated, and I gained staenth. It wasn't long before the cough was quite gone, and I was well end strong as ever.

"After my recovery, a neighbour said to me, '*Mrs. Redhead, you have made my heart sad many a time when I saw you so bad.*'

"'Thank you,' I replied, 'and I was sad enough myself, but Mother Seigel's Syrup has made me glad again, for it has given me back my good health.'

"And in thankfulness for it I am very willing you should publish what I have told you (Signed) Mrs. Mary Jane Redhead, 73, Peter Street Blackburn, April 4th, 1894.'

We congratulate Mrs. Redhead, and tender our regards to the kind-hearted neighbour who was so sorry for her. But what a pity that Mrs. R. didn't know in August what she learned in October—namely, that her disease was indigestion and dyspepsia, and that Mother Seigel's Syrup is a cure for it; some folks say the only cure. Well, we suppose she had to wait her turn to find that out. There's a deal of mystery about these things.

Anyway, she knows *now*, and the printing of her story will enable lots o other sufferers to begin where she left off. They won't take the Syrup as she did, *not knowing what else to do*, but they will take it the very day they fall ill, knowing that to be exactly the right thing to do.

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AUTHENTIC MESSAGES FROM THE DEAD.

VERIFIED BY THE PSYCHICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY.

(Review of Reviews.)

THE *Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research* for February, 1898, contains a report of the successful establishment of communication between the world of the living and one who for some years has been a dweller beyond the grave. The report, which is very elaborate, and apparently constructed for the express purpose of minimising the significance of so momentous an event, is written by Dr. Richard Hodgson, who effectually disguises its importance under the title, "A Further Record of Observations of Certain Phenomena of Trance." Altogether with its Appendices the Report covers nearly three hundred pages. Those who are continually clamouring for evidence, for tests, for confirmation of the authenticity of communications alleged to come from the so-called dead will find ample material here: and as a matter of course they will pass them by on the other side. So long as there is any deficiency or lack of evidential value in statements of this kind they are eagerly pounced upon and paraded before the world as proof of the worthlessness of all such voices of the dead. But as we have here nearly two hundred closely printed pages packed full of exactly the kind of evidence for which these sceptics assure us they are always clamouring, the report will be ignored, or if alluded to at all, attention will be concentrated upon its frank admissions of a few failures and mistakes, such as are absolutely inseparable from the difficulties attendant upon the method of communication, while nothing will be said as to the salient fact which stands out conspicuously, notwithstanding all the conflicting hypotheses and allowances of discount with which Dr. Hodgson has obscured his facts. In order to apprise the public of the real nature and significance of Dr. Hodgson's report it is necessary to disentangle the one salient feature, and present it cleared from all the speculations by which it is submerged.

THE DEAD MAN WHO CAME BACK

The story, as we find it in Dr. Hodgson's report, is as follows: In February, 1892, a young man who is described by the name of George Pelham, met his death accidentally by a fall in New York. He was then thirty-two years of age. He was a lawyer by training, but had devoted himself chiefly to literature and philosophy, and had published two books which received the highest praise from competent authorities. The last three years of his life he had spent in New York, but before that had lived for many years in Boston or its neighbourhood, where he had made the personal acquaintance of Dr. Richard Hodgson, the Secretary of the American branch of the Society for Psychical Research George Pelham was an associate of that Society, but he was not at all disposed to believe in the existence of the supernormal phenomena into which he was, nevertheless, quite willing to enquire.

THE PROMISE TO RETURN.

Dr. Hodgson and he had several long talks together on philosophic subjects, and two years before his death they had discussed at great length the possibility of a future life. He maintained that a future life was not only incredible but inconceivable. At the conclusion of the discussion he admitted that a future life was conceivable, but he did not accept its credibility, and avowed that if he should die before Dr. Hodgson, and found himself still existing, he would "make things lively" in the effort to prove the fact of his continued existence.

MRS. PIPER: THE MEDIUM.

Four years before his death he had had a sitting, with Mrs. Piper as one of a series arranged for by a scientific committee, where the utmost care was taken that the names of the sitters should remain unknown to the medium. (Mrs. Piper, I may here interpolate, is a medium resident in the neighbourhood of Boston, who for nearly thirteen years has been the subject of experiments conducted by the Society for Psychical Research. She visited this country some years back, and made a great impression upon many of the leading members of the S. P. R.) Pelham, however, expressed the opinion that the result of the sitting at which he was present did not establish anything more than hyperæsthesia on the part of the medium. Four or five weeks after Pelham's sudden death, Dr. Hodgson had a sitting with Mrs. Piper. He was accompanied by an intimate friend of Pelham's, called Mr. Hart in the report, who brought with him some articles which had belonged to George Pelham. These were given to Mrs. Piper when she was under the control of Dr. Phinuit—the name given to the "spirit personality" that usually controlled Mrs. Piper's voice during her trance state.

THE FIRST MESSAGE.

Phinuit, after a little delay, in which he said the influences were confusing, said that George Pelham was present, and wished to speak to them. George Pelham gave his real name in full, as well as that of Mr. Hart; also the names, both Christian and surnames, of several of his most intimate friends, and referred specifically to the most important private matters connected with them:—

At the same sitting reference was made to other incidents unknown to the sitters, such as the account of Mrs. Pelham's taking the studs from the body of G. P. and giving them to Mr. Pelham to be sent to Mr. Hart, and the reproduction of a notable remembrance of a conversation which G. P. living had with Katharine, the daughter of his most intimate friends, the Howards. These were primary examples of two kinds of knowledge concerning matters unknown to the sitters, of which various other instances were afterwards given; knowledge of events connected with G.P. which had occurred since his death and knowledge of special memories pertaining to the G. P. personality before death.

THE METHOD OF COMMUNICATION.

This was the beginning of a series of communications which ultimately appear to have entirely removed the scepticism with which Dr Hodgson was at first disposed to regard the claim of Mrs. Piper's controls to be the persons whom they professed to be. A word or two should be said here concerning Mrs. Piper, who is the passive instrument of such communications. Originally she used to be controlled only in trance in the ordinary way—after various convulsive movements, which reminded me when I saw her very much of the alleged contortions of the sibyl. About the same time as George Pelham appeared on the scene, she began to develop automatic handwriting, and this phenomenon was frequently simultaneous with the control of her voice. There were even occasions when Mrs. Piper presented the strange spectacle of one human body animated apparently by three independent individualities, none of which was the real Mrs. Piper. Phinuit was then using her voice, George Pelham or another intelligence writing with her right hand, and a third intelligence writing with her left hand, Mrs. Piper herself being in a state of trance so complete that when she awoke she had absolutely no memory of anything that had passed during her sleep.

OCCASIONAL MESSAGES.

Nearly three weeks passed before another sitting took place at which George Pelham had the opportunity of communicating at length, although at the sittings held within that period Phinuit frequently remarked that Pelham was anxious to see his friends, using some such remark as "George says, when are you going to bring Jim?" or "George says he wants to tell you about the philosophy of this life." Again, after saying that he wished to see his father, he said, "I want to tell you where I am, and what I am doing, and what this life consists of." At the same sitting Pelham recognised a sister as the father of one of his college class-mates, and said he wished to see him. The father then said, "Where did George stay with us?" and received a correct answer, a description of his country house being given. On the 11th April, 1892, two friends of his, the Howards, whom he very much wished to see, had a sitting. On that occasion Pelham superseded Phinuit in controlling Mrs. Piper's voice, and held a long conversation with his friends.

IDENTITY RECOGNISED BY FRIENDS.

The Howards had no interest in Psychical Research, but they recognised the person who spoke to them through Mrs. Piper as George Pelham. They were profoundly impressed with a feeling that they were in truth holding a conversation with the personality of the friend whom they had known so many years. The following extract from the notes taken during the sitting suggests the naturalness of the conversation which George Pelham had with his friends: —

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DEAD.

G P.: "Jim, is that you? Speak to me quick. I am not dead. Don't think me dead. I'm awfully glad to see you. Can't you see me? Don't you hear me? Give my love to my father, and tell him I want to see him. I am happy here, and more so since I find I can communicate with you. I pity those people who can't speak. . . . I want you to know I think of you still. I spoke to John about some letters. I left things terribly mixed, my books and my papers. You will forgive me for this, won't you?" . . .

("What do you do, George; where are you?")

I am scarcely able to do anything yet. I am just awakened to the reality of life after death. It was like darkness; I could not distinguish anything at first. Darkest hours just before dawn, you know that, Jim. I was puzzled, confused. Shall have an occupation soon. Now I can see you, my friends; I can hear you speak. Your voice, Jim, I can distinguish with your accent and articulation, but it sounds like a big bass drum. Mine would sound to you like the faintest whisper."

("Our conversation, then, is something like telephoning?")

"Yes."

("By long distance telephone.")

(G. P. laughs.)

("Were you not surprised to find yourself living?")

"Perfectly so. Greatly surprised. I did not believe in a future life. It was beyond my reasoning powers. Now it is as clear to me as daylight. We have an astral facsimile of the material body. . . . Jim, what are you writing now?"

* * *

("Will people know about this possibility of communication?")

"They are sure to in the end. It is only a question of time when people in the material body will know all about it, and every one will be able to communicate. . . . I want all the fellows to know about me." . . .

TESTS OF IDENTITY.

To quote all the private references which are of no interest, excepting the tests, would occupy too much space. They will be found by those who are interested in the subject in Dr. Hodgson's Report. Here I will only confine myself to stating that Dr. Hodgson says that the statements were intimately personal and characteristic, and that "all references to persons, incidents, characters, etc. so far as they are known to living persons, are correct."

The Howards were his most intimate friends, and Dr. Hodgson reports that George Pelham showed [illegible]ulness of private remembrances and specific [illegible]ge, and characteristic intellectual and [illegible] quality pertaining to George Pelham, that they [illegible] convinced that they were actually conversing with their friend George Pelham. This conviction, he adds, was strengthened by their later experiences.

"LIKE LOOKING THROUGH A KEYHOLE".

The sittings went on with the Howards and with other people *inter alia*, correct statements were made concerning the doings of other persons at a distance which were unknown to the persons present at the sitting. Such experiments were most successful when the distant person was an intimate friend, which leads Dr. Hodgson to remark that for an experience of this type to be successful the distant person, should be thinking strongly and emotionally of the real person, in this case George Pelham, who claims to act as percipient, and should also be concerned with matters directly related to him. Sometimes there was a slight confusion between the things actually being done by the distant person and those which had only been in his mind. A remark was made by Phinuit at the close of a sitting when there had been some difficulty in securing definite and precise information, that it was difficult for them on their side to see things clearly. "It is like looking through a keyhole into a room, trying to find out about the people passing backwards and forwards."

HIS DELIGHT AT RETURNING.

At a very important sitting which was held on May 16th, Dr. Hodgson and Mrs. Howard alone being present with Mrs. Piper, George Pelham took direct control of the voice, and ordered Dr. Hodgson out of the room, as he had to speak about private affairs with his friend. When Dr. Hodgson was allowed to return he began to write, saying that he was determined to transfar his thoughts, although it would have to be done in this uncanny way. When Dr. Hodgson explained that he understood perfectly well what they meant, the writing continued as follows:

I will move heaven and earth to explain these matters to you, Hodgson. (Phinuit speaks): You see I am not asleep. (Written): I am wide awake, and I assure you that I am ever ready to help you and give you things of importance in this work. (Phinuit speaks): It was like Greek to him before he came here. I could not believe this existence. (Written): I am delighted to have this opportunity of coming here to this life, so as to be able to prove my experiences and existence here. Dear old Hodgson, I wish I could have known you better in your life, but I understand you now, and the philosophy of my being taken out, and (Didn't you go too soon?) Not too soon, but it is my vocation to be able to explain these things to you and the rest of my friends. (Does it do you harm?) And it is all nonsense about its doing me harm, for it surely does no harm, and will help to enlighten the world. What think you, Hodgson? (I agree entirely; I think it is the most important work in the world.) Oh, I am so glad your exalted brains are not too pretentious to accept the real truth and philosophy of my coming and explaining to you these important things.

The sittings continued to be held not only with the Howards, but with their friends The net result of these prolonged and careful investigations is thus summed up by Dr. Hodgson.

DR. HODGSON'S REPORT.

Not least important at that time was his anxiety about the disposal of a certain book and about specified letters which concern matters too private for publication. He was particularly desirous of convincing his father, who lived in Washington, that it was indeed G. P. who was communicating, and he soon afterwards stated that his father had taken his photograph to be copied, as was the case, though Mr. Pelham had not informed even his wife of the fact. Later on he reproduced a series of incidents, unknown to the sitters, in which Mrs. Howard had been engaged in her own home. Later still, at a sitting with his father and mother in New York, a further intimate knowledge was shown of private family circumstances, and at the following sitting, at which his father and mother were not present, he gave the details of certain private actions which they had done in the interim. At their sitting, and at various sittings of the Howards, appropriate comments were made concerning different articles presented, which had belonged to G. P. living, or had been familiar to him; he inquired after other personal articles which had not been presented at the sittings, and showed intimate and detailed recollections of incients in connection with them. In points connected with the recognition of articles with their related associations of a personal sort, the G. P. communicating, so far as I know, has never failed. Nor has he failed in the recognition of personal friends. I may say, generally, that out of a large number of sitters who went as strangers to Mrs. Piper the communicating G. P. has picked out the friends of G. P. living, precisely as G. P. living might have been expected to do, and has exhibited memories in connection with these and other friends which are such as would naturally be associated as part of the G. P. personality, which certainly do not suggest in themselves that they originate otherwise, and which are accompanied by the emotional relations which were connected with such friends in the mind of G. P. living. At one of his early communications G. P. expressly undertook the task of rendering all the assistance in his power towards establishing the continued existence of himself and other communicators, in pursuance of a promise of which he himself reminded me, made some two years or more before his death, that if he died before me, and found himself "still existing," he would devote himself to prove the fact; and in the persistence of his endeavour to overcome the difficulties in communicating as far as possible, in his constant readiness to act as amanuensis at the sittings in the effect which he has produced by his counsels, to myself as investigator, and to numerous other sitters and investigators, he has, in so far as I can form a judgment in a problem so complex and still presenting so much obscurity, displayed all the keenness and pertinacity which were eminently characteristic of G. P. living.

Finally the manifestations of this G. P. communicating have not been of a fitful and spasmodic nature, they have exhibited the marks of a continuous living and persistent personality, manifesting itself through a course of years, and showing the same characteristics of an independent intelligence whether friends of G. P. were present at the sittings or not. I learned of various cases where in my absence active assistance was rendered by G. P. to sitters who had never previously heard of him, and from time to time he would make brief pertinent reference to matters with which G. P. living was acquainted, though I was not, and sometimes in ways which indicated that he could to some extent see what was happening in our world to persons in whose welfare G. P. living would have been specially interested.

In all such personal references the G. P. communicating has shown the remembrances and the continued interest that we should expect to find in the independent intelligence of the real persisting G. P.—so far at least as I have been able to ascertain—and in ways too complicated and private for any but two or three of his nearest and dearest friends to know or appreciate.

Up to the last series of sittings which I had with Mrs. Piper (1896-97), in a sitting which Evelyn Howard had in November, 1896, and in a sitting which Mrs. Howard (just then returned to America after between three and four years' absence in Europe) had since my departure from Boston in September, 1897, the same persistent personality has manifested itself, and what change has been discernible is a change not of any process of disintegration, but rather of integration and evolution.

A DEFINITE CONCLUSION.

The result of these and similar experiences is that Dr. Hodgson declares that notwithstanding certain failures and mistakes, and other real or supposed deficiencies which can be very easily explained, he has come to the conclusion that the communications actually proceeded from the spirit of his dead friend. After referring to the striking evidence furnished by the communications of George Pelham, he says:

Other communicators have presented strong characteristics of personal identity. Among these are more than half a dozen intimate friends of my own, who have produced upon me the impression through different written communications that they are the personalities I knew, with characteristic intelligence and emotion questioning me and answering me under difficulties, but with their peculiar individual and responsive minds in some sense actually there.

And he states definitly that he cannot profess to have any doubt that the chief communicators to whom he refers are veritably the personalities that they claim to be, that they have survived the change we call death, and that they have directly communicated with us whom we call living, through Mrs. Piper's entranced organism.

Now what have our teachers and pastors, our philosophers and leaders of thought, to say to all this? It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of an actual demonstration of the survival of the personality after death. Have we got such a demonstration here? If we have not, I should be much obliged to my reader who will formulate a more conclusive method of testing the identity and objective reality of the alleged spirit. But if we have—!

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

IN the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* is published the despatch from the Government of India to the Secretary of State, advocating the establishment of a gold standard for India. The despatch states that the attention of the Government of India has been drawn to the pressing necessity of taking active measures to secure the stability of exchange, and the Government says our experience since 1893 has put beyond doubt one of the main principles upon which the legislation of that year was based, namely, that a contraction in the volume of our silver currency with reference to the demands of trade has the direct effect of raising its exchangeable value in relation to gold. It was supposed at first that the process of bringing the rupee to the exchange value of sixteen pence would not be unduly prolonged, but experience soon indicated that the amount of coin to be withdrawn was very large indeed, and various causes helped to retard the advance: but in December last immediately upon the setting in of more normal conditions of trade due in part to the famine coming to an end, the rupee rose to about sixteen pence, and the Government, therefore, came to the opinion that there is some reason to believe that if we could only pass that stage of distrust, which appears the moment exchange approximates to sixteen pence, to bring into operation influences, which interfere with the actual realisation of that rate, we might expect to attain the level at which gold would be tendered and the introduction of a gold standard become practicable. The Government, however, considers that it is extremely unlikely at present that gold will be presented in such quantity as to lead automatically to an accumulation of gold sufficient for a reserve, and it holds that alike in the interests of state and of mercantile community it would be wiser to terminate the period of transition without further delay.

The despatch then goes on to say, "Our first step, however, is as already indicated to obtain a reserve of actual gold coin, and this we can only do by borrowing in England. Our proposal is that Her Majesty's Government should move Parliament to pass an Act giving the Secretary of State power to borrow up to a maximum of £20,000,000 for the purpose of establishing a gold standard in India. It is possible that the whole of this amount may not be required, but we believe that the possession of power to push our efforts in the direction we indicate until our object is attained will greatly enhance the effect of our first more limited operations. The amount which may actually be required in order to establish exchange steadily at the level of 1s. 4d. the rupee can, as we have already said, only be determined by experience; and we have named as the maximum to which borrowing power should be taken an amount which we may take it is certainly sufficient, and the interest on which the revenues of India can afford to pay. We think it most desirable that the maximum should be so fixed as to avoid any risk of having to move Parliament a second time for further borrowing powers; and the Act should provide that the borrowing shall be in snch instalments as may be deemed desirable by the Secretary of State. Finally the Government recommends that as soon as the statute is passed the Secretary of State should at once borrow and ship to India five millions in gold, which should be placed in reserve treasuries and held ready for use as events may show to be expedient.

The next step which the Government propose is that having provided a reserve of gold which shall be effective both for the practical purposes of taking the place of silver and of establishing confidence in the issue of these measures to melt down existing rupees and to sell the silver. The first use of the god held in reserve would be to supply the deficiency in the balances caused by the sale of silver and the despatch proceeds as follows: "We may reckon that our sale of ten crores of coined rupees would return to our treasuries only Rx. 6,000000, and the balance of Rx. 4,000,000, would have to be made up out of the gold we have in hand, and would absorb £2,700,000 of it. The result of the first year's operations would, therefore, be omitting altogether any effect it might have in diverting gold towards India in the ordinary course of commerce, (that is under conditions the same as those now existing) that Rx. 6,000,000 of existing rupee currency would be taken out of public use and paid over into our treasuries, instead of being returned into circulation in payment to the importers of silver; and forth the sum of Rx. 4,000,000 would cease to exist as coin forming portion of our balances being replaced therein by £2,7000,00 held in gold.

The Government believe that within two years sovereigns under these circumstances would flow into the country to fill up the deficiency of current circulation caused by the withdrawal of silver coin, and as the amount of coin required for the needs of commerce increases every year, the effect of the increasing demand, as there can be no increase in the amount of silver will be to raise exchange to appoint at which gold will flow into the country and remain in circulation. The cost of the proposed measure remains to be estimated. The interest on a sterling loan of twenty millions would be five hundred and fifty thousand pounds, and this is the maximum interest charged; while, should the first instalment of five millions prove to be sufficient, the interest charged will be about one hundred and thirty thousand. The despatch concludes with a brief reference to the proposals of Messrs. Lindsay and Probyn.

Correspondence.

"A WAY OUT OF IT."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN DAILY NEWS."

SIR,—The "scare" is attributable to the fact that the large majority of natives would rather submit to segregation than inoculation, to inoculation than segregation, and to plague than either. Granted that this attitude is tantamount to folly, positively criminal, yet there is no getting over the fact.

The only possible way to now save Calcutta from being utterly deserted is for the Government to throw overboard all plague regulations, and to treat the plague like any other epidemic, that is to say, to leave the communities to deal with individual cases in their own way and to apply all the resources of Government to assist the voluntary efforts of such communities. Any attempt at Government interference will have an effect contrary to what is intended and drive the whole native community either into active revolt against, or passive resistance towards, all Government measures intended to cope with the plague.

All honour to the leading and enlightened men of the several communities, both Hindu and Mahomedan, who have striven to reassure the masses as to the beneficent infention of Government in framing the regulations now in force, but the fact remains that all such efforts have proved futile.

Calcutta owing these self-same regulations, is now face to face with a calamity so appalling that, compared with it, plague may be regarded with equanimity, for it seems that the municipal sweepers, or a section of them, are seized with "scare," and have refused to work, with the result that the city may soon become a mass of festering filth.

Thus have the forebodings set forth in Mr Miller's letter and your editorial columns been but too amply and speedily justified.

It is true to say that it is a matter of doubt whether the plague is here or not; this being so, cannot and will not Government deliver Calcutta from the "scare" and all its dire results by promptly rescinding, or at any rate suspending, the regulations so far at least as inoculation is thereby made a condition of immunity from segregation, and so allay the fears of the terror-stricken populace. This step might "*nam ka waste*" be ascribed to the uncertainty as to whatever Calcutta is at the present moment infected by plague.

Will not you, Sir, prepare for signature at the *Indian Daily News Office* a memorial to Government embodying the views above expressed, which I believe to be endorsed by public opinion, European as well as native.—Yours etc:

H. W. SPARKES.

The *Indian Daily News* publishes the above with the following editorial remarks:—

"We print in another column a letter from Mr. H. W. Sparkes, which we recommend as the business-like view of this subject. The memorial to the effect mentioned will be ready for signature at our offices, and we hope, with a view of ameliorating the situation, our readers will hasten to sign it. It is not enough to assure the population that inoculation is optional."

THE strike of the workmen at the Madras Railway Workshops continues, despite the attempts of the Railway authorities to meet the men. Owing to a fall in the traffic receipts the Board of Directors issued an order for the curtailment of expenditure, and decided to reduce the week's work from forty-eight to thirty-six hours, curtailing certain hours each day. Against this the men protested, demanding continuous work during the first part of the week, so that they might get employment elsewhere at the end of the week. To this the Railway authorities agreed but the men tsill remain on strike.

THE NATU BROTHERS.

THE LADY-DOCTOR AND COL. CREAGH.

To

COLONEL O'M. CREAGH, V. C.,

CHAIRMAN OF THE POONA PLAGUE COMMITTEE.

DEAR SIR,—I most respectfully beg to bring to your notice a case of oppression in the working of the plague rules practised upon a native lady of the highest rank by Mrs. . . . appointed to inspect at . . . . . I hope you will be pleased to take due notice of Mrs . . . conduct, and I may incidentally mention that persons like Mrs. . . . are responsible for creating discontent amongst the public by their manipulating of the rules framed by Government totally on a wrong principle—rules which are based on equality, kindness, and justice.

Rani Shrimant Soubhagyavati . . . wife of Raj . . . . arrived at Poona last Monday at about 8-30 P. M. by the passenger train from Bombay. The train usually comes at 7-45 P.M.; but owing to some accident to a goods train not far from the Kirkee Station, the train was detained on the road for about an hour. The Rani saheb and her party were going to Miraj, and immediately on their arrival they shifted to the Southern Mahratta Railway Mail Train. They were furnished with passes by the Bombay Plague Committee, stating that they were free from any sign of plague, andt hat there was no plague in the locality in which they stayed in Bombay. The Ranisaheb suffers from consumption and rheumatism and consequently she has fever, cough, and severe pain in the neck.

As you had kindly given orders to let the party pass on without detention, and disinfection, they were not disturbed by anybody on the station before Mrs. . . . interfered with them. She came and entered the reserved compartment of the Ranisaheb who was very ill, and on feeling her pulse cried out loudly, "You have fever and you must get out of the carriage." So saying Mrs . . . began pulling the Ranisaheb from her seat in the carriage. This process naturally gave a strong shake to the Ranisaheb's frame and the rheumatic pain in the neck terribly increased. The maid servants of the Ranisaheb requested Mrs . . . to desist and begged that she could call Dr. D. . . . of Bombay, who was in personal attendance on the Ranisaheb, and then in the train with her. But Mrs. . . . paid not the least heed to their prayers. At this moment Mr. S. . . . District Court Pleader, Poona, who had come to meet the party, arrived on the scene. He saw that the Ranisaheb was in great distress and by persuasive measures tried to free her from Mrs. . . . clutches. The pain in her neck at this stage becoming quite insufferable, the Ranisaheb lay helpless in a corner of the carriage. On the interference of Mr. S. . . . Mrs. . . . came out of the compartment shouting "He would not let me examine the lady, I will report the matter to the Government." I myself was busy looking after the luggage, and when I heard Mrs . . . . cry out, I said to her "come with me and examine the Ranisaheb. Mrs. . . . and myself then entered the carriage and requested the Ranisaheb and her party to allaw Mrs. . . . to proceed on with her work. The Ranisaheb said she would allow herself to be freely examined if Mrs. . . . would but handle her gently. Dr. D. . . . who was sent for by one of the party came down from his own carriage and told Mrs. . . . that the Ranisaheb was extremely weak, reduced almost to a skeleton,—and explained that she was suffering from consumption and rheumatism, and that he himself was responsible that the Ranisaheb had none of the plague symptoms. But Mrs. . . . cried that she must herself ascertain whether the woman, meaning the Ranisaheb, had bubœs or not. She roughly said to the Ranisaheb herself "You, woman lie down, I must examine you." Dr. D. . . . and I tried to explain to Mrs, . . . that the Ranisaheb was not able to lie down so easily and that she might be examined while sitting. Mrs. . . . demanded of us "Who are you! I have nothing to do with you. Don't you know that I am a Government servant." We, of course, told her we knew who and what she was but requested her to be only gentle to the Ranisaheb. Disregarding us, she again said to the Ranisaheb, "I say you woman lie down," and seeing that the Ranisaheb could not move without help, she began desperately feeling in the regions of her arm-pits. The Ranisaheb, unable to suffer pain, almost fainted, asking "when is this examination to end?" Mrs. . . . even then after this, repeated her cruel process of examination three or four times and then left the carriage. On the platform I asked her, "Madam, can you not do these things more gently," to which Mrs. . . . answered, "Who are you that you advise me? Walk off. I am a Government servant and I will do what I like," as if Government servants can be let off free even if they kill persons! These words of Mrs. . . . were heard by Mrs. . . . . who then was near.

The above account, I trust, speaks for itself. I earnestly pray that you will be pleased to take due notice of it, and also take such steps as to prevent recurrence of similar occurrences. Mrs. . . . could not even spare a native lady of the Ranisaheb's rank and position, and I will leave it to you to imagine what her conduct must be towards peodle of the lower degree, many of whom are too poor and ignorant to ask due redress.

I beg &c.,

(Sd.) M.

151, B. Road Poona,
6th March 1898.

(Reply.)

MY DEAR MR. M.

I am in receipt of your letter. I am extremely sorry for the inconvenience the Ranisaheb was put to, and I beg you to apologize to her for it on my part.

Of course, I am resoponsible for all that goes on at the . . . . and I will take steps to prevent any recurrence of such a very regrettable incident.

6th *March* 1898. Yours very turly,

(Sd.) O.M. CREAGH.

[This was on the 6th of March. On the 7th or 8th Mrs. . . . . was told by Colonel Creagh that her services were no longer wanted and from that time Mrs. . . . . services were dispensed with—ED., *The Champion.*]

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON SAID THE LADY-DOCTOR (A MIDWIFE) LOST BUSINESS IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE NATU'S THREATS.

AMONG the successful candidates at the recent Prathama Examination of the Benares Sanskrit College, is a girl named Gargi Devi from the Vaidak Pathsala of Lucknow.

KOLAR was visited on the 27th ultimo with unusually heavy rain, accompanied by loud claps of thunder and vivid flashes of lightning. So fierce was the gale on Wednesday night that the telegraph posts near Balghat were blown down, causing an interruption of traffic over the wires for a few hours.

THE water scarcity in Simla is increasing in intensity here, only 117,000 gallons being pumped up on Tuesday against 160,000 the same day last year. The Municipality are now opening the hydrants four hours daily, and water meters to test the expenditure are being placed on a number of main taps. The position is becoming decidedly serious, and the co-operation of the public in preventing waste has been urgently requested.

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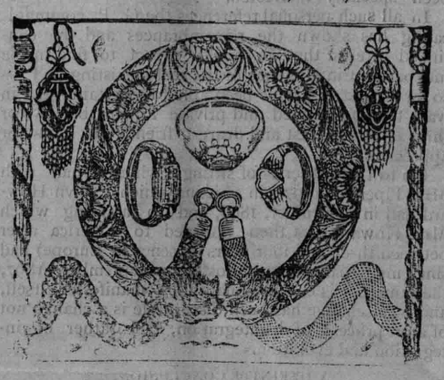

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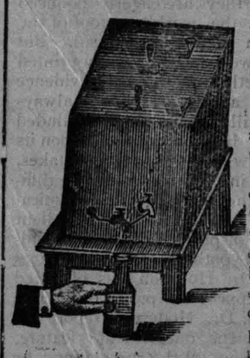

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