

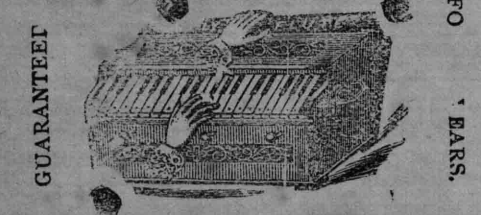


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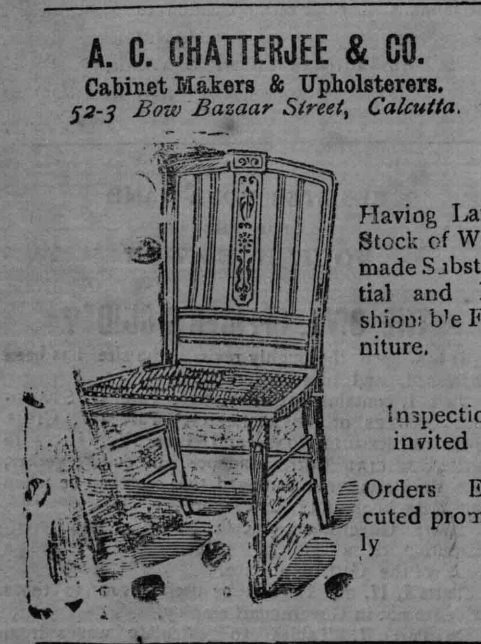
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THE HINDU SYSTEM OF RELIGIOUS SCIENCE AND ART. The price of the book is one rupee. The Amrita Bazar Patrika says regarding the book: "The Hindu System of Moral Science,"

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Babu Nitraya Gopal Dutt, Zemindar Mozilpur writes: "I have used your Pill and can bear testimony to its marvellous effects."

Kumar Hemendra Krishna of the Sovabazaj family, writes: "I am glad to state that have been cured of acidity and dyspepsia."

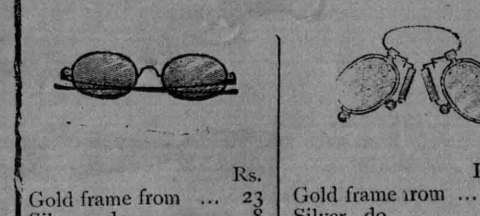
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LOVE AS A LAW OF NATURE

A REPLY TO PROFESSOR HUXLEY.

There is a remarkable article in the Monist for January by Dr. Woods Hutchinson, of the University of Buffalo. It is entitled "Love as a Factor in Evolution."

LOVE AND THE COSMIC LAW. The article seems to have been suggested by Professor Huxley's declaration in his Sholdenian Oration of 1893, that goodness of virtue was opposed to the cosmic law, for self-assertion was the essence of the cosmic process.

LOVE THE FIRST FACTOR AFTER HUNGER. He starts from the more popular and emphatic assertion that—Love with its daughter, Goodness, is not only a legitimate product of the process, but next to Hunger, the most powerful factor in it.

THE SINE AS THE SINAI OF ALL RELIGION. Dr. Hutchinson is on a firmer ground when he comes to deal with a phenomenon of sentient being. He maintains that love is as natural and necessary an emotion as hunger.

PARENTAGE THE SOURCE OF ALTRUISM. Mere sex attraction, however, does not evolve goodness or altruism in its highest form until it has resulted in parentage.

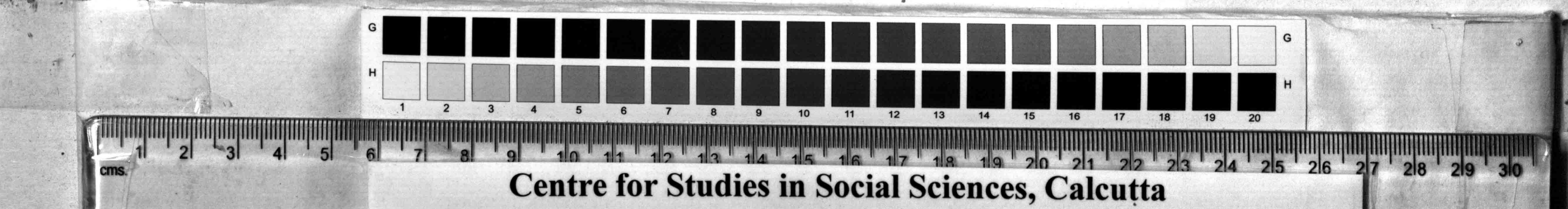
LOVE THE MAINSPRING OF CIVILISATION. Dr. Hutchinson maintains that civilisation itself is due to the operation of this same law of love. What keeps the savage, a savage is not any lack of intelligence, but lack of brotherly kindness.

LOVE THE TRUE SECRET OF EMPIRE. Dr. Hutchinson concludes by applying his principle to politics, and that in a fashion that every English-speaking man must accept as a great compliment for according to Dr. Hutchinson, the reason why the English-speaking race is at this moment dominating the world is not because of their ruthless self-assertion.

LOVE THE LAW OF LIFE. Dr. Hutchinson summarises his own paper in the following pregnant sentences:—My main object is simply to call attention to the fact that combination is as essential and important a law of nature as antagonism, friendly co-operation as hostility.

LOVE THE LAW OF LIFE. "Live and let live" is as necessary a part of the struggle for existence as "war to the knife."

LOVE THE LAW OF LIFE. This is at least a cheerful rendering of the doctrine of Evolution. The old conception of "Nature red in tooth and claw," shrieking in red ravine against the Christian creed, appears to have done Nature an injustice.



Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta

THE Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JULY 28, 1898.

THE WIDENING OF THE BREACH.

We said that if the Europeans are trained to feel that the Indians are disagreeable neighbours...

Here is the case of another educated Englishman, a writer in the Morning Post...

Now we must say the Morning Post is conducted on liberal principles, but that makes the case worse...

In his remarks the Morning Post has not shown his disregard for justice, but disregard for Indian feeling...

When this is the feeling even amongst some educated Englishmen, it must be worse amongst the lower classes...

Now, we beg to submit, how is the Government to accommodate such men in India? Suppose the number of such Europeans go on increasing...

Take the case of Parker. He was in need of a prostitute, and prostitute, do take liberties with those who associate with them...

Parker has been acquitted, but that is not the point at issue. What we want to point out is the utter contempt which Parker felt for native life...

And when one of them was arrested, he was highly offended. He felt he was the aggrieved party. He declared that he was being insulted before natives!

Thoughtless and irresponsible Anglo-Indian writers may indulge in their mistaken patriotism, but the problem is day by day getting to be a difficult one...

attempts of vindicating law and justice. The peroration of the Chief Justice in the Barrackpore case is an indication of what the view of the Government is in this question...

We publish elsewhere the report of the closing proceedings of the trial of three Artillerymen charged with causing the death of Dr. Sircar at Barrackpur...

HYDROPATHY IN SNAKE-BITES. THE custom in India amongst the Hindus is, to throw the body of a man, killed by snake-bite, into water...

The body of a dead man, who has died of snake-bite, is thrown into water for another very good reason. It is believed that an immersion in water may effect a complete neutralization of the snake poison...

Two authentic cases have somewhat established the efficacy of this jal-shar, as a mode of treatment in desperate cases. Both the patient and the snake doctor are just now before us, to testify to the efficacy of this treatment...

Though bitten, he did not let go the snake. But he was no doubt frightened, and therefore, with the snake in hand, he proceeded to Mamdupore...

When we heard so far from Danej an account of his case, we thought that the testimony of the doctor himself was absolutely necessary to make the thing sure...

The doctor came, and he and Danej are now both standing before us. We asked the doctor to finish his part of the story.

He said: "When I was asked to try, if I could save the man I saw there was little chance. He had been bitten at about 10 in the morning and it was then about 4 in the afternoon..."

"The patient had been made to remain in a sitting posture leaning on his brother. Some water jars were procured, and a good many men and women volunteered the service of fetching water..."

he then gave a violent shake to his body and began to shiver.

"The shivering increased and his teeth chatterd, and I could then perceive that the poison in his system had been neutralized."

"I then ceased my treatment. The shivering is the symptom to indicate that the poison has been expelled."

"On being asked, the patient replied that he felt cold, though very much free. I then gave him a purgative to expel from his stomach all the noxious things with which he had been drugged by the other doctors..."

"And is this treatment infallible?" In answer, says the doctor, "that depends upon the condition of the patient. If he is gone too far, he cannot be brought back to life."

How many jars of water are usually to be poured over the head of the patient to cure him?

"There is no certainty," says the doctor. "Sometimes ten, sometimes one hundred. Well, when a hundred jars had been tried without success, we give up the case as a hopeless one."

Did you try this method anywhere else, and with what result?

"Yes, I tried it with the female relation of Mate-Ullab, a neighbour, and she was saved."

How is it that other doctors recommend hot water?

"I don't know that, but I have been taught to use cold water and have succeeded with it."

The Malvaidyas or snake-doctors have no faith in charms and hydropathy. We sent for one of their leaders, brought him face to face with Danej, the man bitten and cured, and asked him to account for this apparent virtue in jal-shar in the case of the latter...

Anyhow, as this treatment is to be resorted to when every other mode has failed and been given up, the jal-shar may be tried in such cases without incurring any responsibility.

A FEW WORDS MORE ABOUT THE BARRACKPORE CASE.

It has afforded us much pleasure to find that almost the entire Anglo-Indian press and a large number of Europeans, official and non-official, have taken a most sympathetic view of the Barrackpore murder case. The attitude of the Government in dealing with the case was just what it should have been...

I have read with regret and surprise the article reproduced in your columns to-day from the Indian Daily News on the Barrackpore murder case. It would be more than useless to discuss such a matter with the occupant of an editorial chair whose mind is so thoroughly prejudiced as to be capable of penning an article such as that now referred to...

The evidence in the case, which was patiently listened to by the jury, was sufficiently lucid to bring in a unanimous verdict. Counsel for the defence acted not only wisely, but prudently, in abstaining from the introduction of the habit, the Daily News alleges Dr. Sircar was addicted to. Had counsel done so, I dare venture to assert that the result to the prisoners would have been much more serious than it has been.

It is quite time now sterner measures, than those at present exist, should be adopted to suppress the reckless disregard of human life of the natives of the country, held. I very much regret to say, among many Europeans, civil as well as military, at a low estimate, I would fain hope the sentence just passed in the case under notice, will have a salutary effect...

sentence was lenient to a degree, and that ninety per cent. of the Europeans in India agree with me.

OLD SOLDIER. The significance of the above cannot be over-stated, coming as it does from a Military Officer. Says he: "My sympathies, with many hundreds of Europeans, are entirely with the family and relatives of the late Dr. Sircar."

The Barrackpore case has given rise to unexpected combinations. The Indian Daily News, as a liberal paper, ought to have rejoiced at the result of the trial; but no, he is of opinion that the deceased died of some sort of possible accidents of which he gives an enumeration...

As for the Anglo-Indian papers, which consider the sentence passed to be severe, they have only to solve the problem in a spirit of sincerity, to find that the punishment is not at all severe. Let us put a supposition, what would have been the punishment if the culprits were only Indians and had caused the death of an old and inoffensive European gentleman...

Thus, for instance, the Advocate of India, as was expected, approves of the sentence. And as was to be expected, the Englishman has said nothing! The Times of India has likewise maintained its well-known traditions in a most pronounced manner.

The case was that three British soldiers had, in a violent manner, caused the death of an inoffensive and respectable member of society. The native papers had no hand in the matter. They were neither Judge nor Jury; they neither investigated the case nor gave evidence. But the Times of India has no language to express his indignation at the conduct of the Indian papers!

With the exception of the Indian Daily News and the Morning Post the Anglo-Indian press unites with the native papers in a chorus of approval at the conviction of the three artillerymen, Wynne, Wicks, and Reid, for the alleged slaying of Dr. Suresh Chandra Sircar at Barrackpore.

In the above there is an admission which shows that the ground on which the Morning Post takes its stand is not firm. And again says that paper:—

We should be inclined to say also that the punishment was deserved if the accused, or even one of them, had been clearly convicted of having inflicted the fatal blow. Yes, the deceased might have died by a kick from the horse, or a fall from a tree, but the fact of it is that one of them has already confessed. And thus the beautiful theories must fall to the ground.

It is very satisfactory to learn from the Lieutenant-Governor that His Honor regards the situation in Calcutta as "most hopeful." Truth to tell the general public never regarded the situation with alarm. The chief reason for this was the unusually healthy state of the town. Never has Calcutta been so free from the ravages of fever, cholera and small-pox as during the past many months. Mortality came down so low as 25 per mille. People could not persuade themselves to believe that such a terrible pestilence as plague could visit them when they were in the midst of such excellent health...

themselves, then Calcutta would have been denuded of three-fourths of its population and it would have been very difficult to induce them to come back.

HERE are the facts of a case which comes from Bombay. Two Europeans were charged with the offence of setting dogs on an inoffensive native. The victim was a Municipal sweeper whose duty it was to go along the foreshore at Colaba looking for dead animals. The Europeans threw stones at him and then set their three dogs at him. The nature of this diabolical outrage will be understood when the reader is told that not only was the poor man bitten on the leg, but had to rush into the sea to save himself. But what was the punishment awarded to the perpetrators of the cowardly act? They were fined Rs. 10 each! The case was tried by Police Magistrate Mr. P. H. Dastur who, we believe, is a Parsee. He should have refused to take up the case and asked a European Magistrate to deal with the offenders. Indeed, native Magistrates and Judges are not at all competent to try cases in which Europeans are involved.

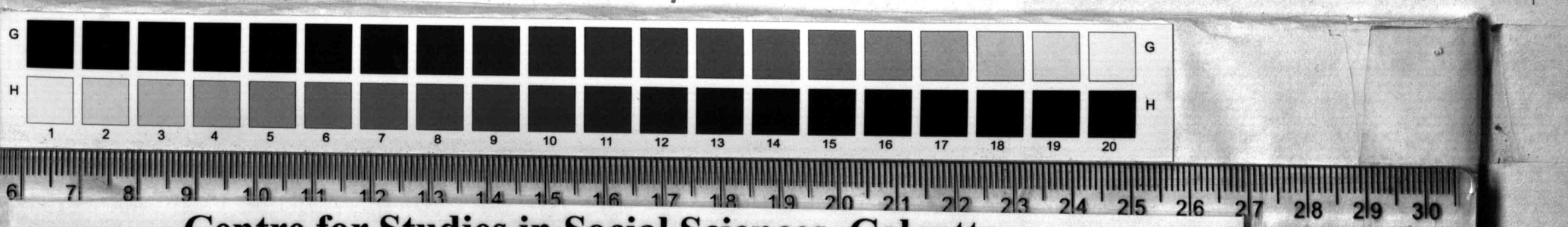
We said, in our last, that death by snake-bites has been now brought absolutely under control by the labors of the author of "Snake-bites and their Treatment." This is no doubt a very bold statement to make; but, in this matter, we stand on firm ground. It must be borne in mind that death by snake-bite is not only painful but is speedy; and that twenty-five to thirty thousand people annually die of it in India. Sometime less than an hour suffices to kill an adult when the snake is a hooded one and in prime condition, and when it has been able to pour the contents of both of its fangs into the bitten part, which, however, it can do only but occasionally. The real difficulty is, when one is bitten in a part where a ligature is impossible. But we shall prescribe a remedy which will prove infallible almost in all cases. It is this:—As soon as a man is bitten, pour some gun-powder over there. Take a match, light it and ignite the powder. If you can do all this within the course of two to three minutes, the poison is neutralized immediately. So, you see, here is a cure which is speedy, safe, and sure. Only you must have the powder near enough to enable you to apply the remedy within two or three minutes of the bite: the sooner the better.

THE report of the motion before the Allahabad High Court, in the Saharanpur case, in which a soldier stands charged with a most serious offence, is published elsewhere. The case appears to be a sensational as that of Colonel Baker, which convulsed the whole of England some fifteen years ago. In short, it is alleged, that the soldier at about 12 o'clock at night entered into a female compartment in a train on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway in which Mrs. Grant was travelling alone and assaulted her, with the result that she climbed out of the window while the train was in motion and crawled along the foot-board into the next compartment. He is also said to have committed a similar offence upon another European lady on precisely similar lines. The Magistrate of Saharanpur moved the High Court to have the case transferred to its own file from that of the local Sessions Judge on the ground that no unbiased European jury was to be had at Saharanpur, and the application has been granted.

It will be seen from the telegram of our Bombay correspondent that Mr. Roberts asked a question about the rowcut committed on Mr. Sohoni by Mr. Rowcroft and that Lord Hamilton declared in reply that that officer was remanded to military duty because of the assault. It was a grave blunder on the part of the Bombay Government to employ military men on plague business.

THE reply of the Local Government to the question of the Hon'ble Jatra Mohun Sen regarding the severe distress in Chittagong, which, we are assured on most reliable authority, has deepened into actual famine here and there, is needlessly disappointing. There is apparently, we are sorry to find, some bad feeling in the matter. The local authorities, it would seem, are determined to deny the prevailing distress, while the leading men of the district are positive that people generally are suffering terribly for want of food, and that deaths have actually occurred in some villages from starvation. This friction between officials and popular representatives is most lamentable, specially when it is a question of life and death with thousands of Her Majesty's subjects. Government has chosen to accept the version of the local authorities, and hence its reply to the question of the Hon'ble Jatra Mohun has caused general dissatisfaction. What Sir J. Woodburn ought to have done, in our humble opinion, was to go to Chittagong himself and ascertain the real state of affairs. Knowing as we did his sympathy for the famine-stricken, we have a right to expect even this trouble from His Honour.

What has, however, happened is this. The local newspaper Jyoti of the 14th July said that, acute distress caused by the failure of crops, the survey operations and the recent cyclone was prevailing in the Chittagong district, and that two persons, Meher Ali's daughter living at Baraitali and









THE CHARGES AGAINST A SOLDIER AT SAHARANPUR.

BEFORE Mr. Justice Knox and Mr. Justice Bannerji in the N.-W. P. High Court on Thursday an application was made by Mr. Ryves, Advocate General, for the transfer from the Court of the Sessions Judge of Saharanpur of two cases—Queen-Empress vs. Davies. The application was opposed by Mr. R. Bomonji, barrister, of Saharanpur, who is counsel for the prisoner in the cases.

Mr. Winter as being only fair to a brother in the profession. As to the powers of the Sessions Judge to pass an adequate sentence, the committing magistrate had seen that at the most the offence was one which was covered by Section 254, but Section 506 had been added, as he (Mr. Bomonji) considered, absolutely without the slightest justification.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A MEETING of the Council was held on Saturday in the Council Chamber, Writer's Buildings. There were present His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, president; the Hon'ble Sir Charles Paul, Advocate-General of Bengal, the Hon'ble H. H. Risley, the Hon'ble Rai Durga Gati Banerji Bahadur, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Syud Amir Hossein, the Hon'ble M. Finucane, the Hon'ble W. B. Oldham, the Hon'ble R. B. Buckley, the Hon'ble C. W. Bolton, the Hon'ble Sahibzada Mahomed Bakhtyar Shah, the Hon'ble M. C. Turner, the Hon'ble Narendro Nath Sen the Hon'ble Saligram Singh, the Hon'ble Kafi Churn Banerji, the Hon'ble Surendro Nath Banerji, the Hon'ble Jatra Mohan Sen, the Hon'ble T. W. Spink, the Hon'ble Rajah Shashi Shakhareswar Roy Bahadur of Tahiroop.

THE PLAGUE. The Hon'ble Surendro Nath Bannerji asked the following question:—Will the Government be pleased to state whether with the exception of the Kapalitola case, any other case of plague has been subjected to the bacteriological test?

The Hon'ble Mr. Risley replied as follows:—In addition to the Kapalitola case, eight cases of plague have been subjected to the bacteriological test by the Health Officer of Calcutta. In five of these the plague bacillus was found. The record of the experiments is technical, and no useful purpose would be served by publishing it.

Will the Government be pleased to state whether, out of the 176 cases of plague, (vide Plague Returns, 13th July) which have occurred in Calcutta, there has been any case which has been traced to contact, and whether there has any instance in which a case of plague having occurred, it has been followed by similar cases in the same house, within the admitted incubation period?

Whether, having regard to the infectious character of the disease as it prevails in Calcutta, to the necessity of absolute rest in plague cases as emphasized in General Gatacre's report, and the danger of removing patients to a hospital will the Government be pleased to permit patients being treated in their own houses which may not have been previously licensed on the recommendation of competent authorities or under such safeguards as it may prescribe.

The Hon'ble Mr. Risley replied as follows:—Under Plague Regulation No. 9 the Health Officer has discretion to deal with such cases and to grant a license at once. But if the premises require structural alterations in order to render it possible to isolate the patient in the upper storey or on the roof, it will not be possible for him to license them.

The Hon'ble Narendro Nath Sen asked:—Will the Government be pleased to state if detailed clinical reports have been kept of the cases that have been pronounced and suspected as plague, and has any bacteriological examination been made and recorded of any other than the first case at Kapalitola, and have the microscopic specimens been preserved, so that they might at time be seen by any expert bacteriologist?

The Hon'ble Mr. Risley replied as follows:—Detailed clinical reports have been kept of all plague cases, and microscopic specimens have been preserved in most of the cases referred to in my answer to the Hon'ble Babu Surendra Nath Bannerji's Question No. 1.

Will the Government be pleased to state whether a competent bacteriologist should not be employed permanently in

Calcutta for making bacteriological examinations of the soil, water, and air and of specific diseases, whenever they break out?

The Hon'ble Mr. Risley replied as follows:—The question of employing a bacteriologist permanently in Calcutta is under consideration. The Hon'ble Babu Narendro Nath Sen asked:—Considering the erratic and somewhat fitful course pursued by the plague in Calcutta so far, and having regard to the smallness of the ravage done by the disease, both in seizures and mortality, and considering also that the citizens of Calcutta have cheerfully and loyally assisted the authorities, and have established and are maintaining ward, caste, and private hospitals out of their private purse, will the Government be pleased to state if it is still necessary to keep up the present heavy plague expenditure knowing as we do that it must eventually fall on the taxpayers of Calcutta, unless the Government be pleased to bear a reasonable share of it?

The Hon'ble Mr. Risley replied as follows:—In view of the possibility that plague may increase in the cold weather, it is not advisable at present to make any material reduction in the establishment employed on the prevention of plague.

DIET FOR PRISONERS AT THE ALIPORE JAIL.

The Hon'ble Babu Surendro Nath Bannerji asked:—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is the case that the dietary allowance of fish or meat allowed to prisoners twice a week in the Alipore Jail has been discontinued since the 15th March last? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons for discontinuing this concession? (b) Having regard to the outbreak of the plague and the necessity of keeping the prisoners in a suitable condition of bodily health and strength, will the Government be pleased to direct that the dietary allowance of meat and fish twice a week should again be continued to the prisoners in the Alipore Jail?

The Hon'ble Mr. Bolton replied as follows:—Meat or fish is not included in the ordinary diet sanctioned for prisoners in this Province.

Meat or fish is not included in the ordinary diet sanctioned for prisoners in this Province. It may however be issued in place of part of the ration of *dal* under certain circumstances, viz., (1) when the fortnightly weighments show that an unusual proportion of the prisoners are losing weight, (2) when there are symptoms of scurvy among the prisoners, or (3) when the number of cases of dysentery is unusually large and is increasing. Last year on account of the prevailing scarcity a large proportion of the newly-admitted prisoners were in poor health, and it was then considered advisable in the Alipore as well as in the other jails of the Province to issue meat or fish twice a week. In March last, Dr. Comins issued a Circular directing the discontinuance of fish or meat in the ordinary ration having previously satisfied himself that the general health of the prisoners were so satisfactory that any addition to the ordinary diet was no longer necessary. That the discontinuance of the meat or fish ration has not been followed by any bad effects is shown by the facts that the sickness and mortality in the Alipore Jail have been lower during the last six months than during the corresponding period for many years past, and that the great majority of the prisoners are steadily gaining weight. All the prisoners in the jail are inspected every week by the Medical Officer, and it is open to him to order an extra diet of meat, fish, milk or other articles if he considers them necessary. This discretionary power is largely used. There are at present 67 prisoners in the Alipore Jail getting an extra allowance of fish, meat or milk exclusive of those in hospital. As the general health of the prisoners in the Alipore Jail is at present exceptionally good, there is no reason for incurring the very considerable additional expense which would be caused by the addition of meat or fish to the ordinary ration. It is hoped that the precautions which have been taken will guard against an outbreak of plague in the Alipore Jail.

DISTRESS IN CHITTAGONG.

The Hon'ble Babu Jatra Mohan Sen asked:—I. (a) Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the reports which have appeared in the *Jyoti* newspaper, published in Chittagong, regarding the prevalence of acute distress in the Chittagong District caused by the failure of crops, the survey operations and the recent cyclone? Is it the case as reported in the *Jyoti* of the 14th July, that two persons—Meher Ali's daughter living at Baraitali, and the daughter of Anwar Ali of Jaldi have actually died of starvation and that as also reported in the *Jyoti* of the 16th and 23rd June, 4 cases of death by starvation have occurred at Kotpara, Bagmara and Katharia, that further owing to the severity of the distress one Bubbhi sold her child 4 years old for five rupees as reported in the *Jyoti* of the 16th June, and that a man, named Fitamber Dhupi, of Padua (vide the *Jyoti* of the 9th June), no longer able to obtain food for his family, in sheer desperation murdered his wife, mother, and daughter, and then attempted to commit suicide, which case is now under trial? (b) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table any report which it may have received from the Chittagong authorities in connection with the prevailing distress? (c) Having regard to the severity of the crisis will the Government be pleased to state what relief has been afforded by the local officers, and whether it is in contemplation to afford any further relief?

The Hon'ble Mr. Finucane replied as follows:—(a) The attention of Government was drawn to certain allegations as to the prevalence of distress in Chittagong contained in the issue of the newspaper *Jyoti* for the 2nd June and a report was called for from the local officers, funds being at the same time placed at their disposal for the relief of distress if found necessary. The Collector reports that some of the villages in which distress is alleged to prevail lie far outside the area affected by the recent storm wave. Enquiry was made in June and it was found that the allegations as to the occurrence of deaths from starvation were incorrect and in one instance were believed to have been based on the statements of a school-boy, made without any knowledge or enquiry. The village Panchayets and Chowkidars denied that any deaths from starvation had occurred. In villages lying within the Satkania Thannah, in which severe distress was alleged to exist, the distribution of relief

was stopped in the end of May under the Commissioner's orders on the ground that it was no longer required, while it is reported by the Assistant Engineer in charge of the repairs of the Cutubdia Embankments that he can employ many more labourers on that work than the number who now seek employment on it. The Collector of Chittagong has recently been on tour in the areas alleged to be distressed. (b) The reports received from the Commissioner and Collector are laid on the table. (c) The measures of relief taken were described in a Resolution, dated 28th March, 1893, which was published in the Gazette of 30th idem, it is reported that of the allotment of Rs. 1,25,000 made for Land Improvement Loans during the financial year 1897-98, the sum of Rs. 9,369 remained unexpended on the 1st April, 1898. An allotment of Rs. 11,750 was at the disposal of the Commissioner of Chittagong for distribution in the shape of Land Improvement and Agricultural Loans during the current financial year. Government has no information which lead it to suppose that that sum will be insufficient and no applications have been received for further allotments.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS IN CHITTAGONG.

The Hon'ble Jatra Mohan Sen asked:—(a) Is the Government aware that the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division has directed a considerable reduction of educational grants, made by the District Board of Chittagong in respect of the middle-class English and Vernacular education on the ground that such reduction is necessary to meet the charges incurred to repair the damages, caused by the late cyclone? As the effect of this order, which has been or is proposed to be adopted by the District Board, will be to deal a heavy blow to the interests of education in the District, will the Government be pleased to direct a reconsideration of this order? (b) Will the Government be pleased to advance money from the Provincial funds or recommend the District Board in raising of a loan to repair the damages caused by the cyclone?

The Hon'ble Mr. Risley replied as follows:—The Government has no information on the subject of the alleged reduction of educational grants in Chittagong. The powers of the Commissioner in respect of the estimates of the District Board are defined in Sections 48 and 49 of the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885. Under Section 50 of the same Act, the District Board has power to borrow from Government or from the public subject to the provisions of the law relating to the raising of loans by local authorities.

OVERFLOW OF THE RIVER COSSY.

The Hon'ble Narendro Nath Sen asked:—Will the Government be pleased to state what amount of damage has been done by the overflow of the river Cossy in the Midnapore District, and the flooding of the stream of Rupnarayan and Damodar by the recent heavy rains, and how many human lives have been destroyed in consequence, and likewise what steps have been taken by the Government to afford succour and relief to the sufferers from the floods?

The Hon'ble Mr. Finucane replied as follows:—Reports have been received by Government of extensive floods in the Midnapore District caused by a sudden rise in the river Cossy between the 16th and 18th of June. Exact details of destruction of life and private property have not yet been received, but the damage done to the Government embankment in the Ghatal Sub-Division and to the Midnapore Canal and its distributaries is estimated at two lacs of rupees. The Collector reports that he has been distributing relief out of money at his disposal and Government has also intimated its readiness to furnish further funds should they be required.

PLAGUE INSPECTORSHIP OF DACCA.

The following reply was promised was given by the Hon'ble Mr. Risley to Question No. III of the Hon'ble Babu Surendro Nath Bannerji asked at the Council meeting of the 16th April, 1893. The name of the gentleman appointed as Plague Inspector of Dacca was Lomax not Connan as stated in my reply of the 16th April. He possessed no technical qualifications nor were any required for the duties assigned to him. The pay of the post was Rs. 250. It has since been abolished and a Health Officer has been appointed under the Plague Regulations. The services of the Engineer Secretary were not dispensed with. He applied to the Commissioners for two years' leave without pay and this was granted him.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT.

His Honor the President then addressing the Honourable members said:—Gentlemen—I understand that it is the custom in this Council at the commencement of each Session the President should make a statement of the business. The statement on this occasion will be a very short one. Two Bills will presently be brought forward for your consideration, the object of which will be fully explained by the Hon'ble Members in charge. I may only very briefly say that the design of one of them is to shorten the language used in the Bills and Acts of this Council, and the object of the other is to enable the Port Commissioners to give a greater assurance to owners of goods conveyed by their railway to the Docks. It may perhaps interest the Council that I should say a few words in supplement to what has been said in answer to questions put to-day, namely, that for five consecutive days there has been no case of plague in Calcutta. I can only say from my own personal point of view that under these circumstances, I regard the situation as most hopeful.

A GOOD deal of sensation was caused by the news of the arrest of Balkrishna Hari Chapekar, but as we said before, on the supposed Bulkrishana being presented before Wasudev Hari Chapekar, the youngest brother, at Guntakal, the real fact came to light and thus naturally giving rise to a feeling of great disappointment.

THE *Pioneer* says:—There is still famine in India, but not on a large scale. The District of Sholapur in the Bombay Presidency is suffering from the bad crops of last season and short rainfall during the present monsoon. The relief works are, therefore, being maintained and they will be expanded if necessary. The weavers of Sholapur are the class most directly affected.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a scale from 1 to 30 cm and a grid with letters G, H, 1-20.

