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সর্পাঘাতের চিকিৎসা।

৬ষ্ঠ সংস্করণ।

মূল্য পাঁচ আনা বাত্র। ডাকমাণ্ডল স্বল্প আনা এই পুস্তক-লিখিত-প্রণালী অসুস্থের চিকিৎসা করিলে সর্পদেহ ব্যক্তি কখনই মরিবে না। ইহার চিকিৎসা প্রণালী এত সহজ এবং পুস্তকের ভাষা এত সরল, যে স্ত্রীলোকেরা পর্যন্তও এই পুস্তক পাঠ করিয়া অনায়াসে চিকিৎসা করিতে পারে।

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This is not magic, they simply aid nature Promptly, Painlessly, Perfectly.

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A SNAKE CEREMONY.

NEARLY everywhere in the Madras Presidency, and especially on the West Coast, the cobra is looked upon and treated as a sacred creature. To injure or molest it is considered, says "M.R." in the "Madras Mail" a sure way of incurring the Divine wrath, while to protect and propitiate it will in all certainly bring men the choicest blessings which humanity is privileged to enjoy. Innumerable are the customs, the religious ceremonies and the superstitions in which the venerated reptile is the central figure but it may be doubted if any of these could surpass in quaint and picturesque interest the ceremony which is known either as Na. Pa. or Thoolle. Its observance is limited to the taluk of Ponani, in Malabar, and to certain neighbouring localities. It is evidently a survival of very ancient times, of days that were perhaps not removed from those in which the celebrated Parast Rama is reported to have given power over serpents to certain pious and favoured Nambudiri Brahmans. At the present day, the rite is but rarely conducted, and even where it is, its pristine thoroughness and solemnity are scarcely maintained. This is rather noteworthy because we find the very opposite to be the case in respect of most other observances connected with the worship and propitiation of the snake gods. The primary object of the Thoolle is to guarantee the favour of the snake deities that preside over the destinies of the celebrant family, and more especially perhaps, to insure against ill-health and other harm the female inmates of the house. The functionaries who conduct the service are, and should always be, members of the Pullava caste. The Pullavas are a low caste tribe affecting certain rural parts of Ponani and Waluvanad. They form, as it were, one of the connecting links between the Sudras and the soil-slave, and other outcaste and submerged communities of Greater Malabar. Many of the social customs of the Pullavas present very eccentric features. Should a Pullava by coming in contact with a Thiya, pollute the latter, the latter would have to bathe to remove the pollution; but should the contact be with a Pullava on the one hand, and a Mukuva or a Vettuvan, a Panma or any other such low caste individual, on the other, the Pullava deems it a delinquent and forthwith takes a purificatory-bath. Chermans, Kanakkans and other soil-slaves would pollute the Pullava by merely approaching within a few yards of him.

Like nearly every demon-worshipping community in this country, the Pullavas have an extraordinary legend to account for the origin of their tribe, and the legend takes us back to the birth of Indian mythology—in fact, it is connected with the far-away Pananic times. Agni, so the story goes, made several determined but fruitless efforts to destroy the vast forest expanses of Kannaiva. The eight serpents which abode in the recesses of these forests were the tried and intimate friends of Indra, and every time Agni appeared in the region whose destruction he contemplated, Indra was one too many for him; and frustrated his fiendish project by sending down a deluge which extinguished the flames as soon as they sprang up to effect their destructive purpose. Baffled on every occasion, Agni artfully altered his tactics and assuming the form of a Brahmin, appeared before Arjuna, and craved a boon, without signifying its nature. His pleading prevailed, and the redeemer of promises directed him to state his wish. Thereupon he craved the help of Arjuna to accomplish his cherished object of destroying the forests wherein the serpents abode. Bound by the promise he had incautiously made Arjuna presented the artful and persevering one with a wonderful bow, the arrows whereof cleaved the air with such lightning swiftness that they cut off every drop of rain showered down by Indra with the view of protecting the forests of Kannaiva from the terrible doom of being burned down. Then, when the great, fierce, all-devouring tongues of flame sprang like thousands of greedy, merciless monsters upon their helpless victims, the deities of the forest fled terrified and panic-stricken. Some of the serpents were overtaken, and burned to death by the swift and devastating element. Others, warned in time of their imminent danger, were able to get out of harm's way, one of them having the good fortune to fall in with a compassionate maid-servant from the Illam, or dwelling, of a Nambudiri Brahmin. The maid lifted up the frightened serpent tenderly, secured it in a pot, and placed the pot in a jessamine bower. When the Brahmin and his family learned what had been done, they flew into a towering passion, cast the serpent out and expelled the maid-servant from the house. Not desiring however, that a woman should go forth alone into strange and unknown ways, they expelled at the same time a man-servant, so that the erstwhile might find their way through the world together. The couple immediately came under the protection of the sacred creature whom the maiden had succoured in the moment of its peril, and it proved their destiny to become the progenitors of the race that is now called the Pullavas. Appropriately, it became the especial function and privilege of this strangely-begotten race to stand as mediators between the serpent deities and frail and helpless humanity. Such mediation is often sorely needed, for are we not told that the anger of the snake-god can bring malignant diseases to the doors of the children of men, can plunge the indifferer votary from wealth into the lowest depths of destitution, and deny to the woman who forgets her religious duties the blessings of motherhood? The removal of these and other manifestations of godly ire may be effected, among other ways, by the performance in a true and proper spirit of the Thoolle or Naga Patt ceremony.

The celebration of the festival, on its most modest scale, involves the employment of at least three functionaries, one of whom should be a female. From the vigil of the ceremony, the celebrants abstain from food and deny themselves luxury in every form. In the evening of the appointed day they clear a space for the purpose of holding the service. Preferentially, the ceremony should take place in a serpent grove, but where this is impracticable the south side of the courtyard is used. The presiding trio enclose a certain space of ground with marks made with pigments of the several principal colours the outer lines of demarcation being symbolical of the two serpent deities. A decorated pandal canopies the improvised sanctuary, within which betel, a seasoned cocoonut, plantains, raw rice, flowers, clusters of cocoonut flower-buds, tender cocoonuts and paddy are arranged. The lower end of a plantain leaf is placed at each corner of the enclosure. All these preliminaries having been solemnly and formally carried out amidst the rapt and breathless attention of the assembled inmates, a man, belonging to the same caste as that of the family which is having the ceremony performed, now steps forward and goes through a preparatory puja, for which fresh water, sandal, flowers, camphor, incense, jaggery, plantains, parched paddy and beaten rice are required. While the puja is going forward, the Pullava trio discourse sacred music on instruments used exclusively by their community.

As soon as the puja is over four torches are lit and carried round the enclosure, the flames being kept alive by fanning. The red, lurid light illumines the surrounding area in the deepening twilight, which has stolen up almost unawares and is now rapidly yielding place to the darkness of night. The young ladies of the family emerge from the house and squat within the enclosed space, with their faces set towards the East. On their appearance, a peculiar monotonous chant is started by the Pullavas, in honour of Vishnu, Shiva, Anandan and other snake deities. During the progress of this chant, the afflatus descends and enters the bodies of the young women. The per-

formers make enquiry of the possessed girl's as to the number of days during which the ceremony ought to be kept up, and the oracle—as firmly believed in to-day as the Delphic divinity was believed in by the ancient Greek—speaking through one of the girls, vouchsafes the reply that the maximum number is 21 days. This is, of course, purely a sentimental survival of days when people were more fervently religious and had fewer material concerns to attend to and at the present time the celebration never covers more than four or five days. After the afflatus has discharged its own duty, the leading Pullava performer causes it to depart by praying over some rice and throwing it on the ecstatic maidens.

On the final day of the ceremony, the Pullavas receive a little money payment and carry away the several substances that had been collected for the mystic ritual. Another peculiar feature of the ceremony is that it starts on an auspicious evening, is continued afterwards only at night, and is concluded in broad daylight. During the time the maidens who take part in the rite are possessed they utter prophecies respecting divers family affairs and excitedly obliterate the markings on their bodies. After the foreign spirit has quitted their bodies, the usual result happens, the girls dropping into a swoon and being carried into the house. It sometimes happens that a girl may not be a good medium. In such an event the Pullavas make frantic musical efforts to invoke the gods and bring the afflatus down. Unsuccessful is always looked upon as a foreshadowing of calamity. Even in the simple, rustic areas of Malabar, religion, whatever its name, however, singular its externals, is visibly becoming less and less of an honoured institution among the children of men, and the day does not appear to be far distant when the Thoolle, like many another picturesque religious custom, will survive only in the pages of the antiquarian.

THE SUGAR DUTIES.

NOTE FROM CALCUTTA FIRMS.

The official correspondence on the Sugar Duties question is published in full by the Finance and Commerce Department. One of the documents contained in it is an interesting note from Messrs. Begg, Dunlop and Co., Turner Morrison and Co., and Lyall Marshall and Co., on the effects of the unrestricted importation of bounty-free sugar on the sugarcane industry of India. The text of the note is as follows:—

Broadly speaking the sugar industry has passed through two phases and has entered upon a third. India was at sugar-exporting country at the beginning of the century. It became in the course of years of self-supplying country, more or less stripped of its exports. It is now fast taking the position of an importing country. The causes which led to the restriction of exports are explained in historical accounts already in the possession of the Government of India, and are summed up in State Blue Books and in the Imperial Dictionary of Economic Products. Imports, when this last was written, had already begun to take the place of exports. And "they were drawn," writes the editor, "from the very countries which were formerly the chief consumers of our exports." But at that period—about 1890—the effect on the price of sugar in India and on home consumption had not become alarming. "So far," Dr. Watt remarks, "it may be safely affirmed that the loss of the markets to which India formerly exported sugar and the creation of a foreign supply have not told injuriously upon the production of sugar in India, notwithstanding that already India imports three cwt. for every cwt. exported." But the prospects of the future were regarded with great apprehension. "If," continues the article, "the Colonial sugar manufacturers were to produce an article competing in price with even the more expensive qualities of gur, the import trade would at once become of graver moment than it has yet assumed." That this critical period has been reached is the main fact which the present note is intended to illustrate.

That the foreign bounty system benefits Great Britain is well understood. It assists materially in the provision of a cheap breakfast table, and the whole population gains. But in India, and sugar-producing country, its effects are more complicated and very different. Consumers (of refined sugar) as in Great Britain, are, of course, pro tanto equally benefited, but these do not as in Great Britain—and this is an important point—represent the whole community. On the other hand, the State, which does represent the whole community, must, as well as a very large section of the agricultural population, be very injuriously affected. For the importation of cheap sugar from abroad means the diminution of sugar production in India and that means, as will be shown, the lessening of the ability of the cultivator to pay rent, of the proprietor to pay land revenue, of the canal system to realise its rightful income, and of the manufacturer to compete against the foreigner. It means, in short, a future necessity to impose fresh taxes as a set-off against the curtailment of land and water revenue, and this seems to be the ultimate calamity which has to be averted.

There is no statistical information available to show what percentage of the population is represented by habitual sugar consumers. But it is well-known fact, which could be easily confirmed by official enquiry, that sugar is not a necessity in the sense that salt is a necessity; that even in the crude form of gur or jaggery it is only enjoyed by the poorer classes as a luxury or as an occasional treat, and that it is habitually consumed only by the comparatively well-to-do classes. It is the latter, therefore, who are the chief gainers by the introduction of cheap sugar from abroad, and who, in maintaining agricultural prosperity is prominently noticed, as the extracts quoted below sufficiently indicate.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CANE CULTIVATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SCHEME OF ALMOST EVERY PROVINCE IN INDIA is perhaps hardly appreciated except by those officials whose duties have brought them into association with the settlement of land revenue. The remark may be found in many a settlement report that in such and such tracts the entire rent, and therefore the entire revenue, is paid from the cane field. "The easants say," writes the Settlement Officer of Bareilly, "that sugarcane is to other tillage as the elephant to other beasts." In almost every settlement report and district gazetteer of the Punjab, of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, the extremely important position held by sugarcane in maintaining agricultural prosperity is prominently noticed, as the extracts quoted below sufficiently indicate.

PUNJAB.

Delhi—Sugar is the most important and profitable crop of the tharif harvest.

Gujranwala—Is the most valuable crop of all for its acreage.

Ludhiana—The value is almost ten times that of an ordinary dry crop.

Azimgarh—Takes more of the time and labour of the Azimgarh cultivator than any other crop.

Benares—Is the principal agricultural product of the district.

Jaunpur—To which the enterprising cultivator devotes his greatest time, labour and capital.

Mirzapur—The most prized and profitable of crops.

(This list of quotations could be greatly amplified.)

Supposing that the assumption could for an instant be made that in our East Indian possessions

sugar cultivation were to become as impossible, owing to foreign bounties, as it has become in our West Indian possessions, it is not too much to say that a large portion of our cultivators would be embarrassed or ruined, that many of the land proprietors would suffer the same fate, and that the State Exchequer would be seriously affected by the diminution of land revenue. It seems equally clear that a gradual restriction of the cane area, must lead either to a gradual loss of land revenue, or what is from a financial point of view much the same thing, a hindrance to the normal growth of the State income from its land.

Statistical evidence indicates that although in recent years the expansion of the cane area has, though material, not been surprisingly large, yet that in canal-irrigated tracts it has been extremely great. It is not improbable, indeed, that the comparative cheapness of canal water has enabled India, as a whole, to struggle as it has against the attack of cheap foreign sugars. But at what cost to the State? Capital raised from the tax-payers and expended on canals has been and is being deprived of the return due to it. It may be true that the cheapness of canal water compared with that of water lifted from wells has allowed the cultivator to make such large profits that both they and their landlords have been greatly enriched, and that it will enable them even probably to continue to hold their own against the sugar importer. But it is none the less true that their profits will decline as also their ability to pay rent and canal dues on their cane lands, if the price of sugar is permanently lowered.

While the cultivator, the landlord, the land revenue and canal revenue will thus be affected, the many factoring interests of the country will also suffer. These perhaps are less important than those already dealt with—but they ought not to be ignored. The manufacture of better classes of sugar is a natural outlet for capital in a sugar producing country, and is one among many other investments which tends to the employment of non-agricultural labour.

Nor must the fact be overlooked that the rise in value of the rupee has been in recent years an important factor in the encouragement of foreign importations. As this rise has been mainly due to State action so the remedy can only be found in action by the State. The value of the rupee has, since the closing of the Mints, been enhanced by something like 30 per cent. and the advantage has been to the foreign importer immediate and positive. To the cultivator of cane the advantage has been—but he has gained anything at all—indirect, but, as has often been argued, many years will lapse before the loss involved in a lower rupee price, so far as that lower price is due to an enhanced value of the rupee, will be equalised by lower rupee prices for labour and for household necessities. In the meantime the foreign importer will have had the opportunity to establish position against him.—The Englishman.

TIPPUS LAST DAY ON EARTH.

In connection with the Tippu Centenary, which came off on Thursday last the following account of the siege, taken from Colonel Malleson's work on Seringapatam, will be found most interesting:—

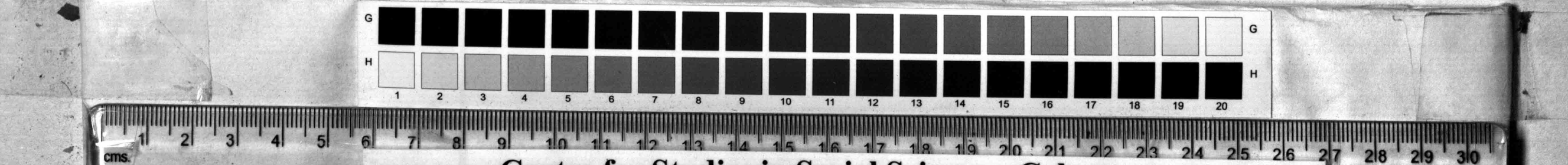
Tippu during the siege had more than once shown to his followers that he despaired of the result. Instead of striving to inspire them with courage, he, with the bigotry which had become habitual to him, had constant recourse to astrologers and priests. On the day of the assault he was distinctly warned by his ablest General, Said Ghafir, that he would be attacked that day. Not only did he refuse to believe it but he permitted one of his youthful flatterers to summon the men from their positions in the traverses and on the ramparts to receive their pay at midday. They were in the act of receiving it when the assault was delivered. Said Ghafir was hurrying to the Sultan to remonstrate against this act of folly, when, turning aside for a moment to issue orders for the severance of the slight connection which did exist between the outer and the inner rampart, he was killed. Tippu was about to sit down to his midday meal when the intelligence reached him. Though greatly agitated, he still continued his meal, and was engaged at it when he was informed that the assault was actually being made. He hastened at once along the northern ramparts towards the breach, on hearing which he fired seven or eight shots at the stormers, killing two or three. Finding, however, that the people were falling about him, and that the stormers were advancing, he ran back along the rampart until he reached the outside. He reached the sally-port whence the way was open to him to join his cavalry on the other side of the river. But he disdained to flee. Believing that of the inner fort was still secure and that from its ramparts he might yet be able to drive back the foe, he mounted his horse and endeavoured to force his way through the sally-port, the direct road into the interior fortifications. But before he could reach that gateway it had become choked with fugitives fleeing from the English soldiers who had managed to penetrate the inner fort. The Sultan, however, who had already been twice slightly wounded, still endeavoured to press his way, when his horse was shot under him and a moment afterwards he received a third wound, severe though not fatal. His attendants then placed him in a palanquin. But as it was impossible in the crowd and tumult to move his conveyance, Tippu would appear to have left it and to have crawled towards a gateway at a little distance, leading into a garden. Here he was attacked by some English soldiers. One of his attendants then proposed that he should save his life by disclosing his rank. But this Tippu refused to do, and when an English soldier attempted to seize his sword belt, Tippu, though nearly fainting from his wounds, made a cut at him with his sword. The soldier at once shot him dead. His body remained undiscovered for several hours.

The total cost of the Gokteik bridge on the Mandalay-Kunlon Railway is estimated at £66,000.

ACCORDING to the latest news received by the Government of India from Kabul, the Amir is in the enjoyment of his usual health. He does his work answering letters and seeing the Government of India's Agents, as usual.

THE Government of India have under consideration proposals for the establishment of an Agricultural College for the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and the Punjab at some place in Northern India. The attention of the Local Governments concerned will be invited to the subject.

THE marriage of the minor Maharaja of Vizianagram with the daughter of Thakur Surajbuksh Singh, a leading taluqdar of Oudh, was celebrated at Kasmanda, from the 6th to the 11th instant, with great eclat. Elephants richly caparisoned horses, and other valuable articles were presented to the bridegroom and his relations. Previously to the marriage a *nosarava* of two lakhs was settled to be paid to H. H. the Dowager Maharani of Vizianagram by the bride's brother Thakur Sriprai Singh—a name, by the way, well-known in racing circles. The bride is eleven years old. The Thakurs of Kasmanda are Dals Rajputs, who, according to Sherrin, take the lead of all other Rajputs in Oudh. The Maharaja and his party left Lucknow on Thursday night by special train for Benares.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika CALCUTTA, MAY 18, 1899.

CALCUTTA V. DACCA.

The Statesman, instead of dispelling our "illusion" in regard to the contemplated disfranchisement of the Dacca Division, has only confirmed it. What we said was that, for the purpose of giving the Calcutta Municipality the privilege of electing two members, the Government contemplates disfranchising the Dacca Division. The Statesman says precisely the same thing. So the discovery of the illusion is in itself an illusion. The Statesman tries to justify the Government; well, we to have not denied its excellent intentions. The Calcutta Municipality can elect one member, and the Government is trying to secure for it two, and who can deny that this will prove a real service? Nay, we can go further. We can say that in this matter the Government is shewing Christian sacrifice. For, a member representing the Calcutta Municipality is an opponent of the Government. When the Government adds another member it only increases the number of its own opponents and this means—sacrifice. But we cannot permit the Government to make such a self-sacrifice without a protest. In this matter the Government is an opponent of the rate-payers have condemned its measure. When a party makes a sacrifice for the benefit of its opponent, the duty of the latter is clear, viz. not to stop him.

The Statesman says that the disfranchisement of the Dacca Division is no disfranchisement at all. Now this, we protest, is something like "stealing a tank in broad day-light" as the saying goes. The Dacca Division has the right of returning a member, but Government will not permit it. And this is called disfranchisement in plain language. The Statesman's contention that the disfranchisement is no disfranchisement at all is, therefore, not likely to soothe the feelings of the inhabitants of the Dacca Division. Does not our contemporary know the story told by Addison of the young man, fresh from college, shewing his learning to his mother and sister by his paradoxes? And how the mother, who had burnt her fingers, was disgusted when the pedant said, "Mother, yours is an illusion, for fire does not burn?" How could the poor old woman console herself for the burn for the sake of the philosophy which said fire does not burn, when she was suffering excruciating pains from the accident? For, in spite of philosophy, we know fire burns. And though the Statesman may cry hoarse with the exclamation that "Dacca has not been disfranchised," the people of that Division are likely to be never convinced.

To be fair to our contemporary, we must say, he gives reasons for his contention. He says, Babu Jatra Mohan Sen represents the Chittagong Division. Chittagong is in Eastern Bengal, and Dacca is in Eastern Bengal, and Q. E. D., it is demonstrated that Dacca has yet a member, and Babu Jatra Mohan represents Dacca. We do not think this argument to be at all conclusive. For instance, suppose there is one Mr. Knight in Chouringhee. And there is one Mr. Day in the same street. Can we, by that process, arrive at the conclusion that Mr. Knight is no other than Mr. Day? What happened was this. The Corporation requested the Government to allow it the privilege of electing two members. The Government generously acceded to the request. But it had not the power to grant this privilege. It could, however, disfranchise a Division. So the Government, to please the Corporation, disfranchised Dacca.

We can't, however, agree to this arrangement for very good reasons. In that story of Ivanhoe, King John, when inclined to be generous, robbed Isaac the Jew of his purse, for the purpose of making his gift. Who can help feeling, when reading that story, that King John's action could not be supported? Of course, Isaac was only a Jew, of course he was helpless. Yet King John had no right to take his gold for the purpose of making gifts. In the same manner, we can argue, of course the Dacca people are only Bengalees and, of course the Government is irresistible, but yet that does not entitle it to rob Dacca to reward Calcutta. What King John ought to have done when he felt the inclination of being generous, was to make the payment from his own pocket. In the same manner, if the Government is generously inclined to allow the Calcutta Corporation an additional member, it can easily make room for one in the usual way by nominating that one.

THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM.

THAT Lord Curzon is sincerely desirous of introducing many useful reforms here during his Viceroyalty, goes without saying. But how can His Excellency carry these out without funds? The first problem which Lord Curzon has, therefore, to solve is—where is the money to come from? In order to explain the present situation we must first give a short history of the past and the present financial relations that exist between the Provincial Governments and the Supreme Government.

Before the Government of Lord Mayo, the Provincial Governments, which practically carried on the administration of the country, had almost no control over the

financial affairs of their respective Provinces, and consequently no financial responsibility. Everything was rigorously centralized in the Supreme Government which took upon itself the provision of funds in detail for every branch of the Public Service throughout India. The revenues of the whole of India thus went to form a common Fund; and this Fund was entirely at the disposal of the Supreme Government.

Though the Government of India thus possessed the entire revenues of India, it fulfilled its obligations as regards the administration of the country. The result was that troubles beset the Supreme Government on all sides, and it found the work of supervising, in a central office, all the details of receipts and expenditure of the Empire, to be an impossible task. Then, again, the Supreme Government had to meet the demands of the Local Governments which required money to improve their respective Provinces. The demands of these Local Governments were practically unlimited, because there could be no limit to their legitimate wants. They had no means of knowing the standard by which their annual demands upon the Government of India ought to be regulated; and they had thus a purse to draw upon, of unlimited, because of unknown length. They saw on every side the necessity for improvement; and their constant and justifiable desire was to obtain for their provinces and people as large a share as they could persuade the Government of India to part with of the general revenues of the Empire.

The ever-increasing demands of the Local Governments kept the Supreme Government in a state of constant irritation; and the latter at last came to know the danger of despotically depriving the Local Governments of all share in the control of their own financial affairs, and of keeping the sole power of receiving and distributing public money into its own hands. The Government of Lord Mayo, under the guidance of the Straehy brothers, was thus led to inaugurate the famous Decentralization scheme by which the Supreme Government made over to the Local Governments certain incomes to provide for their local expenditure, and left to them, subject to certain general rules and conditions, the responsibility of managing their own local affairs. Accordingly, from the commencement of the official year 1871-72 the financial control of the following services was transferred to the Local Governments, namely, Jails, Police, Education, Registration, Medical Services, Printing, Roads and Civil Buildings.

In principle, the theory of decentralization is quite sound. Money placed at the disposal of men to whom it belongs, is sure to be more properly expended than in the hands of those who have no natural right to it. But it proved disastrous in its effects in India. The Secretary of State for India reserved to himself the complete control of his millions; and, in revenge, the Government of India accorded the same treatment to its subordinate Governments; and it did something more. It allotted certain sums to the Local Governments, certainly after keeping a very good portion for its own use which was, in fact, more than it could have kept when it had the troublesome task of appeasing hungry and clamorous Local Governments—and then left them and the people to their fate. Thus thrown upon their own resources, the Local Governments had no other alternative than to tax the people right and left in order to find the means of providing for every kind of improvement in the administration of their respective provinces. The Road Cess, and, subsequently, the Public Works Cess, were imposed in Bengal, and similar local ratings were levied in the Punjab, the N.-W. Provinces, the Central Provinces, Madras and Bombay. Then Municipalities were established throughout the land; but while the Municipal tax pressed upon particular localities, the local cesses, which took different names in different provinces, pressed universally.

An advance was made upon the scheme of the Straehy brothers by the Government of Lord Lytton. While the Mayo Government had handed over certain heads of expenditure to the unlettered control of Local Governments which obtained a fixed consolidated allotment from the Imperial revenues to administer their departments, Lord Lytton's Government stopped the allotment and handed over certain heads of revenue such as Excise, Stamps, Law and Justice, or rather farmed them out, to the Local Governments on the condition that a fixed allotment out of the receipts must be returned to the Imperial Exchequer.

Indeed, the transfer of the revenues was made subject to this condition that while Local Governments should share in any increase of revenue to which their own improved administration might lead, it was also provided that the Imperial Government should share proportionately in this also. That is to say, the system was worse than even the *ticcadari* system obtaining in some Bengal and Behar Zemindaries, inasmuch as the *ticcadar* generally pays to the Zemindar less than the gross assets he derives from the land and is allowed to enjoy all prospective profits during his incumbency; whereas, the Local Governments, under this scheme, were required not only to make good to the Imperial Government the full amount of the receipts from the different sources of revenue placed in their charge, but also to make over a moiety of the increase during the period of the contract!

The contract thus made between the Supreme Government and Local Governments, called the Provincial Contract, was not permanent, but was to be revised after a certain number of years; and the Government of Lord Dufferin made a further improvement upon it when the period of revision arrived; that is to say, it reserved to itself all the advantages and left to the Local Governments all the disadvantages of both centralization and decentralization. It claimed the entire revenues of the country; but, at the same time, denied in effect the obligation of the India Government to meet the cost of administering the domestic affairs of the country. Again, it would not only throw the entire charge of administration upon the Local Governments, but would compel them to surrender the lion's share of the increase which their revenues might have received during the period of the contract.

Need we now describe the results of the above unnatural arrangement? Well, the Secretary of State fleeced the Government of India, the Government of India fleeced the Local Governments, and the Local Governments fleeced the Local Boards, and all works of public utility were starved. Under this arrangement educational institutions of the country are receiving no encouragement; sanitary improvements have become almost impossible; and millions die of disease and hunger annually. Unless the existing relations between the Secretary of State, the Government of India, the Local Governments, and the Local Boards, are placed on a more satisfactory basis, it is impossible for any Viceroy of India, however able and well-meaning he may be, to effect any substantial reform in India.

On the above subject, a leading member of our society, who is held in high esteem by the country and who does not belong to the Dacca Division, writes to us:— "I have read your article in yesterday's 'Patrika' about the disfranchisement of the Dacca Division by the Bengal Government in order to enable Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee to get into the Council at the next elections, and having read this morning what the 'Indian Mirror' has got to say on the same subject, I must say I agree in the main with your views. I will accept the position that a man like Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee should be in Council through it, but the right thing for the Government was not to deny the people of the Dacca Division the right of returning one of their own men. Nomination was the proper course for the Government under the circumstances, but probably Sir John Woodburn could not see his way to nominating a seat in his Council a gentleman who had formerly belonged to the Civil Service and whose connection with it was severed under unhappy circumstances. But the same difficulty did not exist in the case of Babu Surendra Nath Sen and what Sir John should have done was to nominate the latter gentleman, leaving it open to the Calcutta Corporation to return Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee as their member. Such an arrangement of course contemplates that men like Babu Kali Nath Mitter cannot as worthily represent the Calcutta rate-payers in the Bengal Council as the other two gentlemen. But upon this point opinions differ. The whole thing looks rather funny. You have done well in raising your voice against the scheme, and the Dacca people will probably not keep quiet. It is a very dangerous innovation and ought not to be allowed to pass unchallenged. Liberal feelings might have prompted this arrangement, but an autocratic Government might on future occasions follow such a precedent for wholly improper and for ends of its own. It is not possible for the 'Indian Mirror' on the present occasion to look at the situation rightly, and that accounts for its attack on the 'Patrika'. But I hope you will return to the subject and hammer on it."

If the Government is generously disposed, it should show its generosity in a way acceptable to the entire people. By going to give Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, if however, shuts out Babu Ananda Mohan Bose from the Council, for the Dacca Division is likely to return the latter if it is not disfranchised. We welcome Babu Surendra Nath, but we are not prepared to do so at the cost of Babu Ananda Mohan, neither are we prepared to sacrifice Babu Surendra Nath for the sake of Babu Ananda Mohan. We want unadulterated justice. Let the Government so arrange that Babu Surendra Nath and Ananda Mohan may both enter the Council in a legitimate manner, and it will earn the gratitude of the whole country. But the method by which the Government seeks to bring in Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee as we have pointed out, strikes at the very root of free election. On the present occasion it will prevent Babu Ananda Mohan from entering the Council; but in future, a worse result may follow. An unsympathetic Lieutenant-Governor may disfranchise a Division which is likely to elect a most worthy person, in favour of another which is likely to return a man after his own heart. In this way, out of the four Mofussil members, at least two official nominees may be secured as the representatives of the people! Could a greater calamity befall the nation?

It is said that when the term of the Chittagong member expires, a few months hence, Dacca will be allowed to return its representative. Dacca, it is alleged, will thus remain disfranchised for a few months only. But, why should it be disfranchised for even a single day? And, if it can be disfranchised for a few months, it may be kept in that condition for a few years also. Then, again, when the Chittagong member retires, it will, we believe, be the turn of Orissa to send up a representative. So Orissa will have to be disfranchised in favour of Dacca, and another Division will have to be disfranchised when the Government is at last pleased to allow Orissa to return a member! So the process of enfranchisement and disfranchisement will go on all the year round, in season and out of season, at the sweet will of the Government!

It is thus circumlocution, confusion and chaos all along the line. By permitting the Presidency Division to nominate a member just now, Government will also do great injustice to such other candidates as may intend to contest the seat with Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee. At the last election, Babu Surendra Nath had a fight with Babu Boikanta Nath Sen and Raj Yatintra Nath Chowdhury. It was a fair fight; and Babu Surendra Nath and Raj Yatintra Nath secured an equal number of votes. A tie would have been the result and the seat might have been appropriated by Government, if Raj Yatintra Nath had not generously retired in favour of Babu Surendra Nath. This time, Babu Surendra Nath is irresistibly strong, not by his simple merit only, but because he comes into the field in the double capacity of a nominee of the Government, and of one whose services are required in the interests of the public in connection with the Calcutta Municipal Bill. If the Presidency Division had to wait till its legitimate turn came, two years hence, Babu Surendra Nath would not have got this unfair advantage over his rivals. Now, the easiest way to avoid all these complications is to accept the suggestion of our esteemed correspondent, (noted above), that the Government can very well afford to seat one of the nominated members and appoint Babu Surendra Nath in his place, and ask Babu Surendra Nath to get himself elected by the Corporation. This is the best solution of the situation and it ought to meet with the approval of the Government.

The London Daily News is of opinion that the sugar measure was not introduced in the interests of India, but of Mauritius. The point is not whether the measure was introduced by Lord Curzon for the benefit of India or at the instance of Mr. Chamberlain for the benefit of the Colonies. What we in India have to see is whether the countervailing duty will prove a blessing to our country or not. Almost all our manufactures have been destroyed by foreign competition. The weavers have been thrown out of employ; the Malangees ditto; in short, India has ceased altogether to be a manufacturing country. In wealthy countries seventy-five percent of the population are engaged in manufactures and twenty-five in agriculture. But in India the people have no other means of livelihood, than agriculture. The manufacture of sugar was a very important industry forty years ago. Many towns sprang up in the Mofussil simply because of this manufacture, but all these have now been ruined. Mauritius began and bounty fed sugar completed the destruction of this manufacture. We cannot complain against Mauritius because it enjoys no artificial advantage over India. But the bounty fed sugar had this unfair advantage. This countervailing duty will enable the sugar manufacturers to hold their own, at least for some time. Let it be borne in mind that it is of no moment at whose instance the measure was introduced; the point to be considered is, whether the measure will or will not protect an important but decaying industry in India.

Born Sir Henry Brackenbury and Lord Lansdowne did us a friendly service, by their evidence before the Welby Commission. They declared that the Indian army ought to be supported both by India and England. Now, properly speaking, the entire cost of the Indian army ought to be borne by England, for, England is proud to call India "our Empire," and a bright jewel, the brightest of all she possesses. That being the case, that is to say, India being a valuable property of England, she should protect it, and not make a helpless people do it for her. But yet it was a great admission on the part of such witnesses as Sir Henry Brackenbury and Lord Lansdowne that England ought to bear a share. The fact is, whether in this or that way, the British Government will have to take better care of the Empire in future. It will no longer do to employ Settlement Officers to ruin the ryot, leave him absolutely nothing and obtain the thanks of Government. It will no longer do to impose such a cruel tax as the Chowki-dar tax, and appropriate the amount for Imperial purposes. The evil effects of over-assessment and over-taxation will now be perceived by the Government; for, its chief source of revenue, that is, land, has been tapped to its last drop. It will take fifty years for India to recover its original position, if it is not overtaken by two more famines in the mean time.

The barbarous provision, empowering the Government to appeal against acquittals, can be excused but not justified if it could be applied to a case like the one which recently occurred at Meerut. Here are the facts of the case. Some European soldiers went to a village for shooting purposes and killed a peacock. A squabble ensued with the villagers resulting in one man being shot dead and several others being wounded. There are, as usual in all such cases, two versions, one of the villagers and the other of the soldiers. The trying Magistrate accepted the story of the soldiers as gospel truth and sentenced the accused villagers to various terms of imprisonment. Mr. Justice Knox, who heard the motion, is reported to have said that "though it were a case tried by a young and inexperienced Magistrate and he thought it might be desirable to order a further enquiry as to the discharge of the

soldiers on the charge brought against them, yet he thought in such circumstances as the present, a motion such as that before the Court must tend to weaken the authority of Magistrates and Sessions Judges." Yes, the prestige of the judiciary should certainly be maintained; but the interests of justice should also on no account be allowed to suffer. The application to the High Court was only for a fresh enquiry. Such being the case, we do not see how the prestige of the judiciary may be lowered if this application be granted.

NOTHING pleases us more than to see our countrymen turning their attention to the production of articles of use and fancy for which we have to depend so exclusively upon foreigners who naturally enough can have but little sympathy with us or our aspirations. Thus, whether it is for a needle, or for machinery we have to draw upon English and German manufacturers. So long as this deplorable state of things continues, there can be no hope of our making any head towards progress. We are glad, therefore to read in a vernacular paper that a vakil of the Allahabad High Court has just put on the market a kind of nib made of German Silver which he sells at one pice each. Of course, we do not know whether he has brought out any machinery for the purpose, but the chances are that he has not. It is a small beginning, which, with capital, energy and perseverance, might be turned to a very profitable concern.

WHAT may prove a very useful piece of Post Office paraphernalia has been invented by Babu Chandra Kumar Dutt, a clerk in Messrs. H. Inglis and Co.'s Office. It is a postcard machine for the delivery of postcards on what may be styled the "pice-in-the-slot principle." The postcards are placed in grooves cut in a cylinder, which is placed within a box. This cylinder revolves on an axle. A pice having been inserted in the slot which is made in the upper face of the box, moves the cylinder by some ingenuity and removes the card which falls through. When one card has fallen down emptying one groove, the cylinder moves and the second groove with another card takes the place of the first to receive the weight of the pice and to drop down another card. This operation goes on till as many cards as the cylinder can hold, fall down. One characteristic of the machine is that if a half pice or anything but a pice is inserted through the slot, no card falls down nor even does the cylinder revolve. This machine, if placed in the verandas of sub-post offices, will save a great deal of the trouble of sub-post masters who over and above their clerical duties are to sell stamps etc. also. We now hear that Babu Chandra Kumar had been to Calcutta with his invention and the Post Master General of Bengal was kind enough to examine it and suggest some modifications.

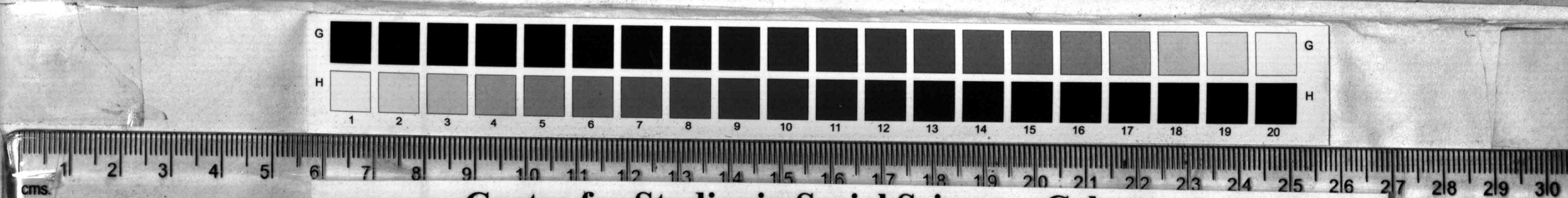
Has the Lieutenant-Governor the power to disfranchise a Division? The situation is this. There have been three elections in Bengal since the passing of the India Councils Act, twice during the rule of Sir Charles Elliot, and once during that of Sir Alexander Mackenzie. The first election took place in 1893, and Sir Charles recorded a Resolution on the election rules from which we quote the following:

- Under Rule 11 of the Regulations which have been framed by the Governor-General in Council with the sanction of the Secretary of State under section 1(4) of the Indian Councils Act 1892, for Bengal, it has been laid down that the nomination to seven seats in the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor for making Laws and Regulations shall be made by the Lieutenant-Governor on the recommendation of the following bodies and associations respectively, viz.— A.—The Corporation of Calcutta; B.—Such Municipal Corporations or groups of Municipal Corporations other than the Corporation of Calcutta as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time prescribe by notification in the Calcutta Gazette; C.—Such District Boards, group or groups of District Boards, as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time prescribe as aforesaid; D.—Such Association or Associations of merchants, manufacturers, or tradesmen as the Lieutenant-Governor may from time to time prescribe as aforesaid; E.—The Senate of the University of Calcutta.

The Resolution then goes on to say:— "The following is a sketch of the form which the rotation may probably assume, but the Lieutenant-Governor cannot bind himself or his successor, as to the exact order in which the privilege will in future be exercised."

Table with 2 columns: Year and Division. Rows include 1893, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1901.

From the above, it appears that when Sir Charles Elliott first promulgated the election rules he did not bind himself or his successors to the scheme of rotation framed by his Government. This was as it should be, for it was the first time that such a novel experiment was introduced into this country, and nobody knew how it would turn out. The result of the first elections,



however, proved eminently successful; and when, recording his Resolution on the second election on the 6th May 1895, Sir Charles Elliott took out from it the following words which occurred in his first Resolution, namely, "The Lieutenant Governor cannot bind himself or his successors, as to the exact order in which the privilege will in future be exercised."

The third election Resolution was recorded by the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie in April, 1897. In that Resolution Sir Alexander Mackenzie accepted the rotation scheme of Sir Charles Elliott with these words:

In the Resolution of this Government, dated the 25th March 1893, the Municipalities and District Boards were grouped by Divisions, and the privilege of recommending the four members of the Council to be nominated in every second year was given to the Divisional groups in rotation, one member each being recommended by two groups of Municipalities and one each by two groups of District Boards. The Lieutenant-Governor does not propose to make any change in this mode of grouping these bodies or to the rotation of the groups.

The whole case then stands thus. Under clause B, quoted above, the power was reserved by the Lieutenant-Governor in his hands to prescribe by notification such Municipal Corporations or groups of Corporations other than the Corporation of Calcutta as he may deem fit for recommending a member. Sir Charles Elliott, in his first Resolution, prescribed all these Municipalities and District Boards, with a proviso that his scheme should be regarded as a tentative one. In his second Resolution, he, however, withdrew the proviso and made the scheme pucca; and his successor, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, accepted and distinctly laid down that no change was necessary "in this mode of grouping the bodies or in the rotation of the groups."

The question now is, why should Sir John Woodburn go against the clear decision of his two predecessors, who arrived at it after mature deliberation? The Government reserved the power of substituting one Division for another, apparently for the purpose of using it only when any Division would show any disability. But the Dacca Municipalities are as competent to return a member as any in Bengal. Not only this. The two candidates who are competing for the Dacca seat, are worthy in every respect. We think, it is never intended that the Government should disfranchise a Division which could exercise its duty properly with regard to the election of a representative. Under the Councils Act, a District Magistrate has the right of offering himself a candidate for election. But, surely, the Government will never agree to allow such a thing to happen, at least for the sake of decency. Similarly, for the sake of courtesy and decency at least, the Dacca Division should never be disfranchised in 1899, when two previous Lieutenant-Governors had, over and over again, assured the public that it should have the privilege of returning a member this year. It is quite true, the Calcutta Corporation wanted an additional member. But they had not the slightest notion that their request would result in the introduction of an innovation, which threatens to lay the axe at the very root of free elections.

"The Amrita Bazar Patrika has never been friendly to Babu Surendra Nath" is what we find in an inspired para in the Indian Mirror. But the fact is, we have the most friendly feelings for Babu Surendra Nath; and, as for our admiration for him, who does not feel it for one who is gifted with such powers? But he is a public man, and some of his methods we have to oppose. We would never have done it in print if we had an opportunity of doing it in private. Oftentimes, however, we are taken by surprise and not given this opportunity, and then we have to do it in a public manner. And whenever we are led to do it from a supreme sense of duty, we are sought to be silenced by the argument that we do not love him! Now, we all know the story of the lawyer who, having no case, abused his opponent on the other side. The very fact that he meets us whenever we find ourselves under the disagreeable necessity of differing from him, with this personal argument, that we are actuated by malice, shews that his case is weak. Babu Surendra Nath is one of the very few men in India who have trained themselves for public life. In the Council he is a worthy opponent of the Government. In the matter of the Calcutta Municipal Bill, his able dissent entitles him, along with Babu Surendra Nath Sen, to public thanks. We would have voted him a handsome sum from the Municipality for his services if we had any control over it. In the present business, the threatened disfranchisement of the Dacca Division, we would have carried him along with us. But he began the quarrel by posing as an unfortunate man persecuted by his malignant foe, the Patrika. With that word in his mouth, he entered the arena. Then this project of the Government, of disfranchising Dacca for the purpose of securing a seat for him, was known to him. Indeed, he was a party to it. Did he consult us or others who take an interest in such matters, as what ought to be done in a project involving such serious consequences and in which he was to take such an important part? He will not trust us in his movements, and when we find fault with them, he turns round upon us, calls us names, and poses as a persecuted man. Let him kindly forgive us for anything harsh that we might have said, and give us a fair hearing.

Of course we can take it for granted that the Government will not in any way, be dissuaded from its resolve in regard to this Municipal measure by any pressure from the rate-payers. It will do what it will do, as the saying goes. We can send Demosthenes himself, backed by Cicero on one side and Burke on the other, but the Government will be guided by its own policy, and not arguments. So we can take it for granted that the presence of a couple of members, instead of one, will not serve us in the least, though one of the couple may be Babu Surendra Nath himself. Thus by getting the privilege of securing a couple of members, the ratepayers will gain no practical advantage. It is true that, though the Government has a despotic will and is not the party to be dissuaded by argument, yet we are in duty bound to enter a protest against this municipal measure and expose its short-comings. But that has been done amply,—more than amply. Already two dozens of meetings have been held for the purpose. We have besides the dissent of two of our representatives. What more can the rate-payers do than what they have already done? We, therefore, repeat that the privilege, sought to be conferred on the Municipality, will not in any way help the cause.

But how is this privilege to be got? It is to be secured by a sacrifice and a tremendous sacrifice. The Dacca Division is to be sacrificed for the purpose of securing this privilege and one of the Dacca candidates at least is fully a peer of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee; while the privilege, when secured, will prove absolutely valueless. This disfranchisement means not only a wrong to Dacca, but it is a wrong to the cause of self-government. Ever since the boon of self-government was granted the Government has been playing ducks and drakes with it. This precious self-government of ours is treated as a lump of clay and the Government is moulding it and giving it all sorts of fanciful shapes. At one time there was a tie, and the Government immediately stepped forward to give it a blow. At another time the residential clause was brought into requisition. And now the Government is going to exercise the power of disfranchising any Division it likes.

The Indian Nation thus puts the case tersely, though his appeal to the country to accept the situation quietly after having condemned the action of the Government, is rather fantastical.

From a purely logical and legal point of view the Amrita Bazar Patrika is right in holding that the Lieutenant-Governor's decision in regard to the constituencies that are to elect Members to the Bengal Legislative Council is not fair to all parties. The Dacca Division may justly complain of its right of election being deferred for two years at least; and even as regards the Municipalities of the Presidency Division, intending candidates may complain that they have no chance after the declaration of His Honour's opinion. The Municipalities themselves may complain that they have in effect been deprived of the right of free election. Strictly speaking, therefore, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, in so far as he has canvassed for Mr. Surendra Nath Banerjee and practically secured his election, has done some thing which is not unconstitutional, is certainly a piece of favouritism.

Is it meet that Babu Surendra Nath should have anything to do with it? We don't think he should, specially when his election from the Presidency Division means the unjust expulsion of his friend and colleague, Babu Ananda Mohun Bose, who is President of the Association of which he is Secretary. He can easily get himself elected by the Calcutta Corporation; and then the Council will be represented by two of the ablest men in the country,—himself and Mr. Bose. He should cut off his connection with a project which means a vital blow to the cause of self-government. It is of his own accord that Babu Surendra Nath has chosen to sit with the defendants, but his proper place is among the complainants.

LET us here narrate an incident which will show that if Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee succeeded in entering the Bengal Council on the last occasion, it was at least partly through our humble services. We never claimed any credit for it, for we simply did our duty; neither would we have mentioned it at all if the cry of the Patrika's dislike for Babu Surendra Nath had not been raised. Having announced his candidature for the Presidency Division, Babu Surendra Nath went to England to give evidence before the Welby Commission. Babu Ashu Tosh Biswas, as his agent, canvassed for him. It at last transpired that he had a formidable rival in Rai Yatindra Nath Chowdhury, the enlightened, cultured and patriotic Zemindar of Taki. In short, Babu Surendra Nath and Rai Yatindra Nath came to find themselves exactly in the same position, each having secured an almost equal number of votes. The day of election arrived, but none would retire; and the election threatened to result in a fiasco as neither had any chance of securing an absolute majority of votes. A few hours before the election, however, Rai Yatindra Nath, with some friends, was good enough to call at our place for the purpose of discussing the question with us. He had a touch of the election fever,—the plague had not yet entered the country—and we called it election fever, though it has now been christened more appropriately "election plague." The disease develops several curious symptoms, one of which is that, if you ask a candidate, overtaken by it, to re-

tire, with the best of motives and the soundest of reasons, he will look upon you as one of his deadliest enemies. As we said, Rai Yatindra Nath had only a touch of the disease and he was thus able to shake it off in a few minutes and discuss the question with us calmly and dispassionately. His friends were, however, in the full possession of the disease, and they would not allow him to retire. We also opened communication with Babu Ashu Tosh Biswas, at Bhowanipore, through the telephone, Rai Yatindra Nath sitting by us. Babu Ashu Tosh implored us to persuade Rai Yatindra Nath to withdraw. In reply, we told him that Rai Yatindra Nath was agreeable, but he was not in a position to disoblige his friends, who had worked so hard for him and who insisted on his sticking to his post to the last. Babu Ashu Tosh again appealed to us and we again appealed to Rai Yatindra Nath, and this time he most generously accepted our advice, in spite of the protests of his friends. Babu Ashu Tosh Biswas was, of course, very grateful and profuse in his expressions of thanks when we telephoned to him that Rai Yatindra had agreed to withdraw. Indeed, he gave his assurance that, at the next election, he would make it a point, with the help of Babu Surendra Nath, to get Rai Yatindra Nath elected from the Presidency Division. We are not aware, whether these facts are known to Babu Surendra Nath or not, perhaps not; for, to our certain knowledge, up to this time, he has not uttered one word of thanks, either in public or in private, to Rai Yatindra Nath, for his noble conduct, which enabled him to get into the Council without a hitch.

A CORRESPONDENT informs us, under date, the 14th May, that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor is not at Darjeeling but at Sandukpabar on tour, and will, it is believed, be away for some time.

We heartily thank Mr. Herbert Roberts for having put the following question about the Ghatsila case in the House of Commons:

Whether his attention has been drawn to the sentence of two years' imprisonment recently passed, under Section 417 of the Indian Penal Code, upon Satyanath Mahapatra by the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum, who himself instituted the prosecution; whether he is aware that the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore has, on being appealed to, set aside the conviction and directed a retrial of the accused, on the grounds that the maximum punishment under the section referred to was one year's imprisonment; that the accused had not been given an opportunity of claiming a transfer of his case to another court; and that such a case should be tried by some competent magistrate other than the Deputy Commissioner; and whether he will inquire into the circumstances of the case.

Here is the reply of the Secretary of State:

I have received no information on the subject of the case to which the hon. member's question refers, nor have I observed any reference to it in the public press. It would appear from the terms of the question that if any judicial error was committed it was set right on appeal, and I do not propose to take any action in the matter.

The readers of this paper are familiar with the facts of this outrageous case. Satya Nath Mahapatra was asked by the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum to see him at Ghatsila, some 50 miles from the sudder station. When the man called he was arrested, put on his trial, convicted and sent to jail by the Deputy Commissioner, in the course of two or three days! Nor was this all. The Deputy Commissioner passed on him double the maximum punishment provided by law, that is, he gave him two years, though he could inflict only one year's imprisonment upon him. If there was a case which showed the evils of the union of the executive and judicial functions in the same official as well as the ferocious manner in which criminal administration is often carried on in this country, it was this, and Mr. Roberts is entitled to the gratitude of the whole country for having brought it to the notice of Parliament. Of course, a better reply than what was vouchsafed was not expected from Lord George Hamilton. Rather the sun would rise in the west than his Lordship would find it convenient to do an act of justice to poor India. The exposure of a few such cases in the House of Commons will, however, produce a very healthy effect upon the service. Indeed, if the authorities will not check this lawless tendency amongst the officials here, the people of this country will have no other alternative than to run to England to expose their high-handed doings there, which is not at all a desirable state of affairs. Mr. Roberts will see that the case has now passed into another stage. The Judicial Commissioner having set aside the conviction and sentence, ordered a fresh trial, and the trial was entrusted to a subordinate of the Deputy Commissioner. The accused, however, got alarmed, moved the High Court, and told a strange tale. It was to the effect that not only did he expect no fair justice from the subordinate of the Deputy Commissioner, but that the latter did not show proper respect to the High Court when he sought his permission to move it. Of course, this is an *ex parte* statement; but it is no rare sight to see Magistrates talking irreverently of the Hon'ble Judges. The Magistrates apparently think that they owe allegiance to the head of the executive and not to that of the judiciary, and are hence led to show disrespect to the High Court. If their Lordships take

severe notice of the conduct of Magistrates and District Judges when they speak disrespectfully of the superior court, they may at once be cured of this impertinence on their part. Lord George Hamilton was good enough to advise the oppressed man to seek redress in appeal. This shows how ignorant his Lordship is about Indian affairs, though he is the Indian Secretary in England. On this subject we have got the following communication from Murshidabad over the signature of "A Commoo Lawyer":

The Ghatsila case suggests a ticklish question of law. Apart from the result of the trial in another district ordered by the High Court, could not the accused sue the Deputy Commissioner in damages for false imprisonment and could the latter plead jurisdiction or bona fide belief in jurisdiction (Act XVIII of 1850)?

Suppose the accused were a European, against whom the Deputy Commissioner bore malice. Suppose the latter thought the occasion a suitable one to humiliate the former and having asked him to a largely attended dinner in his own house, he acted just as he has in this case. In an action for trespass would Act XVIII of 1850 help the Deputy Commissioner or, if the English Common Law were invoked, would the recent case in I. Q. B. D. 1895 help him?

Let Government lawyers answer.

The human mind cannot conceive a crime of a more revolting character than the one in which a Burmese woman was lately outraged to death at Rangoon. It was broad daylight; and the victim, an elderly woman of 40, was going along the public streets, accompanied by her two daughters. All on a sudden, she was set upon by a number of European soldiers, who outraged her in turn, keeping at bay, all the while, the large crowd of Burmese who had collected there, attracted by the cries of the woman. So serious were the injuries she received that she died shortly after. Strange to say, only one soldier was arrested and put on his trial. He has been found not guilty and discharged. We have nothing to say against the decision of the court in this. What is, however, inexplicable to us is that though the outrage was committed in broad daylight, in a public street, the Police have failed to run the ruffians to earth and bring them to trial. We appeal to the Lieutenant-Governor of Burma not to allow the matter to drop here.

HERE is the text of the apology tendered by Mr. District Engineer Byers in the Malda how-killing case. "Although I know I am innocent of the offence with which I have been charged in the temple sacrilege case against my two servants and myself, I am sorry and beg to apologise to the Hindoo community for the public accusing me of having a hand in the matter. I also add an expression of sorrow on behalf of my two accused servants."

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

- Babu Sarat Chander Chatterjee, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Champaran, is allowed leave for three months.
Mr. A. W. Stark, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Godda, Sonthal Parganas, is allowed leave for six weeks.
Babu Khagendra Nath Mitra, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Diamond Harbour, is appointed to have charge of the Sathkira Sub-Division.
Babu Krishna Dayal Pramanik, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Sathkira, is appointed to have charge of the Diamond Harbour sub-div.
Babu Opendra Chandra Mozumdar, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Baekergunge, is allowed leave for six weeks.
Babu Barhamdeo Narain, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Darbhanga, is allowed leave for one month and sixteen days.
Babu Mati Lal Roy, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is allowed leave for three months.

Plague News.

VITAL STATISTICS.—MAY 16.

Table with columns: Ward No., Population, Average death-rate of previous five years, Number of deaths in each Ward, Deaths from plague reported as occurring on this date, Deaths from plague occurring on previous dates but reported on this date. Includes data for Campbell Hospl. and Total up to date 14th April.

Calcutta and Mysasil.

Indian Sketches

BY Shishir Kumar Ghose WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY W. S. Caine

PRICE—1 RUPEE AND 6 ANNAS.

"I heartily commend to every cultured and earnest Indian, to every Christian Missionary, and also to every European who cares to look beneath the surface of Indian life and thought, the contents of this deeply-interesting volume of miscellaneous articles from the pen of Shishir Kumar Ghose."—W. S. Caine in the Introduction.

The sketches are written in excellent English and an attractive style. These sketches are of a miscellaneous character—stories with a distinctive imaginative faculty on every page; excellent descriptions of exciting scenes, theological essays, dissertation on Suteism; poetry; a spirited and long defence of their political rights ignored by the Government, entitled "The perpetual slavery of India" which I would do good to certain of the English people they would only take the trouble to read, and man other interesting essays. It is pleasant to find that our friends in India are capable of writing such an interesting strain as to be found in this book.—London Review.

To be had at the Patrika Office

HIGH COURT.—The Criminal Bench will take up to-day admitted appeals first and afterwards motions.

METEOROLOGICAL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Meteorological Department is making the same arrangements as last year for special telegrams from Mauritius, the Seychelles, and Zanzibar during the monsoon season.

CALCUTTA TELEGRAPH WORKSHOP.—Mr. O. Burne, Superintendent, on return from furlough next month, resumes charge as Superintendent of the Telegraph Workshop, Calcutta, setting free Mr. E. Kenyon, who takes charge of the Bombay Division.

GOLD AND SILVER EXPORTS.—The total values of imports and exports of gold and silver to the end of March, 1899 were as follows:—Imports, Rs. 17,18,56,127, exports, 7,41,14,207. The total value of silver received and coined in the mints during the same period was Rs. 5,58,72,957.

OFFICIAL.—The services of Mr. C. W. Sandford, Chief Superintendent, Accountant-Generals Office, Bengal, are placed at the disposal of the Punjab Government, Mr. F. A. C. Rebello, officiating as Chief Superintendent Military Department.

SENTENCE OF DEATH.—Yesterday at the Alipore Criminal Sessions, Mr. Pargiter disposed of the case in which a resident of Hasnabad near Bosirhat stood charged with having killed his old mother-in-law with an axe. The jury returned a unanimous verdict of "guilty" on a charge of murder. The Judge agreeing with it sentenced the prisoner to death.

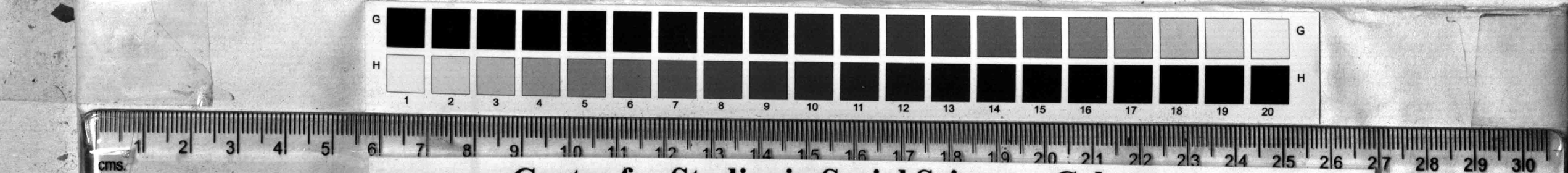
THEFT BY A POLICEMAN.—The case in which a constable attached to the Calcutta Police force was charged with the theft of a brass padlock and an iron bucket belonging to Kidderpore Government Dockyard under circumstances already reported, was yesterday concluded before Moulvi Serajul Hug, Police Magistrate of Alipore. The accused was sentenced to three months' rigorous imprisonment.

NEW SYSTEM OF THUGGY.—Rumour says that a new class of Thugs has arisen in the wilds of Malwa tract (Ferozepore, Ludhiana, etc.), who, instead of strangling their victims with a twisted roomal in the orthodox fashion, strike a few pins in a small piece of cloth and tie with the bundle on a peculiarly vulnerable point they know on the nape of the neck. The external injury is so slight, that it almost always escapes observation.

DACCA DISFRANCHISED.—It is, writes the Bengal Times, reported in Calcutta that although it is Dacca's right to elect and return a representative, nominated by her group of Municipalities as a member to His Honour our Lieutenant Governor's Legislative Council, Sir John Woodburn means to ignore her claim and to retain by some dodge Baboo Surender Not Banerjee's membership. We are unable to believe that there is any truth in this. We believe Sir John is too honest to palter with public rights to serve any political purpose, and to this we will hold until proved to be in error.

ENCOUNTER WITH TIGER.—A number of tigers and leopards are now on the prowl in Burma. In some stations on the Railway line between Toungoo and Mandalay they are said to be conspicuous by their frequent presence. A Burman coolie of the Railway, while employed at some intermediate station, is alleged to have been imprudently daring enough to attack a tiger with a stick when "Mr. Stripes" was enjoying his meal over a goat he had killed. The Burman, it appears, also had a dah in his hand, but he either could not or did not use it, for the tiger pawed him before he knew where he was, and he fell senseless. It is fortunate that "Mr. Stripes" left him and returned to his kill, goat-blood being more attractive than human flesh. The Burman was picked up and his wounds were promptly attended to, but he is still in a precarious state.

THE CENTRAL HINDU COLLEGE.—We should like to know what support Mrs. Besant has so far received from Bengal in aid of the Benares Central Hindu College scheme. Madras and Burma have realised their duty, and given or promised large subscriptions. The North-West Provinces have also begun well, and the munificent gift of the Maharajah of Benares has set the scheme well on its legs. Even the Punjab, which generally finds money for Sikh religious purposes, and for the use of the enthusiastic Arya Samajists, has come to the aid of the Central Hindu College, and already subscribed fourteen thousand rupees, but of this amount ten thousand rupees—the donation of a single individual whose name has not been divulged—has been paid. It is a



notable contribution. Have we none in Bengal to imitate, if not to originate, this kind of quiet and worthy generosity? Must our wealthy Zemindars continue to purchase honors by gifts to the Lady Dufferin Fund? When will our people learn to dispense charity, for charity's sake as in the ancient days of India? -The Indian Mirror.

BET SUGAR IMPORTS.—The imports of beet sugar into India during April were smaller by five and-a-half lakhs than in the previous month.

INDIAN MUSEUM.—Mr. Holland, of the Geological Survey of India, is appointed Curator of the Indian Museum, vice Mr. Middlemiss from the 1st of May.

GOLD RESERVE.—The reserve in gold held by the Paper Currency Department amounted in value on the 7th of May to Rs. 3,40,30,718. Of this sum Rs. 2, 61, 45, 104 was at Bombay.

TRAGEDY AT MOHESHTOLLA.—On the morning of the 15th instant, one Iswar Boyragi of Moheshtolla was murdered under the following circumstances: It appears that the deceased had lately purchased a garden belonging to a Mahomedan of the locality at an auction sale. On the day of the occurrence when he proceeded with his men to take possession of it, he was attacked by the brother of the late owner who struck him with a lathie on the head causing instantaneous death. The accused was arrested and yesterday placed on his trial before Mr. E. E. Forrester, Joint-Magistrate of Allpore. The case was adjourned for further hearing.

TROUBLES OF A WIFE.—On Monday, a young European woman named Nelly Marshall obtained a summons against her husband, Patrick Marshall, for having assaulted her. It appears that the woman after having left the Court, called at Messrs. Smith Street's dispensary in Dalhousie Square and complained of internal pains and obtained medicines for internal and external use. The medicine for external application was marked "Poison". As soon as she reached her house with the medicines, she quarrelled with her husband and renewed. She then thought that there was no prospect of relief and peace in her house, she ran out frantically into the street, lifted the phial marked "Poison" to her lips and swallowed its contents. A European constable, who happened to pass by at the time, hearing what had occurred, took her to the Bowbazar thana and thence to the Medical College Hospital, where she was detained. It is said she is in a fair way towards recovery.

WOLVES NEAR LUCKNOW.—News has been received in Lucknow of the depredations of a pack of wolves in a village a few miles out. Amongst other acts one of them carried away a little baby, but on being chased the beast dropped the infant, which unfortunately died. About this time a party of Sahibs, who had a hunt of the wolves, arrived with their guns, intent on their slaughter, and when they heard of what had happened they suggested that the child should be left where it lay in hopes that its destroyer might return and award a just penalty for his misdeed. The parents, who were bitterly grieved and anxious for revenge on the vulpine beast, consented to the arrangement and the Sahibs sat up over their novel "kill." The wolf actually did return, and a well aimed shot hurried him off to that bourne from which no traveller or wolf returns. It is curious that this time last year we recorded the carrying off of a child by a wolf in the suburbs of Lucknow. It was, however, rescued and probably alive to-day to tell the tale. In view of these facts, the story of Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome, being raised by a she-wolf, does not seem so improbable as it is generally regarded to be in Europe.—Indian Standard

WHEAT CROP.—The final report of the wheat crop of 1898-99 in Bengal states that the season throughout has been favourable to wheat. In September the rainfall was excessive in some of the provinces, excepting Orissa, Bihar and North Bengal, and caused high floods, in many districts. These floods, though they affected the outcome of the winter rice and bhadoi crops in some places, were, on the whole, favourable to the wheat and other rabi crops, as in most districts the floods subsided early, leaving on the lands a rich alluvial deposit which rendered them specially adapted for the cultivation of wheat. In October the rainfall was above the normal in Bengal and Orissa and normal in Bihar and Chota Nagpore. There was practically no rain in November and the first half of December, but timely showers in the latter part of December and the early part of January greatly benefited the standing wheat crop. In February the rain fall was mostly below the normal and only slight showers were received in March, though in a few districts the crop is reported to have suffered from hail storms. The total area cultivated in wheat in 1898-99 was 1,594,600 acres against 1,569,500 acres sown in 1897-98. The increase of 16 per cent. is due to the favourable character of the season.

THE SUGAR BOUNTIES.

REFERRING to Reuter's wire of 10th May, the despatch from the Secretary of State to the Government of India, dated the 26th of January 1899, says:—"In my despatch of the 25th August I drew attention to certain letters from Mauritius urging that India should take steps to protect her own sugar and Mauritius cane sugar from the competition of bounty-fed sugar, and I asked for a fuller expression of the views of the Government of India on the matter. With reference to remark in their letter of May, 1898, that they were not prepared to impose countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar imported into India further papers received during the past few months do not give ground for anticipating an early result from the discussions at the Brussels conference of last summer, and there appears little hope that in the present circumstances France will materially alter her system of sugar bounties. Germany and Austria are the countries which chiefly send bounty-fed sugars to India, but nothing has occurred to show that Germany or Austria will abolish sugar bounties so long as France retains them. I have recently received

from the Colonial Office a copy of a memorial sent by 8,000 Mauritius planters and others to your Government in October 1898, praying that countervailing duties may be imposed on bounty-fed sugars imported into India, and I forward copy of these papers. It will be seen that Mr. Secretary Chamberlain apprehends that in the present circumstances bounty-fed sugars will drive Mauritius sugar out of the Indian market and will entail ruin and distress on the colony where the majority of the population are natives of India or their descendants, and that he requests the memorial may receive the favourable consideration of your Excellency's Government.

In this request I concur, and have no doubt you will take steps for dealing with this important matter at an early date. If on reconsideration you should see reasons for modifying the views expressed by the Government of India in May last and for advising the levy of countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar imported into India, the precise measures you would propose either legislative or otherwise, should be clearly stated. I forward copy of a circular from the United States of America Treasury, dated the 12th of December, 1898, which shows how countervailing duties on bounty-fed sugar are practically worked in the United States. Whatever may be your final advice upon the matter I shall give the fullest consideration to your views, and to the grounds on which they may be based. I recognise the fact that the Indian aspect of this question may be different from that which it presents in this country and shall be prepared to attach much weight to opinions held by the people of India regarding the fiscal change such as has been suggested by the colonial authorities. Since the foregoing paragraphs were written I have received a further letter from the Colonial Office discussing the relation of the sugar-growing British Colonials to India in the matter of coolie immigration and of the competition of bounty-fed sugars. A copy of the letter is enclosed. Regarding Mr. Secretary Chamberlain's suggestions for facilitating the coolie immigration from India, I shall address you hereafter. I commend to your consideration his further remarks on the sugar bounties question. Your Government will doubtless consider the matter chiefly and primarily in the interests of the people of India, but subject to this condition any benefit which may be likely to accrue to the people of Mauritius would be an additional argument in favour of the measures proposed.

POLICE COURT —MAY 17.

(Before Babu Sita Nath Roy, Mr. R. N. Mukerji and Dr. Panjoty, Honorary Presidency Magistrates.)

THE SANKIRTAN CASE.—Kall Kissors Dutt and three others were re-arrested this day, for obstructing a public thoroughfare, by passing along the street with a sankirtan party without a pass. The following judgment was delivered:—All the defendants were placed before us charged under section 283 I. P. C. and section 66 clause 9 of the Calcutta Police Act. At the outset we held that section 283 I. P. C. was inapplicable to the fact proved in this case so the defendants Nos. 1, 5, 9, and 14—others for want of proof being discharged, were called upon to stand their trial only under Section 66 clause 9 of the Calcutta Police Act. The facts that the defendants Nos. 1, 5, 9, 14, along with others, on the night of 9th May at 8 1/2 P. M. formed themselves into a Sankirtan party and were passing along a public thoroughfare, namely, Bow Bazar lane beating tom toms that is *holas* and blowing horn or trumpets and they had no pass or authority from the Commissioner of Police, to do so, have been clearly proved by the complainant and his witness, Radhika Misser, and the further fact that they had no pass with them and could not produce it when called upon by the police to do so, is not denied by the defence; but the learned pleader, Mr. N. L. Dey, contended amongst others that under clause 9 of Section 66, the limits within which the beating of drums and tom toms were prohibited had not been proved by the prosecution as required by the section, but on our calling upon the prosecuting officer to produce the Police Notification defining the limits within which the beating of drums, &c., were prohibited. The Police Notification, dated 10th April, 1866, was produced before us. We are satisfied that Bow Bazar lane is within the limits of the town of Calcutta and as such no beating of drums can take place there without a pass from the Commissioner of Police, but at the same time it must be owned, that the offence charged against the defendants is too trivial to deserve any serious notice and it being a technical offence and the Hindu public having been allowed without a let or hindrance for the last few months on account of the score caused by the plague, to organise *Sankirtan* parties and to pass along public thoroughfares shouting the sacred name of Hari, blowing trumpets and beating tom toms without ever being called upon to take passes from Commissioner of Police, which are required to do on all other occasions. We think the ends of justice would be met by inflicting light punishment upon the defendants. We therefore sentence the defendants to pay a fine of 8 annas each.

A SEPOY of the Border Military Police, at Kohat, was murdered on the 7th instant, and his rifle stolen.

CAPTAIN ROBERTS, I.M.S., has been appointed Health Officer of Simla, vice Captain Wolfe, who is proceeding to South Africa. It is not considered necessary, to have an Assistant Health Officer for Simla, and a Military Assistant Surgeon Rodgers who has been doing that duty, reverts to Civil employ in the Punjab immediately.

The triangulation survey has now been successfully completed between Burma and India in spite of great difficulties through thick jungle and awkward country by Captain Fraser and Lieutenant Turner, of the Survey Department. The preliminary computations since the survey have proved one interesting fact, viz., that the recent earthquake disturbances have made no difference in the location of stations east of Manipur. Captain Fraser will now take charge of the proposed magnetic survey next season, and will shortly proceed home on deputation to procure the necessary instruments

Correspondence.

SANKIRTAN.

TO THE EDITOR.

"Ha! be to the holy Sankirtan, for it purifies the heart, allays the affliction arising from the illusion of the universe, gives all good to man and vital force to the goddess of music, it enhances everlasting happiness and being as sweet as nectar, soothes all souls. SIR.—The most beautiful gift that we have got from the Lord Gauranga is Sankirtan. Of course, to be appreciated by all. As for the mass of people there can be no nobler gift than the Sankirtan. It ennobles our mind, purifies our heart, makes us forget the cares, turmoil and troubles of this world, and our soul is, as it were, snatched aloft into a divine and a beautiful region with a certain ineffable delight.

The Calcutta series of Sankirtans have at least given us a faint idea of the utility of Sankirtan as preached by the devout disciples of the Avatar of Nadia. As party after party sing and dance amidst the sweet sound of Haribole, the noise of the sweet falls into silence, even a spectator encased in hard-hearted worldly respectability, is carried by the current; he forgets his position, loses his gravity and dances like a mad man with the Sankirtan party. This is a common fact and any man can now witness it in the streets of Calcutta.

It seems to me that the Sankirtan possesses a psychical attraction—powerful and irresistible. The effect that it produces may be a timely impulse, as some allege, but it will be seen that as every impulse is subject to the law of re-representation in our consciousness under certain conditions, it is not without its lasting effect. The uplifted hands, the vehement dancing and the high pitched tone are nothing but the external manifestations of the powerful feeling that is aroused in the heart. The aroused currents of the feeling, just like the currents of electricity, diffuse themselves freely over the brain, leading to a general agitation of the moving limbs. Every feeling, in proportion to its strength, is accompanied by corresponding external movements. The stronger the feeling the stronger are its movements, and ultimately in its highest phase it culminates in a paralysis of the muscular movements, and in a state of entranced ecstasy where a beautiful world of ineffable joy and delight presents itself to the inward gaze. Indeed, this is noble and beautiful; of course, it is timely but its sweet reminiscence that oftentimes gently creeps over our consciousness, tends to keep up a permanent impression the effect of which does never fail to spiritualise its dreamy devotee.

Permit me here to quote some lines on Kirtan from Shishir Babu's Book on Lord Gauranga:

"To outsiders a Kirtan may seem to be a noisy and artificial affair. It is so when there is no bhakti in the heart. But when there is bhakti the Kirtan is a celestial enjoyment with power of purification. . . . The music in the beginning soothes the soul and prepares it to receive the pious sentiments which the hymn contains. Nay, it has also the power of evoking such sentiments in the heart. The music and sentiments in the song move the heart. When one of the party is moved, others are also moved by the mysterious law of sympathy. The whole party is then saturated with pious feelings. This pious feeling is followed by an influx of joy in the heart. This joy is communicated from one to another, and the state of their feeling is expressed either by dancing, *pulak*, weeping or complete loss of consciousness. . . . Some more lines from the same distinguished authority:—

"Kirtans are either Hari Kirtans or Krishna Kirtans. In the former all men join who wish to do so. Short sermon prayers to the Lord or his many names knit together in verse and then set to music, constitute a Hari Kirtan. The words and music of these Hari Kirtans are creations of the Lord Gauranga and followers. They evoke pious feelings in the mind; indeed their wonderful music speaks more eloquently than do their words. . . . The music, the sentiment and the poetry in the songs soon evoke pious feelings in the minds of those who take part in the Kirtan. In this manner, the individuals of the party help one another. Gradually the members are filled with joy and they cannot resist the impulse to express it by dancing.

To describe the Kirtan in this manner is, however, to do scanty justice to it, for words can never convey the wonderful effect it produces upon the human mind. Strong-minded saints go into the wilderness and live in caves with a view to learn how to concentrate the mind and direct it to God. A Kirtan enables a man to do the same thing; inspire of himself and that without mortifications; nay, by singing and dancing. People feel it an impossible and difficult task to subdue their passions, they weep and beat their breasts to deliver themselves from the sins that they have committed, but a Kirtan enables them to do both the one and the other. And thus says Vasudev, a chronicler of the Lord's doings: "My Lord Gauranga purifies men by making them sing and dance."

Francy people paying their addresses to the Lord no: by prayers but songs, not by kneeling but dancing. Picture to yourself the spectacle of his creatures delirious with joy because of his goodness and showing it by dancing. Yes, it is good to join a Kirtan party. It is also good to witness it. For, who can look at the faces of the bhaktas beaming with bhakti, their bodies gracefully waving to and fro under its influence, their tearful eyes red with love, and not be affected by the sight.

In fact, it is a sight at once purifying and spiritualising. "Song," says the *Westminster Review* "is the eloquence of truth, the truth of our inmost souls the truth of humanity's essence brought up from these abysses which exist in every bosom and just moulded into metre." If this is true for mere songs how must it be exalted in the case of Sankirtan, when all that is noblest and loveliest in man is called out for His rapturous worship.

RASIK MOHAN CHAKRAVERTI. Secy. Gauranga Samaj.

CAPTAIN RENEY-TAILYOR, R. E., and Lieutenant Hare, R. E., now with the Burma-Chinese Boundary Commission with the survey party, arrive in Bangalore in the beginning of June. The survey work is reported to have been completed.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

MR. RUDYARD KIPLING and family have arranged to sail for England on the White Star liner *Cymric* on May 24. Their visit to Lakewood terminates on May 7, after which they go to stay with friends in Long Island until the date of departure for England. M. DE STAAL, Russian Ambassador, received a deputation of the Executive Committee of the Peace Crusade at the Embassy. In reply to the deputation he said that he was certain the Tsar would feel the greatest satisfaction at the results of the Peace Crusade in Great Britain.

It is reported from Graz that a youth of 17, Ivan Mapan, of Novigrad, on the coast of the Adriatic, is on his way to Vienna with the wooden model of a rifle of his own invention, which will be examined by a Military Commission at the Arsenal at Vienna. The rifle, it is said, will fire 600 shots in a quarter of an hour. The magazine holds 15 cartridges. The American millionaire, Mr. C. R. Flint, has just given orders for the construction of the fastest steam yacht in the world. The design guarantees a speed of forty-two miles an hour, and engines of 12,000 horse-power. The fittings will be most luxurious, and yet the yacht will be so constructed that it can be transformed into a torpedo-boat within a week.

THE Queen is said to be one of the greatest of match-makers. Not long ago she wished to arrange a marriage between a lady and gentleman of the Court. The lady was not at all enthusiastic and proved rebel to the Royal advice, quoting St. Paul's famous words, that "He who marries doeth well, but he who doth not marry doeth better." "My child" said the Queen, "be content with doing well; let those who can do better."

LORD LISTER on Saturday formally inaugurated the Liverpool school for the study of tropical diseases. He said that it was very important to make a study of these diseases a special one, and that a man about to practise in the tropics should have the opportunity of seeing the character of the ailments he would have to cope with before embarking on his career abroad. He stated that contributions towards the funds of the school had been received from Germany, Holland and Belgium.

THE latest thing in New York journalism is a newspaper for the convicts at Sing-Sing Prison, to be called the *Star of Hope*. It will consist of four pages, giving the news of the prison and a summary of current events. It will be printed in the prison printing department, and all the inmates are invited to contribute. It may be expected that some of the contributors will have some forcible things to say. And it is for this reason that the editor, who is Mr. Sage, the governor of the prison, will be news censor as well.

AN intelligent visitor to New York says that three fourths of the men in large cities read scarcely anything but newspapers. Women read proportionately more books than the sterner sex. One leading bookseller said: "The magazines are driving out the books, and the newspapers are driving out the magazines." This, however, the "British Weekly" points out, is hardly true; for it is admitted that the past holiday season witnessed enormous sales of books, exceeding all previous records. Among the great novelists Thackeray leads his sales exceeding those of any other. During the past two years George Eliot has gained decidedly. Dickens has lost very perceptibly, and Charles Reade and Bulwer are seldom called for.

A SERIOUS effort is about to be made to give effect to the wishes expressed in an influential quarter in regard to investigating English capital in the industrial development of India. One of the first issues will be a company formed for the acquisition of important spinning mills in Bombay. The capital will be about £ 13,00,000. The whole of the ordinary shares will be taken by the present owners, only debentures and preference shares being offered for subscription. An old established Indian trading company is about to bring out a subsidiary company for the development of petroleum fields included in its concessions. Other schemes relate to the Indian fish industries and mining concessions in Burma. Given reasonable capitalisation and efficient management, there is no reason why a good deal of the surplus capital now seeking investment should not be profitably employed in Indian enterprises.

A MARRIAGE of a singular character took place at the registrar's office, Langport, the other day. The bride and bridegroom, supported by the usual escort, having presented themselves, the registrar requested the witnesses to be seated, and addressing the bridegroom and lady who remained standing, elicited from them solemn declarations of knowing no lawful impediment to being joined in matrimony. Having called those present to witness the ceremony was performed with the proper principals. Writing on this subject in "The Young Woman," Mdmé Sarah Grand says:—"When one is asked, should married women follow professions, one is forced to allow that it depends, and fair to add, not if they can help it. The great object in life of all married people should be to make marriage a success, but how this can best be done is a question for themselves alone. Each case must be dealt with singly. In one case it might be a great hardship for a married woman to have to follow a profession, but in another it might be an even greater hardship to prevent her from doing so. If you are well, you have no business to take up a paying profession. I know that there are some unprincipled women who rob their poorer sisters by earning money they do not require and spending it on themselves. In that they are utterly despicable. If you want work, surely there is enough to be done for others without adding to the misery of those whom poverty already severely handicaps in their struggle for life by driving past them in a carriage to reach a goal which they would never have gained had you been obliged as they are to plod your weary way towards it on foot."

ON Monday Sir M. Walrod moved the appointment of a Select Committee of seventeen members to report upon the best means of improving the conditions of the aged deserving poor and providing for those who are helpless and infirm. Mr. Asquith, that the members of the committee, complained utterly failed to fulfil the promises they made at the General Election, when they led the people to believe the question of old age pensions would be dealt with by the Legislature in a prompt and practical manner. Mr. Chamberlain denied that Ministers had ever held out hopes of what he had said, and was prepared to repeat, was that he hoped they would be able to deal with the question before they left office. Answering further criticisms Mr. Balfour repudiated the suggestion that the Select Committee was a mere pretext for delaying legislation and shifting responsibility. Indeed, Government would not consider themselves bound to wait for the report before bringing forward a scheme of their own. Ultimately the resolution was carried.

A COLOSSAL bronze image in imitation of the Mahamuni at Kyauktaw is to be cast in Akyab, the work being carried out by Maung Hnye, of Kemedinde. The image will be in a sitting posture, and is to be about fourteen feet in height.

Telegrams.

[INDIAN TELEGRAMS.]

THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE. BURDWAN, MAY 14. As the High Court and Criminal Courts will remain open on the 18th May, the Provincial Conference will sit at Burdwan on the 19th, 20th and 21st May.

THE OPENING OF NEW LINES. SIMLA, MAY 16. The Goona-Bara section of the Goona-Binna Railway, 75 miles in length, was to have been opened yesterday for traffic. The Balia-Chandlari Ghat section of the Bengal-North Western Railway, 29 miles in length, was opened for passenger traffic on the 12th instant.

PLAGUE IN INDIA. SIMLA, MAY 16. The latest official returns showing plague deaths in India during the week ending 14th May shows 1084 deaths in the Bombay Presidency and Schdhe, 10 in Madras, 51 in Mysore, 1 in the Nizam's Dominions, 9 in the Punjab and 74 in Bengal, Calcutta showing 60 and Howrah 14.

THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE. (From Secretary, Reception Committee.) BURDWAN, MAY 16. Owing to criminal courts being open on the 18th instant the Bengal Provincial Conference will meet on the 19th 20th, 21st instant.

PRESS SCANDAL IN SHILLONG. (From a Correspondent.) SHILLONG, MAY 16. The Assam Government Press case is still hanging fire. Grave anxiety is felt about the result. The enquiry has been delegated to the Press Superintendent. The public demand an enquiry by persons who are not connected with the press.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES. BIRBHUM, MAY 16. At a public meeting held to-day at the Bar Library, Mr. S. P. Saha, Barrister, Babus Gopal Chandra Chakravarti, Chairman, Suri Municipality, Hari Narain Misra, Gopaldas Ghosh, Madhu Sudan Banerji, pleaders, and Chandra Gati Mustafi, vakeel, and zemindar, are elected delegates to the forthcoming Provincial Conference to be held at Burdwan.

(FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.)

LONDON, MAY 12. Major Cuignet, the principal witness for the General Staff in the Dreyfus inquiry, has been cashiered for communicating to the newspapers letters which have passed between M. de Freycinet and M. Delcasse, showing the differences between them.

LONDON, MAY 12. M. De Giers, Russian Minister at Peking, has presented a demand to build a railway connecting the Manchurian railway system direct with Peking. The Chinese are much disconcerted.

LONDON, MAY 12. The French Chamber of Deputies has approved the African Convention with Great Britain.

LONDON, MAY 13. American despatches report a serious collision on the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. An excursion train dished into an express at Exeter, thirty-four persons being killed outright, and upwards of fifty injured.

LONDON, MAY 13. Sir Alfred Milner and President Kruger meet at Blomfontain at the end of the month. The points forming the basis of discussion are being arranged in the meanwhile.

LONDON, MAY 13. In the match between Essex and the Australian Eleven the latter were beaten by 126 runs. Yorkshire has defeated Somerset by an innings and 301 runs. Gloucester beat Kent by 51 runs. The match between Surrey and Leicester was drawn.

LONDON, MAY 13. A disaster, attended by fatal results, has occurred at a chlorate of potash works at Saint Helens, Lancashire. Chemicals ignited, causing an explosion, and the whole town was shaken as if by an earth-quake, many of the streets being wrecked. Three persons were killed and twenty injured.

LONDON, MAY 13. The Budget Bill has passed through the Committee of the House of Commons. Sir Michael Hicks Beach, replying to various suggestions, said he knew that India was unwilling to borrow, subject to repayment of the loan in a fixed time, but he saw no reason against the Debt Commissioners being authorized to lend money to India.

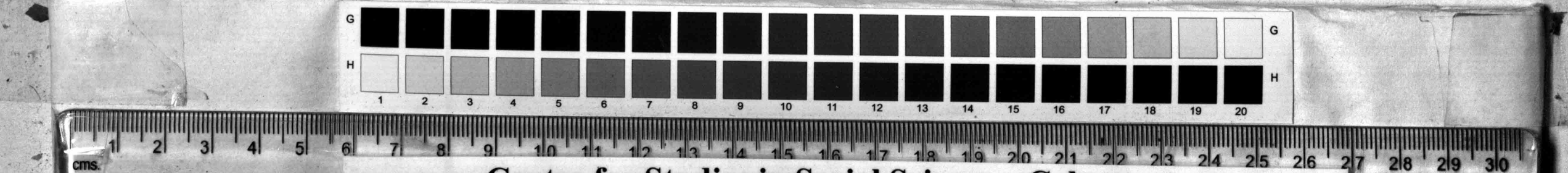
LONDON, MAY 13. The death of Lieutenant Uniacke, of the 19th Hussars, in the fighting at Beul, is confirmed.

LONDON, MAY 14. The large exodus of Cretan Mussulmans to Turkey continues, despite the efforts made by Prince George to induce them to remain.

LONDON, MAY 14. It has been arranged that the Prince and Princess of Wales will go to Dublin in August for the Horse Show.

LONDON, MAY 15 MIDNIGHT. The Tsungli Yamen, in reply to the Russian demand to connect the Manchurian system direct with Peking, says it can no longer believe in Russian promises of friendship.

LONDON, MAY 15. MIDNIGHT. The Queen has arrived in London, and will remain for her birthday celebrations. Her Majesty to-day paid a visit to the room at Kensington Palace where she was born, and was heartily cheered by the large crowds assembled all along the route.



INDIA AND ENGLAND.

(FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, May 28.

LONDON GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE House of Commons has been absorbed, all this week, in the discussion of the clauses of the London Government Bill. The details of this Bill would have no particular interest for your readers, although, as I have already pointed out, it bears some resemblance to the Calcutta Municipality Bill, because, like that ill-advised measure, it seeks to weaken the power of a Council which has deserved well of the rate-payers, but which, by its progressive policy, has made itself unpopular with the Government. The only item of general interest in this debate took place last night when the question was discussed whether or no women should be eligible for election to the new Councils in the same way as men; and, if so, whether they should also hold the positions of "aldermen" and "mayors." The two great political parties are more divided within themselves upon the question of the concession of political rights to women than they are upon any other subject. Last night, for instance, Mr. Balfour had to confess that the Government could not give the House any guidance in the matter, because they were hopelessly divided themselves about it. So the House was left to take its own course, and did so in a very erratic and uncertain way. First of all, it was decided, by 127 votes to 101 that women should be eligible for the offices of councillor, alderman, and mayor, but, after further discussion, this decision was reversed, so far as the last two offices were concerned. Finally, after two or three hours had been wasted in this fruitless talk, it was decided, on the suggestion of the two leaders, to postpone the consideration of the question until such time as members had been able to make up their minds about it. It is expected that the debates on this Bill will take up the greater part of the session. It is a very unpopular measure, and all the London local governing bodies have either condemned it in toto or have suggested substantial amendments.

THE FINANCE BILL.

The other measure which is likely to claim a good deal of the time of Parliament, is the Finance Bill, which will give legislative effect, if passed, to the Budget proposals of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. It is now a foregone conclusion that Sir Henry Fowler will be Chancellor of the Exchequer in the next Liberal Government, and the latest indication that he is working up for that post is the fact that he is to move the official Liberal amendment, when the Finance Bill comes up for second reading. The amendment runs as follows:—"That this House, while recognising the necessity of providing for the expenditure of the current financial year, is of opinion that it is not expedient to permanently reduce the annual charge for the National Debt." Mr. Labouchere who is always more or less of a thorn in the side of his own party, does not see the need of providing for the expenditure of the current financial year, because he believes (and a good many of us agree with him) that that expenditure is extravagant and that it is the result of an unnecessarily aggressive policy, which involves the abnormal growth of the national armaments. And so he proposes to amend Sir Henry Fowler's amendment, by leaving out the words, "while recognising the necessity of providing for the expenditure of the current financial year." Another Liberal member, Mr. Galloway, objects to the increase of the duty upon colonial wines, and will move a further amendment to that effect. It is probable, however, that these differences will be arranged, and that when the debate comes off, the Liberal party will show a united front to the enemy by unanimously supporting an amendment based upon that which now stands in the name of the late Secretary for India.

INDIAN QUESTIONS IN PARLIAMENT.

Every question affecting India, addressed to Ministers this week, has, with one exception, had reference to the new Sugar Duties Bill. I give them here in the order in which they were put. Sir H. Fowler asked the Secretary of State for India what were the amounts and values of the raw sugar and refined sugar imported into India during the last year, and the Customs duties paid on such sugars. Lord G. Hamilton:—Complete figures for 1898-99 are not yet available. For the year 1897-98 the figures were:—Imports into India, Raw sugar, 373,000 cwt.—Rs. 76,000; refined sugar, 4,235,000 cwt.—Rs. 4,708,000. Customs duty realized on imported sugars, at 5 per cent. ad valorem, Rs. 240,000. In answer to Mr. Seale-Hayne, Lord G. Hamilton said:—The importations of refined sugar into India for the ten months ending January 31st, 1899, were:—From Mauritius, in 1898, 1,140,986 cwt., in 1899, 13,83,850 cwt.; from Austria, in 1898 653,821 cwt., in 1899, 745,619 cwt.; from Germany, in 1898, 854,420 cwt., in 1899, 365,093 cwt.; from other countries, in 1898, 240 cwt., in 1899, 397,386 cwt.—total in 1898, 2,244,467 cwt., in 1899, 2,896,967 cwt. In addition to this the total importations of unrefined sugar into India were:—In 1898, 365,660 cwt., and in 1899, 258,950 cwt. The Government of India has issued a notification specifying the countries which grant bounties direct or indirect, on exportation of sugar and the amount of the countervailing duties to be levied in each case. This notification will be found in a forthcoming Blue-book. Mr. Lambert asked the Secretary of State for India whether, subsequent to the large importations of German sugar into India in the year 1897-98, the average price of sugar in India fell, and, if so, by how much; and whether the German sugar so imported

was sold at a greater or at a less price than other imported sugar or than sugar produced locally. Lord G. Hamilton:—The falling off in prices during the last three years at Cawnpore (which is the largest market in Upper India) was stated by Sir James Westland at about 1 1/2 per cent. The figures contained in the papers which will, I hope, be disseminated in a fortnight, appear to bear out this statement. According to the statistics in my possession, German refined sugar appears to fetch about the same price as Indian sugar and higher prices than other imported sugars. Mr. Maclean asked the President of the Board of Trade if he could explain why, in the trade returns it was the practice to classify confectionery and jams under the head of "pickles," and whether he would change a practice which misled all persons except experts as to the real extent and value of the sweetmeat trade. Mr. Ritchie said:—It is true that confectionery and preserved fruits are enumerated along with pickles and condiments, in a joint heading in the trade accounts, but it is not possible to show separately the exports of every article without an amount of labour, and cost which could not be justified. It is, therefore, the practice to group together articles of secondary importance as regards aggregate value the composite headings relating so far as possible to the articles dealt in by a single trade. This practice has been followed in the present case, but in view of the interest taken in the exports of articles containing sugar, the question of the classification of these exports will be referred to the Committee for the Revision of the Trade Accounts which meets in the autumn.

Sir H. Fowler asked whether the House could not, for the purpose of the forthcoming discussions, have a return of the amount of confectionery exported to India during the last year. Mr. Ritchie:—I should think it possible we might be able to get that out. It would be of great interest, and I will endeavour to see if it can be done. In answer to Captain Sinclair, Lord G. Hamilton said:—All sugar imported into India since 1894 has paid 5 per cent. ad valorem duty, and bounty-free sugar will not, under this Act, become free from this duty. I can only give a very rough estimate, but the bounties on sugar imported into India from Austria and Germany may be taken on the average to be one-eighth of the value of the sugar, and on this assumption, the 5 per cent. ad valorem duty would be about five-thirds of the amount of the bounty.

Last night Mr. Maclean asked the Secretary of State for India whether it would be possible for bounty-giving States under the proposed exemption of British goods from the Indian Sugar Duties Act, to render the Act inoperative by sending to this country goods intended for the Indian market, and transshipping them at London or Southampton into British vessels bound for Bombay. Lord G. Hamilton:—My hon. friend is mistaken in supposing that any exemption of British goods from the operation of the Indian Sugar Duties Act has been promised. That Act will be administered, necessarily, by the Government of India, who must deal with cases as they arise, by the light of experience and according to circumstances. I stated on the 12th and again on April 20 that, in view of the comparatively small amount of the export of confectionery from this country to India and of the difficulty of estimating the quantity of sugar in a given quantity of confectionery, I did not think it likely that the Government of India would, in this case, insist upon their rights. But it is certain that they will grant no exemption which could have the effect described in my hon. friend's question, and it is equally certain that there would be no difficulty whatever in framing regulations which would effectively prevent any wholesale evasion of the duty as suggested.

Mr. Maclean asked how the Custom-house officials in India would be able to distinguish between the shipments. Lord G. Hamilton said the clearance papers would enable them to do so. On the motion of Mr. Seale-Hayne, a return was ordered of all the bounties, direct and indirect, on the production or export of sugar given by France, Germany and Austria, supplemented by a copy of the circular issued by the Secretary to the United States Treasury on December 12th, 1898, giving particulars of the sugar bounties, direct and indirect, given by the principal continental countries.

THE SUGAR QUESTION. It will have been noticed that the member for Cardiff no longer holds the Sugar Bounties monopoly in the House of Commons, but that questions have been addressed to Ministers by other members, chiefly on the Liberal side of the House, and notably by Sir Henry Fowler. There was a good deal of speculation in political circles a few days ago as to what would be the outcome of Mr. Maclean's dramatic action in the House of Commons last week, and whether he intended to definitely ally himself with the Opposition. This uncertainty was set at rest, however, when the House met last Friday by the member for Cardiff resuming his accustomed seat on the Front Ministerial Bench below the gangway. The seats "below the gangway," I may remark, are always occupied by the free lances of the respective parties. Nobody who knows Mr. Maclean expected anything else. Upon the general political questions, which divide the two great parties in the State, he is as Tory as the Tory-cast of them, and it is only on question affecting India that he has shown any inclination to kick over the traces. In the matter of the Sugar Bounties he has done this with a vengeance, and has baffled all the attempts of his party leaders to hold him in. It remains to be seen how much further his restiveness will carry him.

This Sugar Bounties controversy has been productive of some humorous incidents. The scene in which Mr. Maclean was the principal figure has been described at length, and variously commented upon by all the newspapers in the country. Lord George Hamilton seems to have caught something of his interrogator's excitement. On the day following the latter's angry exit from the House, the Secretary of State for India, who is never one of the most dignified ornaments of the House, amused his fellow-members by inadvertently sitting down on the knees of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, after he had hurriedly answered a question. A trivial incident of this kind always tickles the risibilities of the House of Commons. Another amusing fact was brought out by Mr. Ritchie's answer the other night, namely, that the Board of Trade Returns always include confectionery, and jams under the head of "pickles." This accounts for the disparity in the figures submitted to the House last week by Lord George Hamilton and Mr. Maclean respectively. If the Secretary of State had been aware of this peculiarity, the unseemly wrangle of last week would never have occurred, as the accuracy of Mr. Maclean's figures would not have been disputed. The papers referring to this vexed question will be ready in a few days, and the Front Opposition Bench will have to decide whether they will take any action in the matter. If they are well advised they will not raise a debate on it, but if it is true—as a certain paper here states—that the Act is directed against all bounty-fed imports to India, and does not mention sugar at all, I do not see how the Liberal Party, as the custodians of the principles of Bright and Cobden, can avoid entering some protest against the measure.

The only Tory paper which follows in the wake of Mr. Maclean is the "Daily Graphic" which describes the Sugar Bounties Act as "panic legislation." It argues that the immense importation of German sugar into India in 1897-98 was due to the deficiencies of the native crop owing to the famine, and not to the insignificant bounty that the German Government pays. It further holds that in face of the figures which Lord George Hamilton has given to the House, and that the Island of Mauritius sends to India more sugar than Germany and Austria combined, it is impossible to contend that bounties are the cause of the competition of which Indian refiners complain. It concludes the article by saying:—"If Indian sugar producers were to follow the example of Indian tea growers, and adopt scientific methods of cultivation and manufactures, India could beat the world in the production of sugar, as she already beats it in the production of tea."

HYDROPHOBIA IN THE ARMY. One of the questions asked in the House of Commons last night had reference to the prevalence of hydrophobia in the army in India. Sir W. Wedderburn asked the Secretary for India:—Whether, between July 1898 and March 1899, thirty-three soldiers had been sent from India to the Pasteur Institute at Paris to be treated for hydrophobia; if so, at what cost to the State and with what result; and whether he would obtain the figures showing how many cases of death from hydrophobia had been reported in the Indian Army during the last ten years previous to these dates. Lord G. Hamilton:—The reply to the first paragraph is "Yes." The payments in this country on this account were about £10 a man, and the results have been so far as I am aware, very satisfactory. I have no information as to the total payments in India. In the ten years from 1888 to 1897 there were twenty-three deaths of British soldiers in India from hydrophobia.

In reply to a further question from Sir William Wedderburn, Lord George Hamilton said:—"I am aware that Buisson baths have been established in India, but the opinions of the Indian medical authorities, so far as they have been received, are not favourable as to the efficacy of this form of treatment of hydrophobia."

THE PASTEUR INSTITUTE IN LONDON. I may mention in this connection that a good deal of opposition has been manifested to the proposal to establish a Pasteur Institute in London. The brunt of this agitation has been borne by the Anti-Vivisection Society and the Humanitarian League, two organizations in which your readers would probably take a very sympathetic interest. A meeting of their supporters was held in St. James' Hall, London, on Wednesday evening, in opposition to the scientific torture of animals. The chair was taken by Mr. W. S. B. Maclean. Mr. Peto who was supported by the Bishop of Nottingham, Dr. Lawson Tait, the Rev. J. Lotefree Parr, and Mr. G. Candy Q. C. The Chairman said he was convinced that in taking up the stand it had, in declaring that the only thing which should be done was to totally abolish this scientific torture of animals, the Society had adopted the proper course. We could have no sympathy with any form of vivisection which was useless and unnecessary. According to returns he had received there had been an increase of experiments during the past 10 years, from 1069 to 8800.

Professor Lawson Tait proposed the following Resolution:—"That this meeting wholly disapproves of experimentation on living animals as being crude in conception, unscientific in its nature and incapable of being sustained by any accurate or beneficial results applicable to man."

Dr. Wall seconded the proposition, which was carried with a few dissentients. A Resolution calling for the prohibition of vivisection by law was adopted on the proposition of the Bishop of Nottingham. Your readers will gather from the report of this meeting that opposition to vivisection is by no means confined to India.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS. Foreign politics continue to engage a considerable share of public attention. The operations of the American forces in the Philippine islands, the Samoan imbroglio, and the report that Russia is seeking a port on the Persian Gulf, are all discussed at length in the papers here. With regard to the first of these questions, the situation in the Philippines is said to be causing grave concern in the United States. The steadiness of the Filipinos in face of artillery, the discipline they have acquired since the United States commenced active operations, the accuracy of their infantry fire, as shown by the fact that five Americans were recently shot through the head, the ability of the Filipinos to obtain unlimited supplies of arms and ammunition, the practical inability of the blockading squadron to prevent this

contraband trade,—all come as a most unpleasant surprise to the Americans who are beginning to be convinced that their task in the islands is greater than they ever imagined. While the expansionist party is urging the President to call out 35,000 more volunteers, the anti-expansionists are crying out for a cessation of hostilities, and the withdrawal of the American troops. There can be no doubt that the latter party is gaining strength every day, and the Republicans are getting very much concerned about their electoral prospects in consequence. The President is, however, committed to a forward policy, and he may be expected to carry it out until Aguinaldo submits. When the leader of the insurgents has the good sense to take that inevitable step, the work of pacification will begin and we shall see how the Americans fare in their first attempt to bring order out of chaos among an eastern people, and train them up in those principles of political liberty and progress, which form the basis of the great American Republic.

The statement of the "Times of India" that Russia has acquired a harbour in the Persian Gulf is not generally believed in political circles here, except among those who regard Russia as being capable of any enormity and look upon every step she takes as a movement against our Indian Empire. The report has been somewhat eagerly discussed by the newspapers in Berlin where it is thought to be rather singular that the statement has not been contradicted by a communication from the Russian Foreign Office. Why the "Russian Foreign Office" should go out of its way to contradict reports which appear in the "Times of India" is not quite clear. But the fact is that the Russophobes are glad of any opportunity of casting mud at the Russian Government with a view to damaging the prospects of the Peace Conference which is about to assemble at the Hague. These extremists profess to believe that the Czar of Russia is insincere in his peace proposals which are, in their opinion, only part of Russia's great scheme for the humiliation of Great Britain and the destruction of her Asiatic Empire. These sinister suspicions are at the bottom of the growing military expenditure in India.

TIME TO HALT. I find from a Return that has just been presented to the House of Commons on the motion of Sir Henry Fowler, that the expenditure has increased by Rs. 6,250,000 during the last ten years. Here are the exact figures:—

Table with 2 columns: Year, Expenditure. Rows include 1887-88, 1888-89, 1889-90, 1890-91, 1891-92, 1892-93, 1893-94, 1894-95, 1895-96, 1896-97, 1897-98.

SURELY, IT IS TIME SOMEBODY CRIED "HALT." SANKIRTAN AT SUTAPATI, BARABAZAR. ON Sunday last Calcutta again witnessed one of those demonstrations under the auspices of the Gauranga Samaj which have happily become a living force in the country. The scene which is presented day after day is nothing if not cheering. The last of such demonstrations was held at Sutapati, Barabazar. The portion of the town sit, as our readers know, inhabited chiefly by Marwaris, Punjabis and other up-country peoples. They are for the most part Vaishnavas by instinct and so there is nothing peculiar if they show so much zeal in this movement. Theirs is not the passing enthusiasm of a novelty-seeker. Long before the event, some of the leading inhabitants of Barabazar had formed themselves into a working committee. On the day in question, Cross Street, Sutapati, and a portion of the Harrison road between Chipore Road and Cross Street—were tastefully decorated. Gateways were erected. The one in Harrison Road was a grand affair, artistically executed.

The whole of that quarter of the town known as Sutapati, was decorated with flags and foliage. As evening drew on innumerable Chinese lanterns added considerably to the beauty of the scene. There were also acetylene Gas lights especially arranged for and chandeliers. Every house was decorated and lighted. From five o'clock in the afternoon people began to arrive and by eight o'clock the locality was so crowded that considerable difficulty was felt in going from one place to another. Before the Sankirtan commenced, Dr. Raskis Mohan Chakravarti, Secretary to the Gauranga Samaj, delivered a speech. There were other speakers also. The Sankirtanists were filled with one idea—permeated by one feeling—the singing of the glory of Sree Hari and Sree Gauranga. This state of things continued to a very late hour in the night or rather to the small hours of the morning. The consideration of the promoters of the demonstration may be gathered from the fact that they had made arrangements for keeping the hydrants working up to 2 A.M. Extensive preparations were made for the entertainment of the people who had come there. Every one vied with each other in showing attentions to the guests—as the people assembled were called by the inhabitants of the place. Cocoanuts were freely distributed and to judge by what we saw there must have been thousands of them. Iced sarbets, sweets, &c were also provided for. Arrangements were also made for fans, garlands, sandal paste, rose-water, etc. etc. Such was the feeling evoked on the occasion that a certain Marwari shopkeeper was led to distribute about 8 hundred especially indented for sale. To be brief the demonstration was a grand success, and credit is due to the Committee of Management which consisted of the following gentlemen:

men: Babu Banulal Shroff, Babu Chetram Choudhury, Babu Lachme Narain Shroff, Babu Murlidhar Goenka, Babu Bhajan Lal Lohia and Pandit Kesab Prasad Misra, Secretary of the Vigilance Committee of Ward No. VII.

INDIAN NEWS.

THE Viceroy visited the Foreign Office on last Monday afternoon.

THE Secretary of State for India has appointed the Hon. Walter Rice to be one of his Private Secretaries.

MAJOR G. DAVIDSON, R.E., Mint Master at Bombay, retires on pension on the 18th instant on attaining the prescribed age.

COLONEL GARDINER, R. E. officiating Public Works Member, arrives in Simla at the Beginning of June.

MR. MEREDITH, Deputy Commissioner of Simla, is now suffering from an attack of pneumonia following on influenza.

THE Mysore Durbar has sanctioned the estimate of about Rs. 2,77,600 for alterations in the alignment of the Kolar Goldfield Railway.

THERE is no foundation for the rumour that the Misses Lister propose to leave shortly for America. They like Simla and the society, and will remain there to the end of the season.

MR. G. SIMPSON, of the Electrician's office, Telegraph Department, proceeds on three months' leave early in June, and Mr. A. Thompson officiates.

INFORMATION has been received at Colombo to the effect that the steamer "Thrusnee" has rapidly risen under the action of the pumps, and that there is every hope of her being floated.

THE death is reported of Subadar Shaik Imdad Ali-Sardar Bahadur of the Governor-General's Body-Guard and an Honorary Aide-de-Camp to his Excellency the Viceroy. He was an old and distinguished Native Officer, and a very familiar figure at the Viceregal Court.

THE annual dinner in commemoration of the defence of the Lucknow Residency will be held at the Holborn Restaurant on Wednesday, June 7th, at half-past seven.

MEASLES reported to be somewhat prevalent at Simla just now, especially among residents on the Kaithul Spur, the sufferers being children. One or two cases of enteric are also reported.

THE exceptional cyclonic storms which recently occurred have considerably damaged the telegraph lines all over the country during the last few days, especially on the East Coast and the Burma coast.

AT Davagere, in the Mysore Province, an explosion of gunpowder occurred in a firework maker's house, on Thursday, 4th instant, resulting in the death of one boy and in the serious injury of several others.

THE Secretary of State has sanctioned Mr. Kinsman, Superintendent of Telegraphs, now on furlough, being placed on special duty in England for two months, in connection with the early introduction into India of Wheatstone's automatic system of working.

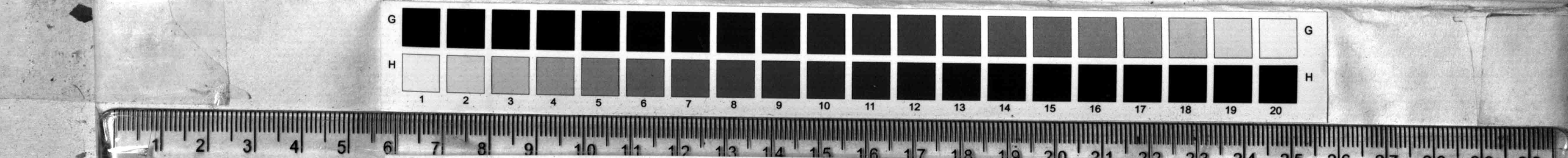
THE Lord Mayor has forwarded to the treasurer of the Gordon Memorial College Fund the sum of £22,738-5-10 received at the Mansion House in response to his lordship's appeal. This is in addition to the amount of over £100,000 paid direct to Lord Kitchener's fund.

THE report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the case of Rajah Chitpal Singh of the Statutory Civil Service in the North-West Provinces, has been sent into the Local Government. The final orders of Government have yet to be passed in the case, but the report is said to be adverse. THE Madras Government has approved the proposals of the Board of Revenue regarding the programme of work to be done by the Government Botanist in view to the completion of the botanical survey of the Presidency within five years.

SOME excitement has been caused in the Kangra district by the report that a tourist from that part of the world had, during a visit paid last summer to the Tibetan frontier, somewhere near Rudek, obtained ten fine rubies, one of which fetched Rs. 50,000 in Calcutta. The others having gone to Amsterdam. Whether this lucky tourist found these stones himself or obtained them from Tibetans, is not known; more probably the latter, as I have several times heard, from Lahoulis and Ladakis, stories of a nallah either in Nubra or Shayok, both localities were mentioned, flowing out of a large glacier, in the gravel of which rubies are at times found by shepherds and shikaris.—Civil & Military Gazette Correspondent.

THE Municipality of Madras some time ago prosecuted one Jonah, who arrived from Hubli, for failure to appear under the Plague Regulation for inspection. Mr. Rajarajam Mondelliar, the Fourth Presidency Magistrate, who tried the case, acquitted the accused. A representation was then made by the President of the Municipality to Government through the Plague Commissioner, that the acquittal was not a proper one, on the facts reported. The Government has now passed the following order:—"The Government does not concur with the Magistrate's decision, but is of opinion that the case is not one for reference to the High Court as the defendant has already been sufficiently punished indirectly."

THE Madras Government recently enquired of the Government of India whether it was the intention of Government to exclude members of the Temporary Upper Subordinate Establishment of the Public Works Department from the benefits of the Postal Insurance Scheme, and requested that the scope of the Fund might be enlarged so as to render such subordinates eligible to partake of the benefits offered by the scheme. The Government of India replied that it would sanction the admission of Temporary Engineers and Temporary Upper Subordinates of the P. W. Department to the privileges of the Postal Insurance scheme on the condition that a certificate was granted by the Chief Engineer in each case declaring the person eligible on these terms. The certificate should not be granted to men entertained only on an emergency, or for any special work likely to be for a short time only, but to those who are taken on for the purpose of supplementing the regular establishment, and the duration of whose appointment will ordinarily or probably be continuous.



EGYPT BOOMING.

GOLD AND GRAMS. EGYPT is undoubtedly booming. To borrow from a well-worn phrase, its commercial prosperity is "advancing by leaps and bounds".

Since the victory of Omdurman the Sirdar has kept a very tight grip on the land. He has acquired, for the benefit of the vast territory he has to administer, by right of conquest and succession as well as by purchase, various eligible positions in Khartoum and elsewhere.

But it is in Lower Egypt and the Eastern Sudan that the rush for agricultural land has commenced, only a nominal price is charged for waste and desert lands, which admits of speculators and others buying in large blocks.

Perhaps of still more interest is the fact that other parties have obtained and are seeking to get still further rights to search for mineral oil, gold and precious stones south of Suez.

THE Government of Mysore has ordered a quinquennial census of the agricultural stock in the Province, and says that the enumeration should be made on the spot and simultaneously all over the Province.

A PLEASURE A D A DUT I consider it not only a pleasure but a duty to owe to my neighbours to tell about the wonderful cure effected in my case by the timely use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

INDIA IN PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday April 24. CONFECTIONERY EXPORTS TO INDIA.—Mr. Maclean asked the President of the Board, of Trade if could explain why, in the trade returns, it was the practice to classify confectionery and jams under the head of pickles; and whether he would change a practice which misled all persons except experts as to the real extent and value of the sweet-meat trade.

Mr. Ritchie said: It is true that confectionery and preserved fruits are enumerated along with pickles and condiments in a joint heading in the trade accounts, but it is not possible to show separately the exports of every article without an amount of labour and cost which could not be justified.

Mr. Ritchie: I should think it possible we might be able to get that out; it would be of great interest, and I will endeavour to see if it can be done.

BURMA TO YUN-NAN RAILWAY.—Sir E. Ashmead Bartlett asked the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether Lieutenant Watts-Jones had discovered a good railway route to Yung-chang-fu via Mongkyang to Yim-chau, which could be reached by Kunlon Ferry without difficulty; and whether this discovery would enable the railway to be made from Burma to Yun-nan.

Mr. Brodriek: The reports of the officers engaged on the survey are addressed to the Yun-nan Company, in whose service they are at present, and her Majesty's Government have no particulars. It is, however, understood that what is considered a practicable route to Yun-nan has been found.

Lord G. Hamilton said the clearance papers would enable them to do so.

EXECUTIVE AND JUDICIAL FUNCTIONS OF INDIAN OFFICERS.—Mr. Herbert Roberts asked the Secretary of State for India: Whether his attention has been drawn to the sentence of two years' imprisonment recently passed, under Section 47 of the Indian Penal Code, upon Sivanath Mahapatra by the Deputy Commissioner of Singbhum, who himself instituted the prosecution; whether he is aware that the Judicial Commissioner of Chota Nagpore has, on being appealed to, set aside the conviction and directed a retrial of the accused, on the grounds that the maximum punishment under the section referred to was one year's imprisonment; that the accused had not been given an opportunity of claiming a transfer of his case to another court; and that such a case should be tried by some competent magistrate other than the Deputy Commissioner; and whether he will inquire into the circumstances of the case.

Lord G. Hamilton: I have received no information on the subject of the case to which the hon. member's question refers, nor have I observed any reference to it in the public press. It would appear from the terms of the question that if any judicial error was committed it was set right on appeal, and I do not propose to take any action in the matter.

NOTICES OF MOTION, &c.

Mr. Beckett.—Brussel Conference.—To call attention to the disastrous effect of the fore-gone sugar bounties on the sugar industries of the United Kingdom, India and the Colonies; and, in view of the failure of the Brussels Conference and of the fact that no satisfactory issue to the diplomatic negotiations consequent thereon has been arrived at, to move, that her Majesty's Government do now take steps to secure the prompt abolition of the bounties on the lines indicated in the official report of the British delegates to the Conference.

Sir William Wedderburn.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies: If he will grant a return showing the disabilities or restrictions to which British Indians are subjected in the several British colonies and dependencies, citing in each case the statutes or by-laws relating thereto.

Mr. Monckton.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: If he can inform the House whether the plague has reached Durbhunga and Mozafferpore in Behar, and, if so, what is the rate of mortality.

Major Rash.—To ask the Secretary of State for India: Whether, taking into consideration the fact that the increase in the number of British soldiers invalided home from India for venereal disease was twenty per cent. over the preceding year in 1895, sixty per cent. in 1896, and 199 per cent. in 1897 over the figure for 1894, he will at once increase the stringency of the regulations now in force.

THE RANGPUR HAUNTED HOUSE.

(Specially written for the Patrika.) A MEMBER of the Judicial service has sent us his strange experiences in a haunted house at Rangpur, where he was stationed sometime in 1880.

When I was Munif of Rangpur, where I was transferred from Sylhet in 1880, I put up at first in the lodgings of Sital Babu, a Deputy Magistrate, at Dhap. Subsequently during the Mohurum holidays I went home on a short visit, and, on my return to Rangpur, was informed at the railway station that the peon whom I had left in charge of my bakhsh (lodgings) had died of cholera in my absence.

Instead, therefore, of returning to my original lodgings, I drove straight up to Nawabgunj and occupied the house belonging to Babu Choom Lal Shaha. Chuni Babu had been a big merchant, and had long lived in the house with his family. But misfortunes having gathered round him he was obliged to take the shelter of the Insolvency Court and his house was let out. It was an one-storied house. There were two long and narrow side rooms with two middle rooms separated by a covered passage.

With this topography of my new lodgings let me proceed to relate the strange experiences I had in the house. I made one of the two middle rooms my bed-chamber, the other being used to put my things in.

The first manifestation of apparitions I saw, was in the moving of doors. Whenever I lay awake till midnight, I invariably found that the northern door of the passage as well as the door opening from the lumber room into the

passage would be shaken violently as if some one from behind was pushing them vigorously. I did not then know that the house was haunted; and hence I did not pay much attention to this circumstance.

"One evening I lay on the taktabosh (wooden platform) in the sleeping-room, wide awake, with my eyes looking into the south side-room through the open communicating door, when I was taken a little aback by the form of a man in that room. For five minutes I saw the apparition and had thus ample opportunity to note that he looked like a man in his prime, say, about 32 or 33 years of age. Some idea of my horror would be formed when I say that after some time, the figure made faces at me and vanished into thin air, leaving nothing tangible in the room to prove its presence. Such phenomena gradually became common enough.

"A month or two later, my wife and children joined me at Rangpur; and I did not think of changing my quarters. One evening after her arrival, I was sleeping soundly in my bed-room, my wife being engaged in household work in the kitchen, when suddenly I was awakened by my wife to be asked whether I had been to the south room and walking there."

"No," I replied sleepily. "I was sleeping like a top all the time."

"Who could be there then?"

"Where I asked."

"Why, in the south room. As I was coming in I saw distinctly a man walking up and down the whole length of the room, and thought it was you. But when reaching here I found you asleep the whole affair became foggy. I could not understand who else could it be."

I did not, of course, choose to tell her anything of the other manifestations I had witnessed, for that would have given her a fright without doing any good to anybody.

"One night I was going to my room through an opening in the enclosure wall which ran round the building, when the figure I had previously noticed approached and whispered in my ears as any living person would do. This was repeated on several other occasions."

"Another night I had to pass through the north room which usually remained vacant and was not consequently lighted like the others. I had my little girl on one arm, while with the other I carried a lamp to light my way. The door of the covered passage leading into this room was closed from inside; and I had to call out to my wife to open it. Just then, the figure of a man was seen projecting as it were, from the wall to the west of the doorway, just by my side. This time I was really frightened. My wife just came and opened the door, and I got in to close it as promptly as I could.

"The last time that I saw a spook in the house was one night when I was reading a newspaper in the light of a wall-lamp. I fell asleep while thus engaged, only to be startled out of sleep by some one pinching me on the back. I got up and saw through the western door a figure in the passage, sitting on the ground with its face turned towards my room. This time the figure looked like a bauli (mendicant).

"I made enquiries and then learnt that the land on which the house had been erected by Chuni Babu's father, Ram Charan Shaha, had formerly been occupied by the huts and houses of a number of prostitutes, living under the protection of some of the richest magnates. It so happened that one Kerani from Dhap one day came to visit one of the women on the sly, and being caught redhanded by her protector, was cut down and thrown into a well. A bauli too was similarly killed; and the spirits of these two murdered men remained chained to the spot."

"Soon after the last incident I got my transfer and came away from Rangpur."

THE SAHARANPUR RAILWAY ASSAULT CASE.

THE facts of the indecent assault upon a native Christian female passenger in an intermediate class carriage on the North-Western Railway, between Nagal and Deoband, have already been briefly published. The complainant is Miss Caroline Ally, daughter of Mr. H. Ally, a lay missionary of Calcutta. The accused is Mukhtar Ahmad, Shaikh, aged 23 years. He was sent up for trial by the Court of Sessions at Saharanpur on the 4th and 5th instants, and was represented by Messrs. Banku Behary Chatterjee, Muhammad Husain and Daoud Ali, Pleaders. The prosecution was conducted by the Government Pleader, Mr. Anand Swarup, B. A., LL.B. The accused pleaded, ed not guilty to both the charges against him, viz., of rape and theft.

The first witness for the Crown was the complainant, Miss Ally, who stated that on the 9th March last she was going from Amritsar to Delhi. She arrived by train at Saharanpur at 12 on the night of 9th and went on by the same train. She described the commission of the assault, between Saharanpur and Deoband, by a man who had entered the carriage while she slept. On arriving at Deoband Station before reaching the platform and when the train was slowing down, the man who assaulted her got out of the carriage. Just before going he took her purse from under her pillow and extracted from it Rs. 8, and left the purse. She identified the accused in Court as the man. At Deoband she reported what had happened to the guard. At Muzaffarnagar a policeman questioned her and she told him what had happened. The next occasion on which she saw the accused was at Delhi Kotwali, four days afterwards. She was called from her house to the Kotwali and there picked out the accused from among 40 or 60 men. She had never seen accused before the night on which she assaulted her. The doctor sahib examined her two days after the 9th before she identified accused.

Abdul Wahid, a railway chaukidar, deposed that one-and-a-half or one and three-quarter months ago he happened to be going to his work by way of the 3rd class waiting-room (Saharanpur) where tickets are sold. He met accused who said "the booking office is closed. You are acquainted with the people here, please get a ticket for me." He accordingly called to the Babu, got a ticket for Deoband,

AN ANCIENT BELIEF.

The ancients believed that rheumatism was the work of a demon within a man. Any one who had had an attack of sciatic or inflammatory rheumatism will agree that the infliction is demonic enough to warrant the belief. It has never been claimed that Chamberlain's Pain Balm would cast out demons, but it will cure rheumatism, and hundreds bear testimony to the truth, and this merit. One application relieves the worst many mes its cost, for which it affords is alone

ITH STANISTREET & O. and B. K. PAUL & CO.

gave it to accused, and put him into the train, which went off with accused at 11-15 p.m. This man swore that he had known accused for over a year.

Bazi, a fellow passenger with accused in the same 3rd class compartment in which there were five or six others, stated that as the train was nearing Nagal and its speed lessened, accused got out through the window without opening the door. The Deoband Railway Station compound in which he also took his seat. When they got outside the railway fencing accused observed that he had been flirting with a mem in the train.

Another passenger by the same train Kurrum-uddin, a pleader's servant, swore that as the train entered the Deoband Station yard, accused got into his compartment through the door, which accused himself opened. The train was still in motion. He saluted witness, whom he had met once before, and asked witness to say, if questioned by any railway employe, that he (accused) had got in at Deoband. According to this witness accused got out of this train at Deoband after the train had started. He got out through the door on to the platform. He had got in through the opposite door (on the off side).

Surja deposed that he with five others drove in an eka on the night in question from Deoband Railway Station to the town, and that accused, who was one of the number, and whom he had met twice or thrice before, remarked that he had been flirting in the train with a mem saheb, and that he had not given up his ticket but had jumped the w.r.e. fence.

Guard Mr. Intosh said he was in charge of the 6-down passenger train which left Saharanpur at 23-11 on the 9th March. He took the train from Saharanpur to Delhi. When they reached Deoband complainant came up to him and said in presence of the Assistant Station Master on duty that a man had entered the carriage in which she was travelling and done some bad thing to her; that the man had tied her hands and caught hold of her throat and also robbed her of Rs. 8. He had heard a noise when the train was starting. He stopped the train, went to see what the noise was, and found Miss Ally complaining. He told the travelling policeman on duty what he had heard, and made over the case to the Assistant Station Master.

The police sergeant on duty at Muzaffarnagar Railway Station, Muhammad Husain, stated that at the instance of another policeman he went up to Miss Ally's compartment when she made a report to him, and wrote down what she said on a loose piece of paper. The contents were subsequently copied by him into the register of offences. A constable was ordered by him to accompany complainant to the next station Kotwali, to search for the offender. The same day (10th March) at 8 a. m., witness proceeded to Deoband with Deputy Inspector Nasir-uddin, searched for the offender, but could not find him.

Deputy Inspector Nasir-uddin, of the Railway Police, said he arrested accused on 10th March between 10 and 11 p. m., and took him to Delhi for identification on 13th March. Complainant picked him out at once from amongst 40 or 50 men at the Kotwali. The accused's handcuffs had been removed and his cap changed at his own request. Some formal evidence as to sale of tickets at Saharanpur Station and their collection at Deoband was next recorded, from which it appeared that an eka-wallah, named Zarif, then stated that he had driven accused from Deoband to Saharanpur one and three-quarter months ago for Rs. 1-8. The cross-examination of all these witnesses has been reserved, and the trial adjourned to 9th June next.—Pioneer.

AN AFGHAN CURIOSITY.

It seems that the Afghan Capital is now in the enjoyment of the society of an ossified man,—a being almost equally as ossified and certainly every whit as alive as his unfortunate prototype who was exhibited about the United States some ten or fifteen years ago. London's petrified man is as dead as a doornail, and an unkind suspicion has been aroused in sundry quarters that he, or it—as the case may be—is the handicraft of man and not the Maker. Our Afghan friend, however, is alive, but stiffening slowly yet daily into the grim rigor of death. The case, which is one of great scientific interest, was discovered by Mrs. Daly, the Amir's lady physician who left Kabul last winter. The sufferer was a boy who had been employed at light color work, such as sweeping out the wards, etc., in the hospital which Mrs. Daly established at Kabul. From the beginning it was noticed that the lad was stiff about the arms, and indeed could not lift his hands to his mouth when eating but had to bend his head to his fingers. On one occasion last summer he complained that something was the matter with his eyes and he went to the lady physician for treatment. It was when she put her hands to his face to examine the eye that she detected the nature of the poor lad's ailment. It was a true case of ossification of the muscular tissues such as that which affected the American ossified man above referred to. The disease is of exceptional rarity and there is no known mode of treatment for it. Mrs. Daly took this lad under observation and tested what remedies her skill and experience suggested, but without arresting the progress of the malady which extended slowly but steadily like leprosy. When the events came about necessitating her departure from Afghanistan in November last, Mrs. Daly's patient was in many parts of his body as solid as a log of mahogany, in the course of time all the externally discernible tissues will become ossified, and he will become to all effects and purposes a bone in human shape. Later, the inner tissues will ossify, the action of the heart or some other vital organ will be arrested, and the sufferer will be released from the pangs of a living death.

THE consulting architect to the Government of Madras has been requested by Government to prepare estimates for fitting the General Hospital with electric lights, with a properly-equipped chemical laboratory, and with a dark room for photographic purposes.

THE election case, of Mr. Forbes versus Pundit Sidh Gopal Misra was closed at Cawnpur on the 24th ultimo, the District Magistrate having reserved judgment which has not been given yet and the public are in a great suspense.

A BOMBAY paper writes:—What may have proved a serious accident was witnessed last Wednesday evening at Darjeeling. Sir John Woodburn, accompanied by Lady Woodburn in a rickshaw, was riding along the Cart Road, when at the corner known as Khagghora, the train from Ghoom, which had been concealed from the rider by the hill intervening, with all the creaking and screeching characteristic of the D.-H.R. rolling-stock, came dashing round the curve. Sir John Woodburn's horse took fright and exhibited symptoms of restlessness; it made a dash at bolting but was restrained after having gone thirty or forty yards by the able rider. Mr. Walker, the driver of the train, to whom all credit is due for his promptness of action, nothing the difficulty with which Sir John was controlling his spirited animal, wisely put on his breaks and stopped the train and allowed the Lieutenant-Governor to ride past and gain the Tonga Road.

FEEDING OF ANIMALS IN CAPACITY.

FROM experience gained in the Calcutta Gardens it has been found that an early meal, consisting of grain pounded together with a small quantity of egg-shell; green food later on; and grains, seeds and a few grasshoppers or mealworms in the evening form a capital diet for the Impeyan and Sclator's Monals, and various other species of Pheasants and Jungle-fowls. The Tragopans and the Polyplectrons or the Peacock pheasants require to be dieted in the same way as the other species of Pheasants with only this difference that the former require a larger quantity of berries and furis than grain.

The Cassowaries have been found to do well on a purely vegetarian diet of vegetables, fruits and roots. The Emus of Australia require, in addition to vegetables, some biscuits, bread and crushed food; while the African Ostriches and the American Rheas have to be fed in the same way as the Emus, except that the former are given a pound of beef or mutton once a week during the cold and the rainy seasons.

The various species of Cranes and Crowned Cranes have been found to thrive very well on a diet of grains and vegetables; but some of them forage for themselves, picking up and feeding on frogs, lizards, shells, worms, &c., only the Snow-wreath and the Crowned Cranes not being fond of this latter kind of diet. The Cormorants, Snake-birds and Pelicans do well on a diet of fish; but in the Alipore Gardens they are fed on a mixed diet of meat and fish. The Geese, Ducks, Gulls, Snipes and Jacanas maintain their health best when fed with grain, vegetables and grass, eked out with a plentiful supply of aquatic insects, worms, larvae, and tender shoots of creepers. The Spoonbill, the Black-headed Glossy and Scarlet Ibises live well on prawns and small fish and occasionally on mixed meat. The Pelican Ibis and the Flamingoes find out a great deal of their own food, picking up from the fheels and lake crabs, fish and frogs by loosening with their right foot the mud near the edges thereof. But, in a state of captivity, the latter birds also feed on bran and barley with water; while the Herons, Storks and Adjutants do well on a mixed diet of fish and meat.

Being of carnivorous habits, the Owls, Eagles, Falcons, Vultures and other birds of prey are dieted with beef, frogs, fish and live rats. Various species of Cockatoos, Parrots, Parakeets, Lorries, etc., thrive well on paddy, maize, gram, barley, hempseed, chilies and vegetables, and are very fond of sugarcane. Some species of Parrots have been found to be fond of fruits, especially ripe papaws; while some species of Lorries require bread, milk and boiled eggs. Grain, seeds and vegetables, supplemented occasionally with crumbs of bread, together with a supply of rock-salt and clean water, form a capital diet of the Broadbill Parrot and the New Zealand Parakeet; and with the addition of fruit a biscuits for the Macaws, Conures and the Amazon Parrots. The African species of Parrots are fed in the same way as the Cockatoos.

Hornbills of various species do well when fed with a diet composed of boiled rice, minced meat, figs, berries and other fruits, small birds and insects being occasionally given to them for the purpose of stimulating their appetites. The Arid and the Sulphur-breasted Toucans thrive best on fruits, crumbs of bread, minced meat and eggs.

Pigeons and doves of various species are dieted with various sorts of grains, though, when in captivity, they imbibe a liking for such articles of food as bread, biscuits, and boiled rice. The soft-billed pigeons are fond of oats mixed with macerated plantain; while other species such as the Wonga Pigeon like hard stones of fruits. The fruit-pigeons require various figs and berries like those of the Keapal and Banyan trees, supplemented occasionally with cabbages aspinach and other greens.

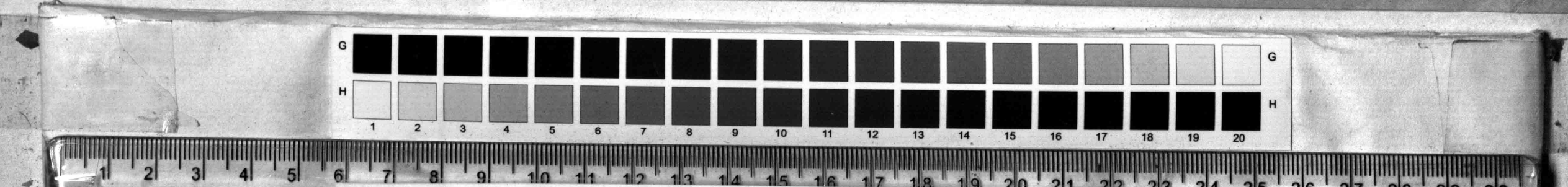
Various species of Barbets, Myans, Grackles, and Orioles require to be fed with satoo, plantains and other fruits, minced-meat, insects and matagots and grains. In addition to this diet, Grackles require boiled rice, bread and milk. Laughing-Thrushes of various kinds thrive well on satoo, fruits, insects and worms and minced-meat; while different kinds of Magpies and Tree-pies have kept their health well on a diet of minced-meat, fruit, boiled rice, boiled eggs, satoo and various kinds of insects. Only the Green Magpie occasionally requires live sparrows and other small birds to be given to it for stimulating its appetite palled by a monotonous round of diet of same kind; and for the same purpose, insects are given to the Tree-pies.

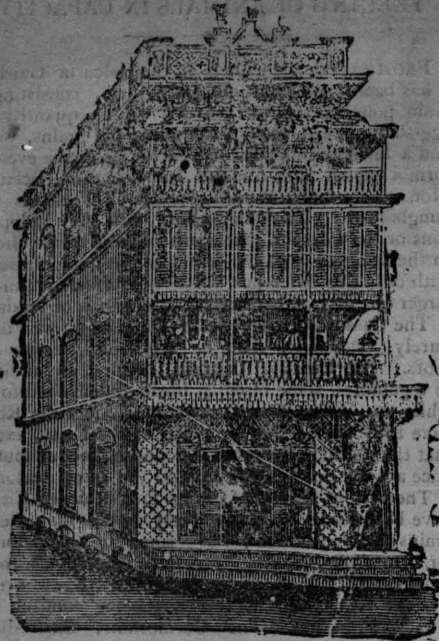
To minister to the comfort and the physical requirements of beasts, birds and reptiles kept in captivity is one of the duties of man as it is he who is responsible for depriving them of their freedom and for subjecting them to a life of captivity. It is for man's recreation and amusement that these animals are brought from their native wilds and kept in durance idle. It is, therefore, all the more necessary for man to keep them well and happy. Oriental pententers kept collections of beasts and birds in ill-ventilated and narrow cages and fed them on an improper diet which injured their health and killed them by hundreds, if not by thousands. It is only since the opening of Zoological Gardens in Europe and in India on scientific principles that the painfulness of life in captivity of beasts and birds has been much mitigated; for experience has shown that in these institutions, their dumb denizens enjoy their lives easily and live for long periods, though not so easily and to such prolonged periods as in their native wilds. It is, therefore, the bounden duty of man to feed captive beasts and birds with their proper food. The art of feeding them has now been reduced to scientific principles. Much of the credit for bringing this art to its present standard of perfection belongs to the Bengali naturalist, Rai Babu Rambrama Sanyal Bahadur, C. M. Z. S., Superintendent of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens, as it is he who, by the publication of his Handbook of Management of Animals in Captivity, promulgated to the scientific world, for the first time, those principles which had enabled him to successfully manage, feed and keep in health such a large collection of captive beasts, birds and reptiles as that contained in the Calcutta Zoological Gardens. Before the publication of this work, there was, strictly speaking, no European publication on this subject, though such influential scientific bodies as the Zoological Society of London and the various Governments of Europe had been maintaining zoological collections from a long time past. A greater need of praise is, therefore, due to the Bengali naturalist.

The public at large evince the greatest interest in the feeding of animals, as will be evident from the throng of visitors who crowd the feeding House, at the Calcutta Zoo, during the feeding time in the evening of the larger carnivora. Similar interest is also evinced by the public in England in the feeding of the denizens of the English Zoo, and in order to notify to the public the times when the animals there are fed, the London Zoological Society advertizes at the end of their authorized "Guide to the London Zoo" the precise hours of feeding them.—The National Magazine.

MR. F. BULLOCK, Commissioner, Hyderabad Assigned Districts, retired from the service from the 4th of April.

THE Burmo-Chinese Boundary Delimitation Commission's labours are concluded for this year. One party has already returned and the Mekong party are on their way back the officers proceeding to Burma and the escort stopping at Kengtung. A portion of the boundary has been left undemarcated, but all accounts are received, it cannot be said whether the Commission will have to go out again next season.





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Commr, Habiganj, Sylhet. Dated 3rd Jan. 1899
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