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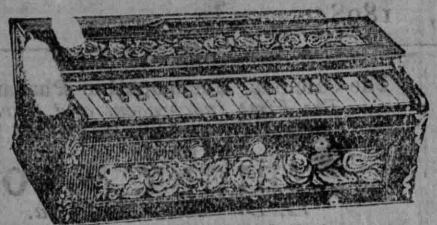
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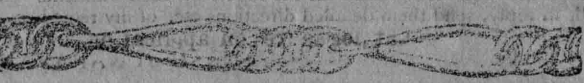
APPLY TO—

THE JUNIOR EDITOR,

CALCUTTA WEEKLY NOTES

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এই কারস বামপূর্ব-নোয়ালাতে আদি হা পিত বর্ষ রোপার

ওজডায় জলকায়, চাঁদর বাসন ইত্যাদি নকশা বিক্রয়ার

প্রস্তুত থাকে। কলকাতা শহর ও স্থলত যুগো পণ্ডায়

বায়। প্রাককগের পাকা কাজর পাইলে অকস্মেলে পার্শেণ

পাঠান হয়। বিশেষ বিবরণ সচক্রে কাটনগে প্রের্য। এ-আমায়

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পাঠান হয়। বিশেষ বিবরণ সচক্রে কাটনগে প্রের্য। এ-আমায়

আজ কাটন পাইলে কাটনগে প্রের্য করিয়া পাঠান যায়।

একবার পরীক্ষা করিয়া দেখিলেই সাবধেণ জানিতে পারিবেন।

এই কারস বামপূর্ব-নোয়ালাতে আদি হা পিত বর্ষ রোপার

ওজডায় জলকায়, চাঁদর বাসন ইত্যাদি নকশা বিক্রয়ার

THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, MAY 19, 1898.

THE GYA FRUIT-STEALING CASE.

Anent the Gya fruit-stealing case we made further enquiries; and as the result brings forth new facts to light, we have to recur to the subject again. From the judgment of the Deputy Magistrate who tried the case, it appears that there were two accused, instead of one. And the fruits alleged to have been stolen, were mulberry fruits, commonly known as *toot* in this country. Here is the official version of the story, as contained in the judgment of the Deputy Magistrate, dated the 14th April, 1898:—

The two accused have been sent up by the Town Sub-Inspector on the charge of stealing mulberry fruits from the garden of the District Magistrate, and the first accused, on the charge of escaping from the custody of the District Magistrate. The District Magistrate saw the first accused going off with a bundle. He detained the man and examined the bundle which was found to contain *toot* (mulberry) fruits. The first accused said that these fruits had been given by the head *mali*, the second accused, for exchange with tobacco. The District Magistrate then took the first accused to the verandah of his office-room, and there ordering him to stand, sent the peon Babu Jan to fetch the head *mali*. As soon as the peon went away, the first accused began to run, and escaped, though pursued. First information was lodged before the Town Sub-Inspector who has sent up the two accused, as above.

On receipt of A Form, the Deputy Magistrate in charge made over the case to Mr. Verne. He examined the prosecution witnesses and drew up a charge against the first accused, under sections 379 and 224, I. P. C., and against the second accused, under section 379, I. P. C.

As an appeal will lie from his judgment to the Magistrate himself, the District Magistrate transferred the case to my file. On the transfer I asked the accused. They do not ask for a *de novo* examination of witnesses. I then read over the charge to each of the accused in Hindi and both of them plead guilty. I find the first accused guilty under sections 379 and 224, and the second accused under section 379. Apparently these thefts have been going on for a considerable time and require to be checked. Their confession at the same time, calls for some mitigation of punishment. I sentence the first accused, under section 379, I. P. C., to rigorous imprisonment for 3 months, and under section 224, to additional rigorous imprisonment for 4 months.—in all 7 months. I sentence the principal thief, the second accused, to rigorous imprisonment for 4 months.

(Sd.) M. M. CHAKRAVARTI.

Deputy Magistrate.

The Deputy Magistrate omits to mention the most interesting episode of the case. When the first accused bolted, the Magistrate pursued him; but before he could catch him, the lord of the district cut a somersault and fell on the ground with a *thud*. Referring to this regrettable incident, we said in a previous issue: "We regret the Magistrate received some falls and bruises; we hope that will not be put against the offending boy during the trial." We now learn to our surprise that this has actually been the case. For, the first accused who committed an additional crime of making the Magistrate run after him, was found guilty not only under section 379 but also under section 224; and he was sentenced to 3 months' rigorous imprisonment for the first and 4 months' for the second offence. The second accused was sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for 4 months. Now may we enquire, was the Deputy Magistrate justified under the law to sentence the first accused under section 224? The section, among other things, states: "Whoever intentionally escapes or attempts to escape from any custody in which he is lawfully detained for any offence, shall be punished, etc." The Magistrate in his home had no more authority than an ordinary private citizen. So the accused was not at all in "any custody in which he was lawfully detained," and he had the right, like every other man, to take to his heels if opportunity presented itself. Then again, the Deputy Magistrate declares: "apparently these petty thefts have been going on for a considerable time and require to be checked." How did the Deputy Magistrate come to know this? Did he take any evidence on the point? Of course, not; for, then, he would not have used the word "apparently." So "this theft has been going on, &c." was evolved out of the brain of the trying Magistrate. But though this imaginary belief weighed very much with him, he altogether lost sight of his second statement, viz., that "the confession" calls for some mitigation of punishment. Even in very serious cases, admission of offences calls for mercy and mitigation of punishment in an appreciable degree. The Deputy Magistrate refers to the mitigation; but he does not actually mitigate. For, seven months' hard labour, is no joke in the case of a petty thief, which might have been ignored altogether. Indeed, in this country fruit-stealing is not regarded in a serious light. Add to this that they were subjected to further hardships and expenses in making an appeal to the District Judge. But the most curious statement of the Deputy Magistrate is that "while he gave four months to the principal thief he gave seven months to his accomplice!"

The Sessions Judge, Mr. Drake-Brockman, heard the case on appeal, and has noticed several irregularities in the procedure and the judgment of the lower court, amongst which may be noticed the following:—

"That the case ought not to have been transferred to the file of the Deputy Magistrate after the charge was framed by another court without notice.

That the Deputy Magistrate ought to have heard the whole case *de novo*, &c. &c.

The Judge has, no doubt, upheld the convictions, but reduced the sentences to a considerable extent. He sentenced the first accused to 3 weeks each under both the charges, in all to 6 weeks, and the second accused to 3 weeks.

FUNERAL CEREMONY OF THE
FATHER OF A GHOST*

THE cause of the first scare was an apprehension that, along with the declaration of plague by the Government, the citizens would be kept shut up in the town and none would be allowed to go out. "So, let us go out of town before the Government had declared its quarantine policy," said the citizens, and they fled in a panic. This scare was shared both by the high and the low, some of the highest men of the city having run away on that occasion. Even many Europeans shared this scare who, when consulted by their native friends, advised them to send away their families as soon as possible.

The methods adopted in Bombay and the Punjab, had given a fright to the people. Cases of frightful oppression, some fanciful, some with a substratum of truth for their basis, had unhinged the public mind. Mr. Haffkine found what he was so interested in finding. The Government declared the plague on his authority; a local contemporary fanned the fire, and incalculable mischief was done. The Government acted from motives of prudence; but it seems clear now that it might have waited to see the result of its energetic attempts to nip the so-called plague in the bud, before declaring that the wolf had really come. The newspaper in question ought to have remembered its vast responsibilities before giving way to panic. The above is the beginning and end of the first scare. People felt very much relieved when they were assured that they would not be shut up in the town; there was rejoicing everywhere.

But yet a lurking suspicion troubled the minds of the people. What means this sudden generosity on the part of the authorities? Of course, there is a motive. Thus thought the lower classes. The motive was found,—the object of the Government was to inoculate the people! This apparent generosity was nothing but a ruse: it was a delusion and a snare, to make the people willing victims to the experiments of M. Haffkine! And the second scare overtook the city.

We have made all sorts of inquiries to find the cause of this second scare. Let us here examine one who was scared:—he is, of course, one belonging to the lower classes.

Q. Why do you object to be inoculated?

A. Because it will kill a man in two or three hours.

Q. What right have you to put faith in such extraordinary stories, when you have no proofs?

A. The proofs are many. Many men have been already killed in this manner.

Q. But you can see for yourself that many Europeans and Babus have already got themselves inoculated, without any bad result.

A. That is because they are not inoculated with the real thing. The Europeans are inoculated only to deceive us. The Babus are inoculated with a virus which only brings on slight fever. But the real thing is reserved for us, poor people.

Q. But why should the Government thus kill you, poor people?

A.—It is to experiment and see whether the poison is really useful or not.

Q.—According to your own showing, the authorities themselves do not know what is the virtue of the virus. How then do you know that it is sure to kill you in a few hours?

A.—We do not like to be subjected to the experiment.

Q.—If experiment is the sole object of the Government, its motives are good. The experiment may be tried in half-a-dozen cases and the virtue of the method tested. If this half-a-dozen, subjected to the experiment, die, the Government will, of course, give it up as dangerous. How are you then,—thousands of you,—flying like one pursued by a tiger?

A. Why, the authority will take this opportunity of inoculating every one of us, and when we are dead, the authority will say that it is the plague that killed us.

Q.—But what motive can the *Sarkar* have in killing you all? And then, has not the *Sarkar* assured the public that inoculation would not be forced upon any one?

We must stop here, for, it would not be agreeable reading to publish all what these ignorant people say. One thing is certain, viz., that the distrust of the Government in the minds of the people has taken a deep root.

There is another reason why the people have come to dread inoculation. It is said that inoculation is meant for poor people and especially women. And, why women? Because women are to be inoculated in parts of the body which ought not to be exposed. Indeed, the dread that indecent assaults would be committed upon women, is greater than that of dying in a few hours. The great object of the masses is, no doubt, to save themselves from

* When there is utter confusion, and purposeless and rapid movement, when men fly for lives without any cause, and cry "help," "murder!" when no murder is at hand, it is said to be "the funeral ceremony of the father of a ghost."

plague; but their greater object, absurd as it may appear to be, is to save their women!

The inoculation scare was followed by that of segregation and house-to-house visitation. If inoculation made the illiterate masses desert the city, segregation and house-to-house visitation drove the higher classes from here. It was, we think, a mistake to announce the enforcement of segregation and house-to-house visitation before the construction of a large number of isolation hospitals, both public and private, was completed. The members of even the highest families in the city, if attacked with the disease, are liable to be forcibly dragged to the Manik-tollah isolation hospital—the only one we have got. This is more than social death to them. To save themselves from this possible calamity, most of the higher-class people sent away the ladies and children of their houses from Calcutta. It is thus not plague but plague measures which caused the stampede.

As the authorities are not in touch with the people, they do not know how they are regarded by their subjects. It is on occasions of scare or outburst of passion, that the common people in India allow their minds to be read. The bright side of English character, they never come across. They paint Englishmen in their walls with a bottle of liquor in one hand and a gun in the other. This represents the idea of the lower class of Englishmen. The higher classes are known to them by the Police, Magistrates and tax-gatherers. And the result is, they believe in the rumour that the *ma bap* has devised a means of killing them in a few hours!

Englishmen themselves have a notion that they deserve nothing but gratitude from the people of India, that British rule itself is so great a boon that it is a blessing despite some sufferings it entails upon the people. Lord Dufferin said that if the Burmans had lost their independence, they had got in exchange British rule which in itself meant an inestimable blessing. That is all true. But since, with all the superior excellence of British rule, the authorities have not yet been able to convince the masses, who form 95 per cent. of the population, that it can kill its subjects from mere wantonness, the authorities must have failed somewhere.

We said that the constituency of Mr. Balfour, the Conservative leader of the House of Commons, requested Babu Ananda Mohan Bose, by telegraph, whether on the 16th April last he would be so kind as to address a meeting organized by them, and that Babu Ananda Mohan replied by saying that he was free only on the 19th. The constituents were so eager to take Babu Ananda Mohan to their place that they agreed to organize the meeting in East Manchester even at so short notice. The Resolution, passed on this occasion with "acclamation," was even more comprehensive than the one adopted at the Liberal gathering of Twelve Hundred on the 15th of April; for, it included the ostracism of the Indians from the Educational Service, as will be seen from the following which we take from the *Manchester Guardian* of the 20th ultimo:—

On the motion of Mr. T. Eggington, seconded by Mr. Jesse Haworth (whose guest Mr. Bose has been during his visit to Manchester), the following Resolution was passed with acclamation:—"This meeting strongly condemns the reactionary and repressive policy now being pursued in India, and in particular, the imprisonment of British subjects without trial, the passing of a law which is dangerous to the liberty of the press, the virtual exclusion of the natives of India from posts in the Education Department, previously open to them, and the attempt now being made to seriously curtail the privileges of municipal self-government, hitherto enjoyed by the metropolises of India. This meeting earnestly requests Her Majesty's Government to reverse the prosecution of such a policy, which, in its opinion, is fraught with danger and is likely to create serious discontent and disaffection in India, and is opposed alike to the honour, tradition, and interest of this country."

From the terms of the Resolution it would appear that Mr. Bose complained against the sedition measures and the repressive policy of the present Government; the deportation of the Natu brothers; the ostracism of the people from posts of emolument; and the curtailment of the privileges of municipal self-government. When Mr. Bose had ended his speech, there was prolonged cheering. Indeed, his speech gave the audience so much satisfaction that it was actually proposed to Babu Ananda Mohan that he should allow himself to be nominated as the Liberal candidate for the division, to fight Mr. Balfour himself.

The reason why Babu Ananda Mohan was asked to address the constituents of East Manchester, was not the mere pleasure of hearing him. There was another deeper reason behind. Going there in England, Babu Ananda Mohan found himself wanted to take part in an election to help a Liberal candidate. His help was so marked and valued that when the next election was held he was sought with equal eagerness by the Liberals. In this manner, our countryman has been able, slowly and by degrees, to acquire a solid reputation, as a powerful speaker and an acquisition to Liberal ranks. The Liberals are very weak in Manchester, the county electing only one Liberal out of its six representatives. The Liberals of the county thought that Babu Ananda Mohan, if he could be induced to come and address the electors, would be able to do great service to the Liberal cause. Mr. Balfour's position in his electorate is,

of course, very strong; and the Liberals have some difficulty in finding a fit opponent for him. It was, therefore, no small honour to our country that Babu Ananda Mohan was proposed to be selected, after they had heard and associated with him, for such a difficult task. The meeting did one signal service to India. They sent the Resolution to Mr. Balfour, which he, in turn, must hand over to Lord George Hamilton. The Resolution will give Lord George Hamilton an idea how his policy is being condemned even by Englishmen.

SOMEHOW or other an impression prevails in certain quarters that some of the Secretaries of the Bengal Government ply their pens for the columns of the *Englishman*. Anything appearing in that journal, specially with regard to plague policy and the Calcutta Municipal Bill, is, therefore, taken by many as reflecting the views of the Local Government. This is most unfortunate; for, now and then statements are published in the *Englishman*, which are calculated to alarm the public and thus add further difficulties to the present situation. At a moment when men's minds have been so thoroughly unsettled, that even the most benevolent intentions of the Government are horribly distorted, papers like the *Englishman* cannot be too careful in giving publicity to sentiments, likely to create distrust and unrest in the public mind. It was very injudicious of the *Englishman* to say that house-to-house visitation was to be carried out by Ward Committees *only for the present*. It is already a difficult task to convince the general public that this disagreeable work will not be conducted in the same inquisitorial manner as was done in Bombay—and how it is conducted even now in that unfortunate city, though plague has almost disappeared from there, will be seen from the letter of Dr. Blaney, reproduced elsewhere from the *Times of India*,—but they will absolutely refuse to be reasoned down if they come to believe that these Ward Committees are for a short time only, to be supplanted hereafter by Government-appointed men. Curiously enough, a letter over the signature of Mr. Risley appears in a vernacular paper, which also conveys the same idea. Here is the letter:—

10th May.

My dear sir,
I can only say to you what I said to the Municipal Plague Committee.

Deaths from plague must be reported regularly. If the Vigilance Committees do it properly, good and well.

If they do not, and the Government finds deaths from plague are being concealed, then regular search-parties will have to be organised.

The people have undertaken to report deaths regularly by the agency of the Ward Committees. It is for the Ward Committees to devise an effectual method of doing this, and their method will be given a fair trial.

Yours sincerely,

H. H. RISLEY.

We very much regret that such a letter should have been permitted to be published in a vernacular paper, especially, as, President of the Plague Committee, Mr. Risley is practically controlling the plague policy of the Bengal Government. The letter says that if the Vigilance Committees fail to find out plague cases, the Government search-parties will be appointed. But, constituted as the Vigilance Committees are, they are bound to fail. They will be held responsible if the plague cases are concealed. But how will it be possible for them to detect all suspicious cases when they have no authority to enter a house and examine its inmates? All that the members of the Committees can do, is to approach a householder and inquire of him whether there is any sickness in his family or not. The inevitable result is bound to follow, under such circumstances. Some will speak the truth, and some will not. Suspicious cases will thus come to be concealed, which it will be impossible for the Ward Committees to detect. They will, however, be voted as incompetent, and supplanted, as Mr. Risley says, by Government search-parties.

In short, an impossible task has been imposed upon the Ward Committees, and they will necessarily fail to perform it properly, in spite of their best efforts. And if the result of their failure be the appointment of the nominees of the Government, then the *Englishman* is quite right in saying that the arrangement of the Ward Committees is only a temporary one. But is that really the intention of the Government? We cannot believe it. We would, however, humbly submit that not only should the Government abandon the idea of hunting out plague cases through its own men, but give an assurance to the public that it would never be adopted. Such an official declaration will remove the "fixed belief among all classes of the native community that Government" shortly intends to commence a house-to-house visitation by military search-parties, and convince them that "the alarms of forcible entries into houses and violated zenanas are wholly imaginary and baseless. Many of those who have left Calcutta with their families, will then at once come back and resume their business. But, if there is the prospect of the Ward Committees being supplanted, it will be very hard to persuade them to return or keep their families here. This is the real situation; and we earnestly trust,

our sympathetic Government will take the matter into its serious consideration and solve it in the best way possible.

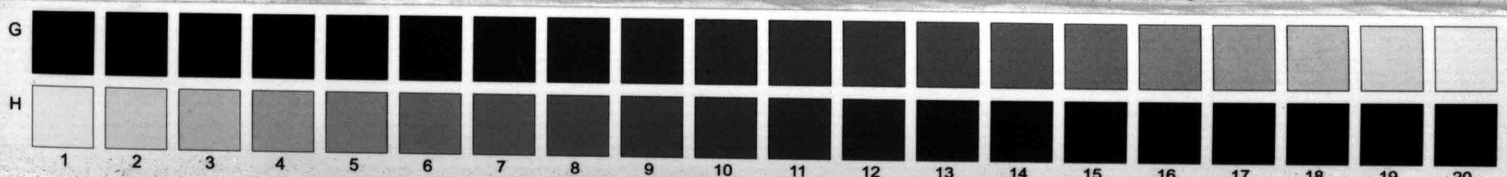
En passant we may observe that Government search-parties were tried in Bombay, and they failed miserably. Beyond irritating the populace, they did no good service. They were appointed to find out plague cases; but the more strict they were in their search, the greater was the number of cases concealed. The riot was one of the results of their inquisitorialness. We do not see why should the Bengal Government adopt a method which did not prove successful in Bombay. Nay, the authorities in Bombay were so convinced of the utter worthlessness of these search-parties and the disastrous results of their mode of work that they got them supplanted subsequently by Committees, appointed by the people themselves, and the latter did their work exceedingly well. We can assure the Government that the Ward Committees in Calcutta will do their very best; but they can't do more. Government can thoroughly trust them, and they will not disappoint it if it be not too exacting. They cannot, however, do what is impossible. Constituted as they are, it is absurd to expect that they will be able to report most of the suspicious cases. And it is not fair to hold them responsible for failures which are inevitable, and then supplant them by a Government agency. To reassure the public, specially after the publication of Mr. Risley's letter, it is necessary that a declaration should be made by the authorities to the effect that there is no intention on their part to appoint search-parties, so long it is not clearly proved that Vigilance Committees are neglecting their duties in a perverse spirit.

ANOTHER statement of the *Englishman*, which has created great alarm, is the proposal of posting a punitive police in different parts of the town. We would not have noticed such an absurd proposition but for the impression, namely, that the paper represents the views of the Bengal Government, to a certain extent. The *Englishman's* suggestion is contained in the following passage which we extract from its article of the 14th instant, headed "Disturbances in Calcutta":—

Large numbers of persons who have been breaking the law, escape punishment; and the question to be considered is how to make these realise that Europeans and officials are not to be assaulted with impunity. We would suggest the quartering of an additional police force, the expenses being borne by the inhabitants of the locality in which the disturbance takes place. This course was followed at Poona, is continually being resorted to in the case of unruly villages in the Mofassil and is applicable to Calcutta under the provisions of the Police Bill, published in the local *Gazette* of April 20th. Of course, this system bears somewhat, hardly on the innocent; but it is better that the latter should suffer in this way than that the community at large should be at the mercy of their ruffianly neighbours. The extra police, besides being a well-deserved burden on the locality, would be an additional weapon in the hands of the authorities for suppressing disturbances. It sometimes happens that riot is caused in one locality by people from entirely different quarters, as when last year a mob from near Sealdah assaulted the Europeans at the Tallah pumping station; but these cases are rare, and as they are generally due to mill hands from the suburbs, the difficulty could be met by making the natives labouring at the mill in question pay for the additional police. The above, we believe, is the only solution—short of actually shooting down the mob in scores—of a very grave question. It rests with the agitators and wire-pullers who are mainly responsible for the condition of the city, to decide which course they would prefer the Government to adopt.

We do not know which to admire most in the above—the intelligence of the writer or his sense of justice. It is an admitted fact that these riots are brought about by the mob under the guidance of the *badmashes* of the town. The *Englishman* himself has acknowledged it over and over again in his own columns. Another fact which is also admitted by all, including the *Englishman*, is that the higher-class Indians not only do not sympathise with these riots but dread them as much as the Europeans do. It would thus be manifestly unjust to tax them for the doings of the *badmashes*. But what of that? The cost of the additional police force must be raised; and since the mob and the *badmashes* have no money, but the higher-class Indians have, so, according to the intelligent editor of the *Englishman*, the former should break the heads of the latter and get off, and the latter, in addition to their broken limbs and looted properties, should pay a fine to the authorities for the latter's incompetency to maintain the public peace. It does not occur to the *Englishman* that, to talk of posting a punitive police in Calcutta is to avow the incapacity of the present administration. It is, no doubt, very provoking that Europeans should receive a beating at the hands of the mob; but that is no reason why the innocent higher-class Indians should be made to pay for an additional police.

THE sequel of the Satara Salam case, is described by the Satara correspondent of the *Maharatta*. We wish the correspondent had published the two documents entire, namely, the letter which Mr. Sohoni wrote to the Satara Collector, giving his version of the case, and the Collector's reply to it. For, then, the public might have judged the whole case upon its own merits. Unfortunately, the correspondent, instead of doing it, has taken a sentence from here and another



from there, and filled up almost the whole letter with his own comments. We hope, our contemporary, the *Maharatta*, will see his way to publish the two documents, referred to above, in their entirety: for, we attach a good deal of importance to the case. One point, however, is clear, Mr. Rowcroft admitted that he had assaulted Mr. Sohoni because the latter did not salute him; yet the Collector was pleased to decide that both parties were to blame, and that there should be an "expression of mutual regret." We can understand why Mr. Rowcroft should apologise, for, every Englishman must hang down his head in shame over his act; but, why should Mr. Sohoni express regret? We are astounded to find that, in the opinion of the Collector, Mr. Sohoni should apologise, because his demeanour was not all right when he saluted Mr. Rowcroft! Mr. Sohoni, of course, could not accept the decision of the Collector, and had no alternative but to place his case in the hands of his lawyers.

ARAB ROWLA is first to serve his six months, and then to be hanged. The Judge, in awarding this strange punishment, was probably guided by his strong devotion to Government. If Rowla had been hanged first, the State would have been deprived of the other due to it, viz. the accused's six months. So he thought that the six months should be extorted from him first. We, however, think, the arrangement is likely to bring about some very good results to humanity, and to confer an inestimable blessing upon the sufferer. Here we see a man, who has yet to live 180 days, with the certain information that he will be hanged after that. What effect will this knowledge have upon him? He will, no doubt, be thoroughly purged out of his worldliness; probably he will turn out a very pious man. Here is a very good experiment, and the result would be worth knowing.

REGARDING the release of the Natu brothers, our Bombay correspondent writes, under date the 12th instant:—

The Natu brothers were taken to Belgaum on Sunday and Monday respectively, and the Collector of Belgaum showed them the Government order, suspending their warrant of arrest for a time. The release is conditional. They must not leave the limits of Belgaum city and must show good conduct. They are allowed to have their family and servants with them at Belgaum. So far as I know the attachment on their property is not yet cancelled and no further provision made for their maintenance. For myself I have grave doubts whether the warrant can be thus suspended on conditions. There is nothing in the Regulations, authorising this. You can consult some of your legal friends there, and publish their opinion on the subject. Meanwhile it is said the Natus are thinking of bringing a suit against Government.

Belgaum correspondent telegraphs, under date the 13th instant, on the same subject:—

The Government have restored to the Natus Brothers all their property. They have, however, been verbally warned that should they in future do anything to create trouble, their lands will be absolutely alienated and the stewardship of the elder brother taken from him. The orders of the Government were conveyed to the brothers by the District Magistrate. Sirdar Bulwant Rao asked if he might be furnished with a written copy of the warning, but the request was refused.

It will be seen from the telegram of our Simla correspondent that Lord Elgin is seriously thinking of releasing Mr. Tilak and other editors.

We have kept an absolutely open mind with regard to the Haffkine plague inoculation. We are publishing statements both for and against the system, and thus giving the public an opportunity to form its own opinion. We would be inexpressibly glad—and who would not?—if the supposed protection were proved to be a reality. Here is a calamity against which we are helpless. If inoculation proves a real protection, we can laugh at the plague. But is the prophylactic for which the world is hankering, at last found in the Haffkine virus? That is a point we cannot decide. On the other hand, what we find is that, if some favourable statistics have been collected, and some doctors and laymen have spoken highly of the system, others, who are equally competent to pass an opinion on the subject and whose number we must confess, is far larger, are dead against it. When a paper like the *Lancet* practically condemns it, many will hesitate to avail of the alleged preventive. Indeed, one is at a loss to decide whether or not he should instil a poison in his constitution, the working of which can never be precisely ascertained. It is even doubtful whether vaccination has done more good than harm. Many will testify to the fact how in the case of many children, vaccination, if it has not proved fatal, has shattered their health for ever. The plague serum of M. Haffkine is a far stronger poison than vaccine, and is thus more potent, either for good or evil. It is also a questionable matter whether small-pox in Europe was conquered by vaccination or sanitation. We wrote to a Bombay friend to let us know his experiences of the Haffkine inoculation, and he writes to

As to inoculation, I think, Surgeon-General Harvey's Note, recently published, deals with the subject fairly and you can for the present adopt that position. But there are several points, not hitherto dealt with by anybody, which require serious consideration, namely, the deceptive character of reasoning by statistics in such a matter; 2ndly, the mischief done by the inoculated to the un-inoculated both are in contact; 3rdly, the result

of inoculation on general health and constitution of the person. Instances have been found here in which inoculation aggravated rheumatism, hysteria, leprosy and other inherent, but latent diseases. In some cases the persons felt weak for months together after inoculation. In this connection you may notice the disastrous results of Dr. Koch's prophylactic against consumption. Most of the persons inoculated by Dr. Koch, I am told, died of consumption after five years. M. Haffkine's remedy may or may not prove of the same sort. But it is never safe to introduce foreign poison in one's body.

The writer confirms most of the statements which appeared in the *Lancet*. There is one great drawback in the Haffkine prophylactic. Its effect does not last for a long time, and one may have to inoculate himself with the poison every year or even at a shorter period. Those who are not coming forward to avail of the remedy, cannot thus be blamed. Truth can, however, never be concealed. If the alleged prophylactic is a genuine article, it will ultimately triumph, in spite of all difficulties in its way; otherwise, it is bound to be discredited.

In an evidently inspired paragraph, the *Englishman* has at last come forward to remove the "impression" that, in declaring plague to exist in Calcutta, the Government of Bengal acted solely on the testimony of a single man, namely, M. Haffkine. Our contemporary says that all the Medical Officers of the Government had "seen" the suspicious cases, and stated that they were true cases, and that M. Haffkine's report merely confirmed, by independent scientific evidence, the conclusions already arrived at by the best medical opinion in Calcutta. But can a medical man detect a real plague case by merely "seeing" the patient, specially when fever with glandular swelling is a common disease in Bengal and when plague has not appeared in an epidemic form? Has not the real plague got a peculiarly-shaped bacillus which can be detected only by the most experienced, and about which there may arise difference of opinion even amongst the practised experts? That being so, is the conclusion of the Calcutta Doctors, arrived at without examining the cultures taken from the suspicious cases, worth anything? Can these Doctors take their oath and declare in a court of justice that they had not the slightest doubt as to the genuineness of these cases? Even that is not enough; for, there may be enthusiasts who cannot distinguish truth from fiction. Before the decision of these medical men was accepted as conclusive, they should have been subjected to rigid tests. Each of them should have been asked to submit a separate report of the examination of cultures, taken without their knowledge, both from suspicious plague and ordinary fever cases with glandular swelling, and placed before them. If they could all discover the characteristic microbe in particular cases, it was then and then alone that their conclusions would have been valuable. As that was not done, their opinion meant nothing. Indeed, the Government would not have attached any importance to the conclusions of these Doctors if they were not confirmed by the report of M. Haffkine. It was thus M. Haffkine, and he alone, who exercised the "magic wand over the Government."

The above leads us to ask—are these sporadic cases, which are being almost daily brought to light in various parts of the city, real cases of plague? In the Health Officer's report, they are characterised as "plague." But, how can the Health Officer or his assistants call them "plague cases," unless the serum taken from each of them is cultivated and the characteristic bacillus found in it? The general impression is that many of these cases are mere ordinary fever cases with glandular swelling. This impression has been confirmed by two indisputable facts. One is that the dead bodies of these so-called plague patients are taken to the cremation ground, without adopting those precautionary measures, which are absolutely necessary to prevent the dissemination of the poison while they are carried through habited localities. Take, for instance, the case of the Champatolla boy, who was forcibly sought to be removed to the hospital, and which led the infuriated mob to burn the ambulance cart. In the opinion of the Health Officer and his assistants, he died of real plague. Yet they did not object to his corpse being carried to the burning-ghat in the ordinary way. The other fact is very important, and strikes at the very root of the constitution of these Ward Committees for the purpose of house-to-house inspection. The cases which are now being discovered and labelled as "plague," were all concealed. But the theory is that, "every case that is secreted becomes a focus of disease and the family that connives at it, signs not only its own death-warrant but that of many of its neighbours."

BUT how is it that not any of the families, which secreted these cases, has been decimated by plague? Take the Champatolla case again. The mother of the deceased was not attacked with the disease, nor his uncle nor his neighbours who showed such zeal on his behalf. The same may be said of the families and neighbours of all the two scores of cases, detected up to this time, none of which was voluntarily brought to the notice of the authorities. You are thus driven to one of these admissions: Either you must admit (1) that they are no plague cases, for, if they were so, those who concealed them would have paid dearly for

their rashness; or, (2) that concealment of plague cases is not such a dangerous thing as it is represented to be. If you admit the first, there is absolutely no necessity for the continuance of these precautionary measures, which are not only adding to the cost of the Municipal administration in Calcutta, but have emptied the city of half of its population. If you admit the second, the search-parties are not needed to frighten people. Indeed, it is difficult to understand how the Government has entered into this elaborate and costly and panic-stricken arrangement without first ascertaining the fact with absolute certainty that plague has really come, and that it has taken a hold in Calcutta. Would the health of the town have gone on improving, if a terrible pestilence like the bubonic plague had been amongst us? This is against common sense, ordinary experience, and the laws of nature.

A GHATAL (Midnapore) correspondent has sent us an account of a terrible plague riot in which 3 persons were shot dead and 12 others wounded by the police. The party who has sent us the information, is not known to us. But judging from the detailed manner in which he narrates the incident, we have no reason to disbelieve the occurrence, specially as plague riots are now the order of the day. The correspondent writes under date the 14th instant:—

It having been declared that a plague hospital would be built in this town, about 2000 people collected in the vicinity of the place, appointed for the purpose. In the morning of the 8th instant, the police went to expostulate with them and asked them to disperse; but they appeared to be too much excited to come to reason. In the evening, warrants were issued against some 12 persons suspected of being implicated in the affair and rendering assistance to the mob. Some, including a few influential members of the community, were arrested that very night and released on bail. Next morning the police went out to arrest the rest of the offenders and seized one of them near a place, called Singpur. But the villagers forcibly snatched him away from their hands. On Tuesday the Sub-Inspector of Police with about 200 constables and chowkidars, proceeded to build the plague hospital. But the infuriated mob at once fell upon them and the police had to beat an immediate retreat. The District Magistrate arrived in the afternoon and left for Calcutta shortly after. About 40 men, belonging to the Midnapore Reserve Police Force, were called in. On Friday morning it was proclaimed by beat of drum that no hospital would be built and that there was no cause of alarm. The ignorant people, however, took it to be a ruse, practised upon them by the police. At about 9 A.M. the police, backed by the Reserve Force, went again to arrest the person who had been snatched away on the former occasion. They besieged his house, but not finding him there, seated themselves on the field. While talking amongst themselves they were surprised and hemmed in on all sides by about 2000 people. They first tried to quiet the rabble by reassuring words; but as the people paid no heed to them, they began to pelt them with stones and swing lathes. The police had to have recourse to firing at the mob, and killed three persons on the spot, seriously wounding 12 others. They are now on a precarious condition. The Reserve Police are still being retained at the station.

The above is apparently the police version of the case. If the alleged rioters have their own version, we shall be glad to publish it.

The search-parties, appointed by Ward Committees, are doing their work with great vigour. Even the *Englishman* has been pleased to acknowledge it. Is it not, therefore, queer that they have not yet been able to find out a single plague case, though the Medical Officers of the Corporation are hunting out several almost every day? For instance, a case was discovered at No. 10, New China Bazar Street, on the 15th inst. the patient being a syce. Dr. Mackenzie went to the place, examined the patient and sent for an ambulance cart. Other medical officers arrived, and they were so thoroughly convinced of the serious nature of the case, that, fearing a disturbance, they sought police help, and the patient was carried to the isolation hospital under the superintendence of a Police Superintendent, a Police Inspector and several European constables.

The medical Officer attached to Ward No. 10 was, however, not so successful in another case which he discovered on the 17th in that Ward, chiefly, we are told, through the officiousness of Dr. Sanders and Mr. G. S. Sykes, the President of the Ward Committee. The facts of the case are so interesting that we shall relate them in some detail. The patient is an East Indian lad of six or seven years. How the Medical Officer came to know that he had been ill, we can not say; but this much we are told that when he saw him, he pronounced his case as one of plague and immediately made preparation to remove him from his house. As in the case of the syce, alluded to above, the ambulance cart was ordered for, and the police was communicated with. In short, every precaution was taken for the safe removal of the patient to the isolation hospital. The parents of the boy were naturally alarmed, and they managed to call in Dr. Sanders to examine him. Dr. Sanders was decided in his opinion: he said, after examining the boy, that it could never be a case of plague. Though reassured, the parents were yet afraid of their boy being dragged to the hospital; so they sought the assistance of Mr. G. S. Sykes. This gentleman kindly called on the Health Officer and brought him to the boy's house. On arrival there, Dr. Cook found the plague patient walking about! He also came to learn that the plague patient, for whose re-

moval so much preparation had been made, ate well and slept soundly. In short, what he found, was that the boy had got only a little fever, his temperature being 102°, and there being small swelling in the left groin. Whereupon he pronounced that the case was not of plague. Dr. Cook was, however, of opinion that, though the boy walked about and ate and slept well, yet there existed some suspicion, and therefore some precaution ought to be taken, namely he should be kept in a separate room in his own house under the care of the nurse, and others must not be allowed to go to him till he had been examined again by the Health officer. It is said that the swelling in the groin was due to a fall.

ALREADY the Government has made "great concessions," says the *Englishman*, with regard to its plague policy. "Concessions,"—is it? Despotism in India has so demoralized a certain class of Englishmen that they cannot forget for a moment that they are masters. Self-willedness is the breath of their nostrils: if they speak a kind word they make concessions; if they agree in one simple particular with the Indians, they make concessions. They think that, as the Government enjoys absolute authority, its duty is to exercise it always, and to make the people feel it always, and they make concessions when they make them feel, for one moment, that they and the Government are the same. What a demoralization for the inhabitants of England, the birth-place of freedom! The fact is, though it is quite possible that there are some mad men here, who would like the approach of Russia, there is none who would like the advent of the plague. The plague is a common enemy, and no Indian likes it, not even the arch-traitor and "scoundrel" Tilak. That being the case, it is no concession on the part of the Government if it acts in concert with the people, or does a wise thing. The question before all, the Government and the people, is, how to combat this calamity with the least suffering to the people, and not how much the Government, which is irresistible, should concede as a favour or not. Concessions even, in an epidemic disease!

It was announced in some Anglo-Indian papers that Sir James Westland has got one year's extension of service, and that there is the prospect of his inflicting another Indian Budget upon the people of India and England. All anxiety on this score has, however, been removed by our Simla correspondent, whose letter was published in our yesterday's issue, who says that it has been definitely settled that Sir James leaves India for good in the course of a few months. In India, every civilian is a great man, and thus Sir James Westland was a great financier. But here is the estimate of his last performance in the Legislative Council, formed by the *London Economist*:—

There is not much definite information to be gleaned from the official summary that has been telegraphed here of the financial statement made by Sir James Westland in the Indian Legislative Council on Monday last. It is impossible, for instance, to ascertain from the jumble of figures presented, either what was the actual revenue and expenditure in 1896-7, or at what figures the revenue and expenditure for the current year are set down in the revised estimates of revenue and expenditure in 1898-9. And when simple points of that kind are left in obscurity, it is obvious that the light thrown by the summary upon the financial position of India is of the vaguest.

During the debate on the Budget, Sir James made this astounding declaration:—

I do not understand, I admit, why some Honourable members think that the Permanent Settlement is a remedy for famine; or even that the Permanent Settlement in any way contributes to the comfort of the ryat. Bengal is a permanently-assessed province; but I think no person will contend that the ryat in Bengal is better off than the ryat in the temporarily-assessed provinces.

We did not know before that there was any man in India with any experience of the country, who would make the allegation that the ryot in Bengal was not better off than one in temporarily-assessed provinces. It is wonderful how officials, with so much ignorance of the country, are yet able to govern it. And wonderful still it is for men of intelligence to pass their days in this country, and yet not to know that the Bengali ryot is better off than his brethren in every other part of India. It is quite true, the rulers pass eight months of the year in the inaccessible heights of Simla; but they have yet to pass through the country in their journey up and down. Do they travel with their eyes shut? It is a pity they do not know their own ignorance, and they do not like if any one tries to enlighten them.

WE have received another communication on the Ghatal riot, dated the 14th May. The writer says:—

Ghatal is long known as a peaceful subdivision of Midnapore, from time immemorial. The inoculation rumour is as much prevalent here as anywhere else. A plague hospital was proposed to be built some days ago; and the mob, some three thousand or more, assembled to oppose its construction, where, they believed, their wives and children would be dragged in, to their shame and disgrace. With a view to disperse the mob, armed Reserve Police had to be called in from Midnapore. The District Magistrate was pleased to come to the place on the 10th instant, to ascertain the popular feeling on the subject.

On the 13th at about 8 A.M., two Chaprasis with drum-beaters were heard to proclaim

optional inoculation and the non-construction of the hospital. When they have not gone round even one-fourth of the Municipal town of Ghatal, armed Policemen, numbering 50, headed by two Police Inspectors, were sent out to re-arrest leaders of the rioters, believed to have been rescued by the villagers. The Police failed to arrest the accused and was returning unsuccessful when the villagers (some five thousand) assembled and attacked the Policemen with lathies, etc. The Police fired, and four men were killed and 30 injured by gun-fire.

The place of occurrence is Kadua, a village, only a mile off from Ghatal Sub-divisional buildings. People have left the village entirely.

Quiet seems to have been restored for the present.

TRUTH.

So, four men were killed and thirty wounded by the Police!

THE Calcutta correspondent of the *Hindu* wires to that paper:—

The release, on parole, of the Natus is attributed here to the work of Mr. Ananda Mohan Bose in England, more particularly to his recent speech before the Hon'ble Mr. Balfour's constituency in Manchester, which adopted a resolution condemning the policy of the Indian Government in this matter, and forwarded it to the leader of the House of Commons.

There was not a public meeting, addressed by Babu Ananda Mohan in England, where he did not bring the case of the Natus brothers to special prominence, and secure an expression of shame from his English audiences. As we pointed out, his greatest feat was the adoption of a strong Resolution at the meeting in East Manchester, the constituency of Mr. Balfour. The Resolution, amongst other matters, contained a reference to the deportation of the Natus without trial, and the threatened abolition of the present constitution of the Calcutta Municipality. As we surmised, Babu Ananda Mohan was mis-reported as to what he said regarding the Calcutta Municipal Bill, as his following letter, published in the *Manchester Guardian*, will show:—

TO THE EDITOR, *Manchester Guardian*.

Sir,—Permit me to thank you for your excellent report of what I said at the meeting of the Manchester Liberal Union last Friday. As its necessarily-condensed character, however, may lead to some misapprehension of my remarks about the present most unfortunate and reactionary attempt to deprive Calcutta of its existing Municipal privileges, allow me to give the gist of the proposed changes in a sentence or two. The Corporation whose composition it is not proposed to alter, is to be absolutely deprived of a large portion of its power; this power is to be vested partly in the Chairman, who is a nominee of the Government, pure and simple, and partly in a Committee in which the rate-payers are to be hereafter represented by only one-third of its members, instead of by two-thirds, as has been up to now the case. There are other changes proposed, into the details of which I need not go, the effect of which is still further to emphasize this serious deprivation of the rate-payers of the powers, already limited and circumscribed as they are, hitherto enjoyed by them. Will the public opinion and the Government of England, yet step in, and prevent the tide of reactionary legislation flowing on in its perilous and continuous course in India, as it has been doing, of late; and go back to the path of cautious but steady progress which statesmen in the past, whether Conservative or Liberal, have alike found it proper and needful to adopt, in regard to the government of that country.

Yours &c,

A. M. BOSE.

19th April.

WE are very much sorry to learn that Sir John Woodburn is suffering from a painful abscess in the ear. His Honour is now confined to his room, under medical advice. It is said, His Honour intends starting for Darjeeling on Saturday next. We hope, our information is not correct; for, His Honour's presence is sadly needed in Calcutta at a critical period like this.

FOR some time past we have not been in receipt of the *Maldah vernacular paper*, the "Gaurabarta." On enquiry we learn that it has ceased to exist since the passing of the seditious law.

DEATH is announced of Mr. Shankar Bakrishna Dixit, Professor of Science in the Poona Training College.

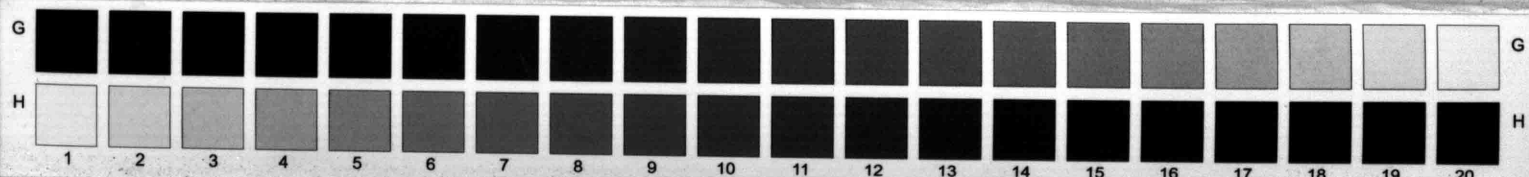
THE report of the allowance of Rs. 600 to non-official members from Madra attending the Council at Utacamund proves to be false.

At a meeting of the Syndicate of the Punjab University held on Friday it was decided to recommend Sir Charles Arthur Roe, late Vice-Chancellor of the University, for the degree of Doctor of Law to be conferred *honoris causa*, and *in absentia*.

A KARACHI telegram to the *Morning Post* says:—News comes from Shikarpur of the atrocious murder of Mahomed Khan, Chief of the Chandia tribe, and his son, by Mahomed's brother, at Ghaibi Dero. There was a political motive for the crime affecting the succession. The son was shot dead. The father died on the 9th instant.

THE total number of elephants captured during 1896-97 was 280 from the districts of Assam as follows:—Goalpara (Eastern Duars) 73; Kamrup 15; Darrang 59; Nongong 6; Sivasagar 17; Lakhimpur 53; Naga Hills 30; Khasia and Jaintia Hills 27. The total number caught during 1895-96 was 238.

It is reported that the Afridis are sending jirgahs to Kabul to interview the Amir. If this be so, remarks the Allahabad paper, some troublesome complications may arise before the final political settlement is made with the tribe. Abdur Rahman would be well advised to stop the jirgahs at Jellalabad, and order them peremptorily to return. By receiving them he may raise false hopes among the clans recently in arms against the British Government. Our settlement with the Afridis must be with them and alone, for since the Treaty of Gundamak, in 1879, they have been outside the sphere of Kabul influence.



Calcutta and Mofussil.

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POSTAL.—Mr. H. C. Sheridan officiates as 3rd Assistant Director-General of the Post Office, *vice* Mr. G. A. T. Bennett.

MEDICAL.—The services of Surgeon-Major Narendra Prasanna Sinha, I. M. S., have been replaced at the disposal of the Government of Bengal.

PLAGUE AND MUNICIPAL COLLECTIONS.—We hear that the Calcutta Municipality is receiving notices of vacancy largely, and it is feared there will be short collections in the ensuing quarter.

HOME OFFICE.—Mr. R. Nathan, Under-Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department, has been granted privilege leave for two months and seventeen days. Mr. N. Bonhams-Carter officiates.

P. W. DEPARTMENT.—Among the officers of the Superior Accounts Branch, Public Works Department, whose promotions are just gazetted, the following Indian names occur: Mr. R. Srinivasa Iyer, Mr. Jai Kishan and Mr. Harprasad Das.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.—Babus Pramad Nath Mullick and Durga Das Bannerji, qualified apprentices, have been appointed to the Indian Telegraph Department as Assistant Superintendents, class VII, 2nd Grade, Provincial Service.

RISHRA RIOT.—The recent cow-killing riot at Rishra, in which several men have been injured and one killed, is being inquired into. Several arrests have been made and it is likely a special officer will be deputed to try the cases.

ARMED POLICE FOR HOWRAH.—The local Government have sanctioned the formation of a force of fifty armed police for the protection of the European employees at Howrah. The force will be located at Seepore, where quarters for it are to be immediately erected.

PLANTS THAT TAKE PILLS.—A French scientist is said to have invented a method of administering pills to plants, says the *Rambler*, so as to keep them in health and vigour with but very little other nourishment. It is easily found by analysis what particular material each sort of plant chiefly needs. This found, the necessary salts are enclosed in a prepared metal case and buried under the roots. They dissolve slowly and gradually the plant being regulated by the thickness of the cover and are thus absorbed by the plants.A GHASTLY CEREMONY.—The *Koh-Noo*, a native paper, is responsible for the following piece of news:—A marriage was to take place at Jagrawan, the bridegroom to come from Ludhiana. The party reached Jagrawan on the 20th ultimo. The bride had been hopelessly ill for a month but her father getting the richer by several hundreds or more on her account, gave no intimation to the other party, and the marriage came to be celebrated on the appointed day. The girl was brought from her death bed with this ghastly result that during the usual *pradakshin* ceremony, all was over with her, and she fell dead before a horri-stricken crowd. A funeral glow fell over the marriage ceremony. After recovery from the first effect of the shock, a *panchayat* assembled to enquire into the matter. Eventually somebody present offered his own daughter in marriage, and the bridegroom had not to return without a bride.ANOTHER SCARE.—The *Statesman* published a paragraph to the effect that an important Conference was held on the 17th inst. at Belvedere within closed doors, where Mr. Risley, Mr. Green, and a number of medical men were present for the purpose of concerting measures to prevent the spread of the plague in the Mofussil, and this gave rise to another scare. Numbers of people came to our office to enquire whether it was true that the Government was going to impose quarantine upon the people of Calcutta on the 20th next so that they might not leave the city and go to the Mofussil. Several of them had already arranged to send away their families out of Calcutta, and possibly a large number of people will leave the town shortly. We assured those who came to seek our advice that it was not possible for the Government to change its views so soon, specially when plague was practically non-existent in the city. The policy of reticence and secrecy adopted by the Government with reference to the plague is doing some harm.

ATTEMPT TO WRECK A TRAIN.—On the 12th inst. before Mr. Gordon, District and Sessions Judge of Chittagong, the Station Master of Missari, and three of the station staff, on the Assam Bengal Railway, were charged with attempting to wreck a mail train by placing a huge boulder on the line about a mile from the station. Inspector Butterfield, of the Government Railway Police, had been specially deputed to enquire into the case, a reward of Rs. 700 being offered for the arrest of the offenders. The accused were defended by counsel, the defence being that the case was trumped up, and that three of the accused who had confessed their guilt in the lower court were forced to do so. The fourth accused turned Queen's evidence, and the jury, consisting of natives, brought in a unanimous verdict of guilty against the other three accused, including the station master. The Judge, in sentencing the accused to three years' rigorous imprisonment each, remarked that the offence was a very serious one, though happily the result was not so serious, on which account he had dealt leniently with the prisoners.

THE PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA.

THE RETURNS.

THERE were two new cases on the 13th May one in Ward VIII, and another in Ward XII, and one death in Ward VIII, from the plague. The total up to date is 53 cases, and 44 deaths. One suspected case of plague, which took place in Crooked Lane, was reported to the Health Office. The man was removed to Chandney Hospital.

On the 14th there was one new case in Ward No. 10 and one death in Ward No. 7. On the 15th there were six new cases, one in Ward No. 4, two in Ward No. 8, one in Ward No. 10, one in Ward No. 13 and one in Ward No. 14; and three deaths, two in Ward No. 8 and one in Ward No. 13. The totals up to date are, seizures 60 and deaths 47.

THE returns of the 17th show that there were no fresh cases or deaths from plague in the city that day. The Health Office had received no report of any fresh cases of deaths from plague up to 7 o'clock 17th inst. evening.

On the 18th there was one new case reported to the Health Office from Mott's Lane, the patient was removed to Hospital.

INOCULATION.

Full thirty inoculations were performed by Dr. Cook on the 14th inst. On the 15th Mr. Greer, the Chairman to the Corporation, had himself inoculated and is doing well. On the 13th Mr. J. G. Apicari, Municipal Commissioner, was inoculated. Among those inoculated on the 14th was Dr. Pettifor, Assistant Health Officer.

Dr. Nield Cook proceeded to Bhowanipour on Tuesday evening and inoculated nine members of Babu Mohini Mohan Rai's family.

ALLEGED DEATH FROM INOCULATION.

The *Indian Daily News* says:—The case of death after inoculation, which we referred to, has been contradicted. We called on our correspondent, a well-known physician of this city, to substantiate it, but he has failed to do so, and under these circumstances we can only express our regret that it was inserted. It certainly would not have been inserted but for the fact that it was received from a medical man of considerable position. He explains the case thus:—"I got the story of Walters' inoculation from the Superintendent of a certain Government Office on Monday. I asked my informant to verify the story by further enquiry, and on Tuesday there was a complete reiteration of facts. On this I sent you my note which you published. Finding the facts questioned, you called on me, and I took you to the 'burra sahib' who told me the story. You heard a narration of my 'note' verbatim from his own lips. The official further added that he had perfect faith in his assistant who gave the details of Walters' case. I asked to see the assistant on Thursday, but instead of seeing the assistant I got a letter from the 'burra sahib', stating that the assistant now said that the story of Walters and his death and burial, etc., were only hearsay. So I am now placed in the unfortunate position of expressing my regret at sending you an account which apparently is not capable of being verified. I may add, however, that it is now given out that Walters was a Madras Christian and went by two names."

INOCULATION SCARE.—Superintendent Rai Jogendra Chander Mitter Bahadur charged one Hito Mochee, a syce in the employ of Messrs. Cook and Co., with circulating a rumour to the effect that he had been inoculated by certain Bengali Babus by force with plague serum on both his arms on the 13th instant, which he knew to be false, with intent to cause an alarm to the public and also for circulating the above false report intending or knowing that it would cause riot. Accused was placed before Nawab Syed Amir Hossein, C. I. E., Northern Division Magistrate, and was convicted and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment.

RISLEY'S CERTIFICATE.

Mr. Risley has issued the following certificate to pacify the inoculation fright:—"This is to certify that no one shall be inoculated, unless he expressly desires it. Copy of this is given to—"

H. H. RISLEY,

Secretary to Govt. and President, Plague Commission.

THE PLAGUE AND THE RATS.

The following letter is published in the *Indian Mirror* over the signature of "Bepin Bahary Bose":—The *Indian Mirror* of this day contains a few lines about the destruction of rats, signed by our Acting Chairman. One of the rules of the notice runs thus:—House-holders are recommended to catch and destroy as many rats as possible. Another notice was served in the following lines:—"Kill the rats, and burn them with kerosine oil." Sir, may I ask you, whether we shall set traps, and catch and send the rats to the Chairman? I ask this only because a few months ago, I had heard that a fisherman at Turret Bazar was fined for killing rats. All rats are not plague-stricken, that we shall kill as many as possible. Has the law of prevention of cruelty to animals been amended? Shall I not be amenable to the law, which was set against the poor fisherman? If I kill rats, I must be cruel to them, and yet I am authorised by the Chairman to do so.

RAILWAY PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

It is reported from Sealdah and Howrah Railway Stations that the passenger traffic has assumed its normal state.

EXODUS.

The Marwaris of Bara Bazar are still running away from Calcutta.

RIOTERS.

The case in which a Mohammedan named Korban and two shop-keepers of Jaun Bazar were charged with causing grievous hurt to a taking him for an inoculator and with assaulting a compositor of the *Indian Mirror*, were on the 17th sentenced by Mr. Pearson, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, to 18 months' rigorous imprisonment each.

On the 17th morning before Nawab Syed Ameer Hossein, C. I. E., Northern Division Magistrate, eight men named Hari Churn Sadkhan (absconded), Hari Churn Pyra, Harendra Lal Dhur, Jogin Dass, Shaik Khan and Upendra Nath Sadkhan were placed on their trial, in connection with the Champatlah disturbance case. The accused were ordered to be enlarged on bail of Rs. 2,000 each.

ANOTHER PLAGUE RIOT.

On the 18th afternoon a serious riot broke out at Moulali Durga over the removal of a plague patient to the Isolation Hospital. At about noon the Health Officer received information of a new case of plague at 41 Mott's Lane. Dr. Clemow, a Bombay doctor, went down to the spot and after examining the patient, a lad of twelve years, named Bans Gopal, pronounced it to be a plague case. A plague ambulance under the charge of Superintendent Bose was sent for the removal of the patient to Manicktolah Hospital. It is said that the father and the uncle of the patient who were with him did not object to his removal. The patient was accordingly placed on the ambulance van and was thus being taken to hospital when on the way near the Moulali Durga about half a dozen men opposed the progress of the car and requested the Superintendent to take back the patient home and not to lead him to sure death by removing him to hospital. A crowd soon collected on the spot. The four coolies who were drawing the car soon cleared and six constables in plain clothes, who had been deputed from the Fennick Bazar thana to assist in the removal of the patient, if their assistance were required, were not to the found by the Superintendent at this time of emergency. He, however, showing considerable pluck, arrested the ring-leader and made him over to the constable on the beat. Information was at once sent to the Puddapukur thana from where a *posse* of constables, headed by a Jamadar, came to the rescue. Before the arrival of the police the mob attacked the Municipal officer and caused him some injuries on the face. The police made two arrests and the mob was speedily dispersed. The coolies having cleared away the patient could not be removed to Manicktolah. As the Campbell Hospital was near at hand the patient was taken to that hospital and admitted into its contagious ward for the night.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS.

A Citizen writes to the *Englishman*:—"In face of the existing anomaly resulting from extreme ignorance of the symptoms of plague will some medical gentlemen who have personally seen plague patients at Hongkong or Bombay, kindly volunteer to publish a clear description of the symptoms for guidance. The description of plague symptoms will be of great help to the residents of the town and mofussil as well. They will be able to know whether the simple fever with or without bubo, which is of almost every day occurrence in Bengal, especially, is plague or not, and if it really is, to take the necessary precautions at the first indication of the symptoms and save themselves from the inclemency of any evil-intentioned intruder, who would come to the house and threaten to drag the patient to hospital, saying it is a 'suspected case of plague' in case there is any fever at the house. What is known from hearsay, plague fever suddenly rises up to 106° F. in 12 or 24 hours, attendant with bubos, and the patient becomes delirious, and that the skin of the whole body becomes blackened, but we have no good authority to place any reliance on this. As the distinction between cholera and other malarial is known to everyone, so the people would be grateful to any eminent doctor who would kindly explain the distinction between plague and other kinds of fever."

THE PLAGUE

The inoculation scare in Darjeeling is abating, but the exodus still continues. Nepal admits fugitives.

PLAGUE at Garshankar is declining. The attack has been severe, with 138 cases, and 54 deaths; at Garhi, where it was severe, there were 102 cases with 48 deaths, and the disease is now lessening. The Jamnagar authorities object to passengers landing there from Mandvi. Native craft have stopped plying.

A boy, who was attacked by plague at Surat last week, committed suicide by throwing himself into a well in order to avoid the ordeal of the plague hospital.

The *Bombay Gazette* writes:—"Some weeks before the recurrence of plague at Karachi, thousands and thousands of rats overspread the city. Of these many hundreds began to die before the first case of plague occurred. Active measures are being taken to deal with this source of danger to the health of the community."

The Government of India have prohibited the sale of railway tickets in Bombay Presidency, Bengal, Hyderabad and Baroda States to pilgrims intending to proceed to Conjevaram in the Madras Presidency for the annual Brahmothsavam festival. The prohibition, which is issued on account of the plague, will last from May 21st to June 12th.

In the Tamarasseri Anshom of the Calicut Taluk, a type of fever has broken out which is accompanied with swelling of the body, the patient dying in the course of three days' fever.—*Kerala Patrika*.

The British Consul at Alexandria telegraphs that the Quarantine Board have decided to suspend, till further notice, the decision of last year, giving free pratique to vessels which had discharged goods or landed passengers in quarantine in the outer Harbour of Jeddah.

In accordance with the Epidemic Diseases Act, the Madras Government have taken precautionary measures against the outbreak of plague and have promulgated rules with respect to segregation, detention of passengers, evacuation of houses and infected areas, disinfection of persons and clothing, &c. The Government are anxious to keep themselves in touch with public opinion and invite the views and suggestions of those who are trustworthy exponents of public opinion.

We are informed that the Police Officers deputed at Patna Railway Station to note down arrivals there from Calcutta and other plague infected areas are utilising the occasion to their advantage. The ignorant passengers are put under fear of detention as suspected cases and blackmailed. We trust the authorities will make inquiries into the matter and if there is any truth in it will take prompt steps to put a stop to it.—*Behar Times*.

A SHILLONG correspondent writes:—"Plague having been declared at Calcutta, precautions are being taken against its coming into Assam. Two segregation camps have been constructed—one at Dhubri and the other at Chattrak; and persons coming from infected districts will, if necessary, be examined there. Owing to the declaration of plague in Calcutta, the Marwari Mahajans of this town have greatly enhanced the price of food-grains."

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

ABOUT MR. TILAK.

SIMLA, MAY 15.
The question of the release of Mr. Tilak and the other editors who have been imprisoned, has for some time past been under the consideration of the Governments of India and Bombay, and I hear, it is not unlikely that Lord Elgin will exercise his prerogative of mercy and release them.

AFFAIRS ON THE FRONTIER.

We hear again of unrest on the North-Western Frontier, especially among the Orakzais. Should the unrest increase, the Government may be compelled to take measures to put it down.

PLAGUE SCARE AT BALASORE.

BALASORE, MAY 11.
Plague rules have been extended to this town. Notice has been given by beat of drum to select caste and family hospitals. Sweepers for fear of inoculation left the town last night. No street was swept; no latrine or drain cleaned. Various wild rumours are afloat. Thousands of people from Calcutta are daily passing by the station. The Magistrate and the Civil Surgeon were informed of the inconveniences felt. All this originated from certain alleged indiscretions of municipal vaccinators. The throwing of disinfectants into the tanks, known as Mirzapukur, set apart for drinking purposes, is an additional cause of panic. The Magistrate after consulting the Civil Surgeon and the Raja Bahadur wired to the Soro and Bhadrak Police to send back sweepers who were flying. Cholera is also furiously raging and want of drinking water is keenly felt.

PRINCE RANJITSINGHI.

SIMLA, MAY 16.
Prince Ranjitsinghi is due to arrive at Simla this evening. He will play in the coming match between the Patiala and the Simla teams on the 19th and 20th instants. He joins the Patiala team and is coming direct from Abu.

LATER.

Prince Ranjitsinghi arrived here this evening.

THE DACCA CONFERENCE.

KRISHNAGORE, MAY 16.
Babus T. Banerjee, Horiprosaud Chatterji, Indubhoshan Bhaduri, Panchanan Sen, and Bissambhar Rai were elected delegates to the Dacca Conference at a meeting held to-day, under the presidency of Babu T. Banerjee.

SIMLA, MAY 17.

All Government Offices are likely to close on Thursday for the cricket match. A General Badcock, Quarter-Master-General, retires from the end of June.

The marriage is arranged between Mr. Babington Smith and the Viceroy's eldest daughter, Lady Elizabeth Bruce.

Plague is decreasing markedly all over India save in Bengal.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, MAY 13.
Mr. Chamberlain, in a speech at Birmingham to-day, said the foreign situation was serious and critical, and the time was, perhaps, not far distant when an appeal would have to be made to the patriotism of the people of Great Britain. He said they stood alone, and it was therefore the duty of the whole Empire to draw closer together and their next duty was to draw closer to their American kinsmen. Any war, he said, would be cheaply purchased if it ended in an Anglo-Saxon alliance.

Referring to China, Mr. Chamberlain said the situation was extremely unsatisfactory. Great Britain was unable to declare war with Russia without an ally. Our interests in China, he said, were so enormous that no more vital questions had ever been presented to the Government, and unless the fate of China was to be decided without England, the latter must not reject alliances.

LONDON, MAY 14.
The English newspapers in discussing Mr. Chamberlain's Birmingham speech recognise its gravity and speculate as to whether it imports pending trouble with France about West Africa, or with Russia over the China question, or the possibility of our being drawn into the present Spanish-American war over the ultimate destiny of the Philippines. The significance of the new departure, implying alliances instead of isolation, generally recognised by the press.LONDON, MAY 14.
The ferment throughout Italy is everywhere subsiding, this being principally due to the unwavering loyalty of the troops.LONDON, MAY 13.
Mr. Soames, the Liberal candidate, has been elected member for Norfolk (South) by a majority of 1,330 votes over Mr. Holmes, the Unionist candidate, replacing Mr. Taylor, the Unionist member, who resigned his seat. The polling was as follows:—Soames (Liberal), 4,620; Holmes (Unionist), 3,296 votes.LONDON, MAY 14.
It has been ascertained that the race horse Galtee More was sold with all his engagements, and will probably run at the Ascot meeting under the nominal ownership of the Grand Duke Dimitri.LONDON, MAY 14.
Lord Aberdeen has resigned the Governor-Generalship of Canada.LONDON, MAY 14.
Prince Henry of Prussia has arrived at Peking.LONDON, MAY 13.
The news of Mr. Gladstone's death is expected at any moment.LONDON, MAY 15.
The American warships at Manila have captured the Spanish gunboat Callas while entering the harbour, being unaware that hostilities with America had commenced.LONDON, MAY 15.
It is reported at Madrid that two Spanish cruisers off Havana attacked five American auxiliary cruisers, and seriously damaged one and compelled the others to retire.LONDON, MAY 15.
The suggestions for an Anglo-American alliance made in Mr. Chamberlain's speech has aroused indignation in Spain, and it is stated that the Spanish Government has called attention of the European Powers to dangers such an alliance would be Continental interests.LONDON, MAY 16.
The flying squadron under Admiral Schley, which is in search of the Spanish fleet, has passed Charleston and is proceeding to Key West.LONDON, MAY 16.
Advices from Sierra Leone state that fighting is taken place between the troops and the rebels in the Hinterland, in which the rebels were defeated with heavy loss.LONDON, MAY 16.
The American press generally gives its warm approval to Mr. Chamberlain's speech at Birmingham, and cordially welcomes a better understanding and prospective alliance between Great Britain and the United States.LONDON, MAY 16.
The movement of Admiral Cervera's Spanish Squadron is at present absorbing public interest. It is known that the squadron left Curacao on Sunday.LONDON, MAY 16.
It is rumoured that three more cruisers from Cadix have reached Martinique.LONDON, MAY 19.
Censorship has been established in America over the movements of the Americans squadrons.LONDON, MAY 16.
It has been decided to send 15,000 American troops to Manila instead of 5,000.

MR. GLADSTONE DYING.

LONDON, MAY 16.
The Queen has written to Mr. Gladstone expressing her gratitude for the work he has done for the country during his long public life. The Princess of Wales has telegraphed to Mr. Gladstone that she is praying for him.

PRINCE HENRY IN CHINA.

LONDON, MAY 16.
Prince Henry of Prussia has paid a visit to Dowager Empress and Emperor of China and conversed with the latter privately, only an interpreter being present.

BOUND FOR WEI-HAI-WEI.

LONDON, MAY 19.
A British man-of-war is going to Wei-hai-wei to make a thorough survey.

SHERPUR, MAY 18.

The Sradh ceremony of the late Pandit Hara Chandra Chaudhuri Bidyabinode, zemindar of Sherpur, was celebrated on the 1st Jaistha with great *edat*. A good many pandits attended the ceremony. Nearly 6,000 poor people were sumptuously fed and alms distributed amongst them. All bless the family of the Pandit Chaudhuri for its liberality. We hope the sons of the late Pandit will do something substantial to perpetuate his memory.

Dacca, MAY 19.

MR. LALMOHAN GHOSH having expressed his inability to act as the Chairman of the Reception Committee for domestic reasons, Babu Guruprosad Sen has kindly accepted it.

LONDON, MAY 18.

There is no further news yet of the Spanish or American Squadrons. The only news is from the seat of war in Cuba, where an American launch, while removing torpedoes at the mouth of Cardenas harbour, was blown up, and seven men on board perished.

LONDON, MAY 18.

The Spanish General Rodriguez has defeated the Cuban rebels in the Camen hills, killing two hundred of them.

The *Times* refers with satisfaction to the marked friendliness of Lord Salisbury's references to Japan in his speech last night, and advocates the training of small native military forces for service at Wei-Hai-Wei.

LONDON, MAY 18.

The German semi-official press regards Mr. Chamberlain's suggestion regarding alliances as pointing to Germany, and discusses the speech in a friendly spirit.

LONDON, MAY 17.

In the House of Lords to-night, Lord Kimberley asked for explanations regarding Mr. Chamberlain's speech. Lord Salisbury in reply declined to discuss the matter without the speech before him. His Lordship said the policy of Great Britain was unchanged and consists in maintaining the Chinese Empire, developing commerce, and preserving friendly relations with all nations. The aims of the occupation of Wei-hai-wei were intended to encourage China to resist the domination of one Power. His Lordship said he was unable to believe in the collapse of a nation of 400 million of brave people.

LONDON, MAY 17.

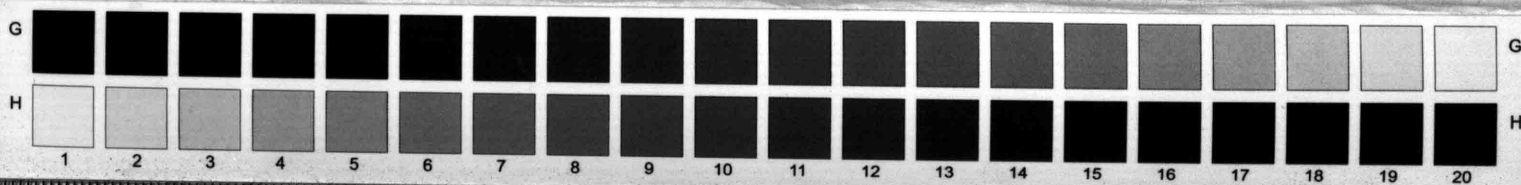
Lord George Hamilton, replying to a question from Mr. Maclean in the House of Commons, said that if the Currency Committee consider the policy of closing the Mints relevant, there is nothing in the terms of reference to prevent them enquiring into the result thereof.

LONDON, MAY 17.
Mr. Gladstone is in *ex tremis* and almost unconscious. He is occasionally heard murmuring fragments of prayers in French.LONDON, MAY 17.
The evacuation of Thessaly by the Turks has commenced.LONDON, MAY 18.
The sentiment in America in favour of the Anglo-Saxon alliance appears General and is increasing.LONDON, MAY 18.
Captain Baillie, of the Seaforth Highlanders has died at Cairo from his wounds received at Atbara.LONDON, MAY 18.
Captain Greer's Wild Fowler has been scratched for the Derby.

A FEELING of indignation is manifested in Spain at the attitude of Great Britain, which is considered towards the United States.

The *Republique Francaise* cannot believe that England really intends to make "so scandalously immoral a bargain" as to sign a treaty of alliance with the United States in the present juncture. "One consideration which will prevent her is the knowledge that the Great Powers could not look on indifferently at the accomplishment of any such result," for it would precipitate a general war.

The Prince of Wales held a Council at Marlborough House on April 23 on behalf of the Queen, by virtue of a Royal Commission issued under the Great Seal, for approving the draft of a proclamation of neutrality. There were present the Duke of Devonshire, K. G., Lord President of the Council, Viscount Cross, G. C. B., Lord Privy Seal, and Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Secretary for in attendance as Clerk of the Council.



LESSONS OF THE BOMBAY PLAGUE

(II.)

(By a Bombayite.)

A POLICY OF DISTRUST.

ON the last occasion I suggested that the error which initiated the whole plague policy of the Bombay Government, and which finally wrecked it, is not yet clearly apprehended; and even the Bengal Government appear in danger of falling into it. The error lay in the miscalculation, on the part of Government, of the real difficulties in dealing with a matter like the plague and the forces they could command. Since the administration became centralized, a very regrettable change has come over the attitude of officials at the head-quarters, a change which is strongly condemned by many experienced officers themselves. The supreme power having more and more come into the hands of Secretariat staff who are mostly deskmen and have little experience of the difficulties of actual administration in the mofussil, and who, therefore, think that they can accomplish anything by paper Resolutions and that the only thing for Government officials to do is to issue orders after orders which must be carried out to the letter. Consequently the administration is becoming more and more doctrinaire and rigid, while the officers who issue orders from their Secretariat chambers are completely out of touch with the feelings and sentiments of the people. District Officers are now often heard to complain that much of their valuable time is taken up in sending daily reports to gods on Olympus and reading detailed instructions from them even on matters of detail, a task which leaves them very little time for their legitimate work, personal supervision of the District administration. Hence did we see during the last year's famine the curious spectacle of District Officers often engaged at their desks in compiling returns and reports for the information of their superiors, when they should have been touring in the district and attending to the wants of the starving population.

In ordinary times when only routine work is to be done, much difficulty is not felt; but all the evils of this vitiated system appear in times of new emergencies such as famine or plague. When the plague broke out in Bombay, the clerical Secretariat of Bombay was completely taken unawares, and could not decide for four months as to what course to adopt; and when they did take measures against the plague, they proceeded with a vengeance. They supposed they could annihilate plague at once with a few Government notifications; and to enforce quarantine and segregation over millions of oriental people, was as easy as to drive a herd of cattle into a pound. They issued shoals of paper regulations with an amazing disregard of the habits and feelings of people, and subordinate officials were strictly enjoined to carry them out literally. These latter again, being mostly selected for the occasion and quite indiscriminately, were armed with unlimited powers; and what wonder is that they exercised them to their own advantage? The result was both tyranny and corruption. If a Hospital Assistant for instance, usually drawing Rs. 30 per mensem, was appointed Railway Inspector with full powers to detain anybody and for any length of time he pleased, is it unnatural that he should fill his pocket daily by extra *bushis*? There was no check and no test for his work, while the Secretariat official would be complacently thinking that his orders were being fully carried out.

Take again the disinfecting tanks that were in vogue at several stations. Every passenger, whether a Brahmin or a coolie or a mehtar, was obliged to wash his body and clothes in the same tank. Could the Secretariat official who ordered this arrangement, have any idea with what feeling of disgust Hindus and Mahomedans looked upon the sight?

Women huddled with men, wives and children separated from husbands and given in charge of police for hours together! When these were sights of daily occurrence, can anybody guess the amount of heart-burning they must have created? And what can we say of the wisdom of those who framed these rules and remained supremely indifferent as to how they were carried out.

Hardly a family will be found throughout the Bombay Presidency that has not suffered one way or other by these plague measures; and they will never forget the experience. To them the year 1897 will always remain associated with official *zulum*; and traditions will go, from generation to generation, of the atrocities practised in 1897 in the Bombay Presidency under the cover of plague measures, and in spite of the best intentions of the Government. Did those who originally initiated the measures, ever stop to think how they would be carried out? It is no use simply saying that the measures were humane and intended for the good of the people themselves. That sort of cant is stale, and brings no balm to the afflicted heart of the husband or the parent. The value of the pudding lies in the testing; and so the sole test for these measures is how they were carried out.

Only two questions are relevant: Did they appreciably prevent or check the epidemic? The answer must be "no." Did they harass the people? The reply is emphatically "yes." And the measures, therefore, must be condemned as unwise, impolitic, and cruel, though there is no question about the benevolent intentions of their authors.

Nor was the result unexpected. All impartial observers predicted some such consequences; the Indian press strongly disapproved of them, and people loudly complained. The authorities would not wake up even after these clear indications of the harsh working of their rules. They tried to muzzle the press and suppress the complaints, by prosecutions and police terrorism; but the rising fire of discontent found an outlet somewhere; and when deprived of constitutional means of bringing their grievances to the notice of the authorities, people naturally had recourse to the savage methods of riots and strikes. Who are to blame for these consequences? Certainly those who initiated the policy that ultimately led to them. Trusting in their vast resources and their superior wisdom, the Secretariat Deskmen spurned all outside advice, and gave no heed to actual difficulties of execution of people's feelings in the matter. Like the doctrinaire politicians of the old days who had no experience of the actual conditions of life, they built up paper schemes and hoped to put them in motion like clockwork with military force at the back, if necessary. And of course, after the measures were once initiated, people grumbled, that big monster *prestige*

blocked the way of any receding. This is the genesis of the disastrous Bombay plague administration.

I call it a policy of distrust, for, it must have originated in some such feeling. If there ever was a thing in which the interests of the rulers as well as the ruled were united, it was the campaign against the plague. Both the authorities and the people were at first equally anxious to drive out the monster by every possible means. Here was a splendid opportunity for co-operation among all classes, officials and non-officials, Europeans and natives, rich and poor; and General Gatacre did achieve something like it in Bombay. What a splendid memorial it would have been of Her Majesty's grand Jubilee if the ideal could have been completely realized! There would then have been no discontent, no murders, no riots, no press prosecutions, and no deportations to break the unstained record of our loyalty. All this might have been achieved, if the authorities had at the outset shown confidence in the people, invited the co-operation of the people, consulted their leaders in every matter, and looked to their comforts and conveniences as far as possible. But, no; the Fates willed otherwise.

The officials could not cast off their pride and their insularity. They started with the postulate that people are rogues and are not to be trusted at all. In all matters of doubt, the presumption was always to be against the people. It was this feeling that permeated the whole administration from top to bottom. Take a small instance. The late Mr. Rand employed British soldiers. Why? because native inspectors were not to be trusted. The soldiers searched every nook and corner of the house and invaded even the privacy of the zenana because the house-owner, however respectable, was sure to deceive. The soldier broke open cup-boards and even cigar-boxes; for, who knows but a corpse might be concealed there? How can a human corpse be concealed in a cigar-box? But Tommy Atkins is a blunt-headed fellow, and the thought never occurred to him. The fault lay with those who employed him, on such a delicate task and gave him instructions.

Take again the rules of quarantine. Government laid down the rule that respectable persons were not to be detained. So every European was let off because he was presumably a respectable man; but every native was presumed to be not so and was detained unless he could give proof of his respectability. Mr. Justice Boddipudi was detained until he was known to be a High Court Judge, while his European subordinate, who was in the same carriage, was let off without a question. Again, all persons coming from a certain direction were quarantined because they were presumed to be infected.

Instances could be multiplied *ad infinitum*. If a little economy or a little administrative convenience could be secured, no thought was given to people's comforts or conveniences. All railway passengers from Bombay upcountry were quarantined at Kalyan or Bandra for 8 days and why? Because Government could not provide detention camps at each station. People were put in quarantine, but very little was done to make adequate provision of food water or conservancy; and the local officers, when appealed to by the distressed people, often gave the brutal answer, it was no business of theirs and the people must shift for themselves.

What did all this signify? Does it not bear the appearance of treating a whole population as a set of criminals? And all this, not for any fault but for their misfortune that the plague was on them. Even the worst criminal in the dock was given the benefit of doubt, and, if sent to jail, is properly fed and housed. But the plague-ridden people of Bombay were not to be shown even that much indulgence. Was it a wonder that the people, ignorant as they were, came to prefer plague to the measures adopted to prevent it? It is all very well to call the people *bushman* and to send them to prison when they break out into riots; but who is to be punished for the untold miseries inflicted upon thousands of people in the name of plague prevention? Could such a state of things have been tolerated in England or in any other European country for even a day? The authorities began by distrusting the people, and the people have only learnt the lesson instilled into them with such force.

I hope the Bengal Government will not repeat the error of the Bombay Government. They should take the people into their confidence. Their first duty was to convene a meeting of the leading citizens and invite their advice as well as hearty co-operation. Instead of proclaiming the crude remedies His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor should give the assurance that nothing would be done without consulting the leaders of the people. If the Bengal Government had adopted this policy before announcing the existence of plague in Calcutta, this unprecedented scare would have not overtaken the minds of the ignorant populace among whom the plague policy of the Bombay Government has created the greatest distrust about the intentions of Government.

MR. W. L. HARVEY has been appointed to officiate as Accountant General Bombay.

THE strike at the Perambore works of the Madras Railway is still as far off settlement as ever, not a single workman having returned to work.

MR. SWAMINATHA AIVAR's term of office as Comptroller of Accounts, Travancore, is soon to come to an end. Rumour says that His Highness' Government intends applying to the Madras Government to extend this officer's term for a year more.

IN consequence of the reduction of wages it is reported that about three hundred men employed in the Bombay Arsenal went on strike on the 13th instant. They have, however, resumed their work after much efforts on the part of the authorities.

DURING his recent journey from Lucknow to Naini Tal, the new Post-Master-General of the N.-W. Province (Mr. Cornwall) narrowly escaped being plundered by a railway thief of his luggage. The man was caught in the act, having waked the sleeping passenger, and after a smart and exciting scuffle the fellow was secured and made over to the railway police at Shahjahanpur. Quite recently, too, the Personal Assistant to the Inspector-General of Police was robbed on the line while asleep, of some Rs. 1,200. Arrests have been made. It is evident both travellers and the railway police of the O. and R. R. need to be on the alert against these depredators.

SEARCHING FOR PLAGUE CASES.

DR. BLANEY writes to the *Times of India*:—Our second plague visitation has nearly declined to the vanishing point, and I still find "search parties" at work hunting for plague cases in people's houses, and worrying and terrifying the weak and the tame, the very persons who are most in need of being permitted to live in peace. In your plague column to-day I find a notice of one of these plague hunts which closely resembles a rat hunt, and after a two hours' run the searchers found "no case of plague in the district." What then is the justification for this barbaric interference with the people in their homes? Let me ask these plague hunters, or rat-hunters, what earthly good can possibly result from their sneaking into houses and disturbing and distressing inoffensive people? Do they suppose they are stamping out a plague or preventing its spread to Calcutta? Does any one then know anything about plague infection, and how and under what circumstances this infection is conveyed to man? Can any one of these plague hunters produce one atom of evidence that their hunting has diminished the number of plague cases by one single unit? Do they not know, or have they not heard that the whole sanitary world have set their faces as a flint against compulsory segregation? Nay they know nothing about plague and its way of infection. All they do know is the fun derived from hunting up real or imaginary cases, and of disturbing whole households in whole districts. It may be fun to them—the hunters, but it is nearly death to their quarry, and if they are natives they know the injury they are doing. I protest in the name of humanity against a continuance of these plague hunts, and would recommend the hunters to study the science and the details of the business to which they have voluntarily apprenticed themselves. Novices all, incompetents all, in the very great subject of plague prevention and plague abatement, will none of the friends of these hunters be kind enough to try and persuade them that they have mistaken their vocation. Whatever else they may be fit for, nothing is more certain than that they are quite unfit for abolishing or abating plagues.

I did hope that these misguided hunters would in time see their own failures and recognise their own cruelties, but as they persist in carrying on their oppression to the bitter end, with the chances of that stupid oppression being continued long after the city is free of plague, I feel justified in making this loud and very strong protest against our organised city tormentors.

If these hunters want laurel, decorations and evening parties, let them come to me to get up the *Amara*. This suffering city has found no saviours in the time of its distress. What it has found has been ignorant tormentors under the guise of philanthropic friends, so-called friends, subservient friends, ignorant friends amongst their own people.

SOME LEGAL RESULTS OF WAR BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

NOW that war has broken out between America and Spain, an article in the *English Law Journal* under the above heading will be found interesting. The article summarises the results as follows:—

"One result of the outbreak of war would be that either belligerent would have the right to search any merchant vessel upon the high sea to ascertain its nationality and nature of the cargo on board. Resistance to the right of search according to the rule which has been emphatically affirmed in the British Prize Courts, renders the ship liable to condemnation.

The United States and Spain are not parties to the Declaration of Paris. Consequently they are not bound by the rule that the neutral flag covers the cargo. Therefore a British ship carrying a cargo belonging to either belligerent could be taken by a ship of the other belligerent to a convenient port for the purpose of having the cargo condemned. Under such circumstances the usage is for the captor to pay freight to the captured ship.

Goods which are contraband of war, destined for the use of the enemy, are liable to confiscation, and freight is not allowed in respect of them to the carrier. This carriage of contraband goods does not, however, according to the prize law of most countries, render the ship liable to any other penalty in the absence of fraud or other aggravating circumstances. There are dicta in one or two English cases that when the ship-owner is privy to the carriage of contraband goods, his ship is liable to condemnation; but there is no English or American case in which such a principle has been clearly established.

A ship which violates an effective blockade is, together with the cargo intended for the blockaded port, liable to capture.

It is, however, clearly established that by English law trade in contraband goods or to a blockaded port is lawful for a British subject when this country is neutral. Therefore a charter, made by a British ship-owner for the purpose of running a blockade, could not be repudiated by him. On the other hand, performance of a contract to carry goods to a port, which, before the loading, becomes blockaded, is excused when the charter contains an exception of restraints of princes. And even without this exception the shipowner would, it is thought, not be bound to carry out his contract, on the ground that the adventure had been frustrated by circumstances not contemplated when the contract was made.

The question is a more difficult one if in the course of the voyage, the port of destination should become blockaded. If the cargo-owner requires delivery at a port where the ship has put in, the *Teutonia*, 41 Law J. Rep. Ad. 4, is an authority for saying that he must pay freight. If the ship-owner calls on him to take delivery elsewhere than at the port of destination, it has been held that he does not, by accepting the cargo, become liable to pay any freight (*Castel v. Trechman*, 1 C. & E. 276). If the cargo-owner absolutely refuses to take delivery elsewhere, it seems probable, on the scanty authorities dealing with the point, that the ship-owner must keep the cargo until it is possible to deliver it, unless the charter contains the usual clause for delivery "as near thereto as she can safely get," and it is possible to discharge the cargo at some place near to the blockaded port.

Contracts of insurance, made in this country, would not, from a legal point of view, be much

affected by a war between two foreign States. Insurances on the property of belligerents would be valid, unless, as was the common practice in maritime wars, a warranty of neutrality were inserted in the policy, but unless the character of the property were disclosed, the policy might be avoided on the ground of concealment. It follows from the fact that trade in contraband goods or to a blockaded port would, by English law, be lawful, that an insurance on such goods on such a voyage would be good. But the nature of the cargo or of the voyage would aggravate the risk, and would therefore have to be disclosed."

Correspondence.

ARE WE REALLY PLAGUE-STRICKEN?

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR.—The "Mirror," we are sorry to find, is now "climbing down." It began with a flash, and ended in smoke, instead of bringing glorious light out of smoke. In its Saturday's issue it disgorged its editorial by the statement that plague of a sporadic form has visited the city, and he has supported his statement by the vague assertion that medical men of the city are of the same opinion. As far as our knowledge goes, we make bold to say, that medical men of note, both allopathic and homoeopathic, have strongly opposed the statement that plague is in the city. Now as to the presence of plague in our midst, I for one, with due deference to the notification of the Government, cannot persuade myself to believe that we have this dread visitor in our midst; and I believe, I am not singular in this opinion. Medical men of this city who have largely contributed to the medical literature of the day, also entertain the same opinion. I visited the plague hospital at Manicktolla, and after a careful examination of the cases that have been detained there, my opinion was confirmed, that not a single case was a case of plague. But opinions might differ. It is, however, my belief, and firm belief too, that independent observation will produce the same result, as it has done in my case; but those who will see the cases with jaundiced eyes, may arrive at a different decision. It is a pity that Bengal Government is helpless in the matter, and is obliged to abide by the opinion of a single expert who is a mere chemist and not a physician. Is then the fate of the city, and its commercial interest, to be at the mercy of one expert? In the whole of British India, is there none who can be pitted against M. Haffkine? The *Englishman* has announced that Dr. Cunningham can not return to India in the present state of his health. Is there no other bacteriologist in the whole of England who can be imported to decide a vital question in the interests of humanity and for the welfare of the metropolis of British India? Things are drifting to such a pass that we are afraid that if some immediate arrangements be not made to give assurance to the people that the cry of plague is simply a hoax, and inoculation is an optional measure, Calcutta will share the fate of ancient Gour. It is, we believe, high time for the authorities not to remain contented with the decision of a single expert. If Dr. Cunningham can not come, they ought to bring out another expert who is also a physician. They ought to bear in mind that their stake is greater than the stake of the people; and why should such a magnificent city be allowed to go to ruin on the strength of the culture of a single so-called plague-patient, analysed by a single expert in a place which is full of the cultures of real plague cases, and whose confusion is quite possible, especially when there is no other expert to help him or to correct him? The Government has acted rather rashly in accepting such an expert's opinion as final. It may be his interest to back up everything about plague; but how can the verdict of a single expert exercise such a magnetic influence upon such a powerful Government, more than we can imagine. Are we really plague-stricken? No, we are not. It is the serious and solemn duty of all civilized Governments to be perfectly assured that the whole medical profession is in favour of the verdict of M. Haffkine, and that it has also received the support of other independent, disinterested and unprejudiced experts. The health of the town this year is exceptionally good; and we generally come across one or two stray cases of ordinary fever, diarrhoea, dysentery or cholera. The number of chronic cases is also comparatively small. Rumours are, however, afloat that all cases are now reported as plague cases; but as we are never believers in false reports, we take them for what they are worth. As I said before, plague can never break out in Bengal. The soil, its climate and its surroundings are quite unpropitious to the growth of this exotic. The Bombay medical men who have been imported here, have added another observation that there is "no brine in the atmosphere." This brine is possible only in countries and provinces situated on the sea-coasts, or in places contiguous to hills and mountains. Our good ruler Sir John Woodburn, we believe, would be fully justified in relaxing his plague rules and regulations. The *Englishman* says that though the culture was examined by M. Haffkine alone, the inspections of suspicious cases by Drs. Hendley, Bomford, Charles, Dyson and Cook, emboldened Government to prove the existence of plague in Calcutta, and make a declaration to the same effect from the Council Chamber. But is this enough? Remittent fever cases may simulate plague cases, which are *de facto* not plague cases; and from the inspection of a few suspicious cases to hazard a decision, which may or may not be right, is a proceeding which we do not deem right or justified. A few so-called plague cases, according to the estimate of those eminent doctors, have occurred in the town, as is evident from the mortality returns; and is it not very delicate to pronounce a decisive opinion, an opinion which has endangered the well-being of the whole town and draw inference from a handful of cases? The public would have been perfectly satisfied had M. Haffkine's analysis been corroborated by another expert, as was done last year. We should place more reliance on microscopic examination of plague cases than on mere inspection of a handful of cases even by the pick of medicos who have not a large experience of plague cases. The remark of the "Merchant" in the *L. D. News* seems to be very apt, that "to hunt out plague cases by Vigilance Committees in order that

some reality may be given to the plague scare which the vital statistics fail to support, is fine, indeed!"

HURRONATH ROY L. M. S.

SEEING UNDER WATER.

AN engineer of Cracow, Malachowski, has devised a clever instrument, by means of which plant and animal life can be studied under water, and ships' hulls and bridge piers be examined. The instrument is practically a binocular with a long tube. It consists of three parts, the lenses, the diverging tube made of zinc and the closed box into which the zinc cone fits. This box is made of sheet iron, has a diameter of about one foot, and is closed below by a strong glass plate packed between rubber washers. In order to protect the plate from stones, the box is provided with iron feet. The field of view under the plate is illuminated by an electric incandescence lamp, which is held by a bent arm. Another lamp can be fixed in a short branch tube starting from the box. This branch, which is hermetically closed, is needed, because the moisture would condense on the inner face of the glass plate, if this face were not carefully painted with pure vaseline. To do this, the box must be accessible. Weights are required to overcome the hydrostatic pressure. That pressure might crush the glass plate, and the water rushing up damage the lenses and the eye of the observer. Such water would find an exit through an opening in the upper part tube. Captain Stuykel, whose short description in the *Mittheilungen über Gegenstände des Artillerie- und Genie-Wesens* we follow, states that Malachowski has experimented with tubes 50 feet long. The electric wires are carried down inside the tube. When lateral observations are to be made, as will generally be the case on board ship, for operations connected with hydraulic engineering, the inventor employs a different box, in which a mirror is placed under an angle of 45 degrees. We do not know how far the experience of the inventor extends, but he seems to have overcome the more apparent difficulties.—*Engineering*.

AN extensive dacoiti is reported from Arraoiti, property amounting to Rs. 46,000 being carried off by a large gang, several to whom were arrested.

THE fourth centenary of Vasco da Gama's landing at Calicut, will be celebrated at Poona by the Portuguese community on Friday next, the 20th.

THE Mysore Durbar is taking a practical interest in the question of Agricultural Banks, two such Banks have been recently sanctioned.

MR. E. B. RAIKES, Barrister-at-Law, is to act as Principal and Professor of Law, Government Law School, Bombay, during the absence, on leave, of Mr. L. J. Robertson.

THE Governor of Goa proposes to convert British coin circulating at Goa into Portuguese rupees. This will give the Goa Treasury a clear profit of twenty-two lakhs, which is nearly equal to the whole of the yearly revenue of that settlement; but if the British rupees be melted down, the Portuguese ones will probably fall heavily in value.

MR. J. S. C. DAVIS, Deputy Commissioner of Bara Banki, has been obliged to take leave on medical certificate. Mr. H. R. C. Lobbs will officiate for Mr. Davis during his absence, and Mr. A. W. Pim, Assistant Commissioner at Lucknow, will act as Private Secretary in place of Mr. Dobbs.

At a General Court Martial held at Kohat, Sepoy Panjab Singh, 3rd Sikh Infantry, was arraigned on a charge of committing murder by shooting Havildar-Major Rattan Singh of the same regiment. The Court found the prisoner guilty and sentenced him to be hanged.

THE Russian, who claims to be a regularly diplomated physician from a Russian university, was on May 11 deported from Quetta under the provisions of the European Vagrancy Act, via Karachi and Singapore to Vladivostok, the Secretary of State as represented by the local Government having taken an agreement from him that he will not return to India within a term of five years. His expenses are defrayed in full by the Government. He was despatched in charge of a Sergeant of the local police.

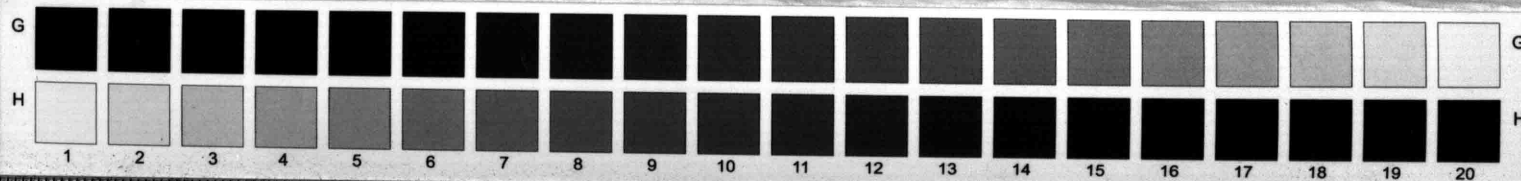
A CURIOUS mystery is the temporary uneasiness of animals about an hour before dawn, no matter at what hour this occurs. Children turn and mean, elderly people awaken and turn over for another sleep, cocks crow, dogs become uneasy, and horses and cattle move about for a short period, when stillness returns for a time. What is the cause? Are the animals affected by some magnetic wave, which precedes sunlight an hour or so, or is the habit one of heredity passed down through numberless generations from an original wild state, when an alertness just before daylight was necessary for protection from enemies?

THE greatest height ever reached in a balloon was 16,160 ft. two of the three aeronauts who made this ascent were suffocated.

IN Darjeeling, the scare still exists, and the exodus of the lower classes continues. Cards of protection, to give confidence, have been spoken of, but they may do more harm than good, as the ignorant and more enlightened will argue: "Why do we need protection if there is no truth in the scare? The latest story is that the two waggons of plague lymph have been brought by rail and thrown into the hill streams to poison people. The coolies on the gardens near the streams now use spring water only."

An obstruction was found placed on the Gya Railway line, the other day, says the *Behar Herald*. Inquiry is being made.

ON the 14th instant the Hon'ble Mr. H. T. Ross, of the Madras Civil Service, was found dead in his room at Ootacamund. Death, it is reported, was due to suicide. Mr. Ross was recommended by the Madras Government for two years' special duty in connection with the codifying of the Madras Land Laws, but this the Government of India refused. Mr. Ross then applied for a place in the Secretariat. This also was refused. He then refused to introduce the Madras Tenancy Bill into the Council, and tendered his resignation. His name will be remembered in connection with some matrimonial cases which came before the High Court some years ago, since when he has been of a very excitable disposition. Some years ago, when District Judge in the Godavari, he temporarily went out of his mind while trying the celebrated Pitapore case, and had to be sent home, the case being taken up and finished by another Judge. The cause of his committing suicide is perhaps his exclusion from what he considered the best places in the service.



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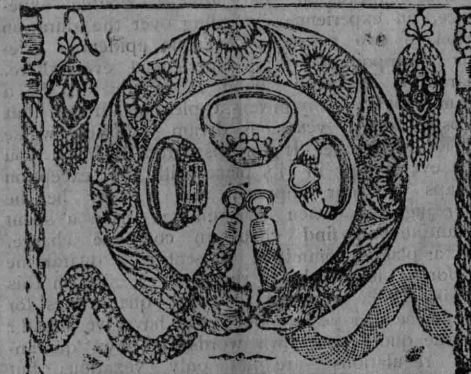
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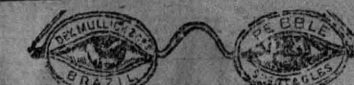
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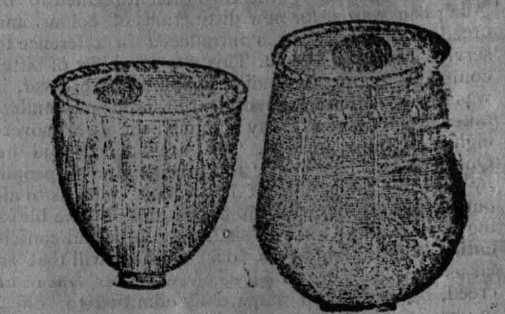
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