

# Amrita Bazar Patrika

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VOL. XXXI.

CALCUTTA, THURSDAY JUNE 15, 1899.

NO. 45.

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**বৃষ্ণা আনি কা**  
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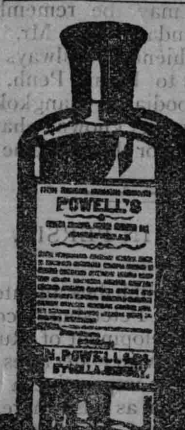
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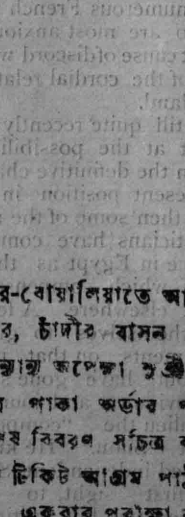
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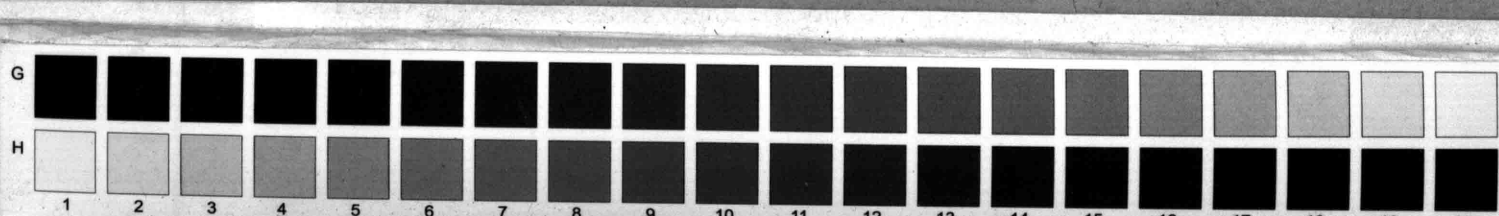
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Aunt the shocking story of a woman drowning herself in the Ganges on Thursday...

WE are sorry we have to deal so frequently with the conduct of Mr. Badshah, Comptroller of the Post Office...

For wrong posting of certain M. O. Vouchers... For omission to fill in the column of premium in the M. O. Voucher...

Table with 3 columns: NAME OF CLERKS, APPOINTMENT, and PAY.

The above tells really a gruesome tale. We think Mr. Badshah is not immaculate...

part, and advise the Government how it should proceed in conducting its criminal cases.

The Indian Nation says that Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee did distinct disservice to Babu Narendra Nath Sen...

The editor of the Indian Nation, it is well known, is a Municipal Commissioner and was present when Babu S. N. Banerjee made his speech.

ELSEWHERE will be found a review of the 'Lord Gauranga-or Salvation for All' by Col. Olcott.

JAPAN adopted the civilization of the West only thirty or forty years ago. This Japan was a barbarous country...

SAYS the Madani Bandhav of Midnapur: "Sometime ago, one Babu Dya Sindhu Dutt was convicted and sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment for bribery..."

THE stern sense of justice of the British nation, represented by the High Courts in India, was established once again by the manner the Munshigunj case was disposed of by the highest court in the land.

AN extraordinary story comes from the Madras side. An attempt, we are told, was made in a certain village in the Annakalce Taluq...

THE BANJAR annual trade fair in Kulu was not successful this year. The total sales showed a great falling off.

A SHORT time ago a Mando Khel lad aged 14, committed a murderous attack with a sword on one Ghulam Mahomedan, near the mosque at Fort Sandeman...

A SOUTH-SYLVET telegram dated 11th says: "The rain has now fortunately stopped, but a good deal of damage has been done to the bridges in the Bhuraooos furr and the Assam Bengal Railway."

A SPECIAL correspondent telegraphing regarding the riots in the Tannevelly District says similar conditions prevail in the Madura District.

THE Government of India, on the recommendation of the Director-General of Telegraphs, has sanctioned the course of instruction in Telegraphy for the officers of the Royal Engineers being extended from 18 months to 24 months.

ARMENIUS VAMBERY writes to the Times of India in reference to the lien Russia is reported to have obtained over Bunder Abbas...

INDIAN NEWS. The Banjar annual trade fair in Kulu was not successful this year.

MR. W. STREET, Extra Assistant Commissioner, Meiktila District, Burma, a few days ago while out shooting met with an accident.

A SHORT time ago a Mando Khel lad aged 14, committed a murderous attack with a sword on one Ghulam Mahomedan, near the mosque at Fort Sandeman...

CAPTAIN FRASER, R. E., of the Survey Department, who has been deputed to study magnetic survey, is granted three months' leave and is expected back in October.

A SOUTH-SYLVET telegram dated 11th says: "The rain has now fortunately stopped, but a good deal of damage has been done to the bridges in the Bhuraooos furr and the Assam Bengal Railway."

A SPECIAL correspondent telegraphing regarding the riots in the Tannevelly District says similar conditions prevail in the Madura District.

THE following are the particulars of the recent Bezwada Railway disaster: The embankment of the permanent way spanning the Bibinagar tank was washed away for seven feet; the whole train consisted of 42 wagons...

WE understand that it is proposed to establish a provident fund for the benefit of the families of the unconvicted gazetted officers serving under the Finance Department...

HERE is the latest telegram from Tinnevely: "Anty-Shamar riots are also taking place in Tenkasi and Tinnevelly taluqs. Several villages within ten miles of Tinnevelly town have been looted and burned in broad daylight and women assaulted by Maravar gangs."

IN connection with our recent remarks regarding the necessity of registering postal articles containing postage stamps, it is pointed out that all that is required is that the postage stamps should be so packed as not to attract the attention...

ARMENIUS VAMBERY writes to the Times of India in reference to the lien Russia is reported to have obtained over Bunder Abbas...

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IMPORTS OF GOLD.-During the month of April the net imports of gold into India were valued at Rs. 85,09,501, and of silver at Rs. 73,84,450.

MUGUL-SERAI-GAYA LINE.-The Mogul-Serai-Gaya extension of the East Indian Railway will be opened for traffic at the end of this month.

HILL MIGRATION.-The I. D. News understands that Conference will shortly sit, to consider all points relating to the annual migration of various Governments to the hills.

L. G.'S TOUR.-His Honor Sir John Woodburn will leave Darjeeling about the first week in July, and visit the following districts:- Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Purnea, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Malda, Rajshahi, and Pabna.

BIRTHDAY HONOR.-We are very glad to see in the Birthday Honor Gazette that Mr. H. B. H. Turner, the late senior partner in Calcutta of the well-known firm of Messrs. Turner Morrison and Co., has been created a C. I. E.

DOUBLE DACOITY AT BARISA.-Last Friday night two daring dacoities were committed at Barisa in two houses opposed to each other.

CONDUCT OF EUROPEANS TOWARDS INDIANS.-If every European publicist who lives in India wrote in the way, the Indian Witness delivers itself in the following, much of the strained relations that unhappily exist between the two communities to the eternal disgrace of the one and to the great hardship of the other would cease to be.



GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

Mr. C. R. MARRIOTT, Magte and Collr, Monghyr, is appointed sub pro tem to be Addl Commr of the Patna Div, vice Mr. W. D. Blyth, on deputation. Mr. F. F. Lyall, Under-Sey to the Govt of Bengal in the Genl Rev and Statl Depts, is appointed to act as Magte and Collr of Monghyr, Mr. E. Lister, Offg Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Siwan, Saran, acting for him. Mr. B. Allen, Offg Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Jessore, is appointed to have charge of the Siwan sub-div. Babu Bangshi Dhar Banerjee, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Satkhira sub-div. This cancels the order of the 12th May 1899 appointing Babu Khagendra Nath Mitra, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, Diamond Harbour, to have charge of the Satkhira sub-div. Kumar Girindra Narayan Dev, Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, Bhagalpur, is appointed temporarily to have charge of the Supaul sub-div. Babu Brajendra Nath Roy, Dy Magte and Dy Collr, on leave, is appointed to have charge of the Supaul sub-div. Mr. E. E. Forrester, Offg Jt-Magte and Dy Collr, 24-Perghs, is allowed leave for three months. Moulvi Syed Ekram Hossein, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to the headquarters station of the Sonthal Parganas district on being relieved of his appointment, as Assistant Settlement Officer of that district. Mr. W. J. Stark, Offg Dy Magte and Dy Collr, is posted to the Rajmahal sub-div. Babu Jadu Nath Sarcar, Prof in the Presy College, is appointed to be a Prof in the Patria College, vice Dr. Purnananda Chatterjee who joins the Presidency College. Babu Satyendra Nath Bhadra, sub protem Prof in the Rajshahi College, is appointed to be a sub protem Prof in the Dacca College, vice Mr. Dwija Dass Dutta, transferred to the Chittagong College. Babu Jyoti Bhushan Bhaduri, Prof in the Krishnagar College, is appointed to act, until further orders, as Principal of that College, vice Babu Braja Ballabh Datta. Babu Jadu Nath Ghose, Offg Sub Judge of Jessore, is temporarily appointed to act as an Addl Sub Judge of Khulna. The services of Mr. A. P. Handley, Chief Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Govt of India in the Home Dept. Mr. E. W. Ormond, Second Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is appointed to act as Chief Judge. Mr. Kisser Mohan Chatterjee, Third Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is appointed to act as Second Judge. Mr. Abdul Hassan, Fourth Judge, Court of Small Causes, Calcutta, is appointed to act as Third Judge. Babu Jotindra Prasad Chatterjee, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Pirojpur. Babu Krishna Kumar Sen, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Brahmanbaria. Babu Mohor Lal Das, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif of Satkania. Mr. Mahomed Wahiduddin Ahmad, Bar-at-Law, is appointed to act as a Munsif of Bhagalpur. Babu Debendra Prasad Bagchi, Munsif of Gaibanda, is appointed to be a Munsif of Kasba, vice Babu Mohendra Nath Das. Babu Parada Kinkar Mukerjee, B.L., is appointed to act, until further orders, as a Munsif of Gaibanda. Mr. P. M. Robertson, sub pro tem, Sub-Dy Collr, who has, under the order of the 31st May 1899, been granted privilege leave for six weeks, is posted to the headquarters station of the Sonthal Parganas district.

Correspondence.

THE UNIVERSAL HARI.

TO THE EDITOR. Sir, Allow me to request the favor of a kind insertion to the following few lines in a corner of your widely circulated Patrika which has tacitly become the guide of native public opinion. Allow me to notice some of the shortcomings of the Gauranga Samaj, in the midst of its marvellous success. The Samaj has done and is doing wonders at this latter end of the Kali Yuga, showing clearly the appearance of what we call Satya Yuga. For within the last few years, the Hindus and Mussalmans of every village in the Mofussil, and every lane and bazaar in a town, have established a Hari Sava or, raised a mosque, where good people, according to their respective forms of worship, join together and sing the praises of, and offer up, prayers to, the Lord. If any superficial observer objects to this and says, 'Oh, it is only an outward show and not in practice,' I shall simply draw his attention to town and mofussil shop-keepers, whose name has become a synonym for insincerity. Every one is aware, that no shop-keeper will now deceive his customer, if he would but allow him a certain amount of profit over the cost-price of a particular article. A contract being thus made, should he now offer him a price less than what the man demands for his selected article, then he would surely reject his offer, and ask him to try elsewhere. If he would like to test his honesty, he would be convinced, at the next shop, that the man is upright. Now, when men proverbially insincere have learnt to be truthful, then it is an undeniable fact that men, in general, have become lovers of truth. Again, in villages inhabited by common husbandmen, many used to drink and drink palm juice, and intoxicate themselves every noon and evening; and the result, at the end, was generally a breach of the peace and harmony—a riot,—landed people in jail, not to speak of personal loss. But times have changed since then. Go to any distant village, and you will find, that there has been established a Hari Sava, or a Mosque, or both, and songs and prayers are heard at stated times. A critical observer is sure to find that many of the crimes that were prevalent there have become rare and almost unknown at the present day. Do not these and many other real signs go to prove the appearance of the eve of Satya Yuga? But to return. Our great Guru, Maulana Sadeq Ali Shah, being a learned Sanskrit scholar, first pointed out to the Mussalmans of Bengal, that there was little or no difference between the essence and substance of the Vedas and those of the Quran. Hence our diligent study of the Hindu Shastras and our casting aside of the long cherished ideas, that the Hindus have no book—no revelation. Now, it is only desirable that the learned Hindus would give up their prejudice, and read the Quran in their turn, for there is no harm in reading a book and thinking for oneself. This will convince them of the truth of what Maulana Sadeq Ali Shah has said. He was commonly called, Hari Das, who every morning used to count on beads, the name of Hari, 3 lakhs of times, before touching water for drinking purposes. For, though the son of a rich Zamindar he renounced all earthly possessions, and became a true disciple of Lord Gauranga. As may be expected, he had numerous followers, both Mussalmans and Hindus, all of whom sat together without distinction of caste or creed and sang the praises of the first Great Cause of all that is, is, and ever will be.

dire dislike we make India a paradise and under the benign British rule, we will learn to love our sovereign and thereby live in peace and prosperity. Your Patrika and the Mirror will, therefore, for English speaking readers (Hindus, Mussalmans and Christians) and the Vernacular papers for the rest, be the best instruments for establishing the long-desired harmony amongst these three sections of our community. Ah, this much-wished-for concord will give birth to a new Era; when hatred and animosity will give place to sympathy and love; when preserving their peculiar social rules and rights in regard to diet, intermarriage, etc., they will no longer feel any hindrance to be loving, and kind to one another; when sacred mosques and holy temples and churches will be considered the same abode of one Eternal God; when in the name of Allah, which is another name for Hari, Jehovah or God Almighty, one will realise the others; when with their loyalty to their gracious and lawful Sovereign, the Queen-Emress, they will no longer differ in their opinion of common weal or woe; and thus gaining their end, and desisting from doing things which would wound the delicate feelings of others and thereby abstaining from creating discord amongst themselves, all will learn the rule of Universal love.

After writing the above, I was enraptured to hear an interesting incident that took place at Simla on the occasion of the Harnam Kirtan. My esteemed friends, Babu Makhram Lal Bhandopadhyay of Mullik's bazar, and Babu Jagadishoo Dutt of Bhawanipore, eye-witnesses of the fact, told me, that a party of Mahomedan youths, chanting prayers in Arabic and Persian, were freely permitted to enter into the place assigned for Harnamkirtan. With profound veneration for the sanctity of the place, they cheerfully presented themselves, where the highest nobility thronged. They loudly chanted the praises of, and fervently prayed to, Allah—the Universal Hari or God. There was no dislike for Mahomedans, neither any unwillingness on their part, to utter the name of Allah in a place fixed for Harnam. Unreserved welcome having been accorded to them, the strange singers, respectfully withdrew, with betels in hand, with garlands hanging round their necks, and with cloths thoroughly wet with rose-water. What hard heart was there that did not weep for joy at the pleasing sight of this happy union, in God, Who, if not the Almighty Creator, could have effected this unexpected change of a bitter hatred into sincere love? Is not this agreement a marvel, nay, a miracle? And who wrought this? It is the same Universal Hari, the mere utterance of whose sacred name, is the best remedy for impure heart, darkness and ignorance. DEDAR BUKHS.

28, Christian Lane, Kariyahi, P.O. Ballygunge, Calcutta.

A LOVE STORY.

It was a little dispute about a lady which caused the siege of Troy. In the ancient town of Valladolid, once the capital of Spain, where died the great Columbus, where Spanish chivalry flourishes and romance abounds, warlike deeds have been done, all for the love of a lady. The fair daughter of the Prefect no longer looked with favour upon a devoted student—Valladoid's 'the seat of a university'—but turned the light of her countenance upon a military cadet. Valladolid is also blessed with a cavalry academy. Out of this small beginning gathered a great cloud of angry feud. For two days furious rioting took possession of the place, and the authorities proclaimed a state of siege.

This is how this turbulent state of affairs developed. The 'jilted student' met his rival in the street. High words ensued, and they came to blows. Other students separated the combatants, but as the cadet had been worsted in the fight, his comrades charged the students with not having given fair play, and went under the windows of the residence of the offending student in such a hostile attitude, that the civil authorities and police had to interfere, the cadets withdrawing only when ordered to do so by the Military Governor, and challenging the students to meet them in the 'bull-ring' the same afternoon. The Commandant of the Academy prohibited the cadets going to the 'bull-fight' but in the evening, during the performance in the circus, the students hissed the cadets, who then drew their swords, causing quite a panic until the police interfered. The next morning in the streets a violent collision took place between the cadets and students. Several were injured on both sides before the officers of the garrison and professors of the Academy succeeded in marching the cadets off to quarters.

At six o'clock the next evening, when the streets and promenades are usually most crowded, the cadets and students again came to blows; sabres, sticks, stones and chairs being used freely in the fray, whilst people took refuge in the shops. The cafes were closed, and officers assisted the cadets, whilst the townsfolk and the workmen leaving the mills and railway at the hour fraternised with the students. Eventually, the authorities ordered the mounted Civil Guards to protect the cadets by making a charge upon the civilians. Many on both sides were wounded and contused, including a reporter, who sustained a sabre cut. The workpeople sided with the students. A considerable number of the combatants were wounded, and removed to the hospitals. Public feeling ran so high that the Mayor assembled the Town Council, which passed a resolution censuring the conduct of the civil and military authorities, and asking the Government to interfere. The civil authorities then resigned their powers into the hands of the Captain-General, who proclaimed a state of siege and martial law, and occupied the town with the garrison. Order was thus re-established, though the telegrams report much suppressed irritation among all classes against the authorities and the military. The Municipal Council continues in session, and will probably demand the removal of the Captain-General and also of the Prefect. A Reuter telegram from Valladolid says complete tranquillity now prevails, and a commission from the military school has had an interview, with delegates from the students. Mutual explanations were given, and the representatives of the contending parties then embraced one another in presence of the professors of the Cavalry School, and the professors of the University. The two deputations then proceeded to the Military School to inform the cadets of the agreement which had been reached. The news was received with loud cheers.

HOW ICEBERGS ARE FORMED.

Of the many things of interest which engage one's attention on a voyage to the North of Europe there is none more fascinating than the study of icebergs. If any person who has never seen these remarkable and beautiful forms will look at a piece of ice as it floats freely in a tumbler of water, he will form a most imperfect idea of what an iceberg really looks like. Perhaps the only feature which the floating ice mountain and the fragment of ice appear on consideration, to have in common, is that they both have an immense proportion of their bulk under water—the exact proportion being somewhat greater in fresh water than in salt water; there being in salt water about seven-eighths of the entire mass under water, varying, of course, more or less in different latitudes, according to the saltness of the sea and the consequent difference of the buoyancy given to objects floating therein. And here it may be said that it is most difficult, when one is looking at an iceberg, to tread the mind from wandering a great deal from the realisation of so simple a fact as this, owing, one would suppose, to the difficulty of conceiving of the enormous quantity of ice which is hidden below the sea level of the berg. In the case of some of the larger bergs implying many millions of tons of ice. One striking difference between the appearance of the iceberg and that of our lump of office is the seemingly general opaqueness of the berg and the smooth and dazzling whiteness of its surface, much of it presenting the appearance of frosted silver, the fractures or vents which are frequently visible on its glittering faces being generally emerald green merging into a blue varying from that of turquoise almost to indigo. Presently it will appear that an iceberg must always consist of frozen fresh water. Frozen sea-water, it is true, does occur in vast quantities in the sea, but this is in general quite different in form and size, and entirely different in the origin of its formation. This ice is called floe ice, pack ice, or field ice, according to where and how it is disposed. The formation of icebergs is something like this: The whole of the interior of the continent of Greenland, which consists of upwards of 500,000 square miles of mountainous plateaus, is perpetually covered to a depth of many hundred feet with one vast desert of snow, called the 'ice cap.' This receives a constant increase of newly fallen snow during the summer becomes, by the action of the sun and wet weather, by day and by regulation at night, changed into a granulated condition. Afterwards it is recongealed into ice, and being impelled by enormous pressure from behind and above, throws off a great number of rivers of ice or glaciers, as they are called, presenting the appearance of a noble torrent suddenly petrified by some overwhelming force. The snow fields, which lie at the upper part of every glacier, are composed of crystallised snow, which continues unchanged so long as it remains dry, but undergoes a great transformation when the sun, melting the upper surface, allows the water to trickle down into the substance of the mass of snow. This fluid congealing again during the night transforms this snow into a granulated mass formed of small round icicles, half snow and half ice. By the repetition of this process, which also displaces the air, and by pressure from the subjacent layers, the whole mass is now united and consolidated to form ice. As an illustration of regulation of ice when the air is excluded we may take two pieces of ice and under water place them together so that they touch. They will immediately freeze together. As a string of small fragments of ice may easily thus be formed, so also are chains of icebergs sometimes met with. From the interior these glaciers, wend their slow and resistless way down the mountain sides, or through the valleys, towards or into the sea. As the width and length, so does the height or thickness of the glacier vary—in some instances the measurement being as much as three or four hundred feet, rising out of the sea or fjord like a solid wall of glass, with an unknown and a most unfathomable depth of ice below the sea level. The foot of the glacier, where it reaches the sea, may often be many miles in width. The Great Humboldt Glacier has a precipitous facial edge of some sixty miles in length. The disruption of great masses of its substance, between the combined action of the uprising force of the tides on its under-surface and its own overhanging weight as it protrudes down into the sea, accompanied, at such a moment by a detonation and thunder like the noise of artillery, forms icebergs. As the immense mass strikes the water many fragments, forming smaller bergs, are shaken off; the white foam swirls around the vortex formed by the descending mass, and while it struggles to steady itself in its new home the billows which arise form the disturbed water imperil any boats or other craft which chance to be at not a properly respectful distance from the scene. The bergs are then carried down deep white fjords or arms of the sea by favouring winds and tides, and sail in their solitary and majestic course out into the open, and follow for many weeks and sometimes months the course of the current toward their destination.

RAIN is now generally wanted in the Punjab Central Provinces, Berar, and Rajputana. LADY CURZON will hold the next meeting of the Central Committee of the Dufferin Fund at the Viceregal Lodge on the 27th inst.

THE G. I. P. STRIKE.

WE recently gave a summary of correspondence that had passed between the Agent and Messrs. Dikshit and Dhanjisha, the Signallers' solicitors, on the subject of a prompt settlement of the men's accounts. It will be remembered that the men demanded to be paid on the 1st of June, and intimated that they considered they were entitled to be paid in full, not only up to the day the strike was declared, but even up to the day they were relieved; also that no deductions should be made from the Provident Fund, otherwise they would not sign a receipt in full satisfaction. It will also be remembered that the Agent stated that, as he had not received a list of the men as requested, he was unable to pay them on the date in question. This was followed up by a letter, dated 5th June, to the Agent complaining of their clients being shadowed by detectives and wanting to know when the men would be paid. We have now received further correspondence on the subject, of which the following is a summary:—On the 5th of June the Agent received a letter which stated that two of the signallers had been to the General-Traffic-Manager's office for settlement, but finding they were not going to receive what they considered due to them, offered to sign a receipt for the amount actually received. This was not agreed to, and as they refused to sign for the amount actually received, it is pointed out that legally no particular form of receipt can be insisted on, and a request was preferred to either make full payment or else to take a receipt for the amount actually received. A form of receipt that their clients would be willing to sign was enclosed with the letter. The Agent replied acknowledging receipt of the foregoing, and stating that it was not necessary for him to state on what basis payment would be made, and requesting Messrs. Dikshit and Dhanjisha to either furnish him with a list of their clients or inform them to apply for payment either personally or by letter. He again wrote on the following day enclosing forms of receipts agreeable to the Company, and informing Messrs. Dikshit and Dhanjisha that he was still of opinion that their clients had been dismissed from the Company's service. The men's solicitors replied to the effect that they would advise their clients to sign receipts similar to specimens enclosed in his letter, as 'these forms did not in any way prejudice their claims against the Company, and reiterating the request for information as to the basis on which payment would be made. Their clients still maintained that they had not been dismissed, but as the Agent had, on a previous occasion, refused to discuss the legal aspect of this point, they trusted no necessity would arise in the future for doing so under different circumstances.

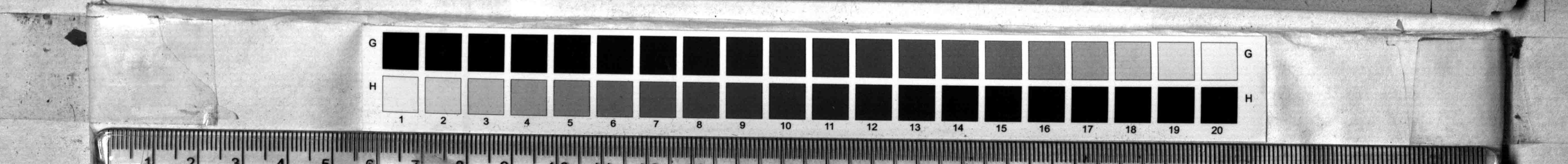
LIEUTENANT COLONEL A. CROMBIE, I.M.S., late of Calcutta, has been appointed Lecturer on Tropical Diseases at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School, London.

SAND-WASPS.

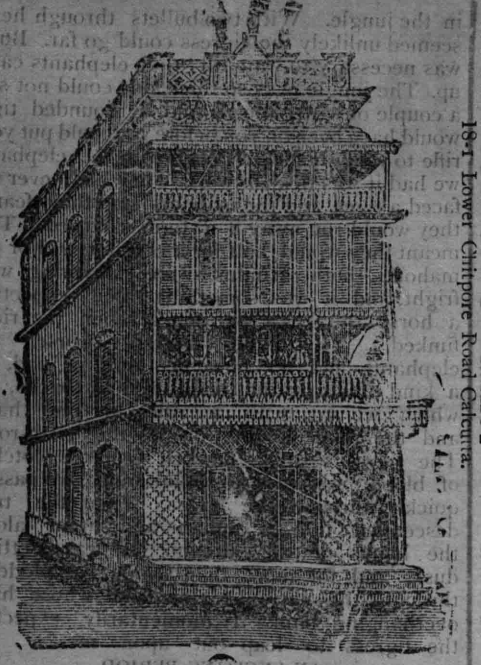
ONE of the most wonderful tales of instinctive habits has long been told of certain insects known as sand-wasps. These insects do not live in communities like many of their kin, but a pair form a nest apart from their fellows, and for this reason they are frequently spoken of as solitary wasps. The nest is a burrow, usually in sandy soil, and is lined with silk. In this nest they lay their eggs, and for the future food of their still unhatched young they store up at the same time the bodies of insects or spiders. Many years ago a French observer—Fabre—said that the wasp stung its prey through one of the nerve ganglia, which, in insects and many other invertebrate animals, are arranged like a string of beads along the ventral side of the body. The effect of this sting was to render the insect comatose without actually killing it, and in this condition it would remain for several weeks, and so afford a supply of fresh food for the young when hatched. When one comes to think of it this means an extensive knowledge of insect anatomy, to say nothing of physiology, on the part of the wasp, and as the statement was accepted as a true account of the facts, it is not surprising that it formed the text for a large number of dissertations on inherited instinct. Darwinians hold that complicated habits like these are not instinctive in the strict sense of the term, but are the result of observation, and experiment on the part of the animal which performs them. Lamarckians, on the other hand, say that they are true instincts, and as such are inherited, and can only have arisen as the result of the inheritance of the results of intelligent observation. But a series of actions such as these is manifestly too complex for any single insect to acquire as the result of direct experiment, as the position of the ganglia varies in different insects, and as they are small, the operation of piercing one would be a very delicate one. If the facts then were true, the balance of evidence seemed in favour of the Lamarckian view of the inheritance of acquired instincts. In a recent number of Nature an account of the work done towards elucidating the facts by Dr. and Mrs. Peckham, of Wisconsin, is given. After a long series of observations on many kind of solitary wasps, they come to the conclusion that the ganglia are not pierced, but the stinging is almost at random, the wasp merely knowing apparently where the skin of its victim is thinnest—namely, at the joints at the body. The effect of the sting, which may be repeated many times in different parts of the body, is either to kill outright or merely to much weaken the victim, so that the idea that the careful planting of the sting was to preserve the prey in a comatose condition, living, and yet not able injure young wasps, is evidently quite incorrect. The blood of insects is not entirely confined, as with us, in definite vessels, but fills the spaces of the body—in which the nerves, amongst other things, lie, so that a sting in any part at once introduces the poison into the circulation, and the nerves can thus be directly acted upon by it. The whole superstructure built then upon Fabre's observations proves to be a house of cards, which is now tumbled down. One remarkable point, however, is brought out by Dr. and Mrs. Peckham, and has been confirmed by Mr. Williston in Kansas, and that is that one of the wasps is accustomed to pick up a small pebble in its jaws, and with it pound down the earth over its nest, and so make it less easy of detection.

PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

THE National Association for the Prevention of Consumption and Other Forms of Tuberculosis held its first general meeting at its Offices, 20, Hanover Square, the other afternoon. The Earl of Derby, K. G., took the chair, and was supported by many leading physicians and surgeons and others. Dr. St. Clair Thomson presented the report of the Organising Committee. It was decided to promote the cause by— (1) The education of public opinion and the stimulation of individual initiative. (2) The influencing of Parliament and other public bodies on the subject; and (3) The establishment of branches throughout the Kingdom. Members have already been enrolled to the number of 1,252. RAIN is now generally wanted in the Punjab Central Provinces, Berar, and Rajputana. LADY CURZON will hold the next meeting of the Central Committee of the Dufferin Fund at the Viceregal Lodge on the 27th inst.







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