









THE  
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THE PEOPLE AND THE OFFICIALS.

We have not the slightest objection to an Indian Magistrate being entrusted with dictatorial powers, but, then, adequate protection should also be given to the people when he abuses his position. What, however, happens now-a-days is this. A Magistrate may ruin a subject of the Queen, either from over-zeal, or *zid*, or ignorance of law. But the ruined man has absolutely no remedy against this kind of injustice. Every one, high and low, is thus losing his manliness, for he feels that he is utterly powerless in coping with an official. In this way, something like despair is coming over the whole nation.

The most unfortunate thing in this connection is the feeling of irritation which is apparently created in the minds of the higher authorities when these cases of official high-handedness are noticed in the newspapers. The people of this country have no means of approaching the Government except through the press. Hence the aggrieved parties seek the help of the conductors of papers to make known their grievances to those who, they fancy, ought to afford them protection. But the result of such a course, as a rule, proves still more disastrous. The more an offending official is dealt with in the columns of a newspaper, the greater object of solicitude he becomes to his superiors, and at last he finds himself secure in the all-protecting bosom of the Secretary of State himself. Take, for instance, the case of Maulvi Fazlal Karim of Munshiganj.

Then, see, how Mr. Egerton is gaining in the estimation of his superiors. There is not a more enlightened district in Bengal than Moorshidabad. Here some of our best men,—best in every sense—reside. But, a few months ago, this district was really turned topsy-turvy by the doings of the District Magistrate, Mr. Egerton, and his subordinates. This state of things naturally attracted the notice of the Bengal papers, which severely commented upon the administration of Mr. Egerton. The Sessions Judge and the High Court also directly or indirectly censured his conduct. But, was he in any way worse for all this? Did he lose an iota in the opinion of the superior authorities? On the other hand, he seems yet to enjoy the full confidence of Government; for, otherwise, Mr. Buckland, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, his immediate superior, would not have ventured to speak of him in the following rapturous terms in his *darbar* speech on the occasion of conferring the title of Raja upon that liberal-minded young Zemindar, Rajah Ashutosh Nath Rai:—

Speaking for the present time, I can tell you that Mr. Egerton has my fullest confidence. As regards the administration of the district he has been eminently successful. I have no hesitation in saying that I can never hope to have a better officer as a subordinate.

We do not know what object was sought to be gained by the above certificate, except to show that officials do not attach any importance to Indian public opinion. For, Mr. Egerton's administration of the district, from the people's point of view, instead of being "eminently successful," created only alarm and a sense of insecurity. We shall notice to-day three out of a dozen cases, each of which illustrates in vivid colours the omnipotence of the officials and the utter helplessness of the people, and in every one of which Mr. Egerton had a direct or indirect hand.

The facts of the case of Dr. Khudiram Ghose may not yet be forgotten by the reader. One such case is enough to daze the people and make them doubt whether they are standing on their legs or on their heads. The Doctor, who is a Bachelor of Medicine, performed a most difficult operation upon one Atul Behari Dutt, suffering from retention of urine, which gave the patient immediate relief. About two weeks after, he exposed himself to wind and rain, travelled fourteen miles to Berhampore, having had to walk on foot about half-a-mile, and placed himself under the treatment of the Civil Surgeon at the Berhampore hospital, who performed another operation upon the man; and he died, at the same hospital, four days after the second operation. The Civil Surgeon, who is only a Licentiate of Medicine, held a *post mortem*, examination, and came to the extraordinary conclusion that the man had not died from natural causes, but of the effects of the operation, not of his own, which was performed only four days before his death, but of Dr. Khudiram, which had been performed about a fortnight back and which had given the man immediate relief!

The Civil Surgeon sent this information to Mr. Egerton; and the latter at once hauled up Dr. Khudiram under section 304 A of the Indian Penal Code, for causing the death of Atul Behari Dutt by performing a dangerous operation upon him in an unprofessional and improper manner. It did not, however, occur to the Magistrate that he was taking a most hazardous and ridiculous step by instituting proceedings against Dr. Khudiram; for, this was the first time in the annals of the criminal administration of this country that such a comedy was enacted—a Licentiate of Medicine bringing a charge of incompetency against a Bachelor of Medicine, who had not only a better

College education but greater experience than his accuser. On the other hand, he took up the case with an amount of zeal and energy which struck terror all round. Fortunately for Dr. Ghose, distinguished medical men like Drs. Sanders, Chuckerbutty, Ahmed, etc. came forward to testify that he had not only approached the case with due care, but that he deserved praise for the skilful manner in which he had performed the difficult operation. But all this went for nothing. Mr. Egerton convicted Dr. Khudiram, and sentenced him to three months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 500! The reader is aware that the Doctor was subsequently honorably acquitted by the High Court.

Now, if, after such a performance, that is to say, after sending a fellow-being to jail against an array of unimpeachable evidence, Mr. Egerton yet possesses 'the fullest confidence' of his superiors, all that we can say is that such a phenomenon is possible only in this unfortunate country, and nowhere else.

We now come to the case of another medical practitioner, Dr. Raj Kumar Ghose, which was tried by a subordinate of Mr. Egerton. Dr. Raj Kumar held a high position in the Murshidabad city, having been appointed to officiate for the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the local hospital. Yet he was charged with the embezzlement of a paltry sum of Rs. 45 along with the Head Clerk of the local Municipality. The Head Clerk was acquitted, but the Doctor was not only convicted, but sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200. An appeal was preferred to the Sessions Judge, with the result that the accused was acquitted. We have not got the judgment in this case before us, but we are assured that the Sessions Judge was so disgusted with the prosecution that he characterized it as "ill-advised." And the prosecution could not have been started without the full knowledge and sanction of the District Magistrate.

But it is the case of Babu Mukunda Sunder Sarkar, B. L., a pleader, practising at Junghypore and Chairman of the Local Board, that created the greatest sensation possible in the district. Although the case occurred about nine months ago, and although we have been since then making an effort to secure all the papers connected with it, we succeeded only three or four days ago in getting hold of a copy of the judgment of the Sub-divisional Officer, acquitting the accused, which is published in full in another column. All this was owing to the fact that the parties concerned in this matter were so demoralized and terrified that they would not venture to communicate with us on the subject, lest they might again be put into similar difficulties.

We would request Sir John Woodburn and Mr. Bolton to send for the entire record of this case, for the judgment gives no idea whatever of the hardship to which the gentleman was subjected. Just fancy that Babu Mukunda Sunder, an educated pleader and Chairman of the Local Board, was dragged up on a charge of using a counterfeit coin worth eight annas! Not that any body formally or informally complained against him; but, because, his washerman, who washes the clothes of more than a hundred people, gave out, when asked where he had got the coin, that it was Mukunda Babu's brother who gave it to him, and that the crime was sought to be fastened upon him!

From the records, we are assured, the following facts will transpire:

(1) Mukunda Babu's name is not mentioned in the First Information Report in the category of the accused.

(2) In the first case, in which the washerman was ultimately discharged, no mention was made, in the judgment, of Mukunda Babu's complicity in the matter; nor was any order passed in the order-sheet nor any remark made in the judgment to *challan* him.

(3) The Police took no immediate steps to *challan* him.

(4) The police stated that there was absolutely no evidence against him.

(5) The rumour is, but we cannot vouch for it, that in the police-paper, submitted to the Sub-divisional Officer, orders were passed by the latter that Mukunda Babu need not be sent up.

And yet, one afternoon, the whole of the Sub-divisional town of Junghypore was startled to hear that the District Superintendent of Police, apparently under orders of the District Magistrate, had ordered the local Police to arrest him! The *coup d'état* was so sudden that, it is said, even the Sub-divisional Officer himself was staggered. No sooner was Babu Mukunda arrested under a warrant than he was thrown into *hijut*. The Sessions Judge, who was subsequently moved, admitted him to bail; and ultimately the case resulted in the acquittal of the accused.

So, a washerman comes to change an eight-anna piece, which turns out to be counterfeit, and Babu Mukunda Sunder is sent to *hijut* and put on his trial on a serious charge! Was such a thing ever heard in any other country in the world? Will the Government ask an explanation from Mr. Egerton why was the gentleman disgraced in this unwarrantable manner; why was he hauled up at all; why was he arrested under a warrant in that sensational manner and put into *hijut*; and why was he made to go through a humiliating trial when there was absolutely no grain of evidence to connect him with the counterfeit coin? Surely, Mr. Egerton is bound to explain all this.

Where is the safety of a man in the Mofussil, however high his position, if he can be disgraced in this outrageous way with impunity?

SUICIDAL POLICY OF OSTRACISING INDIANS FROM THE SERVICES.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that the Maharajah of Daulanga intends appointing a European manager to look after his estates, and that his choice is likely to fall upon Mr. J. A. Bourdillon, Commissioner of the Patna Division. We cannot vouch for the correctness of the information, but there is nothing improbable in the arrangement. There is not an important estate in Behar which is not now in European possession. Durbhanga is the largest of all, and why should it not have a European to manage its affairs? The late Maharajah entertained a European manager, though latterly he dispensed with his services and himself managed his property. As for the Commissioner of a Division serving under a native Zemindar, why it was definitely settled to make over the management of the Hutwa Raj which is inferior in position to that of Durbhanga, to Mr. C. C. Stevens, late senior member of the Revenue Board, and who thus held a superior appointment to that of Mr. Bourdillon. Mr. Stevens gave up the Hutwa managership, as the Officiating Lieutenant-Governorship of Bengal was conferred on him.

The manner in which Europeans have monopolised services in India, both public and private, have no parallel in the world. Disappointed Indian place-seekers like these European competitors to locusts. When these insects sit on a tree, they devour leaves, flowers, fruits, and even the bark thereof. The starving Indian place-hunters complain that their European competitors, in the same manner, have eaten up almost all the leaves and fishes of public offices and private estates, leaving very little for the natives of the soil.

As a matter of fact, you will find Europeans everywhere in India. They are to be seen collecting tolls, examining railway tickets, serving as clerks in various offices on such a small pay as Rs. 30 or 40, guarding the cave of Elephanta, administering the affairs of Zemindars, educating minors, and drafting letters for Indian Princes. As for the departments of the Government, they have monopolised almost all,—all the higher and many lower appointments.

We wonder what would become of England if all Englishmen were to take service. The English people own numberless countries, where they have to send out Governors and other high officials from the motherland. They have relations and interests with every State in the world where they have to keep Ambassadors. They have ousted the natives of India from almost every post worth having, and the rush of the influx is day by day increasing in volume. This means denuding England of its people; but England herself needs men to take care of her domestic affairs. She has to man her navy and find soldiers to guard her extensive dominions. She needs sailors for her gigantic shipping. She needs clerks for her merchants and operatives for the numerous mills. Where will England find men for all these occupations, and also to till her cultivable land?

By the way, Englishmen, with their vast wealth, must need the services of menial servants. But where do they get them? Here, an ordinary Englishman has a score of servants to attend to his comforts. But what do the English lords and merchants, with their forty and fifty lakhs per annum, do to secure men to serve them? Do these English millionaires do their own marketing? If all Englishmen, who are in need of money, were to come out to India, English millionaires would have in time to cook their own food, and groom their own horses. And then, mill-owners in England must very much feel the want of operatives now. In time they will find none to serve them. There is no doubt of it, English mill-owners have to pay their operatives much more than their brethren out here do.

It is only *maya*,—a hallucination,—a delusion—which does not permit Englishmen to see the suicidal policy they are pursuing. They have kept here in idleness seventy-five thousands of their best men in barracks to do nothing for themselves or their country. What a vast amount of good they might have done to their own country and to humanity at large if they were not compelled to lead this useless life in a foreign land and uncongenial climate! The wisest course for the English nation would be to govern this country with as few Englishmen as possible.

Sir George Campbell said that in time India would provide Englishmen at home with menial servants. He is not in this world, however, to carry out his proposal. What he is doing in the other world for servants we know not. He would not perhaps find Indians in the other world willing to serve Englishmen. For they have not to do with eating there, and are not in need of money to purchase food and feed children. The great mischief is, men cannot live in this world for a long time. Sir George Campbell's plan can, however, be given a trial by others. Why do not Englishmen take away a million of our paupers to serve them at home? Wealthy Englishmen can take, in this manner as many servants as they like. In the same manner, if operatives were imported from India, they could be had in any number and very cheap too.

That the Hindus of Bengal, especially the higher classes, are disappearing fast, is now no longer a question of doubt. An inquiry into the condition of any Mofussil village will show it. We prescribed social reform as a remedy, and we expected that the vernacular papers, which are read by the masses, would support us. But, as usual, some of them have already arrayed themselves against what we had said on the subject, or rather what they fancy we had said. The fact is, a few decades hence and there will be no Bengalee left to discuss social questions. What is it to these so-called patriots whether the nation exists or not, so long they can shew their individuality?

There are some who have gone to the length of saying that we have proposed to do away with caste under the auspices of the Lord of Nadia! Well, if the Nadia Avatar is to be worshipped, it is not for any earthly favour. He is a fool who worships God for material prosperity or social reform. One of the chief reasons why good many castes are disappearing is, that some are suffering from a dearth of females, and some from a dearth of males. For immediate relief, what should be done is to remove the artificial distinctions which divide the same caste into sub-castes. Thus there is no reason why a Brahmin should not enter into matrimonial alliance with another Brahmin, simply because one is Rarhee and the other Barendra? In the same manner, why should not a Rarhee Kayestha marry a Kayestha who is Bangoze or Barendra? This is the reform that we suggest for the present. If there is any one who has any reasonable objection to such a reform, let him come forward and say so. Let him, however, bear this in mind that the matter is serious.

The *Times* wants to know why Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji and the Maharaja of Durbhanga don't agree in their statements. What the Maharaja says is agreeable and what Mr. Naoroji says is very bitter; and the *Times*, therefore, triumphantly pits the Maharaja against Mr. Naoroji. Now, this is very unfair. The Maharaja is a man of property in India and he has to speak agreeable things simply for his existence. Those who are fair-minded ought to take into consideration the awful position of the Maharaja when analysing his public utterances. The wisest course for the Maharaja is to avoid making any definite statements, knowing full well that they are likely to be utilised, when possible, by our opponents, to the injury of his country. It should also be borne in mind that Mr. Dadabhai Naoroji derives no benefit by making bitter statements.

MOULVI FAZLAL KARIM OF MUNSHIGANJ has earned an enviable distinction; he has been made the subject of an interpellation in Parliament by no less a personage than Mr. Herbert Roberts. Here are the question and answer:—

Moulvi Fazlal Karim.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been drawn to the serious charges made against Moulvi Fazlal Karim, the present sub-divisional officer of Munshiganj; whether he is aware that an memorial, signed by 700 of the inhabitants of his district, and praying for a public inquiry into these charges, and for the redress of certain serious grievances suffered through the administration of this officer, was presented to Sir John Woodburn, Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in September 1898; whether, so far, no order has been made upon it by the Government; and whether, in view of the grave allegations made in regard to this officer, he can state what immediate action it is proposed to take with reference to his case.

Lord G. Hamilton: I am aware that a memorial containing certain charges against Moulvi Fazlal Karim was presented last year. I have also ascertained that on Feb. 9th the Lieutenant-Governor recorded a resolution, accepting the opinion of the Commissioner of the division, who after a thorough local inquiry, reported that the memorial contained a series of false charges emanating from persons whom the Deputy Magistrate had offended in doing his duty. The Moulvi accordingly remains in charge of the subdivision. I propose to take no further action in reference to the case.

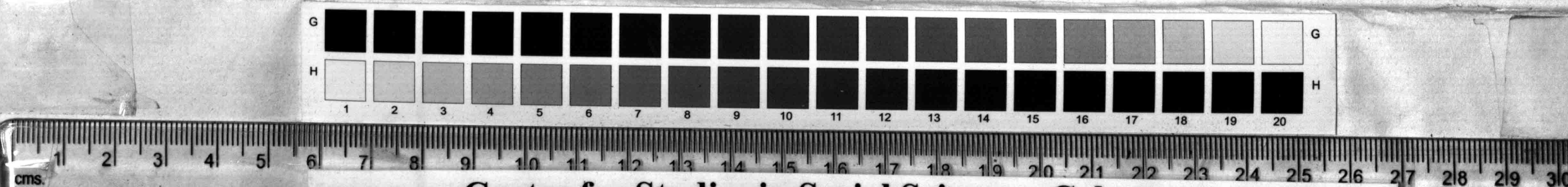
Let the matter end there; but will the Government see that the case, that has been instituted against the Munshiganj Muktar and his clerk, be heard out-side Dacca? We can assure the Government that, with the feeling that the case has evoked, a trial at Dacca can never possibly command the confidence of the public. If the Government is sure of their men, the authorities can have no objection in having the case tried in another district where the public feelings have not been disturbed. We are informed that the Commissioner had made "a thorough local inquiry." We were, however, under the impression that those who brought the charges were not asked to come forward with their proofs. Indeed we have yet a notion that if an inquiry was made, and of course there was an inquiry when the Commissioner says it, it was done in the absence of the accusers. Anyhow, we are now authoritatively informed that the charges brought against the Moulvi are false. That being so, the Government has done an injustice to the Moulvi in leaving his detractors unpunished. When lay men bring serious charges against an official which, on inquiry, are proved false, the duty of the Government is to protect its unfortunate servant by hauling up the accusers for defamation. If the Government is sure of its ground, it ought to prosecute the malignant defamers, who had ventured to bring false charges against Government Officials.

It is said that the report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill is likely to be presented to the Council at its next meeting. It will then be pub-

lished in the *Calcutta Gazette* and public criticisms will be invited. The Bill, it is believed, will be finally taken up in autumn next and passed. Another course is also open to the Government. It is to postpone consideration of the Bill till the next year. Needless to say that by adopting this course, Sir John Woodburn will show deference to Indian public opinion, which, it must be admitted, is entitled to some consideration, as it represents no particular class or section but the entire nation. No question has evoked such a unanimity of feeling among the people in Bengal as this Municipal Bill; and it may fairly be expected that an enlightened ruler like Sir John Woodburn will not ignore it altogether. It is quite true that Sir John is in a delicate position, for he has to oblige a friend like Sir Alexander Mackenzie; but His Honour is also the protector of the rights and privileges of the people entrusted to his care, and they have also some claims upon him. Should the Municipal Bill be, however, passed, which Heaven forbid, Lord Curzon will then find himself in the position of Lord Northbrook. When the latter was appointed as Governor General of India, Sir George Campbell was rushing his Mofussil Municipalities Bill through the Bengal Council. Lord Northbrook could not stop him; so the measure was passed and sent up for the sanction of the Viceroy. Lord Northbrook, however, soon came to know that the measure had called forth great opposition from the people and the latter had good grounds for opposing it. At the same time Sir George Campbell had staked his honour upon the Bill; he had, in short, threatened to resign if the Viceroy would not give his assent to it. Lord Northbrook was, however, incapable of doing an unworthy act. So His Lordship vetoed the Bill, and Sir George Campbell subsequently resigned in a pet. The circumstances surrounding Lord Curzon with reference to the Mackenzie Bill are however less delicate. For, Sir Alexander Mackenzie is not the ruler of Bengal just now, while Sir John Woodburn has not any *zid* in the matter. If the Bill is yet passed as it is, and the Viceroy sanctions it, we can guarantee one result: no respectable man in the town will stand for election as a Commissioner or accept a Commissionership.

THE Hon'ble Rajah Bahadur of Nashipore deserves public thanks for having drawn the attention of the Government to the two immediate and pressing needs of the people of Bengal, namely, the supply of pure drinking water and the provision for medical treatment. As a resident Zemindar in the Mofussil, his questions on the subject are entitled to special weight; and, we trust, Government will take prompt steps to afford help to the sufferers. The answers which the questions elicited are far from satisfactory. With regard to drinking water, we are told by the Hon'ble Mr. Baker that "some progress has been made." But, as men cannot exist long without good drinking water, and as Bengal is a vast country which is visited with something like a water famine for three months in the year, so this "some progress" means very little relief. It this "some progress" had been continued, year after year, as a religious duty, ever since the imposition of the Road Cess, Bengal would have been studded with tanks, wells, and other reservoirs of water long ago. But the Cess Fund is being utilized, generally speaking, for every other purpose except those for which it was intended, and could be legitimately spent, and thus there is a bitter cry for water every year from April to June. We wish our good and tender-hearted Governor had just now taken a trip into the interior of the country, for, His Honour might have then witnessed scenes which would have moved him powerfully and made him realize the horrors of the situation in which millions find themselves placed for want of water. His Honour might have some idea of their untold misery, if the drinking water of his own household had to be brought daily from a distance of two or three miles. The fact can be easily ascertained that, in this hot season myriads of men and women have to travel several miles to bring water for the purpose of quenching their thirst. And what they fetch is so bad that no one living in this city would venture to drink it. Water being so scarce, they use whatever they get within their reach. And the inevitable result follows, that is to say fever and cholera step in and commit dreadful havoc in the country.

THAT the authorities are not doing their duty properly with regard to the supply of wholesome drinking water is now patent even to ordinary cultivators of the country: *vide* the letter of our esteemed correspondent in another column. When he got down at a station in the Central Bengal Railway, he heard a *chasa* remarking that, District Boards would have shown greater wisdom in providing the people with drinking water than wasting money in additional police establishment for catching plague bacilli! His Honour was full of feeder roads when he spoke on the Budget last Saturday. We do not undervalue the beneficial effects of these roads; but men can live without them but not without drinking water. The District Boards should therefore be asked, if necessary, to suspend all other works and devote the larger portion of their funds to the excavation of tanks and the sinking of wells. For, if people go on perishing at the rate they are doing, there will





be very few to use the feeder roads. A little enquiry will satisfy Sir John Woodburn that villages, which teemed with higher class people forty years ago, are now the abodes of jackals and wolves, and all this is due to the depredations of cholera and malarial fever, caused mainly by the drinking of foul water.

THE following is the experience of an esteemed correspondent, of the B. C. Railway, the line that leads one to Jessore and Khulna from Calcutta:—

At Bongong an elderly European approached the doors of my compartment and took a survey of its inmates, so it seemed to me. I thought he intended to travel, but he did not enter, and looking at me, the sole occupant of the compartment, said, "Will you be good enough to permit me to touch your hand?" Now this was addressed in such courteous tone and manner that though I had not the least notion of the object of the strange request made to me, I immediately responded, "assuredly."

I alighted at the Jhinkergatcha station when I was confronted by a Head Constable. A Head Constable has been posted at every railway station, to take down the names of passengers, by the train, coming from plague-infected places. These police officers are to be maintained by the District Boards. I was surprised to hear a man, only a simple chasha, observing: "The Government does not know its duty. If, instead of posting these Head Constables doing this fanciful and purposeless work at the cost of the Boards, they had given us better drinking-water, they might have done some real good."

WHEN Monarchs assume an unusually gracious attitude towards a subject, the latter has a right to apprehend disaster. A story is told of Raja Nanda Kumar, how he succeeded in gaining the favor of the Nawab. Conscious of his worth, he had proceeded to Murshidabad for a trial of fortune. He was sitting in a shop, when he found a servant of the Nawab purchasing a large quantity of lime, whom he also heard stating the circumstances which had led him to make the purchase. The servant said that his duty was to prepare and supply the Nawab with betels; and, on that day, after having chewed one, the Nawab ordered him to fetch a seer of lime, and for that he had come. Nanda Kumar, who was listlessly hearing the story, now began to question the servant with great interest. "Did the Nawab, as you tell us," inquired Nanda Kumar of the servant, "treat you with great graciousness when he made you the order?"

favorite of the Nawab and ultimately a great man.

The above story, which we had heard in our younger days from old people, came to our mind when, making an inquiry into the manner in which the charges of establishment for the joint collection of the Road and Public Works Cesses was made by the Board of Revenue. The language used by the Board in this connection struck us as something very grand and condescending. This grandiloquent language, so unusual with a sober Government like ours, seemed to us as something very suspicious. Thus said the Board:—

20. It is evident from the reports and communications which the Board have received that most, if not all, District Road Cess Committees anticipate that Government will contribute from the Provincial Revenues half the cost of the establishments maintained for the collection of the two cesses. The Board are well aware that there are strong arguments that may be brought forward against this claim; but as the Road Cess establishments are required by the authority of Government to collect the Public Works Cess and as even the semblance of illiberality in dealing with the local bodies, which Government calls into existence to share in the work of local administration, is to be deprecated, the Board would strongly advocate the dealing with this claim in a liberal spirit, and satisfying it so far as it is reasonable.

When we read the language, we surely apprehended mischief; we thought that there must be some very good cause for this extravagant profession of liberality. Do you not know, dear reader, the story of the Hitopodesha? The fond husband, whom his wife had provided with a pair of horns, suddenly surprised his better-half in the company of her gallant. And what did the astute woman do? She suddenly rose from the couch where she was sitting with her gallant, and encircled her bewildered husband in her arms and covered him with kisses. The husband, thus kept engaged, gave the gallant an opportunity of slipping away unobserved. And the author of the Hitopodesha moralises: The wife never kissed her husband, and when she displayed this extravagant fondness for him, the latter ought to have suspected, if he was not a fool which he was, that such over-fondness from an unexpected quarter must have an object in view. So when the Board of Revenue, usually so sedate and cool, passionate and calculating, talked like a sentimentalist of the Vaishnava faith, one had reason to suspect that there was something at the bottom. And sure enough, the division of the collection charges between the Government and the people was made in this wise: The District Boards, that is the people, were made to pay two-thirds, and the Provincial Revenue one-third, of the cost, though the amount of the two cesses collected were the same, or rather the amount of the Public Works Cess collected was larger than that of the Road Cess!

BEEF may be very good food, and the Hindus may be a stupid race for having abjured it. We are willing also to concede, that the Mussalmans have a right to the slaughter of kine. On the other hand, has the Government taken note of the increased violence of the masses within the last ten or twelve years? Riots began with the one at Benares, when an unsympathetic and incompetent ruler insisted upon a work which was considered an outrage to Hindu religious feelings. That riot was naturally followed by the Mussalman riot at Sham-bazar. Immediately after, the cow-riots commenced; and some officials considered it a good fun to see the Hindus and Mussalmans flying at each other's throat. Of course, the Hindu and Mussalman riots have that pleasant feature; but then can the British Government in India afford to allow practices which lead to lawlessness? During the cow-riots, the Government, for a time, lost all control of the people, and then they came to feel that they had raised a Frankenstein by indirectly encouraging these acts of lawlessness. Learning by bitter experience the folly of encouraging lawlessness, the Government at last came to the resolution of putting a stop to the riots. But the populace had tasted blood, and when the plague rules were sought to be enforced, they again took up arms with what result we all know. The Magistrate of Hooghly, a new man, may not know all these, but his superiors ought to know. We implore the Government never again to allow its officials to commit the folly of encouraging, directly or indirectly, these cow-riots; for, let them rest assured, that if they sow wind they will have to reap a hurricane. We hope, the last *Red Head* passed without any disturbance in every part of the country.

THE Government disarmed the people of Barisal because cases of murder committed with guns etc. had increased. But the wicked will always find out means to carry out their nefarious deeds. And in order to be consistent, Government should take steps to prevent murders caused by other means. If what a correspondent says be true, Government will soon be faced with the question of how to prevent poisoning cases. Such cases are of frequent occurrence and the latest is reported from Gakhari, near Jhalakati thana, in Barisal. A widow is accused of having poisoned a family of three members, all of whom died. She has been committed to the Sessions.

SCARCELY does a week pass that we do not hear of outrages committed upon defenceless women by *Baismashes* in the districts of Mymensingh. The latest instance of such brutal conduct hails from Perbari under the jurisdiction of the Muktagachia Thana in that District. One Askar Sheikh of the village laid a complaint that on the night of the 13th

instant last Ichhan Taluqdar and thirteen others had entered his house and forcibly carried away his wife. On enquiry only Islam Sheikh of the band was sent up for trial. The Joint Magistrate, before whom the case came up, convicted the accused and sentenced him to four years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 30. In delivering judgment he made the following remark: "Offences of this nature are far too common in this District and this case is one of a deliberate and well-planned conspiracy to deprive the complainant of his wife and severe sentence is therefore called for." We only hope that such exemplary punishment would go to check crimes of this nature.

"LIQUID air" is the latest scientific triumph, and will, if it possess all the properties claimed for it by its inventor, Mr. Charles Trapes of New York, create a revolution such as no other discovery of the same nature has ever done. Coal will no longer be required. Masters of Steamers will consider it an unnecessary burden. A machine is the only thing that they need carry on board, and whenever and wherever they require, they will be able to manufacture the wherewithal to feed their engines with. With a knowledge of the process of liquefying air none need be afraid of the heat of the tropics and the most direct good that we expect from this property of liquid air is that now Lord Curzon will no longer find it necessary to go to Simla to escape the grilling heat of Calcutta. The rooms in the Government House can with such a knowledge be made as cool as the snowy heights of Simla. As an explosive also wonderful powers are claimed for it. Dynamite, the greatest explosive now known, cannot even approach it. But these are only a few of the properties ascribed to liquid air. Of electricity it has been said that it can be compared to a fairy of whom it is only necessary to ask to get anything. This can, with greater truth be said of liquid air.

THE reader is aware that two persons, Golam Hossein and Ahmed Ali, were some time ago adjudged to be hanged by the Sessions Judge of Barisal, and that, on appeal to the Calcutta High Court, the first accused was discharged and the sentence passed on the other was commuted to transportation for life by the Hon'ble Judges. The case in question not only affords an example of how heartlessly some of our Judges administer justice, but it has another touching feature, which is worth notice. Both Golam Hossein and Ahmed Ali were too poor to engage good lawyers to conduct their case in Calcutta. Their pitiable condition however moved the sympathies of Babu Brajendra Nath Chatterji, a local pleader, who came to Calcutta at his own expense to conduct the appeal. In short, it was due to the kindly exertions and generosity of Brajendra Babu that the lives of two of God's creatures have been saved. We understand, Brajendra Babu has submitted a petition to the Lieut.-Governor, praying for the exercise of mercy in the case of Ahmed Ali. There is no doubt that the conduct of Babu Brajendra Nath deserves all praise.

ANENT the punishment of criminals for assaulting Judges in Court, the *Tribune* has the following:—Two similar and yet very conflicting instances of assaults upon Magistrates and Judges on the Bench and their result are reported from two different countries, Ireland and India. Let us take the Indian case first. An Indian Deputy Magistrate of Meerut, personally popular, and who should be popular even with criminals for his lenient sentences, was trying a case in which there were several accused persons, and, after hearing the evidence, he decided to commit the accused for trial. Whereupon one of the accused got hold of a shoe and flung it at the Magistrate without, however, hitting him. Throwing a shoe at the Judge or Magistrate is a favourite form of insult employed by criminals in the North-Western Provinces and some other parts of India, and the remedy is to place such or other missiles out of the reach of accused persons at every trial. The present offender was taken before another Magistrate who sentenced him to rigorous imprisonment for two years. Take now the other case which occurred at the Winter Assizes at Belfast. A prisoner who was indicted for breaking into a workhouse was sentenced by the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland to a year's imprisonment. Immediately the sentence was passed, the prisoner hurried at the Judge a stone he had managed to conceal about his person. The Lord Chief Justice refrained from committing him for contempt of court and the prisoner was taken before another Judge, who could only convict him of a common assault. But the Lord Chief Justice actually interceded with the Judge and asked him to let the prisoner go free so that the man received no punishment for assaulting the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland on the Bench. We do not say that magnanimity of this kind to be followed by every Judge; its wisdom is also doubtful as it would tend to encourage violent prisoners and criminals. But, on the other hand, is not the punishment of the Indian offender excessive? The man certainly deserved punishment but should have been proportionate with his offence. If a prisoner who flings a stone at the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland is guilty of only a common assault and can be sentenced to only a fine or a short term of imprisonment, why should another prisoner who flings a shoe at a Magistrate be convicted of a more serious offence? And the deterrent effect, we should think, does not vary, and, if it does, it does so on the wrong side, for assaults on Judges on the Bench are rare in England and Ireland while the flinging of shoes at Magistrates is not so rare in India in spite of the very heavy penalty inflicted for this class of offence.

It seems that the Mahomedans of Dacca have taken too much to heart the treatment accorded to Choudhuri Golam Qudus, a local Zemindar, by the Sessions Judge Mr. Douglas in September last. The facts of the case are, we presume, still fresh in the minds of the reader, so we shall only touch them briefly. The Moulvi Shauq, who was serving as a juror in the court of Mr. Douglas, asked his permission to go out for ten minutes to say his midday prayers. The request was not granted. On the next day, the Moulvi made a written application to the Judge, praying to allow him time for a few minutes to read *namaz*. The Judge not only not granted the prayer, but cracked a joke at his expense, himself assuming the role of a Moulvi and telling the applicant how the pious Mussalman should perform their religious obligation: all this happened some seven months ago. We now see that a memorial over the

signatures of a number of the biggest Mussalmans of the locality has been submitted to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. The memorialists thus combat the remark of Mr. Douglas:—

"That with reference to the remark of Mr. Douglas that he is not aware of Mahomedan jurors being allowed to go out for prayer, your memorialists beg to submit that in other places the jurors usually get a recess of from 30 to 45 minutes at about 2 P.M., when the court rises for lunch. This time is availed of by the Mahomedan jurors to say their midday prayer and it does not become necessary to make any special application for the purpose. As it is not the custom with Mr. Douglas to retire for tiffin, hence the necessity of an application to him for time for prayer."

And they conclude the petition with this prayer:—"That your memorialists need hardly mention the fact that the performance of *Namaz* or daily prayers is strictly enjoined on every Mahomedan by his religion and the omission to perform the same at their proper times during day and night is a sin and cannot be excused on any plea whatever, and that your memorialists believe that it will not interfere with the business of the court if the jurors are allowed by the Sessions Judges a recess for half-an-hour only at about 2 P.M. as is usually done by many of them."

THE Cantonment Magistrate of St. Thomas Mount has committed to the Criminal Sessions of the Madras High Court, Gunner Love who stands charged with having caused the death of a native while on a shooting excursion. The charges against him are those of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and voluntarily causing grievous hurt. The accused has been remanded to jail pending trial.

GOVERNMENT have issued orders regarding Government Grass Farms and the position of forage officers. Under the new rules forage officers will have more direct control than hitherto of the several grass farms in the Bengal and Punjab Commands. Government dairies, where they exist, will now be managed with grass farms which will be under the charge of trained managers assisted by native farm overseers. Allahabad has been appointed the head-quarters of the special forage officer in the Bengal Command, where the new system comes into force at once. Arrangements will be made hereafter in the Punjab Command. The question of the appointment of a special forage officer for the Madras Command is now under consideration.

AWORM'S KIDNEY.

In a living animal the energy which is expended in producing movement of any kind as the result of chemical changes in the food or in the tissues themselves which build up the body. If we raise a weight or wink an eyelid a certain amount of work is done, and a certain amount of energy is expended or transformed. The highly complex substances forming the body are broken down, as it is termed, into simpler compounds, and the locked up energy is set free to do the work required, whether it be to move a limb, to perform the complex actions of digestion, or merely repair waste or to grow. The simpler compounds, when reduced to such a state that they can be made no simpler in the body, have to be got rid of as waste products. They are no longer of any use, and to keep them would be to rapidly overload the body, so that life would no longer be possible. Thus the essential character of life in an animal lies in the fact that, being supplied with food consisting of complex substances, it derives its energy from the change of these substances into simpler ones.

We may compare the facts with the work done by water flowing from a higher to a lower level. Work is done by the water whether it be utilised for any economic purpose or not. Similarly work is done during the transformation of chemically complex bodies into simpler ones. If a piece of wood be burned, the bodies, such as cellulose and resin, are united with the oxygen of the air to form principally water and carbonic acid. The energy is set free in the form of heat. In animals an essential part of the food consists of proteins in some form or other—that is, of certain highly complex bodies, consisting of carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, hydrogen, and several other elements in minute proportions. When this food has done its work, all its constituents are found to be differently arranged. They have united with the oxygen of the air, which has been taken into the body by respiration. In other words the constituents of the food are oxidised. Carbon, when oxidised, gives carbonic acid, which is given off from the body by the lungs. Oxidised hydrogen is water, and this escapes through the skin or through the kidneys. The nitrogenous waste in the form of urea is given off by certain organs which are frequently spoken of as excretory, and which in the vertebrates have a very similar structure in all forms, and are known as the kidneys. The excretory organs of the invertebrate animals are in some cases built on much the same plan as in the vertebrates, but in other cases they have a very different structure in many of their details. In order to be exact, and to avoid the assertion of the idea that the organs in the lower forms have the same origin and structure as in the higher, we do not call them kidneys, but use some other terms, such as the *rasfe* wide or *excretory* organs. The line, then, at the top of this paragraph is not rigidly correct from a scientist's point of view. In common language we speak of a fly's "foot" or "tongue" though they have no connection with the foot or tongue of a vertebrate. In some of the worms the excretory organs consist of long, branching canals, which run all through the body, and end in small spaces in which, during life, there can be seen a small rapidly-moving flap. This flap is supposed to produce a current in the liquid in the tube, and so cause it to move to the outside of the body. The exact structure of this flap has long been a matter of dispute. Some held that it was a simple flat plate, which waved like a flag; while others said that it was a bundle of threads moving together, and that they could see the separate threads.

SEVERAL cases of Military crime are reported from the District of Umballa. During the past week three courts-martial were assembled in as many days, and several heavy sentences have been announced in District Orders. A non-commissioned officer and man of the North Staffordshires were sentenced to two years' imprisonment and dismissal from the service with ignominy. A man of the Yorkshires received four months' hard labour, and several other minor punishments were announced.

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MINING RULES.—Considerable progress has been made with the proposed Mining Rules, and they are likely shortly to be considered by the Viceroy's Council.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE.—The Faculty of Medicine will be represented in the coming Syndicate by Drs. Joubert and Hendley. Dr. Joubert is its newly-elected President.

THE NEW SYNDICATE.—Mr. Justice Rampini has been elected President of the Faculty of Law. Babu Golap Sastri is the other representative of the Faculty in the Syndicate for the next official year.

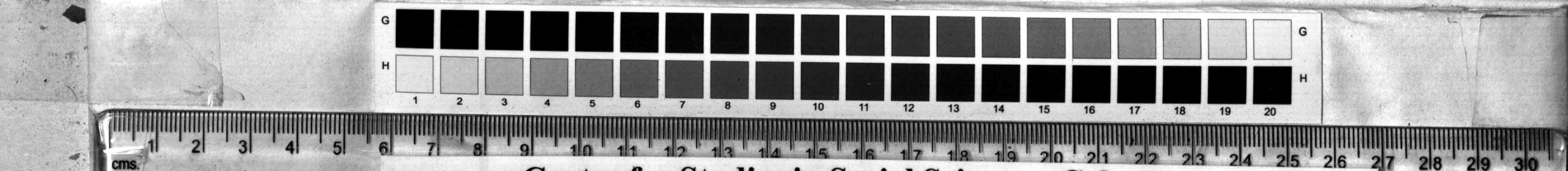
SEA-BORNE TRADE OF CALCUTTA.—The total foreign sea-borne trade of Calcutta for the past year is valued at seventy-seven crores. Both imports and exports have risen but only to a small extent; the former is better by a little over one per cent, and the latter by nearly one per cent. The total increase was equivalent to one per cent.

NEW EXAMINERS.—Mr. Mann having resigned his Examinership in B. A. Honour English, Dr. K. S. Macdonald has been put in his place, and the Rev. A. B. Wann has been transferred from the F. A. to fill up the vacancy in the B. A. Examinership. The Rev. J. Lamb, examiner in B. A. Pass Philosophy in the place of the Rev. A. P. Begg.

OFFICIAL CHANGES.—Mr. B. Foley, Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Financial and Municipal Departments, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Magistrate and Collector of Burdwan. Mr. R. Sheepsbanks, Officiating Joint-Magistrate and Deputy Collector, Betiah, Champaran, is appointed to act as Under-Secretary to the Government of Bengal in the Financial and Municipal Departments, during the absence, on deputation, of Mr. B. Foley, or until further orders.

CROP PROSPECTS IN BENGAL.—Rain sufficient for present requirements fell in all parts of the Province during the week, but in places in Behar it is said to have injured rabi crops lying on the threshing ground. Ploughing is now general and sowing of autumn rice and jute and planting of sugarcane are in progress. Spring rice is maturing and in some places being reaped. The mahua harvest in the Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions is almost over. The culture has been good. No want of fodder is reported, but there is cattle-disease in some districts. Prices are generally stationary.

PATERNAL LOVE AMONG SPARROWS.—It was blowing hard—very hard for an April afternoon. I was standing at an open window overlooking the garden and must have been thinking of something; for the mind of man is never absolutely idle. But I forget the train of my thought. A sudden gust of wind blew down the nest of a bird from a tree in the garden and mechanically I turned my eyes towards it. At first I could not make out if the nest was tenanted and before I had time to do so, a dog and a cat jumped at it from opposite sides. I then found that the nest contained two young sparrows. They were trying to make their presence felt by making noise with all the strength that their little lungs could command. I very much expected to see the brutes making a short work of the little ones. But a strange thing now happened. The dog and the cat, instead of making any attempt to seize the birds fell out among themselves. The situation I took no time to understand. Both the combatants claimed the prize, and as none would yield, they thought of settling the point by actual fight. And there the young birds were left untouched. And when they were thus engaged a third party in the shape of a little girl came and bore away the prize in triumph. After several attempts at feeding the young ones had failed, they were placed in a cage which was hung in a tree with the door open. Shortly after two sparrows apparently the parent of the little ones—came in response to the constant cry kept up by the helpless captives. After feeding them for two days and thereby exposing themselves to the danger of being made unwilling tenants of the cage themselves, they succeeded in taking away their little ones. So strong is paternal love—even among the lower creation.





A PLAGUE PREVENTIVE.—A correspondent sends to a contemporary the following prescription of a famous unani Hakim. A quarter tola of Nilkanthi (Indian leaves used for medicinal purposes) taken daily with three black peppers will make a man plague-proof.

THE BEHAR OPIUM AGENT'S OFFICE.—The Government of India having sanctioned the removal of the office of the Opium Agent, Behar, to Hill Station during the summer, it is likely that the Patna Agent's Office will go to Darjeeling by the first week of May for three months.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES.—A public meeting of the inhabitants of Cossipore, Sinter, Paikpara and Talla will be held to-morrow at 5:30 P.M. at the Paikpara Nursery Office to express sympathy with the Bengal Provincial Conference and elect Delegates to the forthcoming Conference to be held at Burdwan.

A LECTURE AND SANKIRTAN.—To-day at 3 o'clock in the afternoon a meeting will be held under the auspices of the Gauranga Samaj at 48 Raja Rajballav's Street, when Pandit Sham Lal Goswami will preside and Babus Jotindra Lal Mitra B. L. and Monoranjan Banerji will speak on "Lord Gouranga." Afterwards Sankirtan will be held. All are invited to attend.

A LADY IN TROUBLE.—If we are to credit the *Murshidabad Hitaisi*, Braja Sundare, in whose case a rule was issued by the High Court the other day, has not yet been released on bail as ordered by the High Court, though bail was forthcoming. Braja Sundari belongs to a respectable family in Berhampur, and it was alleged that the ornaments on which she raised a loan of Rs. 1,062 were not of gold. She was prosecuted on a charge of fraud, and the Deputy Magistrate, before whom the case came up for trial, convicted and sentenced her to 15 months' imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10. An appeal was preferred against this judgment before the Sessions Judge who upheld the decision of the Lower Court. Hence the motion in the High Court with the above result. Now who is responsible for this delay in carrying out the order of the High Court?

AN UNWELCOME VISITOR.—A correspondent writes to the *Englishman*:—The peaceful little station, Deegah, was in a state of great excitement on Monday morning owing to a wild boar having come across the dry bed of the river from the *aiabra* opposite. On his way inland the beast attacked several people, both young and old, who unfortunately happened to come in his way. Mr. Bredenkamp, of the firm of Messrs Schroder Smidt and Co, went after the animal with a rifle, but the honor of killing the brute fell to a sepoy of Her Highness the Maharaja of Hathwa's Guard, who most gallantly charged it with his bayonet and ran it through. One of the wounded persons, an old man, is dangerously hurt and has been removed to hospital.

A TRUE SUTTEE.—A married lady, named Golapmoni Debi, aged about 30 years, living with her husband at 18 Raja Raj Bullub's Street, committed suicide under very painful circumstances. Her husband, Babu Bolye Chand Mukerjee, was dangerously ill with pneumonia and fever for the last few days and several eminent doctors attended on him. On Sunday last his case took a serious turn and eventually the doctors pronounced it hopeless. The lady somehow or other came to know all about it and determined to destroy herself prior to the death of her husband. With this intention, she took a quantity of morphia, and on the following morning she was found in an unconscious state. Immediately the doctors were sent for, and in spite of all their efforts she died on Tuesday. About half an hour later the death of her beloved husband took place.

ROYALTY OUT SHOOTING.—The following incident has been communicated to a local contemporary: A sensational incident characterized the Count of Turin's shikar near Secunderabad. A tigress in coming along first, scattered the beaters and then deliberately made for the tree on which the Count and Mr. Furdoojee Jamashedjee were perched. The Count's rifle missed fire, when, with a roar the tigress sprang at the *machan* which was luckily shielded by a branch of a tree. Before a second spring could be made, Mr. Furdoojee shot the tigress. She is of unusually large proportions. The Count and party returned from the shooting camp this morning, and H. R. H. is now en route for Europe. The bag and the Hyderabad jungles numbers 1 tiger, 1 tigress, 1 cub killed, and two cubs captured.

A CRIME.—The *Behar Herald* is responsible for the following:—A horrible crime is reported from *Pazarha*, a village in Patna. A husbandman had a daughter of about six or seven years of age and one day his servant enticed the girl and took her away to a distant place and there sold her. After a fortnight the man returned to his master's house and seeing the family in grief for the lost child began to shed crocodile tears for her. On being questioned about the girl he totally denied any knowledge of the child. After some days the real fact came to light and the man was detected to have sold the girl. The master and some of his neighbours conspired to murder him and with a view to accomplish the object they mixed poison in some backed food gave him to eat. After taking the food the man grew senseless. The conspirators then ended his life by placing his neck between two *lathies* and pressing them severely. They are now under police custody.

PLAGUE POLICY OF GOVERNMENT.—Says the *Pioneer*: The attempt of the Calcutta Press to revive the impression that there is a conflict of opinion between "the Simla Government" and the Govt. of Bengal upon questions of plague policy, with reference this time to the precautionary measures to which the shipping of the port must be subjected, is totally at variance with the real facts of the case, and it must be embarrassing to the local Government to find itself commended for an attitude the opposite to that in which it actually stands. As soon as plague was actually declared at Calcutta, it was obvious that measures would have to be taken for the disinfection, under official superintendence and sanction, of out-

going vessels, if the port was to continue to have any trade with foreign countries at all. The Bengal Government thereupon proposed to institute an examination and disinfection of all third class passengers and native crews and their effects to be carried out on board ship. Doubts however, were soon raised whether this procedure would meet the case, and on further consideration it was agreed by all the authorities, by the Government of India, by the Bengal Government and by the Plague Commission, which was taken into consultation that it would not. The Venice Convention explicitly insists on the necessity of disinfection on shore. The mere fact of suspected bedding, clothing, &c., being taken on board constitutes infection of the ship itself, and subsequent measures of personal disinfection are therefore ineffectual. It may be freely allowed that shore disinfection is a troublesome and inconvenient process. At Calcutta it means delay may mean the loss of a tide. The shipping interest dislikes the prospect intensely, and lascars appear to be moved by it, even to the extent of threatening a strike—though why a lascar should care whether the inevitable overhauling and steaming of his belongings takes place on shore or at sea, is not so manifest. Every one, however, was sensible of the force of the objections raised to the measure and of its unpopularity, and the Bengal Government carefully weighed the alternative proposals of establishing the disinfection stations at Diamond Harbour or Budge Budge. In the end, however, they came to the conclusion that the inconvenience of thus extending the port would outweigh any advantage while, and this was the decisive point, they apprehended that such a step would be regarded as a violation of the Venice Convention. Their attitude, was one of complete accord with the Government of India.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE PEN.

JAMES GLASS writes as follows in the *Westminster Budget*:— Lord Lytton's aphorism, "The pen is mightier than the sword," is being exemplified every day. For one successful General there are hundreds of successful merchants and legislators. The sword is now discredited as a civilising influence, but the pen has forced its way into every country in the world spreading industry and peace in its train. When pens were first used is a point that is never likely to be definitely settled. In ancient times the instrument used for producing written characters was the stylus, or pointed budklu of metal bone or ivory. This was used by the ancient Greeks and Romans for writing, or rather engraving on waxed tablets. The clamorous, a hollow stock of bamboo or reed formed the next step in advance towards the modern pen. This was sharpened to a point, and although it appears clumsy, yet wonderfully fine writing was produced by its aid. David says, "My tongue is the pen of a ready writer, and it is safe to conclude that wherever the pen is mentioned in the Bible, a *calamus* or reed pen is meant. It is recorded that the patriarchs of Constantinople, under the Greek Empire, were accustomed to sign their allocations with tubular pens of silver similar in shape to the reed pens which are still used by all Oriental nations with the exception of the Chinese, who write with a brush or hair pencil dipped in Indian ink.

The English word *pen*, the French *plume*, and the German *feder* all mean a wing feather. There are many traces that quills were used as writing instruments by the ancient Romans. It is presumed that Caesar's Commentaries were written with them, but the earliest specific allusion to the quill occurs in the writings of St. Isidore of Seville, early in the seventh century. For a long time goose-quills were solely used, but afterwards the wing feathers of swans, turkeys, and crows were requisitioned. The goose-quill was until 1830 almost the only kind of pen in general use. In 1809 Joseph Bramah, the inventor of the well-known lock, which still bears his name, patented a machine for cutting up the quills into lengths, and dividing these into nibs. It was doubtless from seeing these nibs that James Perry got the idea of imitating them in steel. From the stylus of the ancients to the goose-quill of our fathers was a great step in advance, yet, as surely as metal bullets have superseded arrows as implements of war, so surely have metallic pens superseded quills as implements of peace. The first authentic record of steel pens being made was at Birmingham, in 1780, by a split-ring manufacturer named Samuel Harrison. He took sheet steel, made a tube or barrel of it, the edges, meeting to form the slit. He then filed away the edges and made a rough barrel pen of it. Harrison's method was improved upon by a blacksmith named Fellowes, of Sedgley, of Worcestershire, who punched a rough blank out of thin sheet steel. He then rounded this into the barrel shape, and while the metal was soft marked the place where the slit was to be with a sharp chisel. Before tempering, the mark was "tabbered" with a small hammer until it cracked, thus forming the slit. Fellowes began making in 1795, and was able to produce his pens at from 18s. to 30s. a dozen, whereas Harrison's were 5s. each.

Undoubtedly the first man who made a regular business of steel pen-making was Sheldon, an apprentice of Fellowes, of Sedgley. During the first quarter of the century steel pens were made by hand in Sheffield, Manchester, Sedgley, Birmingham, and London, the first-named town securing the bulk of the trade. In a shop window in the High Street, Sheffield, in 1816 a notice was displayed, "Steel pens are repaired here at six pence apiece." From such crude beginnings, by blacksmiths and split ring-makers, with their rough steel barrels and "tabbered" slits, has our modern steel pen evolved. With goose-quills at sixpence a dozen, it is hard to realize how steel pens at half a crown apiece ever had a sale. Sir Josiah Mason attributes this in great measure to the difficulty most people had in mending a quill. One is safe to conclude that had it not been for the latter application of the "side-slit" to pens (thereby increasing their flexibility) and of steam machinery in their production we would still be indebted to mother Goose for our writing utensils.

The honour of developing the steel pen industry must be divided between John Mitchel, James Perry Joseph Gillot, and Josiah Mason. It would be ill-advised to make a distinction as to whom the

greatest honour is due, as each in his several way contributed his share in perfecting the steel pen and popularising its use. With the exception of Perry—who first made his pens in Manchester (1819), and afterwards in London (1824)—the above established their factories in Birmingham. About 1830 Mr. Perry ceased to manufacture and had his pens made by Mason so that from that time the manufacture was entirely confined to Birmingham. Indeed, with the exception of half a dozen factories, divided between America, France and Germany, the entire steel pen trade of the world is centred in Birmingham. To such perfection has pen-making machinery been brought, coupled with the division of labour that several firms have an output of from 25,000 to 30,000 gross per week. The total production of Birmingham is reckoned at 1,750,000 gross, or 25,000,000 pens per week. Yet one is safe to affirm that the cheapest pen now made is an immeasurably better writing instrument than the "split-ring maker's barrel" of a hundred years ago, which cost a crown.

It is said that "it takes ten men to make a pin, but it takes sixteen men or women to make a pen."

The sixteen processes through which a pen has to pass are performed by sight and touch. Its final examination is by the ear, and so it is raised up and dropped by hand upon a square of plate glass. If it emits a ringing sound (which shows that it has not been slit) it is rejected, and sent back to be remelted. If it passes it is packed with others in a box, and is ready for sale. No one will deny that the art of hand-writing has improved with the improvements in steel-pen manufacture. Compulsory education was not in vogue when the blacksmith's barrel-pen with "tabbered slit" came piping hot from the anvil, or "please excuse a bad pen" would have been a valid apology for bad penmanship.

THE PERMANENT SETTLEMENT.

(Continued) No description of the condition of the landlords and tenants will be complete without considering at some length the Permanent Settlement, which is styled the Magna Charta of the rays and ryots of Bengal. Singularly enough this piece of legislation has been condemned all round by many renowned philanthropists and statesmen as a most serious blunder on the part of Government. It has been in fact a favourite stalking-horse with all shades of politicians to abuse the Government for the purpose of creating sympathy in favour of the ryots to the prejudice of the zemindar class. Yet when dispassionately discussed, it will appear most clear to every one how the settlement of 1793 was arrived at to the full advantage of the Government and the cultivator, and the greatest disadvantage of the landlords themselves.

It will startle most people to know that at the time of the settlement only an eleventh share of the crops was given to the landlords and that the remaining ten-elevenths were appropriated by the State as the share of the public. It was certainly a questionable policy on the part of Government to have taken the lion's share of the produce of the lands and given little or nothing to the zemindars, making them at the same time the avowed proprietors of estates and saddling them with the punctual payment of almost enormous revenue. In the division of the produce, two-fifths were allotted to the ryots after deducting three-fifths were taken as the Government share and one-eleventh left to the zemindar. In the face of these facts there are not wanting men, both here and in England, hot-headed patriots and editors of newspapers, who fulminate in and out of season the incredible story that in the settlement the zemindar was the one party who was benefited, and that the Government and the cultivator were cheated outright.

If ever there was a great question of administration decided upon what seemed at the time to be sound economic arguments, it was the Permanent Settlement of Bengal! This is the independent opinion of no less a man than Dr. Hunter, whose views cannot be easily impugned. Who can doubt that in abolishing an assessment, increasing always at the sweet will and pleasure of Government with the fertility of the land, Lord Cornwallis acted in a most benevolent spirit and upon a right principle? To put an end to all sorts of conflicting claims, the land was considered the common property of the State, the landholder and the cultivator, and its profits parcelled out amongst them. But while the Government and the ryot got the lion's share in the bargain, the zemindar, who was to bear the heat and brunt of the action, had to content himself with an insignificant title! The history of the Bengal zemindars for half a century after the settlement is a record of ruin and disaster—a record which demonstrates that the assessment at first was calculated and fixed at a most unconscionable amount. They were the only persons who were bound, in the first instance, to pay the Government revenue; but depending as they did entirely on the rents from the land for such a payment, they had no alternative to satisfy this immoderate demand, but by squeezing their tenants. But this realization of rents was a matter of very great difficulty and the law itself was the greatest obstacle in their way.

The utility of a permanent tax depends on its amount. If it be a moderate one, its permanence is a boon and a blessing to the country; but it can never be so if, as in this case, it was exorbitant, higher than the land could bear and out of all proportion to the progress of cultivation. There were then hardly sufficient data for the proper adjustment of the tax to the capacity of the soil. It was at length hurriedly fixed at the average amount of collections for the last three years, on a margin having been allowed for years of dearth and famine, pestilence and flood. Then there arose a wail that the country was overtaxed. From this high taxation has ever any systematic reduction been made? Never, as a rule. On the other hand, accumulating arrears have always been realized with great strictness, and every method of extortion has been practised in order to realize as large a revenue as possible!

The effect of this land tax was apparent. It became indispensable to sell off the lands in order to realize this large amount of revenue. In the year 1795 97, the lands advertised for sale bore a rent of 28,70,061 sicca rupees, and those actually sold yielded an annual rent of 14,18,756 sicca rupees. In 1797-98, the quantity of land sold bore a rent of 22,74,076 sicca rupees, and it is observed in the Fifth Report to Sir John Shore's Minute that among the defaulters were some of the oldest and some of the most respectable families of the country, the dismemberment of whose estates at the end of each succeeding year threatened them with poverty and ruin, and, in some instances, presented difficulties to the revenue officers in their endeavours to preserve undiminished the amount of the public assessment. In the meanwhile the realization of rents from the ryots became a matter of the greatest difficulty. The Collector of one of the most important districts writes on this subject as follows:—

"Farmers and intermediate tenants were till lately able to withhold their rents with impunity, and to exercise the authority of their landlords at defiance. Landholders had no direct control over

them; they could not proceed against the ryots, except through the courts of justice; and the ends of substantial justice were defeated by delays and costs of suit. It was notorious that many of them had large arrears of rent which they were utterly unable to recover, while Government was selling their lands for arrears of assessment." The result was that nearly all the wealthiest houses of zemindars were ruined and destroyed. A few, like those of the Maharajas of Burdwan and Durbhanga, no doubt survived this destructive cyclone, but the shock which they sustained was a very severe one, and it required years of economical management before they could recover from it. There are others which have not yet come to a solvent state and which will not be able to raise their heads for a long time yet to come. The country had thus been charged with a permanent land-tax, founded on the actual revenue of three prosperous years, which was exorbitant and greater than the land could bear and unexampled in the history of revenue settlements of any other civilized country in the world. The standard of assessment under the Hindu ryots and Mussulman monarchs was far lighter than this, and in fact was nothing in comparison with it. In the first place in ancient times under the Hindu kings only a sixth part of the produce of the land was taken as revenue by the State. It could never exceed that, as it was expressly enjoined in the religious codes of the Hindus. In Akbar's time the revenue was fixed at one-fourth of the harvest of the land.

It will be interesting to glance at the different assessments of land revenue made by the various Governments in past times. In Todar Mall's time it was Rs. 1,06,93,152. In 1722 it was increased by the prime minister Jaffer Khan to Rs. 1,31,15,907. Sujah Khan raised it to Rs. 1,64,18,513 within a space of ten years by the imposition of some additional taxes. In 1755, the Governor of Bengal, Ali Verdy Khan, assessed it at a still higher amount, about Rs. 1,86,44,067. The highest assessment of land ever made was by Cossim Ali, which came up to over two crores. But at the time of realization it dwindled down to the figures of previous assessments. The assessment imposed on the country by Cossim Ali is stated by Sir John Shore to have been "mere pillage and racket." In the year 1765 in the first year of the Company's administration the assessment was Rs. 1,63,29,011, of which Rs. 1,47,04,875 were actually collected. In the year 1793 Lord Cornwallis, in proclaiming the rates of land revenue to be fixed for ever, increased it to Rs. 2,85,87,722. In the Jubilee year of our Gracious Majesty the Queen-Empress of India, this revenue stood at nearly four crores of rupees. The standard revenue of Todar Mall seems to have been all that the land could bear! All subsequent augmentations were attended with cruelty and oppression, which reached its height in the reign of Meer Cossim, who was set up by the English, whose policy was to ascertain in this way the produce of the land before assuming the supreme power of the country!

POSSIBLE EMPERORS.

NAPOLEON the Great was one of the richest, if not quite the richest, sovereign in Europe in his day. His methods of acquiring money were thoroughly characteristic, and to do him justice, he never, except in the matter of men, robbed the country he reigned over. After a successful campaign against Austria or Germany it was the great warrior's custom to secure to himself by private treaty sums varying from twelve millions to twenty millions sterling of our money from the beaten country. His levies or extortions from his enemies are said to have amounted to £75,000,000.

On his death he left by will £3,000,000, not a penny of which was ever paid. Indeed, the Bonaparte after his death fell upon evil days, and it is within the recollection of many that a Bonaparte family of the blood Imperial once kept a dress-making establishment in the west of London.

Prince Victor Napoleon—the possible Napoleon A—lives in a very quiet establishment in the Avenue Louise, in Brussels, and cannot, at an outside computation, be worth more than £5,000 a year. His brother, Louis Napoleon, colonel of a Russian regiment, possesses about the same amount.

The ex-Empress Eugenie, who is reputed to be one of the wealthiest women in Europe, has stated her intention of leaving a fortune of £2,000,000 to the one who is accounted by the Bonapartist party.

Strangely enough, there also lives in the Avenue Louise, in Brussels, a grandson of the King of Rome the great Napoleon's only son. The King of Rome contracted a morganatic marriage with a beautiful actress at the Vienna Opera. Her grandson is well-known by sight to the people of Brussels, and bears the most striking resemblance possible to the great Corsican.

He is now in middle age, and was on terms of intimate friendship with the late Prince Lucien Bonaparte, a nephew of Napoleon I., being the son of the Emperor's exiled brother Lucien "the cleverest of the family after myself"—who was created Prince of Canino by Pope Pius VII.

The son of the late Prince Lucien, it may be of interest to note, was up till recently a breadwinner to the extent of pursuing his calling of a civil engineer in London.

The sister of Princes Victor and Louis, Princesse Letitia, who is now the wife of the Duc d'Aosta was also anything but dowdy in a princely fashion. The entire wealth of the Bonaparte family is estimated to be not more than four millions sterling, most of which is owned by the ex-Empress Eugenie.

The actual claimants to the Imperial throne are not worth £20,000 a year between them. On the other hand, the House of Orleans is reputed to be worth at least £15,000,000.

A MIRACULOUS CURE.

To an inquiry about the cure of his wife made by a friend, "P," who is in Government service and whose veracity we vouch for, writes:

Yes, the recovery of my wife is a miracle. After the patient was in a sub-normal state for 3 days, the attending physician told us one morning that it was the critical day, that the crisis was to come at 6 P.M., and that we must be prepared for the worst. He, the doctor, absolutely refused to pay another visit in the afternoon unless we sent a man after 6 P.M. This was tantamount to saying that she was to expire at 6 P.M. The crisis however was passed. But after 2 days the patient who has been suffering for one year and a half and was in a sub-normal condition only 2 days previous, got fever, which gradually rose at 11 P.M. to 105 degrees. The doctor said there was not the least chance for her life. But the wonder is that she got over and is now able to walk about. Her recovery is due not to medicine but to some higher influence. My wife is not a spiritualist and knows perhaps very little about it. But she saw in her dream, as she subsequently told us, M—who has been dead these 3 years beaming with heavenly light. He sat near her head and told her not to be frightened and assured her of her recovery. I saw the face of R—, he is no longer in this world,—while I was wide awake during one day in day time. During 10 or 12 days the patient's room was full of spirits. My aunt, who nursed the patient, witnessed the spectacle.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

MILITARY APPOINTMENTS.

(From our own correspondent.) SIMLA, APRIL 19. Major-General Stedman, lately in Command of the Burma district, is appointed Military Secretary to the India Office, in succession to General Newmarch. Resaldar-Major Khan Bahadur, Aide-de-Camp to Lieutenant-General Palmer, is appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Commander-in-Chief.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

LONDON, APRIL 18. In the Commons to-day, Mr. Chamberlain, replying to a question, said the attack on British troops at Kowloon appeared to have been instigated by Chinese secret societies, but the combatants included uniform Chinese militia. The doubtful attitude of the Chinese authorities necessitates careful reconsideration of the position.

LONDON, APRIL 18. The Dominion Government will probably disallow the Bill passed by the British Columbia Legislature excluding the entry of Japanese labourers.

LONDON, APRIL 18. The Bishops designate of Madras, Madagascar and Mombassa, will be consecrated in St. Paul's Cathedral on the 29th of June.

LONDON, APRIL 18. There is a growing opposition to the Budget proposals in several quarters. The Australians strongly oppose the increase of wine duties.

LONDON, APRIL 18. The United States cruisers Marblehead and Newark have been ordered to Samoa.

LONDON, APRIL 19. The British troops at Kowloon having been reinforced, advance to-day towards Deep Bay to clear the country of hostile Chinese. The gunboats will assist the advance.

LONDON, APRIL 19. A conference held at Rome between the representatives of the Italian Railways and the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company has considered means to accelerate the transit of the Indian Mail Service, and has decided to lower the fares between Modena and Brindisi and to modify the existing Customs regulations.

LONDON, APRIL 19. General O'is is arranging to send home gradually the American Volunteers serving in the Philippines.

LONDON, APRIL 19. A ship's boat from the American gunboat Yorktown with an officer and fourteen men fell into an ambush at Luzon, and all were captured by the Filipinos.

LONDON, APRIL 19. The troops have returned to Hongkong from Kowloon, the Chinese making no further sign of resistance.

LONDON, APRIL 19. The New South Wales Legislative Council has passed the Federation Bill.

LONDON, APRIL 19. A large meeting of members of the House of Commons is to be held next Tuesday, to consider the question of cable charges to India and Ceylon.

LONDON, APRIL 19. The City and Suburban handicap resulted as under:—

- Newhaven II ... 1
Survivor ... 2
Tom Cringle ... 3

LONDON, APRIL 20. Lord George Hamilton stated in the House of Commons to-day that Indian Government was considering certain proposals which, by changes of position and defensive works, would permit of a reduction in the garrison of Chitral. In the meanwhile the reliefs were postponed pending a decision being arrived at.

LONDON, APRIL 20. Replying to Sir W. Wedderburn, the Secretary of State, declined to interfere with the decision of the Bombay Government regarding the Natus, or to give a pledge for the future.

LONDON, APRIL 20. Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, in reply to a question, said he believed that Indian Securities would be included under the new Stamp Duties, but there was some difficulty about Rupee Paper.

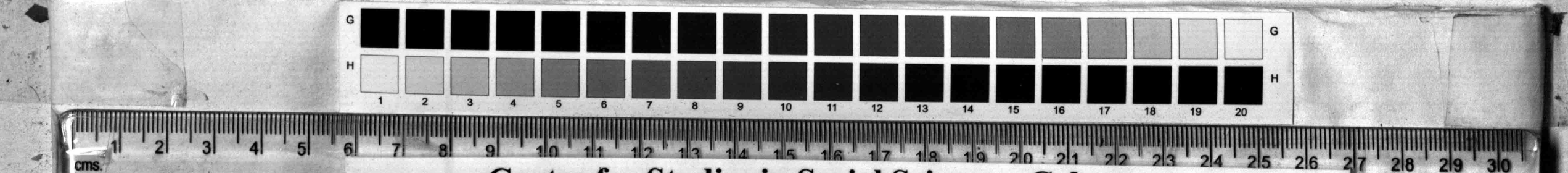
LONDON, APRIL 21. A slight scare, arising out of a discussion on the Indian Sugar Duties, took place in the House of Commons last evening Lord George Hamilton, in replying to a question by Mr. Maclean, member for Cardiff, stated that the exportation of sugar from Great Britain to India averaged 900 tons. Mr. Maclean began reading figures traversing this statement, when the Speaker ruled that he was out of order. Mr. Maclean persisting in continuing his remarks, a great uproar ensued, during which the member for Cardiff took a seat on the Radical benches and shortly afterwards quitted the House.

LONDON, APRIL 21. Mr. Doumer, Governor of Indo-China, arrived at Bangkok on the 16th. The King warmly received the French representative, indicating a wish on the part of His Majesty to resume friendly relations.

Plague News.

The death-rate in Calcutta remains normal, but on Thursday there were 15 fresh cases of Plague reported and 13 deaths. The cases of suspected Plague numbered eight.

The rest camp at Umballa will be closed on the departure of the draft of the Yorkshire Regiment on Thursday next. The draft has been detained here in quarantine in consequence of an epidemic of Scarlet Fever which developed soon after their arrival in this station where they were awaiting the arrival of the head-quarters from Peshawar.





VARIETIES.

A NEW FIREARM.

WHAT seems to be a very formidable rival to the revolver is the light automatic carbine or pistol which has recently been put upon the market in three patterns, two of which come from Germany, and the other from Belgium. The new weapon is only half the weight of a rifle, it is sighted to five hundred yards, it will come in half for packing, and its cost is under ten pounds. Ten cartridges can be inserted in one second, and as many as eighty shots per minute have been fired from this compact weapon. The ammunition used is of the smokeless variety, and the cartridges are very light in weight. The weapon will doubtless prove of great use for sporting as well as for more serious purposes.

INCENDIARY MICROBES.

UNDER the above title a writer in our French contemporary "La Nature" contributes an interesting article on spontaneous combustion, showing that when stored hay, bales of cotton, tobacco, etc., take fire the action is in the first place due to bacteria. In wet seasons such fires are most common, and are due to storing the hay, etc., in a damp state; fermentation follows with great rise of temperature, the process due entirely to the action of microbes; the hay is changed to a dry, porous, and carbonaceous condition; and it presently takes fire. It will consume slowly, until accident brings the external air to its help, when the incandescent mass bursts into flame, and the microbes which caused the initial mischief are destroyed in a funeral pyre of their own making.

FLASHING ADVERTISEMENTS.

At last an effort is being made to deal with the recent outcome of electrical progress known as the flashing advertisement; and although that effort does not extend beyond the limits of the Metropolitan area, it is an endeavour to reach the fountain-head where the evil is at present most rampant. No fewer than four hundred architects have petitioned the London County Council to stop a practice by which "the architectural value of the most beautiful sites in Europe, Trafalgar Square, is thus nightly destroyed." The petitioners have some hope that powers will be obtained to deal with this matter effectually, because some time ago when an attempt was successfully made to throw advertising notices by means of a search light upon Nelson's Column in the same square, an appeal to those authority resulted in the practice being abandoned. An endeavour to advertise soap and pills on the clouds was happily abandoned about the same time because of its impracticability.

THE RAPID SEASONING OF WOOD.

YET another application has been found for the modern wonder-worker—electricity—in the quick seasoning of timber, and by all accounts the process is a reliable one. At Carlton, Kent, the well-known electricians, Messrs. Johnson and Phillips, have set up a plant in order to work the Nedon-Bretonneau system, which consists in immersing the timber to be treated in a tank containing a solution of borax, resin and soda—a mixture which may be described as an antiseptic varnish. Plates of metal are arranged above and below the timber, and these are connected with a dynamo that the electrical current completes its circuit through the wood. Under this treatment the sap is driven to the surface of the bath, and the borax liquified takes its place in the pores of the wood. This part of the process occupies from five to eight hours after which the wood is dried spontaneously or by artificial means. It is said that a fortnight's exposure to summer weather will render the wood as serviceable as if it had been stored in the ordinary way for five years.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY.

At a recent meeting of the Paris Academy of Medicine a report was presented by Mr. Laborde concerning some experiments made by him in conjunction with M. Jaubert with a view to restoring vitiated or breathed air to its normal condition. It is well-known that expired air, besides being short of oxygen, is charged with carbon dioxide, watery vapour, and other products. The experiments in question assert that they have discovered a chemical substance which, by simple contact with expired air, will restore to it its lost oxygen, while at the same time it will rob it of all its noxious properties. Three or four kilograms of the compound will allow a man to live twenty-four hours in a confined space without any fresh air being administered to him from outside. It need hardly be pointed out that this discovery, if bona fide, will be of the greatest use to divers, firemen, and all who have to face an irrespirable atmosphere. In previous apparatus having the same object, caustic soda has been employed to absorb the carbon dioxide, while the oxygen has been renewed from a compressed store of that gas.

A GREAT WORK.

ONE of the grandest engineering works ever conceived has just been inaugurated by the laying of the foundation-stone at Assouan, on the Nile, of a vast granite dam which is destined to hold the waters of the historic river in check. The huge wall will be more than a mile in length, seventy-six feet high in places, and thirty or forty feet in width, so that it will form a bridge across the river as well as a dam to conserve its waters. The effect of this obstruction will be the formation of a reservoir, with an area of about six hundred and seventy square miles, holding one thousand million tons of water; and it is estimated that this mighty volume will be the means of bringing two thousand five hundred square miles of desert land under cultivation. The so-called cataracts, which are in reality rapids, will disappear, and a lock of each end of the granite will form gates for the passage of vessels up and down stream. The work has been planned by Sir Benjamin Baker, will be undertaken by Mr. Aird, and will probably be completed in about four years time. It is regarded as the greatest engineering enterprise undertaken in the land of the Pharaohs since the building of the Pyramids.

AMONG the many valuable lessons taught by the recent war between Spain and the United States is the important one that a ship of war should have as little wood in its construction as possible, and that what there is should be fireproof. Dr. Hexamer recently read before the Franklin Institute a paper dealing with this subject and showing how, by a comparatively cheap and easy process, woodwork may be rendered absolutely incombustible. It may be noted that the inventor of the system does not seek to make money out of it, but gives it to the American nation with a view to his country's service. Before commencing his experiments, Dr. Hexamer laid down certain conditions which he considered imperative, the chief of which was that to prove effective against fire the wood must be treated, not on the surface only, but through its entire mass. After trying various substances with which to impregnate the wood, he finally chose water-glass, treating it at a later stage with ammonium chloride in order to render it insoluble. The wood-work is first of all heated in an iron container to expel all moisture, after which the water-glass is admitted under pressure, and is forced into the inner recesses of the wood. Ammonium chloride is then admitted to the container, under the same conditions, and the wood is finally washed in running water and slowly dried.

SEEING THE POINT.

The following story is told of a once well-known millionaire who has been dead some years. A young man came to him one day and asked pecuniary aid to start him in business.

"Do you drink?" asked the millionaire. "Once in a while." "Stop it! Stop it for a year, and then come and see me." The young man broke off the habit at once, and at the end of the year came to see the millionaire again with the same request. "Do you smoke?" asked the successful man. "Now and then." "Stop it! Stop it for a year, and then come and see me again." The young man went home and broke away from this habit. It took him some time, but finally he worried through the year, and presented himself again. "Do you play billiards?" asked the Croesus. "Yes, I do," was the desperate reply. "Stop it! Stop it for a year; then come and see me again." The young man stopped playing billiards, but he never went back. Wngc asked by his anxious friends why he had not called on the millionaire again, he replied that he knew exactly what the man was driving at. "He'd have told me that now that I have stopped drinking and smoking and playing billiards, I must have saved enough money to start myself in business. And I have."

THE CASE OF MUKANDA SUNDER SARKAR OF JUNGIPUR.

JUDGMENT.

CASE No. 149.—Empress versus Mukanda Sunder Sarkar.—Sec. 241, I. P. C.

The theory of the prosecution is that the accused Mukanda Sunder Sarkar delivered to his washerman Bhuban Dhuba a counterfeit coin, to wit, one Adhuli (8-anna piece) knowing it to be counterfeit at the time of delivery, that Bhuban Dhuba tendered the said Adhuli to Natabar for change, that Natabar considered the coin as spurious and told Bhuban Sr. Whereupon the Constable Mahabir Singh, who was in the shop of Natabar, arrested Bhuban with the coin and chalaned him, and that Bhuban having been discharged, Mukanda has been arrested and sent up for trial under Sec. 241, I. P. C.

The accused's defence is that Bhuban is his washerman, that neither he nor his brother did pay Bhuban anything on account of his wages before he went to marry, that he does not know why Bhuban says that he received the Adhuli from him and that he was never in possession of such kind of Adhuli.

The evidence which the prosecution brought to support the charge is the testimony of 5 witnesses.

First witness is Mahabir Singh. He deposes that about 4 months ago in Baisakh last he went to the shop of Latabar at evening, when he saw Bhuban Dhuba to change one 8-anna piece, that Latabar said that "he has got no piece and so he would not take the 8-anna piece", that Latabar returned the coin to Bhuban on which he asked to see it, that Latabar said that the coin is not all right". Consequently he wanted to see it, that the coin having been found to be spurious, he took it (i.e. the coin) and Bhuban Dhuba to the thana, that this is the coin which Bhuban gave to Latabar, that he recognizes it there having been a mark, and that there was no talk at the time of occurrence about the Adhuli as to where it was received from.

In the cross-examination, he says, that there has been no change in the colour of the coin or in its glaze, that it was not burnt, that he had uniform on his body when he arrested Bhuban and took him to the thana.

On the 21st May 1898 this witness was examined in the case of Bhuban Dhuba when he made statement which runs as follows: Latabar said that the coin "is not genuine on which I took it".

"Accused (i.e. Bhuban) said that he received it (i.e. coin) from Mukanda Babu pleader."

Witness No. 2, Latabar, says that Bhuban Dhuba took to him an Adhuli just at candle-light, that Bhuban asked from him betel of one piece, and the piece, that he gave him betel of one piece and 7 As. 3 P. in piece on receipt of Adhuli from him, that he examined the Adhuli but it did not tinkle well, that as the Adhuli did not sound well he returned it to Bhuban and took back the piece and Pan (betel), that Bhuban took away the Atani to his house, that no one was in the shop when Bhuban came and changed the Adhuli, that Mahabir Singh came to him with Bhuban after sometime and showed him the Adhuli on which he said that it was given to him for change but returned it, as it did not sound well, that there was Golmal as Bhuban showed the coin to somebody else near Kadam tree close to his house in consequence of which the Constable could know about the coin, and that Bhuban said that he received the Adhuli from one Mukanda Babu. In the cross-examination he says that Bhuban mentioned Mukanda's name when he was under Police custody.

This witness was examined on the 23rd May last when he gave evidence which runs as follows: "The accused who is present in Court did go to my stop for changing one Adhuli. I paid him eight As but when the Adhuli was put on the ground the tinkling sound was not a good one. I therefore thought the Adhuli not to be genuine. I asked him for the refund of 8 As piece paid. The accused said that he received the Adhuli from Mukanda Babu on account of his wages. Mahabir Singh Constable who was then present in the shop asked which Adhuli did not tinkle well. The Adhuli was then given to the Constable by the accused."

Witness No. 3 Sub-Inspector says that on the 1st May one Constable Mahabir Singh brought a coin (8-anna piece) and Bhuban Dhuba, that he produced the coin saying that this coin was delivered by Bhuban to Latabar Pan-wala for change, that Latabar found it counterfeit and refused to receive it, that he (constable) had been in that shop and noticed that it is not genuine, that he sent the coin to Assay Master for examination and that he recorded in the first information report the statement made by the Constable.

In the cross-examination he says that he examined the coin in the thana and in Radhika's shop, that he got it burnt by Radhika after which it was put into water when it became copper colour, after which alum and something were used on it, that this process was twice repeated for examining the genuineness of the coin, that Bhuban was not present when the coin was examined in goldsmith shop, that the examination of the coin was made before it was sent to Calcutta, that he did not send up Mukanda with Bhuban for trial as he did not think evidence sufficient against Mukanda.

Witness No. 4 Madan Sarnakar deposes that Mohini, brother of Mukanda, one day took to him one Adhuli for examination, that he saw it and told him that it was "bad" as it was found to be light, that he probably examined

the coin before he gave evidence to the Police, that this coin does not seem to be similar to the one he examined and that it was brighter. In the cross-examination he says that he can not say whether there was any cut-mark in the coin, that he did not know Mohini before he went to his shop, that he heard from one that his name is Mohini and that he is the brother of Mukanda.

This witness was examined on the 2nd May when he gave evidence which runs as follows: "Mohini Sarkar, brother of Mukanda Sarkar pleader, went to me and showed me a half rupee silver piece for examination regarding its genuineness on which I said that it is a counterfeit coin." The Adhuli was found to be light and the marks and impressions were not clear. This coin is similar to the one showed to me by Mohini.

Witness No. 5 Bhuban Dhuba says that he is the washerman of Mukanda, that he went to ask for his wages on which Mukanda said that the Kharach will be paid when his brother comes, that sometimes after he again did go to Mukanda on which he Mukanda; told him to bring 8 As piece and to take a rupee that there having been no piece Mehini gave one Adhuli to Mukanda who gave it to him, Bhuban, that he brought the 8-Anna piece home and kept it in 8 or 9 days after this he went to change the Adhuli in the shop of Natabar, that Natabar did not take it saying that it is bad on which he told him that he got it from Mukanda Babu, that he was coming back when he met Mahabir who asked for the Adhuli, that he gave it to him, that he said that the Adhuli is bad and that he (Constable) accordingly took him with the Adhuli to the thana.

In the cross-examination he says that he is the washerman of 110 persons, that he received the coin from the accused at 10 P.M., that Mohini said that he has got an Adhuli on which the accused Mukanda said to give it to him, that he (Bhuban) gave the Adhuli to his mother who is the guardian of his family, that he has got an eldest brother, that he does not look after the homely affairs, that his mother sent him to purchase betel, that he asked for the piece on which his mother gave him the Adhuli, that his eldest brother earns money, that his brother also keeps the money with his mother, that there is one box in which the money that is earned by him and brother are kept. In the re-examination he says that Mohini did deliver the Adhuli to him, that he had no talk with Mukanda accused about the genuineness of the Adhuli that was delivered to him.

Witness No. 6, Assay Master, says as follows "I examined the coin, it is a half-rupee of 1893, weight 82.5 grains, hard metal, a very rough inferior casting, portion of gate filed down so as to obliterate the milling a poor ring. Any person should be able to pronounce it a counterfeit. I swear it is a counterfeit of the Queen's coin. It has never been issued for Government Mint."

After making some analysis of the testimony of the witnesses No. 1, 2 and 4 and contrasting it with the depositions which they made in Bhuban's case it is evident that the 2 sets of evidence are contradictory and inconsistent with each other.

For example 1st witness Mahabir Constable in his former statement mentioned the name of Mukanda as the person from whom Bhuban (?) said to have received the coin. But in his latter statement he does not say so.

2nd witness Natabar now says that Bhuban went to him in order to purchase betel, that Mahabir was not then present, that Mahabir came subsequently to his shop with Bhuban and 8-anna piece as he (Mahabir) could know about the coin their having been Golmal at some other place where Bhuban showed the coin to some one else and that Bhuban mentioned Mukanda's name when he was under Police custody.

But in his previous statement he said that Bhuban came to change the 8-anna piece, that Mahabir was present when Bhuban came to his shop and mentioned the name of Mukanda as the person from whom he received the coin.

4th witness Madan. In the case of Bhuban he made a statement identifying the coin in Court as that showed to him by Mohini, brother of Mukanda. But he now says that the coin does not seem to be similar to the one he examined, that he did not know Mohini before, that he heard his name is Mehini and that he is the brother of Mukanda.

Now it is remarkable that all these witnesses not even excepting the Constable told different stories altogether from those which they told when examined in the case of Bhuban Dhuba. As regards the evidence given by these witnesses in the former case it must be observed that at the time when they were examined they were apparently free from all external influence and would have deposed to nothing but what they had actually witnessed, while on the other hand when they gave their evidence in this case those interested in bringing about the accused's acquittal had ample opportunity of tampering with the witnesses themselves, had also sufficient time to think over the consequences of their evidence. I have therefore very carefully considered both those sets of evidence and have duly weighed the circumstances under which each was given as also the arguments urged by the Police Inspector for prosecution and by the pleader for defence about the credibility, and the conclusion at which I arrived is that these witnesses are in themselves untrustworthy and their testimony cannot be relied upon.

It is clear from the evidence adduced on behalf of prosecution that the case against the accused depends entirely on the evidence of witness Bhuban to whom the coin was said to have been delivered. Now let me see whether from the testimony of this witness it can be ascertained that the accused Mukanda was in possession of the counterfeit piece of Queen's coin in question, that he passed it to Bhuban and that he had knowledge of the coin being counterfeit at the time of such delivery. It is evident from his testimony that he is the washerman of Mukanda as well as of 110 persons, that his age is of about 18 years, that he has got his elder brother and mother all living in the same mess, that their earnings remain with their mother who is the guardian of the family, that she keeps the money which is earned by both the brothers in one box there having been no other box in the house, that his mother handed over the Adhuli (8-anna piece) which is the subject matter of this case to Bhuban for purchase of betel and that he, Bhuban, went to Natabar's shop with it when he was arrested by the Constable Mahabir Singh. Such is the evidence of the witness Bhuban. Even assuming that the accused delivered one eight-anna piece to Bhuban it is very difficult for him to identify that eight-anna piece with the one which he

got from his mother for exchange and purchase of betel. Then again Bhuban does not name the accused Mukanda to have delivered the half-rupee to him. In his examination-in-chief he named, the accused but in the cross-examination he mentioned the name of Mohini as the person from whom he received the coin. It is useless to go further and point out other inconsistencies by comparing the evidence given at this trial with his previous statements which he made as an accused in case No. 140 of 1898 as such statements cannot be used as evidence against the persons whom he implicates.

Having regard to the above facts I have no hesitation in saying that the delivery of the coin in question by the accused to Bhuban has not been proved.

The other witnesses, named the Sub-Inspector and Assay Master, prove nothing about delivery of the coin by the accused or about his guilty knowledge in respect of the coin.

It is clear from the evidence of the Assay Master that the 8-anna piece which is the subject matter in this case is counterfeit and that any person can pronounce it so. But I doubt whether he could have said so had the coin not been burnt twice by using alum and dipped into water for the purpose of examining its genuineness before its transmission to him.

Now comes the Police investigating officer. The evidence of the Sub-Inspector clearly goes to show that Mukanda was not sent up before there having been no evidence against him.

Apart from this there is nothing in the first information report from which it can be ascertained that Bhuban did ever mention before arrest the name of Mukanda or Mohini as the person from whom he received the coin. Having regard to the above facts I am of opinion that no charge can be framed against the accused Mukanda on the evidence given by the witnesses who, I consider, had perjured before me.

Rejecting, as I feel bound to do, the evidence of the witnesses mentioned above nothing whatever remains against the accused Mukanda Sunder Sarkar or Mohini Sarkar.

In short taking all the evidence into consideration I think that the case for the prosecution breaks down altogether. No act of the delivery of the coin by the accused Mukanda with knowledge that it is counterfeit has been proved and the mere fact of there being a spurious coin in the possession of a washerman cannot make the accused Mukanda Sunder Sarkar guilty under sec. 241 I. P. C. I would therefore discharge the accused Mukanda Sunder Sarkar under sec. 253 C. P. C.

14.9.98. (Sd.) CHANDRA NATH GHOSE, D. M.

Law Intelligence.

HIGH COURT: CRIMINAL BENCH, —APRIL 20.

(Before Justices Prinsep and Wilkins.)

A CHOTANAGPUR MURDER CASE.

LIFE-SENTENCE SET ASIDE.

THEIR Lordships delivered judgment in murder case which came up before them on appeal from the decision of Mr. F. B. Taylor, Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur, sentencing two men to transportation for life for the murder of one Udit Das, lessee of the village Nischintapur, in which the accused lived. The facts of the case are given below in the judgment of the High Court. The evidence however on which the Sessions Judge based his conviction and sentenced two men to transportation deserves more than a passing notice. The police produced two eye-witnesses to the occurrence, one of them a cow-herd, who deposed to having seen the murder committed before his very eyes, was thus disposed of by the Sessions Judge:—"Comparing this man's statement with his first statement to the police, I am of opinion that he cannot safely be accepted as a true witness and that he did not actually see the attack he claims to have witnessed." The Sessions Judge continued. "To support the case and bring it home to the accused, a labourer named Dina has been examined. He claims to have been ploughing and to have seen the accused pass about noon . . . How this witness was traced does not appear and his evidence so obviously fits in with the statements of accused that I am unable to accept it as a piece of true and genuine evidence." Further on the Sessions Judge observed:—"It will thus be seen that if the evidence of Gauju and Dina (the two so called eye-witnesses) is set aside, the case for the prosecution must stand on the admissions of the accused where they exist." Then as regards the confessions, which had been retracted as soon as they were made, the Sessions Judge observed:—"They (accused) were asked why they confessed. Jagannath claimed his right to tell the truth." Before the Sessions Judge the accused said that they were induced to make the confessions because "they had been tortured and kept three days without food." The Sessions Judge did not believe that the confessions were voluntary. It was suggested on behalf of the defence that "confessions purporting to be the fruits of penitence and remorse are open to suspicion. Moral incentives are now suggested in the present case." "But," the Sessions Judge observed, "as often happens in this country, an accused person finding that his crime has been discovered, gives his own version of the facts either in the hope that he may minimise his guilt or possibly may be used as a witness and so escape," and accordingly he believed the confessions to be voluntary and convicted the accused.

Babu Jyoti Prasad Sarbadhikary for the accused.—The conviction is only based upon confessions. It is not safe to convict only upon confessions when it is shown that the police misconducted themselves in connection with these confessions. In this case the accused were kept in confinement for three days, and tortured (as one of the witnesses heard them cry out *bap-re gelam* and one of the accused showed to the Magistrate a wound on his finger) before they made the confessions. Conviction upon such confessions is utterly unsafe (vide 2 Cal. L.R., P. 143 and several other cases.)

Mr. Leith for the Crown.—The confession was good and the conviction ought to be upheld.

Prinsep, J., who delivered the judgment of the court, said:—"Two persons Darshan and Jagannath are being convicted of murder of

one Udit Das by the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpur in concurrence with the passors and have been sentenced to transportation for life. Their appeal are now before us. Udit Das left his house one day having been sent up for by Jugli, the servant of Nad Ali. He left Nad Ali at about 2 P. M. but return home and he has never again been seen alive. Suspicion having been aroused, a search was made and a headless body was found in a neighbouring jungle, and shortly afterwards, the head was found and from the appearance of the teeth, it is said, from the this was the body of Udit Das. Several other persons were put on their trial together with the appellants and they have been acquitted, the evidence being insufficient to establish their guilt. The two appellants have been convicted mainly on their confessions made to the Magistrate three days after the murder. These confessions, however, were retracted afterwards and in the Sessions Court the appellants stated that they had been induced by the police to make the confession. There is also the evidence of a boy who described himself as having seen the murder committed. That evidence, however, has been rejected by the Sessions Judge as unreliable, and we also agree in this opinion, for it is quite improbable upon that evidence safely to convict the appellants, and we may deserve that in respect of the other prisoners under trial it was not considered sufficient for their conviction. We have therefore, to consider whether the confessions made to the Magistrate before the enquiry had really commenced after the completion of the investigation by the police, are sufficient for the conviction of the appellants. We observe in the first place that the statements made by the appellants are not consistent and that, in many material points, they contradicted each other, and we are of opinion that upon such evidence without any reliable corroboration it would be altogether unsafe to convict the appellants. We accordingly set aside the conviction and sentence and direct that the appellants be acquitted.

A CONTRIVANCE has been invented by means of which eight telegraphic messages may be sent over the same wire at the same time, four in each direction. The sender uses a small machine with a keyboard like a typewriter. At the receiving end the message is recorded in print, either on a sheet or on a long tape. This invention, it is claimed, will treble the present power of telegraphy.

AN advance in the beautiful art of photography has been made by a London firm, who now print charming, indestructible photographs directly on metal. They use mahogany, coated with a film of gold, silver, or copper, upon which the picture seems to stand out in relief. The ordinary blacks become softer and more brilliant, varying under the play of light.

TWO OF A TRADE.

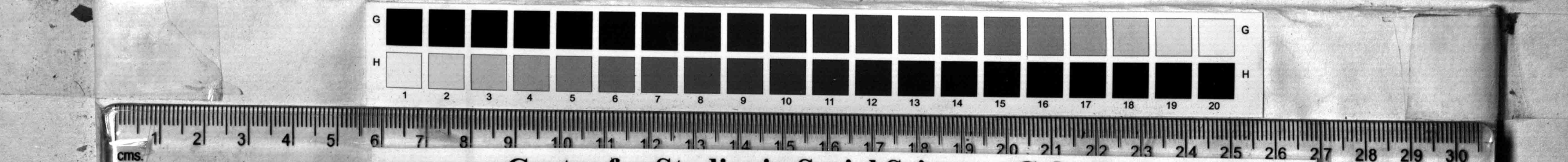
That two of a trade seldom agree is a common saying. Its weakness, however, resides in the fact that it is a cavilling, sheering saying. The idea sought to be conveyed is that the disagreement is the outcome of reciprocal jealousy. While that is likely, it is not a necessary, or even a philosophical, inference. Two of a trade may easily see reasons for an honest difference of opinion to which the outsider is blind. Again two of a trade may agree and both be wrong—on a point, of course, connected with their own industry. Some years ago there was high debate over the question whether a painting, exhibited in Paris, was an original Velasquez or a copy. Half the artists and connoisseurs in Europe got hot under the collar about it. It was one or the other—so they said. Later on the fact came out. It was neither an original nor a copy: it was a replica. The experts were mistaken. And so runs speculative judgement in everything.

Here is the case of two doctors; both doubtless, competent men. If they were wrong or if only one was wrong—but let us have the story first. It comes from a reputable source, and is well corroborated. "In March, 1891," says the relater. "I had a severe attack of influenza, which prostrated me for two months. After this I could not get up my strength. My appetite was poor, and what little I did eat gave me much pain at the chest and around the heart. Sharp, cutting pains in the region of the heart seized me every now and again, sometimes so bad I feared I was going to die. At night I got little or no sleep on account of wind, which rose into my throat until I faintly gasped for breath. During the painful attacks of my complaint perspiration would stand in beads upon my face. "I soon lost strength to that extent I could not stand. Indeed, I was weak as a child. I was often so dizzy I had to catch hold of something to keep my from falling. Several times these attacks have come upon me at concerts, obliging my friends to conduct me home. As time passed on I grew more and more feeble and abandoned all hope of ever being well and strong again. "I had two doctors attending me who prescribed medicines; which however, eased me only for a time and then I was as bad as ever. "One doctor said I had pleurisy; the other said I had heart disease. "For two and one-half years I lingered along nearly as much dead as alive, all my relatives and friends thinking I would not recover. In November 1893, a book was left at my house in which I read of Cass' like mine having been cured by Mother Seigel's Syrup. My wife procured me a bottle from the Provincial Drug Stores in Westgate Street, and the first bottle gave me, so much relief that I continued with the medicine. I could then eat well and the food agreed with me; the pain around the heart soon ceasing. "In a short time my strength returned and I got back to my work well and vigorous. Since then I have been in the best of health. You are at liberty to publish this statement and refer to me." (Signed) William Henry Jervis, 48, Rensdell Road, All Saints, Ipswich, November, 13th, 1897.

One of Mr. Jervis' doctors pronounced his complaint to be pleurisy; the other said it was heart disease. Were they both right, or both wrong? Or was one right and the other wrong? In the latter case—which one? Judging from the symptoms as set forth by Mr. Jervis the probability is that both were right—as far as they went.

The sac or bag which surrounds the heart (called the pericardium), and the sac in which the lungs rest (called the pleura), are parts of the lymphatic system; which is the special abiding place and stamping ground of the kind of poison, produced by the diseased digestive system, and the cause of rheumatism, gout, pleurisy, and heart disease. Now, after (if not before) his attack of influenza Mr. Jervis suffered from acute dyspepsia with torpid liver, which engendered the poison that set up a mild form of both pleurisy and heart disorder. When the real and underlying ailment of all—the dyspepsia—was cured by Mother Seigel's Syrup these supplementary or consequential troubles vanished, as might be expected.

So we see that—strange as it may seem—two of a trade can differ and both be right.





DIAMOND-MINING IN INDIA.

THE celebrated Kohinur was found in India, as well as two other famous brilliants, called the great Moghul and the Pitt. In fact, India was the only country in ancient times which yielded diamonds, the most precious of all gems. In those days she was also the home of intellectual gems of a transcendental kind. But all that is past now. She has been beaten by others in all that is great, noble, and useful. Brazil and the Cape de Kohn-nor before cutting have beaten her in diamonds and Europe has beaten her in intellectual brilliants. It is necessary now to cease dreaming of the past, to learn humility and to acquire knowledge from wherever it may be found.

Diamonds are still worked in some parts of the country. In our ancient books the following eight places are mentioned where this precious stone could be found:—(1) Haima in the Himalayas; (2) Matanga Golconda; (3) Saurashtra or Surat; (4) Paundra or Chota Nagpur; (5) Kalinga or Northern Madras Presidency; (6) Kosala or Oudh; (7) Venaganga or Waingang; (8) Sambira or Punjab. Some of these places were probably only the parts where the diamonds collected in the neighbourhood were bought and sold. For instance, it is not at all probable that Saurashtra produced any diamonds, unless the term was meant to include agates and carnelians that are still found in the neighbourhood. The tracts of country where the diamond has been worked for in modern times are the Cuddapah, Bellary and Kurnool Districts in the Madras Presidency; the Krishna and the Godavary Districts or Golconda in Hyderabad; the Sambalpur and Chanda District in the Central Provinces; Chota Nagpur in Bengal, and Bundelkhand in Central India.

Diamonds found in the mines of the Madras Presidency were known as the Golconda gems, being brought to this place for sale, though some were sent direct to Surat by Gujarati dealers, who settled down in the locality and whose descendants are still to be seen in those places. These mines though worked till the year 1847, have now been deserted, the labours of the miners not proving profitable. Like men, diamonds are divided into four classes:—Brahman, Kshatriya, Vaisya, and Sudra. Of course the Brahman diamonds were the most valuable, but the diamonds found in the Cuddapah, Bellary and Kurnool Districts were chiefly of the Sudra class. The process of mining followed in these regions was simple, and for mining was let out by Government to contractors, who went there with their labourers and commenced operations in the dry season. A square pit about 32 feet deep, was made, from which mud, stones, pebbles and gravel were dug out. These were carefully washed before the guard placed there by the contractor to supervise operations. Diamonds were easily recognised in the moist state by their peculiar lustre.

The Krishna and the Godavary tracts, partly lying within the jurisdiction of the Madras Presidency and partly within the Nizam's Dominions, were long famous all over the world as the Golconda mines. Before the discovery of diamonds in Brazil and the Cape, Golconda in India and the island of Borneo in the Indian Archipelago were the only two diamond-bearing countries known to the world. But even the celebrated Golconda mines have now been deserted, the work being barren of profitable results in recent years. But in former times Golconda rightly deserved its world-wide celebrity, many large and valuable stones being found in this locality. Among these may be mentioned the great Moghul, the Pitt and Nizam's Diamond. The first of these was found at a place called Kollur.

In the Central Provinces diamond-mining was formerly carried on in the Sambalpur District and at Waingang in the Chanda District. In 1766, Lord Clive, thinking that diamonds would be the best medium for remitting money to England, requested the Governor of Madras to depute some trustworthy officer to Sambalpur to purchase the precious stones. But the project came to nothing, sufficient quantities of the gem not being available. The diamond mines of the Central Provinces are not worked at the present day.

The Chota Nagpur mines have also been abandoned, but they were considered very valuable in the time of Akbar and Jahangir. It was for their diamond mines that Akbar took possession of Kokrah, the name by which the wild tracts of Chota Nagpur were then known and compelled Madhu Singh, the independent king of the country, to become tributary to the Imperial Government. This Madhu Singh rendered valuable service to Man Singh the Imperial General, during the war with the Afghans of Orissa. The Emperor Jahangir in his Memoirs thus writes about Chota Nagpur diamonds: "This district belongs to Subah Behar, and the river which flows through it yields the diamonds. When the river contains little water, tumuli and hollows are formed. The diamond diggers know from experience that these tumuli chiefly contain diamonds over which insects, called by the Hindus Jhings, hover. They pile stones on all sides of the tumuli, and then cut into them with hatchets and chisels and collect the diamonds from among the sands and stones. Sometimes diamonds are found of the value of a lakh of rupees each. The district and diamond river are in the possession of the Zemindar, "Durjan Sal." Jahangir then goes on to state how he ordered Ibrahim Khan, Governor of Behar, to invade the country, and how Ibrahim Khan captured the Rajah's mother and brother and deprived them of the diamonds they had in their possession.

The only diamond mines at present worked in India are those within the Native State of Panna in Bundelkhand, under the Central Indian Agency. The miners belong to the aboriginal Gond tribe, whose wearing apparel is of the simplest kind. They excavate large pits 25 feet in diameter, and often over 30 feet deep. Water percolates and the Persian wheel, is used to drain the pit. But the machine used is not quite effective and the miners have to work in knee-deep water. The stones and mud dug out are raised above in baskets. The stuff thus brought up is placed on stone slabs and thoroughly searched for diamonds, under the eyes of the guard placed over them to prevent pilfering. It is estimated that the Panna mines yield annually diamonds worth two lakhs of rupees.—Illustrated Indian News.

KHANDU Vishnu Sath, who was sentenced by Mr. Crowe to ten years for abetment of the murders of the David brothers, has been served with a notice by the Bombay High Court why the sentence should not be enhanced.

THE sentence of death passed on Swami Doyal, who, with two others, murdered Bans Gopal, a pleader of Bareilly, has been confirmed by Sir Antony MacDonnell. The sentences on the other two prisoners have been commuted to transportation for life.

THE Man Gobardhana was placed on his trial before the Sessions Judge of Agra on Monday on a charge of murdering a police constable on January 14th. The accused pleaded not guilty and the two native assessors disagreed. Judgment was reserved.

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We believe Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the best in the world. A few weeks ago we suffered with a severe cold and a troublesome cough, and having read their advertisement in our own and other papers we purchased a bottle to see how it would affect us. It cured us before the bottle was more than half used. It is the best medicine out for colds and coughs.—The Herald, Andersonville, Ind. For sale by

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THE PALLA VARAM SHOOTING CASE

THE above case came to be heard on the 14th April before the Cantonment Magistrate, St. Thomas Mount (Madras), in which Gunner W. Love, of the 33rd Field Battery, stationed at St. Thomas Mount, was charged with causing the death of a native named Suddayan, by shooting him dead with a gun in a jungle near Pallavaram on the 1st instant. The first witness examined was Uhus Khan, who deposed as follows:—I am Civil Apothecary attached to the Local Fund Dispensary at Siadappett. On the 3rd instant I held a post mortem on the body of one Suddayan. The whole of the left groin was destroyed and there appeared to be a gaping wound semi-circular in shape. The edges of the wound were scorched and charred. Death was caused by loss of blood and shock, the effects of a gunshot wound fired at a distance of three to five feet. There was no shrapnel found in the wound.

Cross-examination reserved. Gungamah deposed: I am a resident of Nuddunkoondrum village and one day I went into the jungle to pick fruit. It was either on a Sunday or a Tuesday. It was then about 8 A.M. and there were twenty others there. While I was depositing the fruit from my cloth into a basket a European came up to me seizing my right wrist and addressed me in Tamil. I extricated myself from his hold and moved away. I then picked up the basket and put it on my left hip when he snatched it away from me and threw it away and then ravished me. I cried out when Moonean and Moorooovee came to the spot. The European walked away, I Moonean and Moorooovee followed him. On the road Rangan joined us. The European then went through the jungle to a toddy shop in the Peepacurranay village. He drank some toddy and then went across in the direction of Shayloor jungle. We followed him. One Suddayan and two others joined us in the Shayloor jungle. Suddayan stood in front of the European and after salaming to him said: "You are going away after running this girl." On this he shoved him away with his left hand. He then pointed his gun and fired at Suddayan. The latter fell down and the European walked away. I, Moorooovee and Rungan followed the European, and one of us reported the matter to the Police. I cannot identify the European who ruined me or shot Suddayan. I identified the European who ruined me in the Pallavaram Police Station. He was then in mufti. The European had a gun with him when he first seized me.

Moorooovee deposed: I am a resident of Nuddunkoondrum village. On one Sunday about two Sundays ago, I went with Moonean and Gungamah to the Nuddunkoondrum forest to pick fruit. While I was doing so I heard a woman call out and ran towards the spot from where the noise proceeded. I was afraid, stood behind a bush, and raised an alarm. Moonean came up and I told him that I saw the accused lying with Gungamah. At that time Gungamah got up and was arranging her cloth and her hair when the accused walked away. Myself, first witness and Moonean went up to the road and stood there while the accused went on through the jungle. We went towards the road to ask accused what meant but he walked on through the jungle. After going as far as Irrambalur we saw him in the fields there. There is a toddy shop close by there at Peepacurranay, but I did not see him enter that shop. I did not go to that toddy shop that day, nor did Gungamah and Moonean go there. You can see the toddy shop from the Irrambalur fields. He passed from the fields, got on the tank bund, and we followed him. One Rungasawmy joined us on the road. Deceased and two others were working in the field when accused went past. We all followed and deceased went up to accused and salaming him with one hand said: "You are going away after running this girl, without saying anything." The accused told him to go away and said that he had not ruined her. He said so in Tamil and shoved the deceased away with his left hand. Deceased fell back four or five feet, and remonstrated with accused about the girl. Deceased again appealed to the accused and he replied "Why do you ask me again and again about this matter?" levelled his gun at, and shot the deceased. The gun before the Court is the one that was used by the accused. Deceased on being shot fell down and accused walked away. Deceased died on the same day at Pallavaram. I did not notice any gun with accused when I first saw him with Gungamah. I saw the gun under his arm as he walked away. There was no struggle between deceased and the accused. Gungamah complained to me of having been seduced by the accused. The men who were with me were not armed with sticks.

Moonean deposed: I live in Nuddunkoondrum village. On a Sunday about 6 A.M. I went to the jungle to pluck fruit. I went alone. There were some people in the jungle before me. Moorooovee and Gungamah were there. We separated and were plucking fruit. I heard some one crying out and saying that a girl had been caught and was being ruined. I ran to the spot where the noise proceeded from. I saw Moorooovee standing by a bush and Gungamah a little distance away behind another bush. I saw the accused there also; he was walking away and had the gun in his hand. I asked Moorooovee what was the matter and she said that the accused had ruined the girl and was walking away. I then questioned Gungamah and she said that the accused had ruined her and was going away. I went after the accused, who was going towards the road, after telling the girls to follow me. After crossing the road, the accused entered the other side of the jungle. I followed, at a distance, I told the women to follow, but I could not see them following owing to the thickness of the jungle. I kept the accused within sight and followed him from behind. On the way I saw Rungan picking fruit and called him. I asked him to go with me to the Police Station as I wanted to complain of the conduct of the accused. The accused then went to a toddy shop at

Peepacurranay, sat under a tree and called for some toddy from the shop. The toddy was brought to him and he drank it, I was standing at a little distance away, and Rungan whom I had called, was coming up from behind. The accused then went through the field to the Irrambalur village, got on the bund of the tank and then entered the Shayloor forest. I followed and was joined by three others. I was twenty feet behind the accused at the time and Rungan was twenty feet behind me. The two women were also following and were close to Rungan. The deceased and two others came to the forest at the time and joined me. Deceased asked me what was the matter and I told him that accused had ruined a girl and was going away. He then went up, salamed to the accused and addressing him in Tamil asked him if it was true he had ruined the girl. He told him to go away and pushed him on the chest with his left hand. Deceased fell back about three and half feet, when the accused levelled his gun at, and shot deceased who was within a foot of the gun. Deceased fell down and the accused ran away in the direction of Pallavaram. I also ran to Pallavaram and complained to the Police there. Deceased was brought to the Police Station, and when I saw him there he was dead. In the Irrambalur fields I held the accused's hand and asked him in a friendly manner if it was right of him to ruin the girl and go away, when he shoved me and said "pudoh." He then drew a knife and pointed it at me. The knife before the Court is the one he pointed at me. He then pointed his gun and I moved away. Rungan saw all this also; he was about twenty feet away at the time. I did not see the girl Gungamah's cloth stained nor did she complain to me of being in pain.

Parah Rungasawmy said: I leave in Nuddunkoondrum village. I went to pick fruit one Sunday about ten days ago in the jungle. I went at 6 A.M. alone. I met Moonean, Moorooovee, Gungamah and others on the way. They also came into the forest where I saw them picking fruit. I heard a noise while I was picking fruit I heard two or three women crying out. I went to the spot from where the noise proceeded. On my way I met Mooneasawmy and asked what was the matter. He replied that the accused had ruined Gungamah and was going away. At that time I saw accused get off the road and go into the forest. Moorooovee told me that accused had ruined Gungamah. Moonean and I followed him. Moonean was in advanced and I behind. The women also followed us. There is a toddy shop at Peepacurranay, but I did not go there that day. I did not see the accused nor the deceased and the other witnesses there. At the Irrambalur fields I saw Moonean go in front of the accused and salame him, when the latter pointed a knife at him. He then put away the knife and pointed the gun at him. I called to Moonean to go away and he came running to me. I was then about forty feet from the accused. The latter then went from the fields into the forest. Moonean and I followed him intending to report his conduct to the Police. Three persons one of whom was the deceased, came from the side of the tank, and deceased went up and salamed accused with both hands. Addressing the accused he said to him "You have ruined the girl say something." Accused made some reply when deceased said "Don't say so, sir," salamed him again and went near him. Accused then shoved him with his left hand and pointing his gun at him shot him. Deceased fell down and the accused ran away. I directed Moonean to go to the Police and report the matter while I kept him in sight and followed him. I saw deceased at Pallavaram. He was dead then.

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PEEPA CURRANAY

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VARIETIES.

THE LOVE-GIFTS OF BIRDS.

UNDER the above title in the April issue of *Know Edge*, Mr. Charles A. Wittchell gives a sketch of the courteous actions, as contrasted with the battle-cries of birds when they are what he styles, love-making. It is curious to observe the restraint of a wild bird's impetuous voracity when it offers food to a courted companion or a brooding mate. "The recipients shook their wings and uttered call-notes. The food thus bestowed could hardly be termed a 'love-gift'; but when before birds have a nest, and apparently before they have paired the male gives the female morsels of food, it is fair to assume that this courtesy is intended as an earnest of passion—that it is, in fact, a love-gift. The common fowl affords a conspicuous instance of gallantry when the male calls the females to some choice morsel. He obviously intends the tit-bit only for the hens. . . . One of the indications of pairing by pigeons is the insertion of the beak of the male into that of the female, and this is accompanied by a shuffling of the wings exactly as occurs when the young are fed. . . . Homers never note this performance before pairing. The male homer is passionately fond of his home, his mate, and his young. But though his mate is a model wife he is not a model husband, and often, especially if a strong fier he is likely to bring domestic troubles into the life of any unmated young female bird in the loft."

AN ENORMOUS NEW TELESCOPE TO BRING THE MOON CLOSE TO THE EARTH.

THE wonder of wonders at the Paris Exposition is to be the great luner telescope, which, according to those who claim to be experts on telescopic subjects, will bring the eye so near to the moon, or the moon so near to the eye, whichever way you may like to put it, that the comparative proximity will be only a little over forty-one miles. It seems a pity that telescope cannot be made just a little bigger and more powerful, so as to overcome that little intervening space, and bring the moon right down to the eyes; but it will be a wonderful accomplishment, as it is. Some time in the future, doubtless, the luner telescope will be improved upon. For the next few years, though, it will be the biggest thing in the shape of a telescope ever constructed. The magnifying power of the great telescope is to be 6,000. The greatest telescope at present has a magnifying power of only 4,000. The object glasses of the giant telescope are to be 4 ft. in diameter, and the whole instrument is to be 18 ft. in length. A man beside it will look like a very small and insignificant object. Its great length will reach high into the air. It will have to be moved by machinery and switched into place by steam power; it will take up as much space as a large sized building, and lastly, it will cost nearly 60,000.

A million miles will be nothing to this monster eye-glass. By looking through it the observer will be able to distinguish between the inequalities on the surface of the moon as plainly as he can the rocks and foliage on the side of a distant hill. It there be any living thing on the moon, this telescope will enable the visitors to the Paris Exposition to make its long-distance acquaintance. It will less trouble than Jules Verne's imaginary into the trip to the moon to bring Lana down to earth.

Though it is to be built primarily for luner investigations, the use of the great telescope will not be confined to the study of the features of the man in the moon. It will be the centre around which will revolve a corps of astronomical experts.

THE SEARCH FOR HERR ANDREE.

THE *Novoe Vremya* has published an interesting letter from the hunter Lialin (says the Berlin correspondent of the *Standard*), stating that the Tongues were willing to accompany him to the spot where the corpses, of which we have heard so much, were found on condition that he would give no information to the authorities, as they feared annoyance. The three corpses were not dressed like Russian. The balloon lay upside down; the instruments, etc., being near the corpses. The letter continues:—"I was quite ready to travel the two hundred verst to the spot on *sks* but I had no provisions or documents, and it was dangerous to go alone. I therefore resolved to go to Krasnojarsk, to ask for support from the Governor. I sent word beforehand to the editor of the *Sibirski* requesting him to make preparations. But I did not expect to see my private letter published in a newspaper. When I arrived at Krasnojarsk I drove at once to the Governor, but he was absent. I was then told that the rumour about Andree was already known, and I went to Tomsk, where a paper had circulated the rumour. I then felt inclined to search for Andree on my own account, and had I found anything of interest I should have immediately informed the University of Tomsk thereof. I cannot, however, say beforehand whether the corpses discovered were really those of Andree and his companions. Whilst I was making preparations the Governor of Tomsk had telegraphed to me that the Governor of Tomsk had characterized the rumour about Andree as an invention saying that Lialin was not to be believed. I have lived eleven years at Tomsk and am personally known to and respected by the Governor and many inhabitants there. In view of the fact that the above-mentioned telegram has an official character, it cannot be regarded as final. Unfortunately, the time for skiing is already passing by. I intended to go to the spot at my own expense and risk but my plan has unfortunately been frustrated.

TYPHOID IN MILK.

MESSES BOLLEY AND FIELD, two American scientists, attached to the experimental bacteriological stations which the Government of United States subsidises, have recently issued an instructive statement as to the vitality displayed by the typhoid bacillus in milk and milk products. Cream infected with typhoid before churning produced butter in which the bacilli were found three months later. But when the butter-milk was thoroughly worked out of the butter it was found that the bacilli did not thrive. The butter-milk is their growing medium. In it they can exist for upwards of four months, and, at the end of that time, a slight inoculation of the infected milk into milk freshly drawn, transmitted the germs. The moral of this case and rapidly with which typhoid thrives and multiplies in milk is—keep your milk cans and dairy utensils scrupulously clean.

SOUNDING SKULLS.

CERTAIN disciples of Charcot, notably M. Gilles de la Tourette have recently evolved a new science, or rather a new aid, to diagnosis in the sounds of the skull. They tap the skull with a little hammer, and according to the character of the note, it gives out they conclude as to the condition of the brain. The skull of a child gives out a note of higher pitch than that of a man. In old age the skull sound rises again. The thickness of the skull can be determined after some practice, and any disease or fracture betrays itself by the peculiar sound. Some skulls, according to the doctors, give out a veritable sound of a cracked pot, and so the popular term "cracked" for a person of eccentric intellect is fully justified.

THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE.

MICHAEL SZORYI, once a millionaire and leading financier in Budapest, who played a prominent part in both the commercial and social life of the Hungarian capital, has just been committed for trial at Budapest for burglary. His wife in the old days was a society belle, and her salon was the rendezvous of some of the most

exclusive set. Unlucky speculations, however, ruined Szoryi, and deserted by his old friends, he became utterly destitute.

The ex-millionaire became a cabman, while his wife the ex-society belle, took in needle-work to augment their income. Things went on thus until his wife died, when Szoryi became desperate and went to the bad.

He became porter in a warehouse, then a barrel organ grinder, next a crossing-sweeper, and finally a burglar. He may shortly be a convict. Such is the wheel of fortune.

REGULARITIES IN WEATHER.

IT has been known for some time that in Europe there are regularly recurring spells of particular kinds of weather associated with particular periods of the year. For example, from the 9th to the 14th of May the greater part of Europe experiences a spell of cold weather, which is recognised in much of the common weather lore. This is due to a certain type of weather—that is to say, the isobars or lines joining the points at which the barometer stands at the same height have a particular shape, and particular winds are associated with this. The forecasting of the weather in general may be said to depend chiefly on the drawing of the isobars on a map on one day, and recognising from the shape of the isobars the character of the weather which is likely to prevail during the next day; and different classes of weather, or types as they are called, are produced by differently shaped systems of isobars. Thus as we have said, in Europe a particular cold type of weather recurs pretty regularly between May the 9th and 14th. We only know the fact of the recurrence of such types of weather, but we do not know the cause. Some of the other regularly recurring types in Europe have special names in weather lore. Thus there is a fine period about October 18, which is called St. Luke's Summer.

The facts of these curious phenomena have been recently investigated by Dr. Van Rijkevorsel. At the Toronto meeting of the British Association he showed some of the results obtained. If a curve is drawn to represent the average temperature on each day of the year—the average, that is to say, of a large number of years—it shows of course a gradual rise (that is, increase of temperature) from midwinter to midsummer, followed by a gradual fall from midsummer to midwinter. But the curve will not be perfectly regular, and these spells that I have mentioned will be shown by notches in the curve. Thus the curves for different parts of Western Europe show a gradual rise, as would be expected during the beginning of July, followed, however, by a fall for a few days before the temperature begins to rise again to midsummer. Dr. Rijkevorsel's curves fall, in the first place, into two classes—those belonging to Western Europe from one, and those belonging to Russia from another. Further, in either class the curves for the different parts are remarkably similar. For example, the fall in July mentioned above is shown strongly on the west coasts of Europe, but diminishes towards the east until it has disappeared by the time Russia is reached. So with many others of these spells, but a few have a wider range, extending over the whole of Europe.

Still more recently Dr. Van Rijkevorsel has been carrying his examination further, and has compared with the temperature other curves representing the changes of barometric pressure, rainfall, and two of the magnetic elements. It will be remembered that an ordinary compass does not usually point due north, and also that the exact direction in which its points varies from day to day. The angle which the magnet makes with the true north and south line is spoken of as the declination, and these changes in declination can be represented by a curve in the same way as the temperature. The force with which a pole of the magnet is attracted by the earth is the other magnetic element which Dr. Van Rijkevorsel compared with the temperature curves. The results appear to be very curious. The notches and irregularities in the temperature curve seem to be reproduced very closely in all the other curves. This is clearly noticeable, for instance, in the magnetic curves, and it seems to show a closer connection between the weather and the earth's magnetism than was before suspected. Thus it appears that whatever causes produce these recurring spells of weather produce at the same time the changes in the earth's magnetism, which are manifested by the behaviour of a suspended magnetic needle.

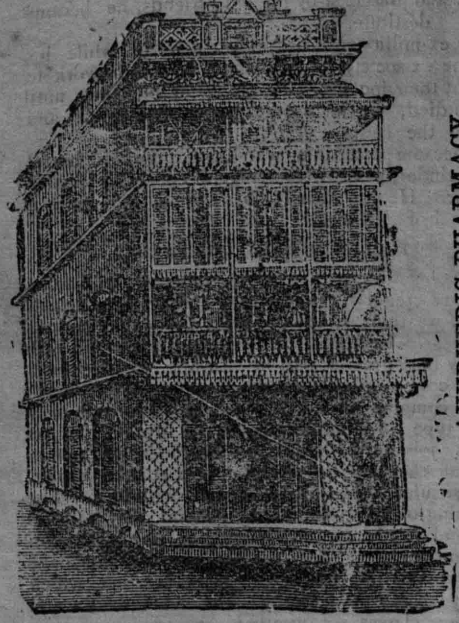
ALTHOUGH you cannot get "figs off thistles" after any amount of cultivation, you can get pearls without diving for them in deep water, and rubies without going all the way to Burma for them. The latter, indeed, are said to be "manufactured" in London on a tolerably large scale—so large that ruby-making syndicate is said to be dividing \$37,000 a year net profit on the business. These chemical rubies are said to be so perfect as to deceive the "very select" and a well-known expert asks why, if Science can produce a trinket which cannot be told from Nature's, she should not have the benefit of the difference in price between what it costs to make the article in the laboratory and the obtaining of a stone of similar size and quality from an Oriental mine. As to size, that is simple enough; but as to quality there are no doubt other experts who would wish to have a say in the matter—those for instance who have a stock of real rubies on their hands. But, after all, what does it matter, when those who own real diamonds as often as not wear paste ones for safety? Pearls are not as yet, made in the laboratory, but it seems they can be made in the aquarium, and that there is no need to dive to a depth of forty or fifty feet to obtain them. One Signor Comba has been experimenting for several years in the artificial production of pearls at an aquarium in Turin; and so successful have his efforts proved that he is now engaged in a plan for laying down large quantities of pearl oysters (*Melagrina margaritifera*) in the Mediterranean, along the south coast of Calabria with a view to more extended operations. It is contended, however, that the mother-of-pearl shell will not "live" in a temperature of less than sixty-eight to seventy degrees Fahrenheit, and slight hopes are held out for the success of Signor Comba's experiment. In Queensland, however, they have been cultivated with success, as a result for an experiment conducted in Torres Strait by Mr. W. Saville-Kent, F. L. S., late Commissioner of Fisheries to the Governments of Queensland and Western Australia. But the great drawback is the distance of these countries from the chief markets for mother-of-pearl, which are London, Hamburg, and Trieste, and the consequent expense of conveying the pearls thither. Still, it is admitted that there are great possibilities in the artificial production of pearls, and that it undoubtedly represents a most profitable industry which could under expert management be carried on concurrently with systematic pearl-shell cultivation. The term "artificial production" applies, of course, in a wholly different sense from that used in regard to rubies—the pearls themselves being real, and only the method of "rearing" them being artificial.

RASALDAR-MAJOR Khan Sardar Bahadur, 10th Bengal Lancers, has been appointed A. D. C. to the Commander-in-Chief, in the place of Subadar-Major Jodpia Thapa.

A METEOR of an extraordinary brilliancy was observed in Delhi the other night. The course taken was from south to north. A red trail was distinctly visible for a few seconds after its disappearance. The phenomenon, it is said, was preceded and followed by some dozen smaller meteors.

Centre for Studies in Social Sciences, Calcutta. Includes a ruler and a grid for measurements.





Novelty in Ayurvedic Medicine. KAVIRAJ, NOGENDRA NATH SEN'S Ayurvedic Pharmacy, 18-1, Lower Chitpore Road, Tattai Bazar CALCUTTA.

KAVIRAJ, NOGENDRA NATH SEN, practises the Ayurvedic System of Medicine after having learnt the principles of Western Medical Science, and obtained a Diploma from one of the Government Medical Institutions to the country.

KARNA-ROGANTAKA TAILA, OR EAR DROPS. It cures otorrhoea, otitis, tympanitis, inflammation and all other diseases of the ear. Deafness, if not of long standing, is sure to be cured by its use.

CHYAVANA-PRASA, OR Our Own Health-Restorer. This medicine not only allays all local irritations but improves the digestion and strengthens the constitution.

SHULANIRVANA CHURNA, OR SPECIFIC FOR ACIDITY. A most valuable Tonic and Digestive. It is a wonderful remedy against gastrodynia with indigestion, costiveness, diarrhoea, high coloured urine, occasional diarrhoea, a dirty-coated tongue, vomiting of green matter, a nasty taste in the mouth, dreadful dreams and sleeplessness, heavy drowsy feeling after eating, alternate constipation and relaxation of bowels, stress and extreme sensitiveness of the right side of the abdomen, sour taste in the mouth with eructations of wind from the stomach, a constipated condition with clay-coloured stools and difficult defecation, headache accompanied with obstinate constipation or diarrhoea, &c., &c. It would be as efficacious in Acute as in Chronic cases.

AN ABSOLUTELY PURE OIL. KUNTALINE is a highly refined and absolutely pure oil. The following Analytical Certificate from the most celebrated and eminent chemist in the land, Dr. P. C. Rai, will prove it.

THE BEST HAIR OIL. KUNTALINE has acquired an extensive sale, and become a great favourite with the Ladies of our country. We guarantee it to be THE BEST HAIR OIL in the market at any price. Please read elsewhere the Testimonials from Ladies and Gentlemen of the very highest position and rank throughout India.

PRICES OF KUNTALINE. KUNTALINE is put up in round 6-oz bottles and neatly packed in a Beautiful Card-board Case at the following prices:—

নৃতন পুস্তক। মাক্সার নন্দকুমার চরিত ১১০ টাকা। প্রস্তুতকরণ শাস্ত্রী প্রণীত। অতি প্রাচীন ইতিহাস, স্বাস্থ্য, বাজনা ও পারদী মণীল শব্দ ও এর অবলম্বনে লিখিত হইয়াছে, প্রত্য বিন পোকে উপভাস ও বিদেশীয় লোকদের নন্দকুমারের বিস্তৃত চরিত্র পাঠ করিয়াছেন, এখন বিস্তৃত চরিত্র পাঠ করুন ইহাতে নবাব আলিবর্দী সিয়াবদৌলা প্রকৃত হাব ও বাণী কবাবী প্রকৃতির হস্তাক্ষর আছে।

AN IMPORTANT PRESENT. Mohini or the Goddess of Beauty. THAT WELL-KNOWN ARTIST, RANI-VARMA'S LATEST PRODUCTION. Size "24 x 36" Price Rs. 6. For particulars apply to KAVIRAJ MANISHANKAR GOVINDAJI SHASTRI 186-68, Harrison Road, Barabazar, Calcutta.

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