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পদকপতক।

দশম পদক
মূল্য ৩০ টাকা।
পরিশিষ্ট বস্ত্র।
স্বাভাবিক পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

অনুব্রাজবলী।

শ্রীমদেহনান্দীপ্রবীণ।
এই খানি উপাদেয় বৈকব গ্রন্থ হই শত
বৎসর পূর্বে লিখিত।
মূল্য ছয় আনা। ডাকমাণ্ডল ১০ আনা।
অনুত বাজার পত্রিকা আফিসে প্রাপ্য।

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করিলে সর্পদেহ ব্যক্তি কখনই মরিবে না। ইহার
চিকিৎসা প্রণালী এক সহজ এবং পুস্তকের
ভাষাও এত সরল, যে স্বীলোকেরা পর্যন্তও এই
পুস্তক পাঠ করিয়া অনায়াসে চিকিৎসা করিতে
পারে। প্রকৃত ব্রিষ বৎসর যাবত এই প্রণালী
অনুসারে অনেক সর্পদেহ ব্যক্তিকে নিরহস্তে
চিকিৎসা করিয়া আরাম করিয়াছেন, এবং অস-
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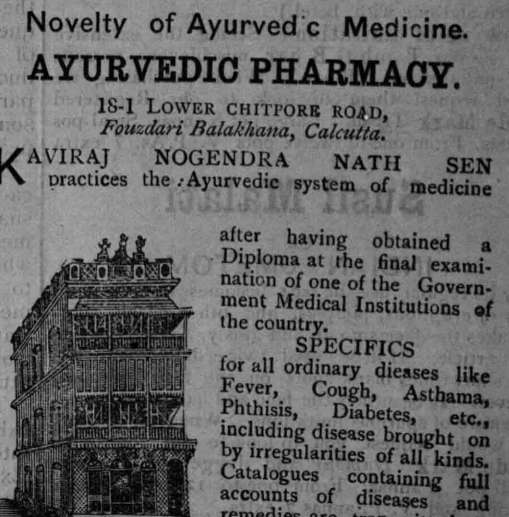


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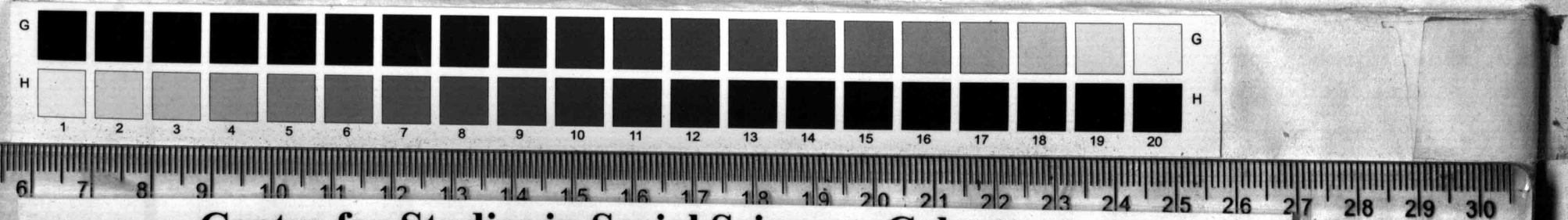


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KANYE LAL DEY was born in Calcutta in 1831. His father, Rai Radhanath Dey, was a Deputy Collector. From his very boyhood, Kanye Lal gave indications of the peculiar bent of his mind. Fortunately for him and for his country, his father recognized this tendency and gave Kanye the opportunity of following its directions. After having reached the required standard, Kanye was sent to the Calcutta Medical College. This admission into the Medical College was then a very different thing from what it now is. Conservative India was yet too shy of Western arts and sciences. In those days, a student of the medical science, as it was taught in the College, with a *post mortem* examination forming a part of its curriculum, stood the very great chance of being outcasted. His college career was something more than the ordinary—nay, it was brilliant. His aptitude for chemistry and medical jurisprudence was marked, and he won some coveted prizes specially set apart for proficiency in these branches. At last he came out of the College with a diploma. At the age of twenty-two, he entered Government service as a Sub-Assistant Surgeon with the Bengal Medical Establishment, and was at once appointed as Assistant to the Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Examiner to Government in the Calcutta Medical College, a position which he held with much acceptance till 1869. In 1862 he was also appointed Professor of Chemistry in the Presidency College, Calcutta. During a portion of the same year he officiated, during the absence, on furlough, of Dr. F. N. Macnamara, as Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Examiner to Government, and again acted in the same capacity in 1877. In 1867 he was appointed Additional Chemical Examiner to Government, a position which he retained till 1872.

In 1869 he was appointed Teacher of Chemistry and Medical Jurisprudence to the vernacular classes in the Calcutta Medical College, which appointment he continued to hold until his retirement from Government service in 1884. His tutorial record concludes with an Examinership in Medical Jurisprudence and Chemistry, to which he was appointed by the Syndicate of the University of Calcutta in 1878, and subsequently till 1891. The great want in those days of suitable text-books in the vernacular induced Dr. Kanye Lal to undertake the preparation of several, including translations of some standard works into Bengali, which appeared from time to time.

Throughout this long and active professional career, and in brief intervals of leisure snatched from busy days, his private medical practice gradually increasing meanwhile, the Doctor had given his attention to a study, till then much neglected—the medicinal resources of his native land—which was destined to be the field in which he has won most of the distinction to which he has attained. The great commercial value of international exhibitions, and their educational and economic interest, had been demonstrated by the great Exhibition of 1851, originated and promoted by Albert the Good; and to the second International Exhibition, held in London in 1862, Dr. Kanye Lal Dey was invited to contribute by the Government of India. He forwarded a collection of indigenous drugs and medicinal oils, for which he was awarded two medals. A catalogue which he prepared to accompany this exhibit was the nucleus of the first edition of his monumental work on indigenous drugs, prepared at the instance of the then Inspector-General of Hospitals, and published in 1867, of which the Government of India was pleased to purchase 600 copies. He contributed about this time a number of articles on the therapeutics of Indian indigenous drugs to the *Pharmacopoeia of India*, then in course of preparation, the editor's acknowledgments being duly recorded in that work. Another drug collection, contributed in the same year to the Paris Exposition Universelle, brought him a gold medal and certificate of honour, while a subsequent collection sent to Paris, to the great Exhibition of 1878, for which he was similarly rewarded, earned for him in addition the congratulations and thanks of the Viceroy, for his services in developing the drug resources of the country. This collection was ultimately presented by Dr. Kanye Lal Dey to the Museum de Pharmacie of Paris, for which he received the acknowledgments of the French Government. Among other similar collections which may be enumerated omitting many local to India are— one forwarded in 1870 to the University of Virginia, U. S., for which he received the thanks of the Senate and others to the Vienna Exhibition of 1872, for which he received a gold medal, a diploma and two certificates of honourable mention; the Melbourne Exhibition, 1880; the Amsterdam Exhibition, 1883; the World's Centennial Exposition, New Orleans, U. S. A., 1884-85;

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and the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, London, 1886, for all of which he has been suitably rewarded: In this connection may be recorded also the fact that he was selected by the Secretary of State, in 1874, to make a collection, to which he devoted two years, of the drugs of Bengal in illustration of the *Pharmacopoeia of India* for the Museum at Netley Hospital, for the benefit of surgeons joining the Indian Medical Service. In 1877 he prepared, under the orders of Government, five complete sets of the indigenous drugs of India for the five medical schools of Bengal, for which he received the thanks of Government.

A graceful acknowledgment of his services in thus helping to further the economic progress of India was his appointment, in 1872, to the Permanent Committee for the collection of Indian products for the Kensington and Vienna Museums, and later, in 1874, to the Select Committee appointed on the occasion of the foundation of the Museum of India at Calcutta. He acted as juror in no less than fifteen sections at the Calcutta Exhibition of 1883-84.

The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain recognised as early as 1863, his abilities as a pharmacognosist by electing him an honorary member, a distinction which is known to be reserved for the world's fifty most eminent men of science related to pharmacy. He is at present the only Honorary member of the Society in India. He has made occasional original contributions to the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, the President of the Society, Mr. Michael Carteighe, F. C. S., has been pleased to accept, on behalf of British pharmacologists, the dedication of this book to the Pharmaceutical Society.

The next honour, in chronological sequence was the title, Rai Bahadur, bestowed in 1872 "in recognition," according to the *Gazette*, "of valuable services rendered to the cause of medical science in India." The *sanmud* or title-deed of distinction was presented at the Medical College, before a large and enthusiastic gathering of the medical profession and alumni of the College, the *London Times* of 3rd October, 1872, reporting that "the Native press is quite enthusiastic on the subject. The title is equivalent to our order of Knighthood, and is highly esteemed in India." On the occasion of her Majesty's assumption of the Imperial title he received a certificate of honour from the Hon'ble Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, in recognition of his services to the State as a practical chemist and teacher of chemistry. In 1867 he was elected a Fellow of the Calcutta University.

In 1880 the Rai Bahadur was elected a Fellow of the Chemical Society of London, and in the same year a Fellow of the Society of Science, Letters and Arts of London. Nor have foreign scientists failed to recognise his ability. In 1886 he became a corresponding Fellow of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia. He was invited to represent India at the International Pharmaceutical and Medical Congress held in London in 1881. But religious prejudice, a stronger influence then than now, should have prevented him from crossing the "black water," but he sent the results of some original observations which were published in the proceedings. At the close of thirty years of continuous Government service, on his retirement in 1884, he was decorated with the dignity of a Companion of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Empire, "in recognition of valuable services rendered to Government and of his professional and scientific attainments."

He was called upon to give evidence before the Hemp Drugs Commission held in India in 1894, and before the recent Royal Commission, on Opium. His election to the Joint-Presidency of the Indian Medical Congress, held at Calcutta in Christmas week of 1894, was a graceful tribute on the part of the medical profession in India. The address on "Indian Pharmacology," which he delivered on that occasion, was in part the subject of a resolution by the Government of India in Council at Simla in the following year. The following is an extract from the text of the resolution:—"In the section of Pharmacology and Indian drugs of the Indian Medical Congress, eight papers were read on the use of indigenous drugs, the most important being those by Dr. G. Watt, M. B., C. M., F. R. S., C. I. E., and by Rai Bahadur Kanye Lal Dey, F. C. S., C. I. E. In his paper on the subject, Dr. Watt enumerated the names and reputed properties of the drugs indigenous to India, and urged the desirability of greater attention being given to the study of such drugs, and Rai Bahadur Kanye Lal Dey made the following suggestions:—(1) That definite pharmacological preparations of certain indigenous drugs should be made at the Medical Store Deposits for distribution to the various hospitals and dispensaries for trial and report; (2) that medicinal plant farms should be laid out in the districts most suited to the plants which it is proposed to grow; and (3) that a drug emporium should be established at Calcutta."

With the view of considering these suggestions in a practical way and the question of the extended use of indigenous drugs, the Government of India appointed the Indigenous Drugs Committee, consisting of Dr. George King, C.I.E., Dr. J. F. P. McConnell, Dr. C. C. J. H. Warden, Dr. George Watt, C.I.E., and Dr. Kanye Lal Dey, C.I.E.

The Doctor read widely of the literature of the day: he loved knowledge for its own sake, and he wrote numerous papers which had appeared in the Indian medical journals on the subject of indigenous drugs and on toxicological and therapeutical topics, while he contributed some enlightened writings towards the reform of Hindu sociology. He was deeply religious, and although a staunch adherent of the Brahminical faith was not conservative. His dignified bearing, courteous and gentlemanly demeanour, begotten of his long-continued, intimate intercourse with men of eminence in official and professional circles, his perfect command of the English language, and his sterling integrity of character, were distinguishing personal characteristics, which won for him the respect and esteem of his many friends—European and Indian.

The shooting and healing properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, its pleasant taste and prompt and permanent cures, have made it a great favorite with the people everywhere. For sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO AND B. K. PAUL & CO.

MATCHES MADE IN BOARDING-HOUSES.

It is said that a boarding-house keeper can tell you in ten minutes more about odd types of human beings than you can ascertain for yourself in the highways and byways in a month. A little fact which leaked out during the hearing of a breach of promise action led me (writes a representative) to call upon the proprietress of a large seaside establishment in order to extract some of her experiences. The fact in question was that the defendant, a widower of ripe years, had met the plaintiff in a boarding-house, and being suddenly seized with violent palpitations in the region of the heart had proposed to her. He was duly accepted, but instead of carrying out his promise, the fickle fellow ignored it and married another guest in the boarding-house.

"Is it true that Cupid often rents roosting-quarters in a boarding-house?" I inquired. "Unfortunately it is true," the lady admitted. "A large number of matches are made in boarding-houses. Indeed, I may go so far as to board that if boarding establishments were to be abolished the marriage returns of the Register-General would show a considerable decrease. One reason why boarding-houses are so popular is, that they afford parents with only a limited circle of acquaintance a chance of getting rid of their daughters. It is quite a common occurrence for a number to take her girls to a boarding-house for the sole purpose of meeting husbands.

"This is why I like my company to be young I am bound to cater for this class; if I didn't—if I had no young men boarders—a match manoeuvring mamma with grown-up daughters would never patronise me a second time. I have lost several guests who would, no doubt, have been frequent visitors to my house if, when they gave me a trial, I had had a plentiful supply of masculine visitors. Unluckily in this commercial age one can't make a specialty of susceptible bachelors.

"There is no more irritating task in the world than that of conducting a boarding-house. Success does not depend so much on the comfort of your establishment, or the table you keep, as on the quality of your guests. If it is necessary to have young fellows it is equally necessary to have young ladies. Many men who wish to be come Benedicts, but have few opportunities for getting to know nice girls, come to boarding-houses expecting to find wives, and if there are no ladies to please them they go away. To meet this demand I take very good care that my assistant can boast of attractive looks. Within the last three years I have had four assistants, and each one has married a guest. So you see my plan is a useful one.

"Still, it has its drawbacks. On one occasion my assistant was the only pretty girl in the place, and four gentlemen lost their hearts to her. For a whole fortnight the four Romeos were at daggers drawn. Then the romance abruptly terminated, and I, a rather amusing way. The most venturesome of the four proposed, and the remaining three, getting wind of the circumstance, followed suit—on the same day. But, alas! not one was accepted, and the result was that they shook hands, and packing up their baggage, left the house in a body.

"However, I do not complain of this sort of thing. What I do object to are the man-hunting spinsters of uncertain age, of whom I have had vast experience. There is a class of woman who frequently board, fully determined not to leave without a promise of marriage. These unscrupulous females usually hunt in couples, and literally fasten themselves on to their victims. Besides husband-hoarding they have another object in view, and that is, to get all their enjoyment, and everything they possibly can, out of expense. If there is no man in the house with whom they would care to marry they generally settle on some old and rather foolish widower who likes to play the gallant and would not object to a further experiment in the matrimonial line.

"Here is a tropical case. A man-trapping pair—a spinster and a widow—hunting together, agreed that one of them should set her cap at a septegenarian widower—an excellent customer of mine—who was on the look-out for a second wife. The wretched girl snapped at the bait, and must have lost quite fifty pounds by his folly. He at once fell head over ears in love with the instigator of the plot—whom we will Miss G.—proposed to her within a week, and was accepted.

"It was a most artfully conceived piece of business. The scheme being to extract as much out of the widower as possible, whenever he made an expensive present to his supposed 'fiancee' she begged him to be equally generous towards her friend—Mrs. K.—explaining that she desired to keep the fact of the engagement strictly private, and that if her attention was shown to her than to her companion a terrible quarrel would ensue.

"The consequence was that the infatuated old fellow spent sovereign after sovereign on the couple, in addition to paying for their amusements, for Miss G. stoutly declined to dine out or go to the play without a chaperon. "The septegenarian had a rude awakening in the end. He had to go to London for a couple of days and when he returned the two birds had flown, leaving no indication of their whereabouts. He was terribly upset, of course, and, becoming the laughing-stock of the establishment, had to seek another heaven of refuge.

"I have just experienced a new sort of worry," my informant added in conclusion. "We haven't a drinkinckie, so we are not allowed to sell liquor. Well, a man engaged a room one day last week, and at about nine o'clock at night began ringing the bell in a furious way. A waiter ran upstairs and the guest begged him to fetch some brandy, saying that he was very poorly. We acceded to his request purely from humane motives, and charged him sixpence extra on his bill when he left the following morning. A prosecution is to follow. The guest was an excise officer, and shammed sickness in order to see if we would supply him with spirits."

FROM a report of the trial of the Tinnevely riot cases, the Maravars appear to have made effective use of the alleged orders issued by Her Majesty the Queen-Empress authorising a general sack of Shanar houses, and in one case, a witness, formerly a Shanar, stated that he became a Mahomedan as he heard that the Queen had issued orders that all Shanars were to be destroyed.

MONSOON AND AGRICULTURE.

A SIMLA wire of the 17th instant, says:—rainfall throughout Western India during the past twenty-four hours has again been microscopic, and anxiety for the crops is increasing. The situation now is specially serious in Guzerat, but this is the only portion of the area affected, and while it is too early yet to prognosticate a famine, since good rain would still largely save the situation, it is beginning to be very gravely feared in responsible quarters that such may occur.

Very slight drizzles have fallen at Karachi. The distress among the poor is daily increasing, with lack of fodder and high prices of grain.

A Bombay telegram of the 17th instant, says:—Humidity changes are small, and skies are partially cloudy in many places. There has been practically no rain, except a few light local showers. The following are the amounts: Cochin and Hoshangabad, 12 cents; Calicut, 10; Belgaum and Bombay, '06; Karwar and Poona, '05; Khandwa, '03; and Ratnagiri, '01. Pressure, which has been either in slight or moderate defect or excess for the last six or seven days, shows now a general tendency to remain about normal, and to-day is about a tenth in excess all over the country, lying between latitudes 13 and 24 1/2 N. The monsoon current in the Arabian Sea, as shown by the observations at Aden and Colombo, is fairly normal, but the weather conditions over the greater part of the land area are again unfavourable. The monsoon gradient on the Malabar Coast is very weak, and between Karwar and Bombay is only about two-thirds of the usual steepness. The sea is either smooth or slight along the coast, and the weather conditions being unfavourable for general rain, a few light local showers only are likely along the coast.

Another correspondent writes:—Bombay crop reports for the week ended yesterday show a slight improvement. The position is most serious in Sind, where the river is low and the deficiency in Sukkar and Ghar Canals is becoming serious. Water is insufficient throughout the Karachi district and prospects are gloomy in Shikarpur, Hyderabad and the Upper Sind frontier. In Thar and Parker the cattle are dying in large numbers and relief is doled out. In the whole of Guzerat the rainfall has been slight and altogether insufficient. Near Ahmedabad jowari sowing has begun since the recent rain, but the fodder supply is very short. Panch Mahals has practically received no rain. Sowings are retarded, crops withering and prices rising. Kaira tells the same tale. In Broach the agricultural operations are at a standstill for want of rain. A slight fall in Surat has improved the position a little, but more rain is urgently needed. In the central portion of the presidency matters are a little brighter. Thana has had over four inches of rain and transplantation has been resumed. Kolaba has also had good rain, transplantation has recommenced and prospects have improved. The same may be said of Ratnagiri, but in Khandesh and Nasik the rainfall has been very scanty, the fodder supply running short and cattle feeding on leaves. Sholapur, Bijapur, Satara, Belgaum and Dharwar have had slight rain which has benefited the standing crops, but heavy rain is urgently wanted. In Kanara, where the fall has been plentiful, crops will do fairly well, but in the Kathiawar and Baroda territory the position is critical. No rain has fallen, young crops are withering, agricultural operations are at a standstill and in parts cattle are getting weaker and dying of starvation.

MR. ALGIE, Executive Engineer, Burma, officiates as Superintending Engineer, vice Gatherer.

MR. F. A. NICHOLSON, of the Board of Revenue, has been appointed an Additional Member of the Madras Legislative Council, in the place of Mr. Le Fanu, resigned.

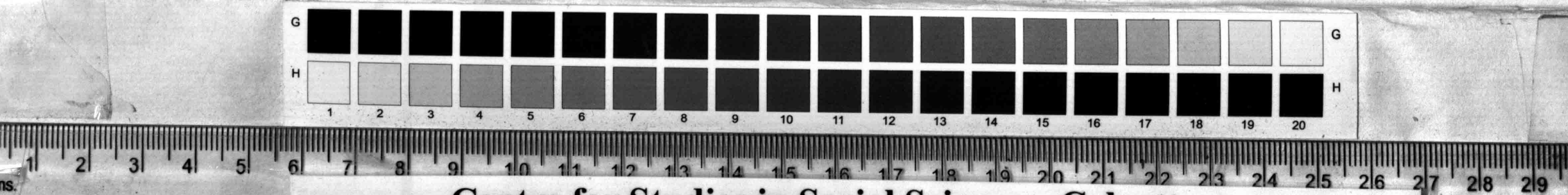
MR. NICHOLLS, Executive Engineer, of the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, is appointed to officiate as Superintending Engineer, vice Mr. Sutherland going on privilege leave.

ABOUT a week ago, Gulbat, a notorious Shabar Khel outlaw, with 15 other Shabar Khels, came to Chanda Killa, near that, where they asked for food. The villagers sent word to the Thal Border Military Police Post. Pursuit parties turned out, an encounter took place, and a Shabar Khel was killed.

MAJOR STEWART, Political Agent in Malwa, recently received information from Mr. Waterfield of the Thagi Department, that some 150 dacoits were collected in the hills near Nimbahera, and that the assistance of the troops was required for their capture. In a very short time—a squadron of the 3rd Bombay Cavalry at Neemuch, under Captain Wogan Browne, was on its way to the scene of operations. By day-break the encampments of the dacoits, of which there were several, were entirely surrounded, and an advance was made. The surprise was complete, and practically no resistance was offered. One valiant emulor of Friar Tuck attacked a horse with his quarter-staff, but he was soon reduced to reason by its rider. Twenty-eight members of the band were found to be of those who were "wanted" by the police, and they were accordingly marched to Nimlaheri under escort.

A Mother Tells How She Saved Her Little Daughter's Life.

I am the mother of eight children and have had a great deal of experience with medicines. Last summer my little daughter had the dysentery in its worst form. We thought she would die. I tried everything I could think of, but nothing seemed to do her any good. I saw by an advertisement in our paper that Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was highly recommended and sent her a bottle at once. It proved to be one of the very best medicines we ever had in the house. It saved my little daughter's life. I am anxious for every mother to know what an excellent medicine it is. Had I known it at first it would have saved me a great deal of anxiety and my little daughter much suffering. Yours truly, Mrs. Geo. F. Burdick, Liberty, R. I. For sale by SMITH STANISTREET & CO AND B. K. PAUL & CO.



THE Amrita Bazar Patrika

CALCUTTA, AUGUST 20, 1899.

THE CHARGES AGAINST THE COMMISSIONERS.

THE charges brought against the Commissioners by Sir A. Mackenzie were treated with indifference, not only by the rate-payers but by the accused themselves. For the charges were not subjected to the test of examination, nay, the Commissioners were not even told what the charges were. Indeed, as the charges were never specified nor sought to be proved, nobody paid any attention to that part of the programme of the Bengal Government, laid down for the destruction of the present system. It was felt that Sir A. Mackenzie was an uncompromising foe of the elective system, but that his hostility was not based upon the charges,—they were collected by him only for the purpose of strengthening his case, that is all.

The charges, however, acquired importance when the Viceroy was led to accept them as correct. The case now stands thus: "The elective system was given a trial," says the Government, "but it failed." So it is to be replaced by something like the Bombay system, which is partly nominated and partly elective.

The Commissioners were placed in a very false position by the Government. They, the entire body, were charged with misconduct, nay, almost criminal dereliction of duty. The course open to them was to resign and challenge the Government, either to prove the charges or to withdraw them. We noticed the other day the talk of the resignation of the Commissioners. We would never have touched the point if the talk had been at all a secret; it is certainly not a secret with the Government. The Government itself felt that, when it was going to bring serious charges against the Commissioners, it was, by that step, in a manner, forcing them to retire. Sir A. Mackenzie himself, in a speech, said something on this subject. Indeed, the Government is fully aware of the fact that the resignation of the Commissioners is a subject of discussion in the town.

The contention of the rate-payers is, that while they were grateful to the Government for its attempt to reform the system, they were surprised to learn that the Commissioners were so very bad; and they prayed that the Government would confer an infinite obligation upon them by subjecting the charges preferred against their representatives, to examination by a Commission of Enquiry. Their points, in short, were (1) that the charges against the Commissioners have not been proved; and (2) even if the charges were proved, that would not justify the Government to deprive the innocent citizens of a valued privilege. Their contention is that if the Commissioners have betrayed their trust, let them be exposed, and then any future corruption would be impossible.

It must be conceded to the Government that it has, in its keeping, some charges against some of the Commissioners. Without such a document in hand, Sir A. Mackenzie would never have dared to prefer them. It must also be presumed that the Government of Bengal, when submitting its case, furnished the India Government with a list of the charges against the Commissioners. In short, there is a black-book in which the alleged short-comings of the Commissioners have been carefully recorded, and the Bengal Government sent a copy of that black-book to the Government of India.

We said before that the Commissioners, to extricate themselves from their disagreeable position, have challenged the Government to come forward with its proofs. The question is, will the Government accept the challenge? We think it is not likely that Government will do it. Let us see whether we can form some idea of the nature of the black-book, referred to above. We have said that there must be such a book, and that it contains charges against the Commissioners. It is, however, impossible to find what these charges are, for this black-book is kept locked up, in a safe place.

Yet some of these secrets have leaked out, or, it is believed, that they have leaked out. How, we shall explain. Officials, cognisant of these charges, have been led to betray some of these secrets to Indians in course of conversation. Indeed, it is said, that the list of the alleged black sheep amongst the Commissioners was shewn to an eminent Indian gentleman who enjoys the confidence of the Government. One secret that has leaked out relates to the manner in which the Government obtained its information. The Government does not owe the possession of the secrets so much to the Detective Department as to some of the Commissioners themselves. For, it is the easiest thing for one of them to run to a big official, and tell him that such a Commissioner has done such a thing.

"Are you sure?" asks the official. "Certainly. Do you think I could make any statement to you of which I was not sure?" answers the Commissioner, anxious to earn the favor of the official. The informant, however, insists on one thing. He says that, though the information he supplied was absolutely correct, yet it would go hard with him if it were known that it was he who had supplied the Government with it. And the official promises absolute secrecy and the following record is entered into the black-book:

"B., Commissioner, has got Rs. — from — for having" (here the service is enumerated and a full description of the transaction is given.) And then the record is ended with the observation, "Information supplied by — under the seal of secrecy."

The main serious charge is corruption, direct or indirect. The direct charge is that so and so has taken, so much money himself or through others on such a day for such a service. The indirect charge is that, so and so has got, say, one hundred Rupees worth of work, by payment of Rupees five.

Now, assuming that the charges are founded upon fact, was it *mal-afide*, like, on the part of the Government, to await patiently and with great glee, the accumulation of the charges, and then pounce upon the Municipality when the cup was full? Why did not the Government give the public a warning as soon as the first case was brought to its notice?

Assuming that the charges were based upon the testimony of men of position, how could the Government yet accept them as true, when the accused were never given an opportunity of defending their conduct? It is a despotically governed country. Here back-biting is likely to flourish. How is a man safe, if the Government condescends to listen to the whispers of back-biters?

MR. KIPLING WITH A "SWELLED HEAD"

A FRIEND writes from England:—

The article that I liked very much in the book (Indian Sketches by Shishir Kumar Ghose) was the attack upon the pretended loyalty and attitude of Rudyard Kipling towards India, which the author was so justified in making, considering the thing that he has since said about the country to which he really owes his fame. He is now suffering from a swelled-head, for he has 23 suits out against the American publisher. You may be interested in the accompanying papers.

Lord Curzon admires the genius of Rudyard Kipling, and so do we. What we don't like in him, is his worship of power, and contempt for those who are physically weak. It is believed, that his poem "White Man's Burden" had much to do with the determination of the American people to subjugate the Philippines, who are so nobly fighting for their national liberty. If Mr. Rudyard Kipling has vilified the Indians, others before him have done the same. But he has created a valuable literature which is likely to endure as long as the English language exists. Macaulay's epigram yet exists to hurt the susceptibilities of the Bengalees. Mr. Kipling inspires so much admiration for his genius that one is disposed to hate the Indians,—whom he has depicted in the blackest of colours—hate them for his sake, though they may not believe what he has been led to say of them.

All of us know that he was very ill in America, and the whole American nation watched the course of the disease with anxiety. But what disease did he suffer from? Thus, says a writer in the *British Weekly*: "The nature of his ailment is more or less of a mystery, but to rise from a sick-bed and rush like a mad bull at a firm of publishers who have borne the highest reputation; who have been the pioneers in the American copyright to which Mr. Kipling owes most of his income and wealth, was unseemly enough, &c., &c." The whole American nation, however, sympathised with him in his illness and the bereavement that overtook him during his illness. But he came out of his sick-room, not to thank the American people but to sue 23 publishers of America for infringement of copyright! This, as a matter of course, created sensation. Mr. Kipling's popularity waned considerably before the outcry. So great was the indignation that he thought it necessary to give an explanation of his action against Messrs. Putnam, and it appears in the *Author*. The point on which every literary man will fasten, is that Mr. Kipling's publishers sold to Messrs. Putnam unbound sheets of his works. If it is illegal for these publishers to sell to Messrs. Putnam the sheets, then the action lies against the publishers and not against Messrs. Putnam. As for the publication of "Departmental Ditties," it is current in America in various editions and any one has a legal right to publish it.

Not that Mr. Kipling has altogether forgotten his obligations to the American people. Says the writer in the *British Weekly*:—

"I sufficiently admire Mr. Kipling's audacity—to use a mild word—in informing the American public that to show his appreciation of their anxiety about him, he is about to present them with a really worthy edition of his works. One would imagine that every American in the States was to receive a copy gratis. Instead of that, nobody gets a copy who does not pay a high price, and the favour conferred by the purchaser on Mr. Kipling, who will probably get two shillings on every volume, is, I venture to think, greater than the favour conferred upon the purchaser by Mr. Kipling."

Mr. Kipling has serious objection to one nation taking the liberty of another nation, if the latter is white. That is his morality, that is his idea of right and wrong, and that is the reason why he has written so much to malign the Indians. It is now, however, generally admitted even by his best friends that he is suffering from a "swelled-head." Lord Curzon sympathised with him in his sorrows, and requested us to join His Excellency in the sympathy. It must, however, be borne in mind that he has unjustly libelled us, and his genius has perpetuated the libel.

TRIAL BY JURY.

THE question of "the separation of the Executive from the Judicial" is before Lord Curzon for disposal. The memorial, which has been signed by Englishmen of the highest position, competent to speak with authority on the subject, is bound to carry weight. Yet there is another question equally, if not more, important, which we would venture to bring to the notice of his Lordship. The Viceroy should know that we have no trial by jury here. Ireland has it, however,—Ireland, with its Fenians and Home Rulers. Ireland, besides, can protect itself, for it sends about one hundred members to Parliament, and there are hundreds of Liberals who have identified themselves with the Irish cause.

But India, gentle, non-political and non-criminal, is not represented in Parliament and has not even the system of trial by jury to protect the liberty of its people. This unaccountable, and we must say unwarrantable, disability of the Indians has just been brought to the front in a disagreeable manner by two decisions of the High Court. In both these cases—one comes from Burdwan and the other from Rajshayee—the High Court has set aside the unanimous verdict of acquittal by the Jury. Hitherto unanimous verdicts were never interfered with by the High Court except in the rarest of cases. It is not clear from the judgments of the High Court (Justices Rampini and Pratt) in these two cases what led it to go against a deservedly honored custom.

If India practically has not now the Jury system, it once had; but the people were deprived of the privilege, as they are now being deprived of the elective system. The Indians are going to be deprived of the latter privilege on the ground of incompetence and misconduct. A similar outcry was also raised against Indian jurors. It was said that they acquitted accused persons! The greater credit to them we suppose! Indian criminals are sent to jail for the benefit of the Indian society. If respectable Indians have no objection to acquit an accused and admit him in

their society as an honest man, they do so at their own peril, and no man, certainly not the rulers, who are not members of our society, has any right to interfere with the arrangement.

"John, you cut me," says Mr. Jones, addressing the barber who was shaving him. There was Captain James, a friend of Mr. Jones, who was sitting by. John, it seems, was not an expert shaver, for he cut Mr. Jones again. But Mr. Jones was a man of nice temper; he took no further notice of the second cut except that he remarked, "John, you cut me again." But Captain James, who was of a choleric temper, could bear it no longer. He said angrily, "Take care, John! If you again cut my friend, Mr. Jones, he may pass it over, but I will knock you down."

A man, who is alleged to have offended against Indian society, is put on his trial. Indian society engages the services of five of its members to see, whether the man had committed an offence or not. The five members of the Indian society declare that the man has done no wrong, and can be received in their midst as an honest man. But what of that? Up stands choleric Captain James, we mean some zealous official, to declare, "I tell you, prisoner, your society may release you as an innocent man, but I will not permit it! I will send you to jail."

Supposing the Indian jury really acquit the accused, what is that to those who have nothing to do with Indian society? But do Indian juries really acquit those who have been proved guilty on unimpeachable evidence? Why should the Indians take back a man in society as honest who is not really so? Of course, in cases between Europeans and Indians, the jury may, from race-feeling, decide against conscience. But such cases are never put before an Indian jury.

The Indian jury has to decide whether an Indian accused has committed robbery, or theft, or murder, or forgery. If the jurors find that he is a robber, or a thief, or a murderer or a forger, what interests have they to take him back into their society as an honest man? Are they not very much interested in sending the man to jail? Suppose an Indian jury is convinced that an Indian accused has deliberately taken away the life of a fellow-being and a countryman. Is it possible for them to receive him in society with such a conviction in their mind? Suppose the accused is a thief or a robber. Does it not go very much against society to take him in its bosom as an honest man? That being the case, when an Indian jury acquits a prisoner, it is an unwarrantable act on the part of a European official to come forward and declare that the verdict is perverse.

Of course, it often happens that the Judge and Jury do not agree. The strange fact is, however, when there is such a disagreement, the Judge is always for conviction and the Jury for acquittal. How this happens Heaven knows. An Englishman is trained, from his infancy, to believe that the benefit of doubt belongs to the accused. The laws of his country have provided the accused with innumerable facilities for escape, under the noble principle, that it is better that one hundred guilty persons should escape than that an innocent person should be made to suffer. Such are the genius and instinct of the English nation.

An Englishman is a civilized being, because he is humane. The growth of civilization means the growth of humanity. How is it then that when the barbarous Indian Jury and the civilized European Judge disagree, the former should be for acquittal and the latter for conviction? We think, from the nature of things, the contrary ought to happen.

But to return. As we said, an outcry was raised against Indian jurors on the ground that they were for acquittal. The Indians denied the accusation. There was a Commission of Inquiry. And the result was that the outcry was proved to be without foundation!

Now we earnestly pray to Lord Curzon to give us back trial by jury. The gift is justly due to the Indians, and we appeal to his Lordship's generosity, high sense of justice and good feeling for the Indians to return the boon which was once granted, and then practically withdrawn, without reason or rhyme.

To the Indians it is no wonder that Lord George Hamilton should attack Sir William Wedderburn in the way he is reported to have done. His Lordship has, it is well known, some grievances against Sir William. One of these, it is no doubt, the uncomfortable position in which the Secretary of State for India has been placed in replying to questions regarding the incarceration of the Natus brothers. Not only was his Lordship made to hopelessly contradict himself in this matter, but he was led to make statements not based upon facts. And for all this, Lord George has to thank Sir William and his interpellations on this subject. Indeed, we are all familiar, how in reply to a question, it was stated that the Natus were detained on the ground that their arrest would lead to the unravelling of the Poona murders; how at another time on a question of a similar nature being put, the story of the plague nurse was brought forward to prove the disaffection of the brothers; and how in his latest reply the Secretary of State assured the Honorable interpellator that the Natus were never implicated in the Poona murders. Here are three different reasons assigned for the arrest and detention of the Natus,—as different from each other as possible. This much for contradictions: now for statements which have been found upon examination not to be in keeping with facts.

When the Natus were sent to Belgium, Sir William Wedderburn asked why Belgium, of all other places, was selected for their detention. And the bold reply of Lord George was that because Belgium was the seat of their property, which is, of course, not a fact. All this while Lord George had been smarting under a sense of discomfiture brought upon him by Sir William, and it was only natural that he should take his revenge when a suitable opportunity presented itself.

The practice of associating an Indian Judge with a European on the Criminal Bench of the Calcutta High Court was introduced with the appointment of the first Hindu Judge. During the time of Sir Comer Petheram, one of the Indian Judges almost invariably sat with a European in hearing criminal appeals. Our present Chief Justice also stuck to this arrangement immediately after his arrival; and, when once his Lordship made over the Criminal Bench to two European Judges and we took the liberty of pointing out the advisability of re-constituting the Bench on the principle of one

Judge from each nationality, the Lord Chief Justice was pleased to listen to our prayer, which gave universal satisfaction. We, however, see that since the last few months, two European Judges have been presiding over the Criminal Bench. We have not the slightest objection to any Judge, be he an Indian or a European. But yet there are several good reasons why a European High Court Judge on the Appellate side of the Criminal Bench should have an Indian for his associate. India is the only country in the world where serious offences are tried by those who are not natives of the soil. This cannot always be helped, as the Civil Service is in the hands of the Europeans. But there is no such difficulty in managing the matter in the High Court, where there are Indian Judges, one of whom can be easily spared for this purpose. It goes without saying that, an Indian Judge, having a better knowledge of the manners, customs, habits and the language of the people, is bound to be a great help to his European colleague in arriving at a correct decision when dealing with intricate cases. So, if for nothing else at least for this reason only, an Indian Judge should be joined with a European, on the Criminal Bench. We trust that the Lord Chief Justice will take this matter into his serious consideration and revive a practice which has always worked satisfactorily and to which no exception can be taken.

WHILE presiding over the Railway Conference, the Viceroy, whose speech is published elsewhere, said that there were only two parties interested in the railway management of this country,—the Government and the railway-owning Companies. But there is another party, namely, the people, who are equally interested in the matter. It is they who maintain the Railway lines, and it is their money which enables the Government to enter upon large Railway projects. They are, however, nowhere in these Railway conferences. We are glad to find that Lord Curzon has no great faith in these so-called conferences. As a matter of fact, their utility is not appreciable. His Excellency may, however, give a new and practical character to the Conference by inviting the co-operation of representative Indians in its deliberations. There is no doubt that, although it is the poorer classes of Indians who practically support the railway lines in this country, they have innumerable grievances against railway management, to which no one pays any attention. The hardships and inconveniences of third-class passengers are very great, and a sympathetic Viceroy like Lord Curzon should know them, and remove as many of them as possible. It is to the interest of the Government and the Companies that passengers should receive a better treatment than they do now. For, millions of Indians do not avail of the railways, not only on account of their poverty, but also for fear of suffering from hardships and inconveniences. The proverbially poor people of this country are vitally interested also in the question of the reduction of fares.

No Lieutenant-Governor did so much for Bengal as Sir Richard Temple. Sir George Campbell had led a crusade against high education and abolished almost all the Mofussil colleges. Sir Richard, however, undid all the mischief that his predecessor had done in this connection. It was Sir Richard Temple who gave us the elective system of Calcutta; and he would have established a large technical college here if he were not suddenly transferred to Bombay as Governor. Sir Richard was recently interviewed by a representative of an English paper, *British Indian Commerce*, and the following extract from his conversation shows that the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and Governor of Bombay yet thinks that if India is in need of anything it is technical education:—"I never heard any objection to the spread of education from the Indian people themselves. I never heard objections, in fact, anywhere but in England. I hope to see elementary education throughout India made compulsory. But the great need now, in addition to the extension of the elementary system, is the establishment of technical schools. They should be dotted all over the country, and cover in their teaching every branch of agriculture and industry. The universities in India would do well to give more attention to the teaching of practical science, and give a place to the higher commercial education. Directed by the technical knowledge and the resources of science, no man can measure the degree to which the wealth of India may be developed, its industries cultivated, and its commerce expanded."

The late Indian League raised two lakhs of Rupees for a technical school. The amount was secured through the exertions of a certain Hindu gentleman. He and Sir Richard, who then ruled Bengal, were great friends. The former requested His Honor to grant sufficient aid to the school started by the League, and Sir Richard generously agreed to pay Rs. 8,000 per annum from his Government. The order was issued and every arrangement was made to establish the school on a firm basis, when Sir Richard was promoted to the Governorship of Bombay, and Sir Ashley Eden occupied his place. Sir Ashley and the Hindu gentleman, referred to above, did not agree; and the former not only rescinded the order of Sir Richard Temple granting Rs. 8,000 to the League's school, but made two of the big donors withdraw their money. The school yet exists under the name of the Albert Temple of Science, though it is not in a prosperous condition.

Capital severely criticises the brochure of Babu Prithwis Chunder Roy on the sugar question. He, Babu Prithwis Chunder, opposed the Sugar Bill against the unanimous support of his countrymen, and *Capital* notices the fact of his being the Assistant Secretary of the Calcutta Standing Committee of the National Congress. The real fact, however, is that this measure was, of all, opposed by the Congress organ, the *Bombay Champion*, which misled India, the Congress organ in England. Naturally, therefore, some leading Congressmen were led to oppose the legislation, and one of them was Babu Prithwis Chunder Roy.

We deeply regret to hear the death of Dr. Kanye Lal Dey, Rai Bahadur, who breathed his last on Wednesday morning at 4 A.M. He was a prominent figure in Calcutta Society and was held in considerable esteem for his many virtues, both by Indians and Europeans. From an account of his life, published in another column, it will be seen that he rendered valuable services to the country in connection with the indigenous

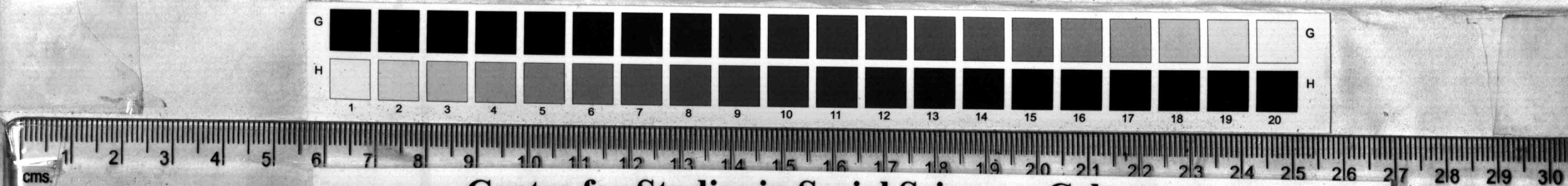
drugs and medicinal oils of India. He was a sweet-tempered and pious Hindu, whose company was always agreeable. His death has created a gap which can never be filled up. We offer our sincere condolences to the members of the bereaved family.

WHEN the Jury Commission was sitting, the whole country was crying for the repeal of section 307 of the Criminal Procedure Code, which stultified to a great extent the privilege of trial by jury, which in many cases made such trials little more than a farce. But the authorities, on the other hand, not only refused to do away with the section, but made it worse by introducing some changes in its wording which enabled a Sessions Judge more easily to make a reference to the High Court against the verdict of the jury. But it has always been earnestly hoped that the Hon'ble High Court, in exercising its powers under that section, will never treat a verdict with contempt; at any rate, that it will not allow any interference with the verdict of the jury, by straining matters. We are, however, very much concerned to find the Hon'ble Justices Rampini and Pratt setting aside the unanimous verdict of the jury in the Rajshayee case, which was a case pre-eminently for the jury, the question being whether a poor woman of the Baisnav caste, who was delivered of a child by the road-side while passing by a road, left it there believing it to be dead, as she says, or she left it there to get rid of it, while alive. The decision of the High Court is specially remarkable as the charge of which the Hon'ble Judges convicted the woman, namely, under section 317 of the Penal Code is one as to which the Sessions Judge conceded, that the jury were "entitled to their own view of the probabilities of the case." The Sessions Judge expressly referred the case with regard to section 318 of the Indian Penal Code (a minor offence) as to which he was of opinion that the jury went against all evidence. The High Court, however, apparently did not think it proper to convict the accused under this latter section. They fell back upon a section as to which the Judge did not make the reference. This would be a very dangerous precedent. The case, we allude to, is that of *Empress vs. Kripa Baistami*, referred by the Sessions Judge of Rajshayee.

THE last three censuses showed that the population of Bengal was steadily increasing. The Sanitary Commissioner's report, however, tells a different tale. It discloses the startling fact that during the last five years the birth-rate has been almost stationary, and that in 1898 the number of births registered was 2,543,701 against 2,625,844 in the previous year, the ratio per mile of population being 55.79 as against 56.94, or more than one less in every thousand. The Bengal nation is not thus increasing in number, and this is also the popular view, which is supported by the deserted appearance of almost every village in the Mofussil. The Government has sought to explain the decrease in the birth-rate in various ways, none of which is, however, satisfactory. The Sanitary Commissioner attributes it to the recent famine. Government, however, does not accept this theory as correct. There is, no doubt, however, that the increasing poverty of the people is one of the main causes of the low birth-rate. Another prominent cause is the malarial fever which, combined with poverty, is undermining the vitality of the people of Bengal and is thus standing in the way of the propagation of the race. Government explains the low birth-rate in Calcutta in a curious manner. Says the Resolution:—"Calcutta is, as usual, at the bottom of the list with 13.98." The departure of women from fear of plague having doubtless caused the large decrease since last year." But, as women died to the Mofussil, the districts should have shown a higher birth-rate, which, however, they did not, if the Government theory were correct. Then again, Calcutta was denuded of women for three months only, and most of them returned here almost immediately after the scare was over. The facts disclosed relating to Jhalakati in Barisaul show that some social reforms are urgently needed to prevent the people of that quarter from being swept away. The lowest birth-rate has always been in Jhalakati. The Government of India having, in their review of the report for 1897, repeated an opinion previously expressed that the extraordinarily low rate recorded was due not so much to any special cause as to defective registration, a careful enquiry was made by the Sanitary Commissioner and the District Magistrate, which disclosed the fact that out of a total population of 2,356, of whom 300 were females, only 49 were married women capable of bearing children. The report should have thrown some further light on the subject. How is it that among a population of 2,356, there should be 300 females, only 49 of whom are married and capable of bearing children? What we suspect is that, the population is composed of many sects who do not intermarry, and are thus fast dying out.

REUTER sends the alarming intelligence that Oporto has been visited by the plague. We saw in an American paper that the people of that country were already making preparations to protect themselves from its possible visitation! We have not the least doubt that the appearance of plague in Europe, if it assumes any serious proportions will produce something like dismemberment of society. Of course, Europeans are very brave, but they can't encounter providential visitations with that philosophic equanimity which the Hindus can do. The reason perhaps is that while the Hindus have nothing to lose by death, the Europeans have much. There is no doubt of it that the Indians have very little joys, which endear one to life.

THE Resolution on the Alipore and the Hazaribagh Reformatory Schools shows the kindly heart of the Lieutenant-Governor and a sincere desire on his part to improve the condition of the juvenile offenders confined in these institutions. His Honor is anxious that the boys at the Reformatories, after their release, should prove useful members of society, and hence they should be given such a training as might enable them to earn an honest livelihood. In order to bring about this result, Sir John Woodburn suggests: "It is clear that more endeavour must be made to adopt instruction to the hereditary occupation of the boys, and more systematic efforts to obtain employment for them on their discharge. Only then



can it be hoped that the instruction given at the schools will result in equipping a larger proportion of the boys for earning a livelihood in after-life? His Honor continues: "The first and essential object is to teach boys their own trade, as a trade they are likely to follow on discharge, if they are not incorrigibly idle or vicious. The variety of instruction will cost money, but the money must not be grudged. This is practical philanthropy; and this ought to be the object of the prison system. The object of imprisonment is reformation and not punishment. It is in this way that crime can be eradicated from society; for poverty leads most people to commit offences; and the majority of them will remain honest if they can earn their livelihood. To teach juvenile offenders the calling of their forefathers is a move in the right direction. A lad, belonging to the carpenter caste, if taught carpentry, will be able to earn his livelihood more easily than if he were taught reading and writing, or shoe-making. The trades taught at Alipore are carpentry, book-binding, cane-work, black-smith's work, gardening, tin-work and printing. These are useful in their own way; but we think, the boys may also be taught some other works such as agriculture, &c. Our cultivators know not what rotation of crops is. Potato cultivation is also a useful branch of agriculture, which is known to a handful of ryots in one or two districts of Bengal. All this as well as the grafting of mango and other fruit trees may be taught in the Reformatory, with considerable advantage. When the principle of reformation is conceded in the case of juvenile offenders, we do not see why it should not be extended to that of adult convicts. They may, in this way, be converted into useful members of society, when they are released. Unfortunately the manner in which they are treated in jails has the likely effect of making them more hardened criminals than when they entered the jail. They are not only not taught any useful work, but they are made to feel, at every step, that they are accursed of God and man; and such a treatment is bound to make them hate their fellows and human society. We appeal to Sir John Woodburn to accord the same kind treatment to grown-up criminals as he has been pleased to accord to the juveniles. By making the life of an adult prisoner "irksome," no useful purpose will be served; on the other hand, all his good feelings are likely to be crushed out of him, and all chances of his reformation withdrawn for ever. God never intended that His creatures, however fallen, should receive other than humane treatment from their more fortunate and enlightened fellow-beings.

THE Hon'ble Rajah Ranjit Sing Bahadur laid the whole of Bengal under obligation by having asked the Government the following question:—

Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the joint collection charges of the Road and Public Works Cesses, for every year, from 1877-78 to 1898-99 and the amount of costs borne by the District Boards and the Provincial Revenues, respectively?

The Hon'ble Mr. Baker gave the following reply on behalf of the Government, for which we are deeply grateful:—

"I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for, so far as it is available. For the first two years, 1877-78, 1878-79, the amount debited to Local Funds was not shown separately and the figures cannot now be furnished. The figures for 1898-99 are not yet fully available.

"The statement below shows the collection charges of the Road and Public Works Cesses:—

	Total charges for collecting Road and Public Works Cesses.	Amount debited to Government.	Amount debited to District Funds.
1877-78	Rs. 10,270	Rs. 10,270
1878-79	12,923
1879-80	1,61,041	46,800	1,14,241
1880-81	1,73,146	46,800	1,26,346
1881-82	1,83,904	46,800	1,37,104
1882-83	2,35,201	46,800	1,88,401
1883-84	2,69,367	46,800	2,22,567
1884-85	2,34,253	46,800	1,87,453
1885-86	2,06,752	46,800	1,59,952
1886-87	2,25,560	46,800	1,78,760
1887-88	3,23,334	46,800	2,76,534
1888-89	3,54,766	46,800	3,07,966
1889-90	4,23,216	46,800	3,76,416
1890-91	4,59,547	46,800	4,12,747
1891-92	3,14,743	46,800	2,67,943
1892-93	3,08,784	46,800	2,61,984
1893-94	2,92,445	46,800	2,45,645
1894-95	2,55,309	46,800	2,08,509
1895-96	2,88,963	46,800	2,42,163
1896-97	3,08,479	46,800	2,61,679

In order to understand the situation, some explanation is necessary. The Public Works Cess and the Road Cess were and are yet realized by the same establishment. The amount realized being about equal, the cost ought to have been shared equally by the two departments. But Government, in its plenitude of power, arranged that the Road Cess Department should pay two-thirds and the Public Works Cess Department only one-third of the cost! Let it be borne in mind that the Government claims the Public Works Cess as its own, while the Road Cess belongs to the people and its proceeds are in the hands of the District Boards.

Having laid down the above unjust principle, Government broke their own engagement, so unfair to the people, from the very beginning. They agreed to pay one-third of the cost; but not only did they refuse to do it, but they threw the bulk of the cost upon the Road Cess Fund; that is to say, upon the poor Road Cess-payers of Bengal. Do the readers now understand the significance of the figures in the statement published above? The collection charges during the last nineteen years, from 1879-80 to 1897-98, amounted to Rs. 45,64,613, one-third of which is over 15 lakhs; but, the Government paid only Rs. 8,62,393, that is to say, 7 lakhs less than what it promised to pay; in other words, they wrongly appropriated seven lakhs of Rupees belonging to the cess-payers. The latter should ask the Government to discharge this large sum and apply it to the benefit of those from whom the cess was realised. The Road Cess-payers of all the districts should combine and submit a petition to the Government for the return of the money unjustly confiscated by it.

THE Chicago paper, *Inter Ocean*, takes some interest in the movements of Lord Curzon, as Lady Curzon is the daughter of a prominent member of that city. That paper gives a very beautiful pictorial representation of a reception at Simla in which Lord Curzon stands in the middle on a raised dais, the Vicerine at the right, and her sister, Miss Daisy Leiter, at the left. This representation is headed "Chicago Women Cause Social Revolt in India." This social revolt is explained in a foot-note which runs as follows:—

Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter and her daughter, Miss Daisy Leiter, of Chicago, are the cause of a great social rebellion in India which has sadly interfered with the annual court season at the Viceroy's place at Simla. Viceroy Curzon married Miss Mary Leiter, who, as Vicerine of India, shares with him the honours of the position. Mrs. Levi Z. Leiter and Miss Daisy Leiter are now the guests of the Curzons, and the social emette is asserted to be due to their insistence on being accorded the same homage as is paid to the Viceroy and Vicerine. Society people in India are willing to receive Mrs. Leiter and her daughter as women of high social distinction, but decline to recognize them as members of the India court. In this picture Viceroy Curzon is seen at one of his public receptions, with Vicerine Curzon at the right and Miss Daisy Leiter at the left.

If the American paper has not been misinformed, it would seem there is court intrigue even in India.

ALL along we have been hearing of wireless telegraphy and reading in the newspapers accounts of experiments in it in far off countries. But at last India is also to witness such experiments. We hear that highly interesting and successful experiments have been made at the Agra Telegraph Office by the officer in charge with Marconi's system of wireless telegraphy with locally made imperfect instruments. The results have been most encouraging, and as soon as better instruments are obtained, the public will be invited to witness the triumph of science which has hitherto been confined to Europe and America.

IT is an open secret that the relations existing between the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Government of India have, at times, been of a somewhat strained nature during the ten years that have passed since that Prince visited Calcutta last. So the announcement of His Highness's visit to Calcutta to personally settle with the Viceroy matters connected with his State, was welcomed by all as an opportunity for the establishment of better relations. But we are told by the *Morning Post* that after all the event may not come about. Says our contemporary:—"Judge then of the disappointment and chagrin of the Government that His Highness's visit to Calcutta is to be made with a retinue limited to fifty persons only. To a Prince of such standing as the Nizam, who is the leading native ruler in India, whose possessions are of vast extent, and whose influence and loyalty are beyond question, such a restriction as this is not only puerile in the extreme, but approaches the border line of a big diplomatic blunder. To those who are well acquainted with the inner life of native States, it is well-known that such a conditional invitation would be regarded almost in the light of a personal slight to a ruler of the Nizam's position and importance; and it will be easily understood that his personal attendants alone would probably reach the number allowed, to say nothing of his ministers and the body-guards, which together would mean at least 200 additional persons."

INDIA AND ENGLAND.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

LONDON, JULY 28.

MR. PARANJPYE.

There are few matters connected with India that have attracted more general attention than the gaining of the Senior Wranglership this year by an Indian student. Englishmen are beginning to realise more fully the great brain-power of the Hindu, and the revolution in Hindu society that is being slowly brought about by the University system of India. I am surprised at the general ignorance which prevails even amongst men active in educational work, with regard to the extensive use of University opportunities by the rising generation of India. When I tell them that 30,000 young Indians matriculate every year at their five great Universities, of whom an average of nearly 4000 a year graduate in arts, law, medicine and engineering, the statement is received with incredulous surprise. There is no doubt that the increasing number of young students who come to this country for post-graduate work in law at the various Inns of Court, in medicine at London and Edinburgh, while others go to Oxford and Cambridge, is doing more than almost anything else to bring home to thoughtful Englishmen the fact that the Indian people are not the bloodthirsty ruffians suggested by the mutiny novel and melodrama, nor the bigoted and ignorant idolators suggested by the missionary orator, but that they are people capable of the very highest brain development, culture and self-government.

I have been asked by the Editor of the *Daily News* to write a short account of Mr. Paranjpye's career. I have noticed in the Indian press a good many errors in the statements that are made about the early life of this brilliant young Indian; and as I have been a good deal in contact with him personally during the last few weeks, and have frequently talked over his early life with him, I think it may perhaps interest your readers if I incorporate into my letter to your columns some of the paragraphs from my article in the *Daily News*.

Mr. Raghunath Purushottam Paranjpye has just taken the highest honour which can be obtained in any University in the world, the Senior Wranglership at Cambridge. I think a brief sketch of life and career of this distinguished young Indian will interest your readers and illustrate the intensity with which the more cultured castes desire for their sons the highest education available in this country. His parents are poor farmers at Murdi, a village in the Ratnagiri district, on the coast of South Konkan, in the Bombay Presidency. Neither of them have ever been to school, his mother, like most Indian women, being unable to read or write. Their life, like all Indian agri-

culturists, has been one long struggle for livelihood, and has little of the enjoyments or comforts possessed by an English agricultural labourer. The village in which they live has a population of three or four hundred souls; about 25 families are Brahmins, including the Paranjpyes, and the rest are Sudras, the lowest caste. All the male members of the Brahmin caste are taught to read and write, and young Paranjpye was sent, at the age of six, with the rest of the lads, to the nearest elementary school available, a Marathi school in the village of Anjarla, which has a population of 2000. The Konkanastha Brahmins, as those from this district are designated, are quite the cleverest of their caste in the Bombay Presidency. It is from this district that the great cotton industry of Bombay draws its best and most skilful artisans, some of whom occupy the highest positions in the various mills throughout India. Others find their way to the "Oxford of India," Poona, and form a large proportion of those Poona Brahmins whose so-called "sedition" has procured that intellectual city such unpleasant and ill-merited attentions from the Government during the last two or three years. The pride of these Konkanastha Brahmins is very high indeed. From among them came the Peshwas of the Deccan, who in the last century ruled half India, and Sivaji is still the hero of their hearts. They are miserably poor, but make any sacrifices to send their clever sons to college and university, hoping, through education, to win back peacefully some of their ancient prestige and supremacy in Indian society. They are succeeding. In May 1885 Professor Karve, a relative of the Paranjpyes, who had himself struggled from poverty to a high position in educational work, paid a visit to his native district. Staying for a few days at Murdi, he took a fancy to Raghunath, then a lad of nine, making him a present of an English alphabet. The boy learnt with such extraordinary speed and facility that the professor begged him from his parents, and from that day bore all the expenses of his keep and education. For about a year Raghunath lived with Professor Karve in a neighbouring village, thoroughly mastering English, and fitting himself for Anglo-vernacular school life. At ten years of age he went to the S.P.G. Mission School at Dapoli, and at twelve he went with his relative to live in Bombay, where for four years he attended the Marathi High School, matriculating from its classes at Bombay University, coming out first in the examinations.

Mr. Karve at this time was appointed Professor of Mathematics at Fergusson College, Poona, one of the most remarkable colleges in all India, founded by a few devoted Poona Brahmins, one of whom was the Honourable Mr. Tilak, who has recently emerged from a long term of imprisonment for so-called "sedition," and is, in consequence, the most popular hero in all India. This college was opened in 1885, and for ten years the education went no further than the first year's examination at Bombay University. It was fully recognised in the Arts degree in 1895, and since then has taken its pupils up to full graduation. There are now 400 scholars at Fergusson College, a fine pile of buildings, equal to any college in India. The students are mostly Brahmins sent there from just such village homes as Paranjpye's, the fees being almost nominal, and the boarding charges about 10 rupees a month. To make these low fees possible, the Professors enter into a mutual contract of self-denial, from the Principal downwards, contenting themselves with a salary of about £50 a year, for a term of 21 years. I know all these Professors well, having spent much time in their company during various visits to India and having entertained some of them in this country as welcome guests in my own house. All of them are men of the highest attainments. There is not one who, if he turned his back on the plough to which he has set his hands, could not readily make an income tenfold that of the pittance he receives from the funds of the College. A finer, nobler, more self-denying body of men, the world cannot furnish. The first Principal of the College was Professor V. S. Apte, a brilliant and distinguished scholar, and a great authority in Sanskrit. He died in 1892, and his name is venerated throughout India. He was succeeded by Mr. Agarkar, a notable social reformer in Deccan society, who, dying in 1895, was succeeded by the Professor of Natural Science, Mr. Gole, who is now the Principal. This College, in spite of its meagre pay, attracts the finest intellects of the Brahmin caste from the University life of India. My old friend, Professor Gokhale, who came to this country in the Diamond Jubilee year, to give evidence on behalf of the people of India, before the Royal Commission on Indian Expenditure, teaches English, history and political economy, and set aside offers of high and lucrative positions in order to work for the youth of India for £50 a year. Mr. Rajwade gave up a valuable appointment, worth £400 a year, to take up the Professorship of Sanskrit from the dying hand of Mr. Apte.

Professor Karve took his young cousin Raghunath Paranjpye, with him into this severe and ascetic atmosphere, with three other poor lads, who had no claim whatever upon him. From Fergusson College Paranjpye passed the three successive examinations for B. Sc. at Bombay University, in each of which he was the only candidate who obtained a first-class. He then obtained a Fellowship or student teachership in the college and proceeded to take his B.A. degree, coming out at the head of the first class. In June 1896, he was appointed to a Government of India scholarship of £200 a year, for use at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities for three years, and since he obtained the Senior Wranglership, it has been renewed for a fourth year.

Paranjpye determined to take up mathematics, and in October 1896 he joined St. John's College at Cambridge. In the following year he was elected a foundation scholar, being first in two college examinations, and second in two others. He has completed his course by graduating Senior Wrangler, his tutor being the well-known mathematical coach, Mr. Webb, of St. John's College. He is remaining another year, and intends competing for the Smith's Prize. I am sure all who read these notes will wish him success in that final effort.

Mr. Paranjpye wears his honours with rare modesty. When congratulations are offered to him, he replies with warm recognition of his cousin's early help, praise of his college and tutors, and disclaimers of all personal merit. It is a rare and brilliant record for any student to have obtained, however great the advantages possessed, or however fortuitous his sur-

roundings. But made by a poor Indian lad, the child of a village cultivator, it is a record without rival in University history.

What is he going to do with it? His college would gladly give him the first vacant Fellowship, and assimilate him into the life of a great University, where his remarkable powers would win him a first position and a generous income. Other friends urge a scientific career, or the English bar, at either of which he would command success; or he could readily obtain high and lucrative employment in the Education Department of India. Mr. Paranjpye sets all these opportunities quietly aside. His one ambition is to do for others what his cousin and the other Professors of Fergusson College have done for him, and when he has finished his post-graduate work at Cambridge, he will drop quietly into his place as Professor of Mathematics at Fergusson College on a salary of £50 a year, finding his highest reward in the success of other young Indians, stimulated and encouraged by his own story.

NOTES BY THE MAIL.

THE Pope has written to President Kruger exhorting him to take such steps as will insure the peace of South Africa. President Kruger has replied by a very courteous telegram declaring that he is doing all in his power to avoid war.

A SAN FRANCISCO wire of July 23rd says:—A report has been received here through officers of the steamship *Australia* that the great volcano of Mauna Loa, in Hawaii, has broken out into a terrific eruption of such force as to blow off its top with great destruction. There was a flow of molten lava toward the port of Hilo, the red-hot stream being already within ten miles of Hilo and travelling steadily downhill. The *Australia*, on leaving the port, ran across a strange cross-sea, due to some submarine volcanic disturbance. Blue mist hung over the water for days, and a cone-shaped cloud came from the direction of Mauna Loa. The chief officer believed that the whole top of the volcano had been blown off by a huge subterranean explosion, and that the opening made admitted the sea to the interior fires. Mauna Loa, which is nearly 14,000ft. high, has had several terrible eruptions during the present century, that of 1868 being particularly destructive. The eruption of 1887 was accompanied by earthquakes by which 167 persons were killed.

AMONG the applicants to Mr. Lushington at Bow-street, was Mr. William Hind, an elderly man, who said he wished to apply for process against the Prince of Wales, the Attorney-General, the Postmaster-General, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Suffield and other persons, for conspiracy, fraud, bribery and other offences. The applicant produced a formidable-looking document, and asked for permission to read it, at the same time saying that it consisted of 77 pages.—Mr. Lushington: If the document is so lengthy, you had better hand it to me, and I will peruse it at my leisure.—Applicant: I am prepared to argue it at any time; they have done my family out of eight million pounds.—Mr. Lushington: I see you have some more documents there.—Applicant: Yes, your Worship. Will you read them all?—Mr. Lushington: You may leave with me what you think necessary.—Applicant: Here's some correspondence I had with the Government some years ago; and here is an application I made against Alexander Cockburn and Lord Churchill; and here (handing in some other documents) are some applications against executors. They are liable to seven years (laughter). Here (flourishing aloft a document, is something about the Prince of Wales and Lord Suffield (loud laughter). There is no need for laughter.—Mr. Lushington said he would look at the documents, and told applicant that he might call again in about a week.

THE July number of the *Journal of Indian Art and Industry* is devoted in general to the British Department of the forthcoming great exhibition in Paris, and in particular to the Indian Section. The numerous illustrations are all produced in Mr. W. Griggs's usual style, and include a general plan showing the allotments to Great Britain and her colonies, a number of attractive bird's-eye views of the immense area as it will appear when completed; and various sketches of the stately and imposing Indian pavilion designed by Mr. Charles Gloues under the direction of Mr. C. Purdon Clarke, C. I. E., (a member of the Royal Commission and of the Indian Committee), and Mr. Benjamin J. Rose, the admirable energetic Secretary of the Committee. Among the other engravings are one of the picturesque entrance to the Indian tea courts, two of the central trophy to be erected in what will be known as the "Imperial Court," and one of the Indian and Colonial Restaurant. The site finally selected for British India and the British Colonies is in the Trocadero Gardens. This situation strikes me as being admirable in every way, and certainly it is better than the spot originally chosen by the Paris authorities distant some four miles from the main buildings! Of course, the British Commission protested against this little arrangement, and got their own way. The grand entrance and vestibule to the Indian Pavilion, or rather as it should be called the Indian and Ceylon Pavilion, is likely to be a very prominent feature; the walls of the interior are to be decorated in colour mainly from designs in Colonel Jacob's well-known book, "Jeypore Portfolio of Architectural Details." The flight of steps at the entrance will, it is hoped, be of green marble supplied by the Baroda State, and the wooden flooring will be composed of Indian parquetry. The central trophy will be thirty-six feet in length, twelve feet in width, and twenty-five feet in height. It is being prepared with the view of showing as effectively as possible specimens of all the best carving executed on various ornamental woods produced in India, and at the same time to provide a handsome and suitable show-case for the valuable art productions which are being generously contributed by the Native States. Burmese, Punjabi, Mysore and Baroda carvers will execute the work. It is satisfactory to learn that the Indian Committee are experiencing no difficulty in disposing of the space in "the Private Exhibitors' Court"; indeed, all the bays, with the exception of two or three, have already been allotted. The Committee are fortunate in having such an admirable Honorary Secretary as Mr. Rose, who as the Technical Assistant of Sir George Birdwood at the India Office for many years past, has a knowledge of exhibition work surpassed by few.

Calcutta and Afussil.

LORD GAURANGA OR SALVATION.

BY SHISHIR KUMAR GHOSH, VOLS I AND II. The prices of each Volume is:— PAPER COVER 1-12 CLOTH BOUND 2-4 Postage extra. To be had at the Patrika Office Calcutta.

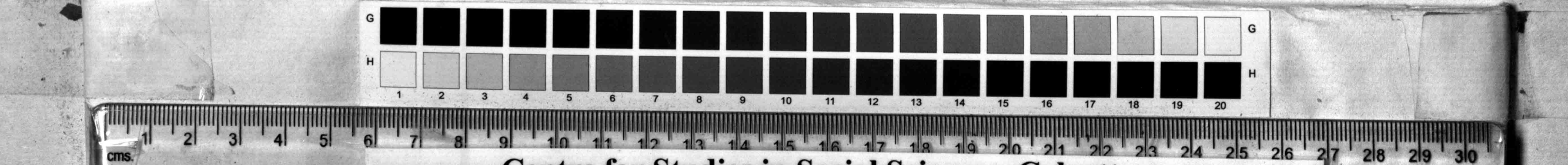
SRI KRISHNANUNDA.—A correspondent writes:—Swami Sri Krishnanunda was released on the 8th instant, before the expiration of his term of imprisonment. He is now on a tour of pilgrimage and in good health.

FAVOURITISM IN JOURNALISM.—It is an axiomatic truth that the Anglo-Indian press is supplied with news and papers of public interest by Government before the purely Indian section. Nay, in many cases, the native press is not at all remembered. For this reason, the latest piece of favouritism shown in the matter of the publication of the new Frontier Policy in some of the exclusion of other Anglo-Indian papers has given rise to some acidity in the journalistic stomach. No one can safely assign the blame to the proper party—who must be an official of the Secretariat. But there is no doubt that Lord Curzon's reputation will suffer if this spoilt child of Lord Elgin's administration is not forthwith made short work of. This is certainly not the best means of promoting journalistic enterprise as is claimed for Government in the Foreign Message Copy-right Bill.—*Advocate*.

HIGH COURTS.—The new Regulations regarding salaries, leave and pension rules of those legal luminaries, the Chief Justices and Judges of the various High Courts, have been issued by the Finance Department. They provide for a salary of Rs. 72,000 per annum for the Chief Justice at Calcutta, Rs. 60,000 for the other Chief Justices, and Rs. 48,000 for the High Court Judges. The leave rules provide that one year's furlough shall be placed at the credit of each Judge after completion of the fourth, eighth and twelfth year of actual service. The maximum amount of furlough which may be taken at any one time is fifteen months. A Judge on furlough in England will draw £1,000 per annum. A pension of £1,800 per annum will be paid to the Chief Justice of the High Court of Calcutta and of £1,500 to the other Chief Justices, after eleven and a-half years' service; and to a High Court Judge a pension of £1,200 per annum.

CALCUTTA FIRE BRIGADE.—Mr. E. M. Showers, Officiating Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, has submitted his report on the working of the local Fire Brigades during 1898-99. The total receipts during the year were Rs. 72,915. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 71,125-12-5 against an estimate of Rs. 74,730. The actual balance on the 31st March, 1899, was Rs. 889,13-1. During the year under review 38 fires occurred, in which the value of the property destroyed in each case exceeded Rs. 50. At 32 of these fires the Brigade were in attendance, and in five the fires were extinguished by the local police and the residents of the locality. A fire on a country boat, which occurred off Ghosheroy on the river, was extinguished by the Port Commissioners' fire-engine Hooghly. In addition to the 38 serious fires already noted, 71 small fires occurred, 31 in the town, 36 in the suburbs of Calcutta, and four in Howrah. The Brigade attended seven of these fires, the remaining sixty-four being extinguished by the residents of the localities. The average value of the property destroyed at each of these petty fires was Rs. 9-13-11. The total estimated value of all property destroyed by fire during the year under review amounted to Rs. 4,49,579-15-5 against Rs. 3,82,605 in 1897-98. There was no lives lost during the year. There were three fires in buildings licensed under Act I (B. C.) of 1893 and Act I (B. C.) of 1894, the total estimated value of property destroyed at these fires being two lakhs of rupees.

THE JAIPUR GOVERNMENT ESTATES.—A resolution on the annual report on the settlement of these Estates, published in the current issue of *Calcutta Gazette*, states that the Jaipur Government estates, with an aggregate area of 44.1 square miles, are comprised in 153 villages, lying in a few in the district of Rajshahi, the rest in that of Bogra. Of these villages Government is sole proprietor, in others it has a separate share, and in the remainder it is a joint-proprietor. A resettlement under the Bengal Tenancy Act was ordered in January, 1893. In the whole area surveyed, the extent under crops was found to be 21,307 acres, of which 7,869 bore two crops in the year. Winter rice occupies 11,007 acres, or 37.7 per cent, of the total of 29,176 acres, and *bhadori* or autumn rice 6,366 acres, or 21.8 per cent. Jute was found to be the next most important crop of the tract, occupying, as it did, 4,187 acres, or 14.3 per cent, but the recent rise in the price of rice and the coincident fall in that of jute has had the effect of bringing under rice much of the land formerly sown with jute. There are over 7 thousand acres of sugarcane. The number of under-riayots holding lands under the Government riayats is large, being 3,767. The total rental of the estates, as finally settled in 1878, was Rs. 38,358, which was found to have increased, owing to the settlement of waste lands to Rs. 39,872 in 1893-94, when the settlement operations began. The new rental being Rs. 51,068, there has been an increase of Rs. 11,196, or about 28 per cent, over the rental of 1893-94. The increase over the rental fixed in 1878 amounts to Rs. 12,710, or about 33 per cent, out of which 21 per cent appears to be due to the increase in the settled area since the last settlement, and 12 per cent to the increase in the rates of rent based on the rise in prices. The collections under the new arrangements have, so far been very satisfactory, and the Lieutenant-Governor sees no reason to question the opinion that the assessment, if tardily, has been fairly done. Government also derives a fluctuating revenue from ferries, fisheries, tolls at markets, sales of trees, and permits for collecting honey; but the details and total amount of this income have not been stated in the report. The cost of the survey amounts to Rs. 12,773, and that of settlement to Rs. 33,350.



CRIMINAL SESSIONS.—The fourth Criminal Sessions of the Calcutta High Court commenced on Wednesday under the presidency of Mr. Justice Hill. There are only two cases, one, a common jury case, Empress vs. Baij Nath Agarwala and another committed by Mr. Pearson for counterfeiting Queen's Coin; and the other a special jury case, Empress vs. George Albert Strover, committed by Mr. H. Wheeler for murder.

THE CASE AGAINST MR. BELLWOOD.—The Police have sent up a C. Form in the complaint lodged by the girl Nuni against Mr. Bellwood. The Deputy Commissioner, in his judgment in the case in which Mr. Bellwood was the complainant, characterised the statements made by the girls as absolutely false, and remarked that he would have ordered their prosecution for perjury but for their tender age.—Eastern Herald.

A CYCLONE.—Our Gya correspondent writes:—On the 13th of August, village Nagawan near Fatehpore, at a distance of 10 miles from Gaya towards the S. E. was overtaken by a heavy cyclone the like of which had never before been witnessed by living beings. Moulvie Khairah Ahmed, the proprietor of the village, has been assured by very reliable evidence that by the action of the wind upon the water in the *dhers* (reservoirs) rose as high as a palm tree and fell down at some distance away, thus making the *dhers* empty in no time. The thatch of most of the houses were blown away. Some trees were uprooted while the branches of other were torn asunder. In short it made its presence felt everywhere and by everybody. The poor inhabitants of that village are living in houses without thatch to protect them from the sun and the rain. I hope Moulvie Sahab will help them in providing their houses with thatch or other convenient protection at once.

A FRESH SHOOTING CASE.—Says the Tribune.—News of a shooting case, in which British soldiers are implicated, comes from Sialkot. We give below the version of the defence, no other account being at present available. Our local representative has, however, set on foot enquiries and we hope soon to be in a position to give fuller details. The soldiers aforesaid went out shooting a few days ago towards a village at the distance of only a mile or so from cantonments. In the village there was a "dara" in which a poor beggar woman and her husband used to live. The soldiers on coming near the place saw a bird sitting close by the woman. One of the men aimed and fired, but by accident shot the woman in the face causing severe injuries. She was brought into the city where her statement was taken by a Magistrate of the First Class. She, it is said, has been so badly hurt that her life is despaired of. She is young and robust being only about 23 years of age.

THE CASE AGAINST THE RAMNAGAR RAJAH.—The case in which the Rajah of Ramnagar, with five of his servants, stands charged with having kidnapped and committed rape on a minor girl came up for hearing, as already announced, on Friday before last, before the Sub-divisional Officer of Bettiah. Two of the Rajah's servants put in their appearance while the others were absent. On the 13th June last, the mother of the girl lodged a complaint in the Ramnagar thanna to the effect that 5 of the Rajah's servants had forcibly carried away her daughter. The Sub-Inspector of Police who enquired into the case, reported that the girl had gone to the Rajah of her own accord. The Police Inspector disbelieving this version of the affair, placed the matter before the Magistrate, who personally conducted an enquiry. He ordered the Rajah to produce the girl before him, which was done on the 26th July last. The girl then said that the Rajah had committed rape upon her and that she was bleeding. She further said that the Rajah had detained her against her wish. Thereupon the girl was sent for medical examination. The Assistant Surgeon, who examined her, reported her to be a minor and that rape appeared to have been committed upon her. Then warrants were issued against the accused, who put in their appearance on the 9th instant last when the Rajah was enlarged on a bail of Rs. 30,000. On Friday last, seven witnesses were examined including the girl and her mother. The case was postponed to the 21st instant. The defence has, we hear, retained the services of Mr. Jackson.

A SYLHET RIOTING CASE.—At the High Court on Friday before Justices Rampini and Pratt, an appeal was heard in a rioting case from Sylhet. Seven persons appealed from the decision of the Sessions Judge convicting them under section 148 and sentencing them each to three years rigorous imprisonment. Their Lordships in setting aside the conviction and sentence and ordering a retrial, observed that counsel for the appellants had taken two objections to the trials as held before the Sessions Judge. The first of these irregularities was that the accused had never been formally called upon for their defence as they should have been under the provision of section 289 Cr. P. C. The second objection was that the evidence given in a counter case tried by the Sessions Judge subsequent to the trial of this case, was used by him as evidence in this case to the prejudice of the accused. It appeared to their Lordships that both these irregularities were of a serious nature. So far as their Lordships could see the accused had never been formally called upon for their defence at the conclusion of the case for the prosecution. They were never examined at the Sessions Court at all. The Sessions Judge should have given them an opportunity of entering on their defence. Under the circumstances their Lordships sent back the case for a proper trial.

MORTUARY RETURNS.—The total number of deaths registered in Urban Calcutta during the week ending the 5th August, was 287, against 255, and 289 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 63. There were 23 deaths from cholera against 37 and 43 in the two preceding weeks; the number is higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 17. There were 36 deaths from plague, against 12 and 4 in the two preceding weeks. There were no deaths from small-pox during the week. There were 2 deaths from tetanus against 4 in the previous week. The mortality from fevers

and bowel complaints amounted to 64 and 29 respectively against 74 and 23 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 25.3 per mille per annum, against 26.0, the mean of the last five years.—The total number of deaths registered in Suburban Calcutta during the same week was 164, against 148 and 143 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 23. There were 4 deaths from cholera, against 16 and 27 in the two preceding weeks; the number is higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 1. There were 16 deaths from plague, against 4 and nil in the two preceding weeks. There were no deaths from small-pox during the week. There were two deaths from tetanus against nil in the previous week. The mortality from fevers and bowel-complaints amounted to 27 and 30, respectively, against 28 and 20 in the preceding week. The general death-rate of the week was 35.9 per mille per annum, against 39.7, the mean of the last five years. The general death-rate of the combined area is equal to 34.5.

TIGER SHOOTING IN ASSAM.—Tigers would appear to be quite plentiful in Assam with its long stretches of jungle land, forested mountains, and sparse population. A correspondent sends us the following account of tiger shooting by an amateur shikari in course of about a month. Jiten Babu is the Zemindar of Lakhipur, near Goalpaa,—a young Nimrod who has already earned a name for his success in shikaring. Jiten Babu was coming home on the 23rd June from a shooting excursion in the interior when he learnt on the way that a cow had been killed by a tiger in the Faringapara jungle, which is all but surrounded by water. Jiten Babu at once repaired to the spot with his elephants and was still engaged in making a careful search after the brute, when he heard a splash in the water as if some thing was crossing it. It was the tiger. At once the shikari took aim and sent a bullet whistling across the water. It was 5.30 P. M. The tiger was laid low and when picked up, was found to measure 6 feet. Two days after, that is, on the 25th, the gentleman was going out for a little sport, when at the same spot, some two miles from Lakhipur, he found a tiger quietly making a meal off the cow killed by the tigress which he had shot on the 23rd. The sun was shining overhead for it was only 1 P. M. Jiten Babu would not surely lose so glorious an opportunity of adding to his bag. He shot the animal and it was found to measure 10 feet. There was a lull during the next week. On the 2nd July, however, Jiten Babu went out shooting again and at Bangaljarh jungle, 8 miles distant from Lakhipur, he heard of a bullock being carried off by a tiger. Instantly a search was set on foot which resulted in the discovery of Master Stripes at a place a mile off from the spot. It was getting dark then, but still the young Nimrod succeeded in accounting for the animal which measured 9 feet. In the evening of the 8th July, information was brought to him by a cultivator that a bullock had been killed by a tigress at Jaibhum Jhar—some 6 miles away and that the animal was sitting over the hill. Jiten Babu set out at once for the spot and shot down the tigress which measured 9 feet, at 12 A. M. Another week went by without any exploit whatever. On the 15th July, at Nidanpur Jhar, a mile and-a-half from Lakhipur, a tiger was killed which had killed a buffalo.

THE ALIPUR AND HAZARIBAG REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.—From a resolution published in the current issue of the Calcutta Gazette, on the report on the reformatories for the year 1898, it appears that the two institutions had, on the last day of 1897, 554 inmates, of whom 212 were at Alipur and 342 at Hazaribagh. The number of boys who were released, or transferred, or who died or escaped was 178, and the admissions were 92; the total number remaining at the end of the year being thus 468, of whom 194 were at Alipur and 274 at Hazaribagh. Of these, 304 were Hindus and 148 Mahomedans; 15 belonged to aboriginal tribes, and one was a Native-Christian. The admissions during the year fell off largely, the figure for the previous year being 167 and the average for the five preceding years 135. The decrease was presumably due in a large measure to the use by Magistrates of the provisions of section 31 of Act VIII of 1897. The number of releases from the institutions was considerably in excess of admissions including the cases of 40 young boys whom the Government thought it desirable to release under section 14 of the Act, on account of their extreme youth. The trades taught at Alipur were the same as in the previous year, viz., carpentry, book-binding, canework, blacksmith's work, gardening, tin-work, and printing. At Hazaribagh shoemaking and tin-work were discontinued, owing to failure to obtain work to employ the boys engaged in them. Blanket-weaving was also discontinued. The trades remaining are weaving, tailoring, carpentry, blacksmith's work, and gardening. Of 66 boys discharged from the Alipur School in 1897, 41 were reported to be well conducted, 17 could not be traced, six were in jail, one was looked on as a suspicious character, and one had died. Of 72 boys released from the Hazaribagh School, 27 were well conducted, seven not traceable, and five in jail, five were viewed with suspicion, one had died, five had emigrated to other districts, and 22 were not reported on. The head under which the largest number of released boys is shown is that of labourers. Of the boys discharged in 1897 from both schools (138) only eight are shown as following the trades taught to them. Of the rest regarding whom information was obtained 63 were in employment of some kind. The financial results of the manufactures in the schools show a net profit at Alipur of Rs. 9,862-9-6 against Rs. 7,098-8-8, and at Hazaribagh of Rs. 9,268-15-2 against Rs. 5,960-0-1, in the previous year. The profit per head of the number employed was Rs. 54-12-8 against Rs. 42-9 in 1897, at Alipur, and Rs. 35-10-4 against Rs. 25-7-7 at Hazaribagh. The total cost of the Alipur Reformatory was Rs. 22,662-15-7, and of the Hazaribagh Reformatory Rs. 22,738-1-1. The cost per head for each boy was Rs. 110-9-5 at the former school and Rs. 73-0-11 at the latter, against Rs. 119-5-3 and Rs. 71-5-2 respectively in 1897. The increased cost per head at Hazaribagh was mainly due to a large issue of new clothing to the boys and the heavier incidence per head of establishment charges on a smaller number of boys.

WEATHER AND CROPS IN BENGAL.—The following is the general summary of the weather and crops in Bengal for week ending 14th August.—There was rain in every district during the week, though the amounts were generally moderate. The rice crop throughout the Province is doing well, the only unfavourable report of any importance coming from the 24-Parganas. The *bhadai* crop has obtained some slight relief by the diminution in the rainfall, but it is to be feared that there is no chance of a good outturn. The other crops, jute and sugarcane especially, appear to be doing well. More rain is needed in Orissa and one or two districts in Chota-Nagpur. Prices show a tendency to rise. There is still a little cattle-disease.

THE SETTLEMENT OF CHARS LAKHI AND BADU IN THE DISTRICT OF NOAKHALI.—A resolution on the final report on the settlement of Chars Lakhi and Badu in the district of Noakhali is published in the current issue of the Calcutta Gazette. There are 1,470 under-tenants in Lakhi and 482 in Badu, who have been classified in accordance with the provisions of the Tenancy Act. In both Lakhi and Badu the soil consists of a rich loam with little sand in it, and there is very little difference in the quality of the cultivated lands. The legal ground for enhancing the existing rates of rent was that of the rise in the price of rice. For purposes of comparison, the quinquennial periods of 1879-1883 and 1892-96 were selected; and it was ascertained that a rupee would purchase 23 seers 2 chittaks in the former period, and 14 seers in the latter; or, in other words, that the maximum enhancement permissible under the Bengal Tenancy Act was 7 annas in the rupee. But the only class of tenants whose rents have been generally raised are the hawladers, viz., those who have been classed as tenure-holders and those who have been given the status of settled raiyats. These men, or their predecessors in title, as the first settlers, had to contend with many difficulties, and to undergo considerable trouble and expense in clearing the jungle and bringing the land under cultivation and they suffered very severely, both in life and property, from the cyclone and stormwave of 1876. It was, therefore, decided that whether classed as tenure-holders or settled raiyats, their rents should not be raised by more than 25 per cent. In accordance with this principle, the rate of rent for *hasila* lands held by hawladers has been raised from 10 annas to 12 as. 6 pies per standard bigha, except for five hawladers in Lakhi, who had for a long time been paying rent at a rate of 8 annas a bigha, which has been raised to 10 annas. In each case the rent settled was accepted by the tenant, and there has been not a single appeal against the Settlement Officer's decision. The new settlement came into force in April, 1899; and the Settlement Officer recommends that it should run for 20 years. Looking to the moderation in the present enhancement, the Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board in thinking that there is no necessity to fix a longer term than 15 years for the present settlement. The total cost of survey and settlement debitable to these estates is Rs. 14,721-10-9, or 11 annas per acre. His Honor agrees with the Board that this is not excessive. The settlement record should, as proposed, be maintained by the khas mahal staff in accordance with the rules given in Appendix M. to the Survey and Settlement Manual, 1895. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with the Board that the khas tahsil staff and the local revenue officers should regularly inspect the permanent boundary marks and take the necessary steps for their maintenance. The Lieutenant-Governor confirms this settlement.

PLAGUE NEWS. PLAGUE IN CALCUTTA. ON Thursday there were 5 attacks and 4 deaths distributed as follows: In Ward No. 4, attack 1 and death 1; No. 5, 1 and 1; No. 6, attack 1; No. 9, 1 and 1; No. 19, 1 and 1. The total mortality was 60 as against 57, the average of the previous five years.

BOMBAY RETURNS. The number of plague cases reported on Thursday was 15 attacks and 13 deaths. The total mortality was 89 as compared with 89 for the corresponding day of last year and 139 for 1897.

MORTALITY IN POONA. ON Thursday 168 cases and 136 deaths were recorded in the City, the total mortality being 167. In the Cantonment there were 23 cases and 12 deaths, in the suburban area two cases and one death occurred, and in the district 25 cases and 21 deaths. In the Kirkee Cantonment there were two cases and two deaths.

THE PUNJAB FREE. WITH the removal of the police cordon from the village of Dial in the Hoshiarpore district, the last precautions against plague in the Punjab disappear. The province is now entirely free, and it is hoped the disease has left the Punjab for good.

MYSORE REPORTS. THREE suspicious plague cases were removed from the Good Shepherd Convent of Bangalore to the plague camp on Wednesday last. At the city a Hindu suffering from plague was found locked in and deserted by his household. The authorities removed him to the camp. Mysore returns on the 15th show four cases and three deaths, the city one death. The Goldfields report a clean bill of health on the 14th and 15th.

IT is understood that Mr. Finney, who has been officiating since Colonel Brackenbury's departure, will succeed him permanently in the management of the North-Western Railway.

NEWS comes to hand of the loss of a cash safe containing over Rs. 2,000 from an up night train of the 14th instant between the station of Jatauli and Khalipore on the Rajputna-Malwa Railway. The safe, it is said, was heard to drop between these stations, and though a search has been made, it has not yet been recovered. The mark of the fallen safe was discovered.

CAPTAIN HERBERT DOWDING, who left England some nine months ago on an exploring expedition into the upper waters of the Rivers Meta, Magdalena, and Caqueta, returned from South America by the last Royal Mail steamer via Colon, having experienced the exceptional misfortune of losing the result of all his work by the wreck of the river steamer in which he was descending the Rio Patia. The accident took place on the night of the 21st ult. at a spot almost within sight of his journey's end on the Pacific coast.

TELEGRAMS.

[INDIAN TELEGRAM.]

THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS.

(From a Correspondent.)

LUCKNOW, AUG. 17.

The reply of the N.W.P. Government to the memorial of the Congress Reception Committee praying for a piece of land to pitch the camp, reached here yesterday. The Committee have been refused permission to establish the camp on either the Shimiva or Charbag, but no objection has been raised to the location of the Congress *mandal* or pavilion on Shahmia ground as it is understood that the pavilion would only be occupied a few hours each day, during the time allotted to the public meeting and that sanitary arrangements necessary under such circumstances would not be extensive. As to delegates likely to come from plague-infected areas they shall have to live isolated in a special camp and subject to reasonable sanitary restrictions. The site for this special camp will be selected by the Commissioner, with due regard for the convenience of gentlemen attending the Congress.

AFFILIATION OF A SCHOOL.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ASSENSOL, AUG. 18.

Information reaches here to-day that the Assensol High School has been affiliated to the Calcutta University. To commemorate the same a literary *fete* takes place here on Sunday afternoon. Boys will give gymnastic performances and sweets will be distributed before the meeting disperses.

AN OFFSHOOT OF THE SE DITION CASE.

BOMBAY, AUG. 18.

At the Police Court to-day the Magistrate gave his decision in the charge of attempting to fabricate false evidence preferred against Nageshwar Sittaram Fanskar, Balkrishna Luximon Joshi, and Ramchandra Bhicaji. The Magistrate held that the accused had not attempted to fabricate evidence for the express purpose of its being used in a Court of Justice or to be used in a stage of judicial proceeding, and he ordered them to be discharged.

THE G. I. P. RAILWAY.

PURCHASE BY GOVER.

SIMLA, AUG. 18.

The Secretary of State has decided to exercise his power of purchasing the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Company's undertaking next year.

THE POLICE PROVIDENT FUND.

SIMLA, AUG. 18.

The Secretary of State has approved the formation of a Provident Fund for officers of the Police Department of and above the rank of Assistant District Superintendent, and rules are published for the same.

AN ENGLISH MONTHLY ON AN INDIAN BOOK.

The following review appears in a monthly journal, published in London, about the *Hindu System of Moral Science*—

"We have rarely met with a more luminous exposition of Hindu theology and moral philosophy than that by Babu Kisori Lal Sarkar in his two little books. The Hindu System of Religious Science and Art and the Hindu System of Moral Science, whereof the latter has lately appeared in a second edition. Looking at the whole of Indian religious thought through the binocular of Gnanajoga and Bakti-joga or what he calls rationalism and emotionalism, Mr. Sarkar gives us illustrative texts of the two revelations from the three great periods of intellectual life in India, and then discusses the bearing of the Darsanas upon the question. The most original part of the work is that which deals with the Advaita Vedanta, and this we would specially commend to European scholars. The centre of gravity of the ethical system in India, Mr. Sarkar finds in the three Gunas, which apply not only to the different states of consciousness but also to the dual division into the morally right and morally wrong and into the spiritually right and wrong. Strictly speaking, it is only with the phases of rajaguna that ethics is concerned, but our author does well to consider at the same time the higher truths of spiritual philosophy." The books are to be had of Sarasi Lal Sarkar, M. A., 121 Cornwallis Street, Calcutta, and the price is one rupee each.

THE tour of Mr. Clinton Dawkins, the Financial Member of Council, this autumn will include Peshawar, Delhi, Agra, and Oodeypore.

The force which is to be got ready in India in case of emergency in the Transvaal will have regular staffs and organisation which are under consideration at Army Headquarters.

MR. W. H. DOBBIE, Deputy Comptroller-General, returns from leave at the beginning of September, and relieves Mr. R. N. Roy, who becomes Deputy Auditor-General.

GOVERNMENT have approved of the site for the memorial to be erected at Fort Lockhart, to commemorate the defence of Fort Saragheri by the detachment of the 36th Sikhs.

AN urgent meeting of the shareholders of the Madras Electric Tramways Company was held on Tuesday last under the Presidency of Mr. Eardley Norton, to consider what steps are advisable to prevent the interests of the shareholders being entirely extinguished by the proposed action of the debenture-holders in petitioning to liquidate the Company. The meeting unanimously resolved that subscriptions of four annas per share be levied on all shareholders to meet the legal expenses in London; that the Committee be authorised to communicate with Mr. Tasker in London to watch and protect the shareholders' interests in London; and lastly, that the Committee be authorized to form a Company for the purchase of the Madras Electric Tramways, and issue 15 lakhs first mortgage debentures, on the tramways, giving preference, in taking the debentures, to original shareholders.

TELEGRAMS.

[FOREIGN TELEGRAMS.]

ST. PETERSBURG, AUG. 15. The Tsar has issued an order to the Minister of Finance that immediately the railway is completed to Tallienwan it is to be free to the commerce of the world, and a new city will be built in the neighbourhood.

LONDON, AUG. 15.

General Sir F. Forestier Walker has been appointed to command at the Cape, and sails on Saturday next.

LONDON, AUG. 15.

Mr. E. B. Sweet Escoot, late Colonial Secretary, Honduras, has been appointed Administrator of the Seychelles.

LONDON, AUG. 15.

Twenty-six cases of plague and eleven deaths took place at Oporto up to the 11th instant.

LONDON, AUG. 15.

England made 576 in their first innings. The Australians have made 220 for five wickets.

DURBHUNGA MEMORIAL FUND.—Raja Sir Sourindo Mohan Tagore, Kt., C. I. E., has subscribed Rs. 500, and Raja Promoda Nath Roy Bahadur of Dighapatia, Rs. 1,000, to the Maharaja of Durbhunga Memorial Fund.

LONDON, AUG. 16.

Plague has now appeared at Lisbon. The Board of Trade has ordered precautions to be taken against all arrivals from Portugal.

LONDON, AUG. 16.

The statement made in the London press about the London Scottish Volunteers is contradicted.

LONDON, AUG. 16.

Although a very bad Nile is feared the Egyptian cotton crop is expected to be a considerable one.

PARIS, AUG. 16.

The Dreyfus trial continues and is principally a recapitulation of the former evidence against the prisoner who occasionally passionately protests.

PARIS, AUG. 17.

At the sitting of the court to-day in the Dreyfus trial, M. Bertulus, Magistrate, deposed to Colonel Henry bursting into tears and imploring him to consider the honour of the army, when he suddenly charged him with complicity with Esterhazy. Madame Henry who made a scene in court, contradicted M. Bertulus, saying he was a Judas.

Colonel Picquart testified to how gradually the evidence had accumulated absolving Dreyfus and inculpating Esterhazy.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

The delay in the reply of the Transvaal Government is explained by the news that President Kruger is considering a new scheme which has not yet been officially submitted to Great Britain, granting five years' franchise without any irksome restrictions and giving the Rand a quarter of the seats in the Volksraad. It is understood, however, that President Kruger asks for a *quid pro quo* regarding the suzerainty.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

The steamer Clan Mackay has collided with the steamer Orizada in the Suez Canal. The Clan Mackay has been beached to prevent her from sinking.

LONDON, AUG. 18.

Colonel Panizzardi, who was military attached to the Italian Embassy in Paris, telegraphs to the *Figaro* on his honour as a soldier and gentleman, that he never heard of Captain Dreyfus until he was arrested, and an inspired paragraph in the *Cologne Gazette* strongly hints that the traitor was Colonel Henry.

WIRELESS WIRES TO MARS.

THE interesting question presents itself whether inter-planetary communication could be effected by the means of wireless telegraphy. In other words, will it be possible by wireless telegraphy to signal (say) to Mars? Hitherto the difficulty has been two-fold—how to transmit the message, and very grave doubt as to whether the Martians could read it if they received it.

Some years ago it was suggested that a huge triangle should be marked in the Sahara desert, to attract the attention of Martian astronomers. But such a triangle would have to be at least five hundred miles long with the lines or walls thirty miles wide, in order to be visible in the ruddy planet. And when built it would puzzle even one of Mr. Wells' intellectual tripods to discover its significance.

Another ingenious person has suggested signalling to Mars with flags, as soldiers and sailors do, by the dot and dash system. The necessary flag, however, would have to be as big as Ireland, and the staff 500 miles long, and a mile or two thick. To wave this would require special machinery.

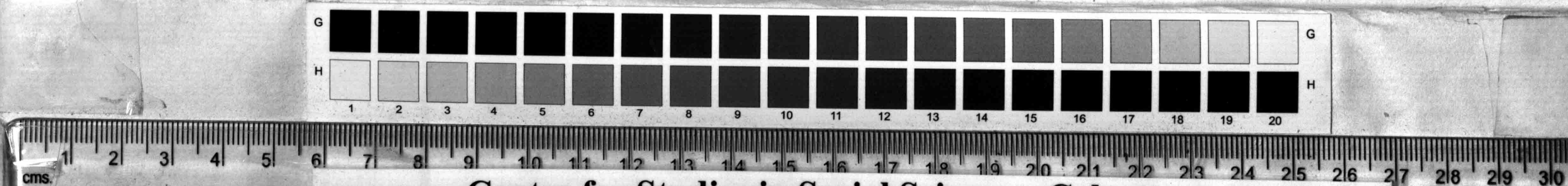
The first obstacle hitherto has been the production of sufficiently strong flash lights, through some scintillating lights on the disc of Mars a few years ago were believed by some observers to be signals flashing messages to us. Wireless telegraphy has, perhaps, solved the physical aspect of the problem, or may do so in the future.

None of the larger planets are habitable owing to their heated nebulous and cloudy condition. But the apparent habitation of Mars is enough to go on with.

Will wireless telegraphy, either in its present state, or by future improvement or development enable us to communicate with our fellow-travellers round the sun?

Bearing in mind the giant strides science has taken during the present century he would be bold man who denied its possibility in the next.

THE Planters' Conference have resolved that the association gives £100 sterling towards the fund to meet the proper representation of products at the Paris Exhibition, and the district associations are urged to subscribe liberally towards it so that a case containing the exhibits of each district may be exhibited under the name of the United Planter's Association of Southern India and that the coast firms, proprietors and the various Governments interested be also invited to subscribe.



THE HEALTH OF BENGAL.

THE current number of the Calcutta Gazette contained a Resolution on the report of Major Dyson, I.M.S., Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1898, from which the following are extracts:—

The report, which was due on the 1st of May, was received on July 6th. The delay is due to the fact that the Sanitary Commissioner necessarily had to devote almost all his time to the supervision of plague measures. The report was submitted for the first time through the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, who was appended to it a valuable note in which he reviews the salient points in the sanitary history of the year, and compares the conclusions drawn from the figures with those derived from the statistics of hospitals and dispensaries.

BIRTH-RATE.

The number of births registered in 1898 was 2,543,701 against 2,625,844 in the previous year; the ratio per mille of population being 35.79 as against 36.94 in 1897 and 35.61, the average of the previous five years. A particular interest attaches to the figures for the year under report, which illustrate the concluding chapter in the history of the recent famine. The decrease in the birth-rate was anticipated by the Sanitary Commissioner in his last report, and is now considered by him to be without doubt due to the low vitality of the people in the preceding year caused by the effects of famine and high prices. He points out that the number of births was everywhere considerably higher during the last five months of the year than during the earlier months, and that this was particularly noticeable in those parts of the province which were most severely affected by famine.

While, however, there can be no doubt that the famine did exercise a certain influence in this respect, its effects are nevertheless by no means so clearly marked as would naturally be expected, and the view of the Sanitary Commissioner must be accepted with modifications. If the famine were the sole cause of the reduction in the birth-rate, we should expect to find that there had been a corresponding reduction in the birth-rate of other provinces where famine prevailed, and that in Bengal the reduction was most distinctly marked in the districts most severely affected by the famine. This, however, is not the case. Both in the North-Western Provinces and in the Central Provinces the birth-rate shows an increase, the former having actually risen from 31.10 in 1897 to 37.35 in 1898; and in Bengal, of the fifteen districts which were classed as famine districts, six including Saran, Champaran and Muzaffarpur, show an appreciable increase over the previous year's birth-rate. In Saran and Champaran the birth-rate was in advance of the mean of the previous five years, while the birth-rate in the Patna Division as a whole, which last year was the lowest in the Province, now stands above those of Burdwan and Chota Nagpur, and is only fractionally lower than the average. Moreover, reference to the figures of previous years shows that the greater incidence of births in the later months of the year is by no means an abnormal state of things. It was pointed out by Government in 1894 that it was due to certain months being considered as lucky or unlucky for the celebration of marriages, and this view was accepted by the Sanitary Commissioner in his report for 1895. It would appear then that the fall in the birth-rate during the year under report is due, as the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals points out in his note, not solely to the effects of the famine, but in great part to other special causes which can only be fully ascertained by a careful study of the subject extending over a long term of years. Attention, however, must again be drawn to the fact which has on several previous occasions been pointed out, that considerably greater accuracy in registration must be attained before the vital statistics of the province can be considered as a basis on which definite and satisfactory conclusions can be founded.

Among individual districts, Murshidabad stands first with 43.59 followed by Tippera (43.40) and Noakhali (42.22). Malda shows a remarkable decline from 47.40 last year to 41.56 this year. Calcutta is, as usual, at the bottom of the list with 13.98; the departure of women from fear of plague having doubtless caused the large decrease, since last year. Of rural districts Shabhad stands lowest with 29.79. Among towns, Jangipur has been taken to the head of the list by a rise from 37.67 to 42.82, while Jamalpur in Monghyr is second with 44.05 as against 52.62 last year.

In only 12 rural areas was the recorded birth-rate up to the general estimate for the whole Province of 50 per mille, and of these there were three in each of the districts of Mymensingh and Murshidabad. The lowest birth-rate is as usual in Jhalakati. The Government of India having in their review of the report for 1897 repeated an opinion previously expressed that the extraordinarily low rate recorded was due not so much to any special cause as to defective registration, a careful enquiry was made by the Sanitary Commissioner and the District Magistrate, which disclosed the curious fact that out of a total population of 2,365 of whom 399 are females, only 49 of the latter are married women capable of bearing children. The birth-rate, however, has increased 2.11 to 8.45 since last year.

DEATH-RATE.

The number of deaths registered in 1898 was 1,888,468, giving a ratio of 26.57 per mille as against 2,341,632 and 32.94 in the previous year, and an average for the past 10 years of 2,044,902 and 28.77. The mortality from fever and cholera was particularly low, and the other principal diseases also show a decline. Climatic conditions and an abundant supply of food were no doubt the most important and obvious factors in bringing about this fortunate state of things.

In towns the death-rate; owing to the general absence of epidemics, fell to the remarkably low figure of 27.50, as against 35.09 last year, and an average for the last five years of 34.15.

No exceptionally high death-rate was recorded anywhere; the only towns which exceed the provincial estimate of 44 per mille being Garulia (52.84), Malda (49.54) and Serampur (44.72). Only 14 rural areas as against 60 last year show a death-rate in excess of 44 per mille. In Maskhal and Chikara the after-effects of the cyclone and storm-wave which devastated Chittagong in 1897, made themselves felt in the shape of a severe epidemic of cholera, and in Siliguri in Darjeeling the malarial fever of the Terai claimed even more victims than usual.

DEATH-RATE BY AGE AND SEX. The death-rate among males in 1898 was 28.75 as against 35.87 in 1897 and 30.87, the average of the preceding 10 years. Among

females it was 24.40 as compared with 30.03 and 26.68. The diagram appended to the report again shows that at every stage of life the mortality among males is reported to be slightly higher than that among females. So far as children are concerned, the Inspector-General points out that the experience of India does not differ from that observed in Europe. In his last report, Major Dyson expressed with some confidence the view that the explanation was to be found in the greater difficulty of rearing male children and the greater extent to which male adults are exposed to accidents and the hardships, and vicissitudes of an outdoor life in the fields. As regards children his previously expressed view holds good; but Major Dyson now admits the difficulty of maintaining the correctness of figures which show that the mortality among women of child-bearing age is less than that among males of the same age; and while partially admitting the soundness of the explanation that registration in the case of females is more defective than in the case of males, calls attention to the large number of widows of child-bearing age, who are exposed to neither the perils of child-birth nor to the hardships under one by the male sex. Until, however, the standard of correctness in registration is considerably higher than at present, it will be impossible to give a satisfactory explanation of this and other difficulties which present themselves in the examination of principal diseases.

The question of the influence of meteorological conditions on the prevalence of fever and cholera is a perennial subject of discussion. In the present year the mortality from fever has been lower than usual, and that from cholera the lowest ever recorded in the Province. The former of these facts Major Dyson can only ascribe to the general healthiness of the year; the latter he considers to be due to the almost normal rainfall of the year and the satisfactory agricultural outturn.

The following table shows the mortality from these two causes and the corresponding rainfall in 1898 and each of the five preceding years:—

Table with 4 columns: Year, Rainfall, Deaths from fever, Deaths from cholera. Data for 1893-1898.

A glance at these figures will show how difficult it is to establish an immediate connection between meteorological conditions and the prevalence of these two diseases. In 1894, when the rainfall was almost exactly the same as in the year under report, the mortality from each of them was the highest in the quinquennium, and the decrease in fever in 1897, which was noticed in last year's report as being due to the early cessation of the rains in the previous year, has occurred to a still greater extent in 1898, in spite of the abundant rainfall of 1897. It appears impossible to generalise on this subject with the means at our disposal; but much may be expected from Colonel Hendley's proposal to prepare medical histories of each district, which shall combine information as to the character and peculiarities of the country in each particular instance with observations on the varying local influence of meteorological conditions on the public health. The mortality from cholera was highest in Chittagong (792), while Puri, where the congregation of pilgrims usually gives rise to a high death-rate, of which an unfortunate instance has occurred during the current year, was comparatively free from it in 1898.

Of individual districts, the death-rate from fever was highest in Noakhali (35.16), Dinajpur (33.43) and Rajshahi (31.16), all of which show an increase on last year's figures. In each of these districts a high rate of fever mortality is constant, and the only special factor noted by the Civil Surgeons is in Rajshahi, where waves of unhealthiness of the nature of influenza passed over the district in March, August and October.

The mortality was lowest in Puri (5.53), Calcutta (8.89) and Ranchi (9.89). It was as usual much lower in urban than in rural areas.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST PLAGUE.

The four observation camps at Chausa, Chagradharpur, Mairwa and Khurda Road were in full working order throughout 1898. In the Chausa Camp 6,36,819 persons were inspected and 24,776 were detained. Among the latter there were 18 deaths only five of which were from plague. The expenditure incurred was Rs. 89,359. At Chakradharpur 57,624 persons were examined and 6,012 detained. There was not a single death in the camp. The cost amounted to Rs. 61,860. At Mairwa the number of persons inspected and detained was 1,77,501 and 4,757 respectively. There were four deaths during the year, none of them from plague. The cost was Rs. 68,520. At Khurda Road 110,083 persons were examined and 3,478 detained. One death from small-pox occurred in the camp. The expenditure was Rs. 5,063.

SANITARY BOARD.

The Board were unfortunately unable to hold more than one meeting during the year. They were, however, enabled by circulation of files to undertake the usual consultative work; the most important scheme, which came under their consideration being that for the supply of filtered water to the municipalities on the rightbank of the Hughli. Eight alternative projects were prepared by the Sanitary Engineer, the estimated cost varying from 24 to 33 lakhs. These have been separately submitted to Government. The possibility of providing a supply of drinking water for the Patna Municipality from wells sunk in the old bed of the river Sonah has now been fully proved and the work has been taken in hand.

An important experiment in sewage disposal was inaugurated during the past year by the Sanitary Engineer, who was placed on special duty in England for the purpose of enquiring into the subject.

His proposal to carry out experiments on the septic tank principle has been sanctioned by Government, and is now being carried out. The Lieutenant-Governor will await the results with much interest. The suggestions made last year by the Board with a view to causing experiments to be made locally on the system of filtration through cinders of sullage water and waste liquids have been circulated to all municipalities. From the reports received it appears that little or no attention has been paid to the subject by municipalities, and that no results of any importance have been achieved. It was probable that the sug-

gestions of the Board were found to involve more intrusion on the privacy of houses than municipal authorities were willing to undertake, or individuals to submit to.

The Lieutenant-Governor desires to thank Major Dyson for the care who has bestowed on sanitary administration generally and in particular for the untiring energy and attention to detail which he has displayed in all matters relating to the protection of the Province against plague.

THE RAILWAY CONFERENCE.

VICEROY'S SPEECH.

THE Viceroy, presiding at the Railway Conference on Tuesday made the following speech:—"In holding and presiding over this Conference, I am following the practice instituted by my predecessor, Lord Elgin, who devoted himself with so much business-like energy and such beneficial results to the development of railways in India during his term of office. Under the practice established by him this Conference meets yearly at Simla. Every third year the programme of expenditure and construction is drawn up in the Public Works Department by which Government is more or less bound for the triennial period; and in intervening years the classification of prospective lines as originally adopted according to their degree of urgency are examined and revised by the Conference as a guide to the Department in the light of later experience or pressing need.

There are substantial advantages in this procedure. On the one hand the comparison of the various proposals submitted to Government is conducted by the Imperial Committee who make an honest endeavour to advise upon their selection, postponement, or rejection on the other hand, a programme is drawn up for Government by which its proceedings are regulated, and which prevents the policy of drift or caprice. In other words we are gainers, firstly, by the possession of system, secondly, by the reasonable prospect of some continuity in that system.

Nevertheless I cannot say that I regard our proceedings as perfect, or as realising the maximum possible advantage, nor am I clear that this Conference either in its character or in its results corresponds with the intentions of those who originally suggested it. Their idea, I believe, was in some way to give a guarantee to the promoters and to public opinion of a fair consideration of various schemes submitted to the Government of India, and, while not depriving the latter of its position as the final arbiter, of strengthening its decisions by the confidence attaching to an examination, whose proceedings, or whose results should have the additional merit of publicity. Whatever the benefits of that scheme have been fully attained. Indeed, I am somewhat doubtful whether it can legitimately be entitled to be called a Conference—a high sounding title, which conveys the impression of a meeting and a discussion between the principal parties concerned, who are in this case Government on one side, and the companies or promoters on the other. But a Conference, in which one of the two parties is not represented save by manuscript statements or applications seems to me to have an imperfect claim to the title and should prefer to call our body what it is namely a Departmental Committee of Officials of Government constituted to supplement the work of the Public Works Department to apply to it the test of a wider examination in which general considerations of policy shall play a part, and to recommend to the Government a systematic, and so far as possible, a scientific programme. I have resumed the Conference this year in order that I may have a personal experience of the advantages or faults of the system before passing a final judgment upon it, and because I propose when our sittings are concluded, to take the public into our confidence to a greater degree than has previously been the case. I propose to recommend to the Government that the conclusions at which we arrive with reference to various lines shall be formulated in an easily intelligible shape, and be published.

In this way the promoters will learn how their schemes stand in the estimation of the Government instead of having to be content, as now with the official intimation of success or private inference of failure, while the public will gain an idea both of the magnitude of the complexity of the problem which we called upon to discuss and of the general principles upon which we attempt to decide it. There remains to be considered the question whether it is possible to invest the proceedings of this so called Conference with any of those features in which I have described it as lacking. Upon this point I have had the benefit of the opinion and advice of my present Public Works colleague, Colonel Gardiner, who speaks with the double advantage both of official and commercial experience of the railways in India. There are many difficulties in the way. We cannot suddenly constitute a body resembling the Parliamentary committee at home. We have far more numerous and more complex. The Government of India is much more intimately concerned than is the Government of Great Britain. Above all India is a much bigger country than England, and Simla is not like London, an easily accessible centre to all parts of the kingdom.

It has occurred to us, however, that there may be cases in which local interests are acutely involved, and in which local feeling is likely to be more fairly represented if heard upon the spot than by any official or semi-official representations either at Simla or Calcutta. It is, therefore, in my mind to constitute, should the case arise, a small peripatetic commission in which Government should of course exercise predominant influence, the Public Works Member, in all probability, taking the chair, and which should in the touring season visit and conduct public enquiry in any locality where such problem called for decision, the local Government or the local Commercial bodies being represented upon the Commission so as to lend both impartiality and weight to its decisions which should then be communicated in form of recommendations to the Government of India. If we carry out this idea, the experiment will be a tentative one. If it is a failure, it can be dropped; should it turn out a success, I conceive it as not impossible that a body so formed will become the germ of a more permanent Commission, which should place the Government in constant touch with the currents of the public opinion, and which

should also satisfy the promoters as to the bona fides and thoroughness of the investigation to which their claims are submitted. As regards the official programme prepared by the Public Works Department, there seems to me a disadvantage so long as the triennial system is maintained in not always keeping up that programme three years in advance. As matters now stand, it is drawn up every third year. The first of these programmes was based upon the first Conference which was drawn up in 1896, when an expenditure of 29½ crores was fixed for three succeeding years. As is known this total was for various reasons not worked up to, and only 25 crores were spent last year. When the second triennial programme was drawn up, less ambitious ideas prevailed, and an expenditure of 20½ crores subsequently increased to 22½ crores on account of lapses in expenditure on the grant for 1898-9 was estimated for during the year 1899-1900, 1900-1901, and 1901-1902. Meanwhile in the intervening years, the construction of the programme is annually examined and recast, in the second year for the two remaining years, of the triennial period in the third year, but it appears to me that we should do well to be always three years ahead with the financial working of the programme, and therefore I propose to recommend to the Government that Mr. Upcott should not limit himself to the remaining years, the present term, but should include in the forecast the year 1902-3, and follow the same practice in the succeeding years.

Concerning the general policy of the Government towards railways, it seems that just as the currency problem, which has agitated and perplexed the public mind for twenty years, has in part been solved by the steady compulsion of events, so also the same irresistible pressure is directing our railway policy into more or less permanent grooves. It is easy to denounce the diversity or inconsistency of plans that has prevailed in the past. It is easy either to laugh or to cry over the heroic battle of the Ganges. To me it seems more profitable to assist in the adaptation of our policy to the lines which seem to be marked out before it, both by past experience and common sense. The national inclination is in my judgment in the direction not of expanding, but gradually restricting Government agency, which I must not be understood to deprecate in all cases of State management, or State construction; on the contrary, I see great advantages both political and financial in the maintenance of Government staff; still less would I impugn the advantage of State ownership or the necessity of State control. I am myself a believer in the desirability of purchasing a few outstanding lines as they continue to fall in, while State supervision is of the essence of State possession. Probably we shall, as things improve, and as better offers are made us gradually divest ourselves of the working of the majority at any rate of those lines still both owned and maintained by Government. The terms under which we may be prepared to part with them appear to me to be a matter of financial expediency rather than of fixed principle. Our object should be to make the best bargain for the State. For my own part I do not think there is anything surprising in the fluctuations that have hitherto occurred in our policy. When Lord Dalhousie first introduced railways into India, Government was unequal to the venture, and capital was required to be attracted by easy, even generous terms. Later on when Government found it had been financially a heavy loser by the arrangement so made there was a sharp reaction, and the railway policy of Lord Lawrence and Mayo was based upon strict governmental and centralising lines. We, who have now had long experience of both systems, can discriminate between their virtues and vices, and adopt a reasonable compromise. If there is a contraction of the area claimed by Government and an increasing expansion of facilities afforded to Companies, it is because we do not want to overweight the shoulders of Government with a burden they are unfitted to bear, because we want to reinforce our own power and resources with the assistance of capital both British and Native, and I wish that there were more of the latter forthcoming as well as of the former, and because the spirit of healthy competition so engendered, seems to be the best guarantee for the promotion of the public interest.

THE CURRENCY REPORT.

DESPATCH FROM SECRETARY OF STATE.

THE following is the main portion of a despatch, dated 25th July, from the Secretary of State to the Viceroy:—"In their letter of the 24th of March, 1898, forwarding letters from important bodies in Bombay on the currency situation, the Government of your predecessor stated they had finally decided not to revert to a silver standard. In this decision the Committee express their concurrence, and they go on to indicate their conclusion that steps should be taken to avoid all possibility of doubt as to this determination and to proceed with measures for the effective establishment of a gold standard. With this view they recommend the British sovereign be made legal tender and current coin in India, and that the Indian Mints be thrown open to the unrestricted coinage of gold. But while making this recommendation the Committee think it undesirable that any limit should be imposed on the amount for which rupees should be legal tender, nor do they consider you should undertake any obligation to pay gold in exchange for rupees. Your Excellency will, therefore, observe that the Committee are in agreement with the Government of your predecessor as regards the main lines of the policy to be adopted while differing from them as to the means by which the objects in view should be attained. While concurring in the opinion that Government Mints should remain closed to the unrestricted coinage of silver, and that a gold standard should be adopted without delay, the Committee do not recommend the practical steps proposed for the attainment of this object by the Government of your predecessor, whose recommendations, in the opinion of the Committee, might probably have been modified if they could have foreseen the course of events during the past year and would seem to have been based to an undue extent on a belief in the immediate effect of the contraction of the currency in raising exchange. With regard to the rate at which, if the abovementioned recommendations are accepted, the rupee should be

valued in sterling, the Committee are not unanimous, inasmuch as two members are in favour of the rate of 15 pence. Eight, including the Chairman, advise the definite adoption of a rate of 16 pence, which, with unimportant variations, may be said to have been the rate in force during the last eighteen months, and one, while agreeing with the principles of the report, would prefer to take no immediate action for fixing the ratio. Her Majesty's Government have given to this report the careful consideration which its great importance deserved. They are impressed by the array of argument and facts embodied in it, and they have come to the conclusion that it is advisable to accept generally and act upon the principles which it recommends.

I have, therefore, decided in Council that the policy of keeping the Indian Mints closed to the unrestricted coinage of silver shall be maintained and request your will, as soon as you may deem it expedient take the necessary steps for making the British sovereign legal tender and current coin, and that you will make preparations for the coinage of gold under conditions suggested by the Committee. As regards the permanent ratio which the rupee should bear to the sovereign, after carefully weighing the arguments of those who are in favour of a lower rate than that which now obtains, I have no hesitation in accepting the view of the majority who recommended an exchange rate of 16 pence per rupee or 15 rupees to the sovereign, and in this opinion I am confident your Excellency's Government, especially after the experience of the last eighteen months, will be disposed to concur. I am also in accord with the Committee as to the general principles by which your Government should be guided in the management of your gold reserve in the absence of a legal obligation to give gold in exchange for rupees, namely, that you should make it freely available for foreign remittances whenever exchange falls below specie point, under such conditions as the circumstance of the time or day render desirable. I desire particularly to commend to your attention the important recommendation with regard to the improvements and concentration of banking facilities contained in a separate report of Mr. Hambro. The strong opinion against sterling borrowing for currency purposes which is expressed in the separate report of Mr. Campbell, Mr. Holland and Sir John Muir, and which is the some extent supported by the unanimous recommendation of the Committee in favour of the restriction of the growth of your Government's gold obligations, will no doubt have your careful consideration. I shall be glad to receive any observations and suggestions your Excellency's Government may desire to make for the furtherance of the policy which has been adopted.

JAPANESE FREAK TREES.

At an exhibition of Japanese art, now being held in London, there may be seen some of the most remarkable trees in the world as regards size. Although perfect in every way with trunk and branches of orthodox proportions and leaves of correct shape and colour, many of the specimens are not more than a foot in height.

By what means the Japanese gardeners managed to stunt the growth of the trees in this way is not known, for English nurserymen have not succeeded in discovering the secret which the wily little Orientals guard so safely. The miniature trees on exhibition now are not the first to be seen in this country, as there have been occasional small consignments of oaks and maples of this kind, which have been bought up eagerly.

Some of them were as small as from four to six inches, but grew slightly afterwards. They have all the appearance of old trees and do not look as if they had been forced or cut in any way. The rage for the tiny is characteristic of the people of chrysanthemum land. In every branch of art the more microscopic the work of the artist the more it is appreciated. There is now of art the nature in these filiputian trees now in London. One wonders but hardly admires.

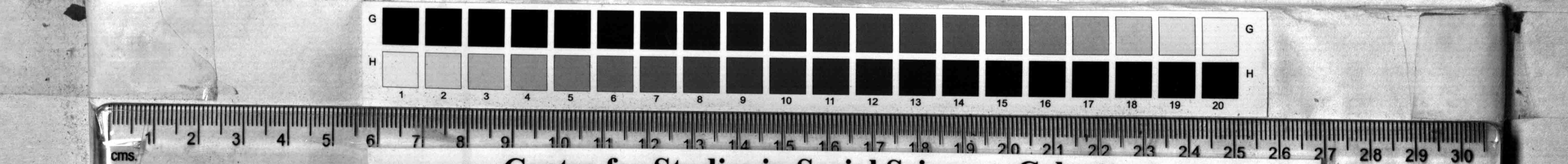
Another Japanese trick with plants is to elongate the roots, and then twist them into fantastic shapes or designs, so that they show above the ground, only the ends being buried in the soil.

How the plants manage to survive the ordeal is a mystery, but they do so, and appear to thrive well. Such distortions are, of course, of no service to horticulture, but they help to gratify the never-to-be-assuaged thirst which some people have for novelty.

MR. GATHERER, Superintending Engineer, Burma, is appointed to officiate as Chief Engineer and Secretary to that Government in the Public Works Department from the 31st of July, vice Mr. Richard, on privilege leave.

THE Portuguese Government has passed the following resolution owing to a large number of passengers entering Goa by rail, from plague-infected districts in British India: (1) Second and third-class passengers coming by rail from places infected by plague are liable to be detained at Collem by the Sanitary Inspector for the time necessary for indispensable disinfection. (2) The Government will supply a contractor to provide passengers with food at fixed rates. The contractor to be under the medical officer in charge of the quarantine house, who will personally examine provisions supplied. Passengers arriving by the mail train at 5 P. M. will probably be able to leave Collem by the local mixed at 7 A. M. the following morning.

A CURIOUS case of attempted poisoning by post is being investigated by the Burma Police. About a fortnight ago Mr. Pearl, an employe of the Public Works Department, Shwebo, received a postal package from Rangoon containing a bottle of beer. He opened it, and being apparently suspicious showed it to his native servant who took a tea spoonful and shortly afterwards became desperately ill. The contents of the bottle on being examined showed that the beer was charged as full as possible with arsenic. About the same date Mr. Green of the Telegraph Department, Bhamo, received from Rangoon by post a packet of cocoa. When he opened it he saw arsenic, and handed the packet to the police. The packet has now been analysed, and shows enough arsenic in one spoonful to kill a few dozen men. The police are sanguine of tracing the sender.



THE PYTHON AND THE LEOPARD.

AN EXCITING ADVENTURE.

It was after the strain and hard work of the indigo manufacturing season, and three other planters and I were out on a well-earned shooting holiday. We lived in big comfortable house-boats and went from one place to another according as we got news of sport from the people of the different villages we touched at. The whole surrounding country for miles was inundated and sometimes we were able to leave the river or nullah we were in and sail or row straight across country where but a few days before lovely crops had been seen. We were very lucky, and had already accounted for six leopards together with a large variety of other game such as peafowl, partridge and hare, in addition to bagging a large live python, the securing of which was both amusing and exciting. "A" and I were both "sporting young bloods," and we, without giving the danger of the thing a moment's consideration, took upon ourselves the ambitious task of capturing the prize. We were making our way on elephants with all our paraphernalia for a day's shoot to a piece of jungle where a big leopard was reported to be, when the coolie beaters who were following behind observed a python lying coiled up on the ground in the middle of the bush, and immediately rushed to inform us. It was indeed worth delaying half-an-hour over, so we returned, and dismounting, commenced operation. We tried all sorts of methods with little or no result beyond that of making the creature infuriated, but finally I snatched a spear stick from a beater and fighting a small piece of stick in the rope hole at the end of it, to form a sort of rake, applied it to the python and succeeded by dint of a series of vigorous pools in very nearly hauling him out of the bush; but he writhed and wriggled and regained his former position. By this time it had evidently begun to think that the safest thing to do was to climb up to the top of the bush and sit itself round a branch. As it did so the brilliant (?) idea occurred to me that it had given us the very opportunity we desired, so while watching its head that it should not strike us, "A" and I, seized it by the tail and pulled with all our might, alas! with the result only of stretching it a bit, for we could not loosen its grip of the branch; so we abandoned that method, for which we were not sorry, as the smell on our hands was far from pleasant; after this, we poked him about the head and body, he striking at our sticks so hard that I thought he must surely break his jaw until he finally descended, when by a careful application of the spear stick above described, applied to the middle of the body, we succeeded in hauling him out into the open.

Then began the fun. The beaters who had up till this moment shown such intrepid daring took to their heels and fled, shouting to all their multifarious gods to behold the monster! He certainly did look a rather terrifying object now, and was prepared to fight for his life, but without losing a moment I dropped the spear stick over his head and calling to "A" to stand on one end, I stood on the other and so held him down. He was helpless now, but though helpless not bagged. In vain we looked around and puzzled our brains as to what to do. At last one of the party, an old Indian sportsman, thought of an idea, and seizing a big drum from a beater sit the parchment at one end and placing it at the python's head, at a sign from him, we released the pressure on its head and it glided in most naturally without the slightest coercion and coiled itself up most comfortably inside; and then we bound up the slit end of the drum with a piece of cloth, placed the whole thing complete on a beater's head, and bundled him off to the boats. Eventually our python was sold, and is now an inmate of the Calcutta Zoological Gardens.

We certainly were most exceptionally fortunate in our sport, for all but one leopard we bagged showed splendid fight and died most pluckily, but one—shall I ever forget it?—superseded all the rest in the ferocity of its attack. We were playing a friendly game of Nap one afternoon and outside everything looked dismal and the rain was beating down in torrents on the roof of the boat, when the peon on duty interrupted us by saying that a man had come to give news of a leopard. "Nap" was instantly forgotten and we all looked up, to see a poor shivering, soaking mortal standing in a crouching and miserable attitude at the door way. He told us in breathless accents that a little boy of his village, who was grazing the villagers' cattle in a little high patch of ground, had been mauled by a leopard very badly and was not expected to live. His words were too true, for sad to relate the poor little fellow died three days afterwards. Our "Nap" this time was entirely forgotten, and we one and all began to discuss the situation and to arrange plans. "But the elephant have not come up," said one. "Never mind" said another, "let us hunt the brute on foot." The adventurous nature of this suggestion was appreciated by all. We ordered the boats to be got ready and each taking his gun and ammunition set off in pursuit of the leopard, taking the old man who had brought us the news as a guide. On arriving at our destination, we formed line and began to hunt. Though we beat very carefully, apparently leaving no spot untouched, I myself walking through the heaviest piece of cane jungle in the place, the only thing we put up was partridges, and of those there was a goodly number, but we had all agreed not to shoot at partridges, for fear of disturbing the leopard. We had beaten from one end of the jungle to the other, about two hundred yards, length by seventy or eighty wide, and then we gathered together to decide what to do further. It was getting towards evening, and a nasty drizzling rain was falling and we were wet through, so that our spirits were not very buoyant, when some one suggested giving up the hunt for the day and returning to the boat; but another suggested, "No, we are here now, and we have only beaten the jungle once. Let's have another try, and we can at least shoot a few partridges for the pot." All agreeing to this, we again formed line and renewed the search. A few partridges had already fallen to our guns when we reached the heaviest piece of cane-brake in the middle. Here we halted, and again forming line more perfectly, proceeded on our beat. A hare got up, and one of the party missed it with his first barrel knocked it over with his second.

Before he had time to re-load, there was a roar and the poor beater who was stooping to pick up the hare was pounced upon, seized by the leopard and mauled most horribly. The brute literally "spared" with him, stand-

ing upon his hind legs and biting and scratching him, and the member of the party who had shot the hare was standing within three-feet of the leopard and both the barrels of his gun were empty. I had taken up my position at the end of the line and had advanced a few paces to the front of the bush and was waiting to "pot" any partridge that might fly out from the bush in front; the other members of the party, not being able to do so on account of the bush being so high. At the moment of this exciting event a partridge had run out, disturbed by the leopard in the bush, but seeing me, returned, when I heard the roar and rushed back to find the line broken up half the beaters running for their lives, and the beater who was mauled forsaken by all but our little party. He was horribly mauled and bleeding profusely from head to foot and nearly frightened to death, moaning "Bap-re-i! Bap-re-i!" and standing only two or three yards from the spot where he had been mauled, the picture of most abject misery. Nothing we could say could comfort him, so we had his wounds well-cleaned and packed him off to the boats. The leopard having vented his anger on some one returned to his hiding place. Now commenced a most vigorous plan of campaign. One of the party taking all the beaters with him went on one side of the bush, and the other three took up their positions on trees on the other side of the bush. Shots were fired in quick succession and clods of earth were thrown into the bush, to make the brute break on our side, but he was too careful, and would not expose himself; so eventually we got down from the trees and joined the party on the other side, when the volley of shots and clods of earth was renewed, this time with effect, for I saw a branch move as if violently shaken beneath, and, calling to the others to follow, went in the direction I thought the leopard had taken. Yes, sure enough, there were fresh "pug" marks, so now we were in his track. I was just a little ahead of the rest of the party and at every fresh mark I discovered was saying "Here's one!" There's another," and so on, when I heard the same terrifying roar, and I felt instinctively the leopard was charging, but where from? I could no more say than the man in the moon. The sound enveloped me, and for all I know he might be coming in front, at back, or from either side; but my presence of mind did not forsake me, and I stood facing front with my gun at the "present." Then I saw the monster emerge from a small bush about four yards in front. It was only for the briefest moment imaginable that I saw him, and I fired. Whether my bullet struck him or not I could not say, but I distinctly remember the horror of the monster's angry head and gleaming eyes in close proximity to my face when he sprang and the next moment I was lying sprawling on the ground. If ever I felt real terror, it was then, for I fully believed that, having knocked me down, he would proceed to maul me; but the brute, either from generosity of nature, or consideration for his skin, did not wait, but bolted back to his first hiding place, narrowly escaping being hit by one of the other members of the party. We then gave up the search for the day, leaving him pro tem in command of the situation. Next morning, the elephants having come up we again hunted him, and after an hour's most exciting sport, in which he attacked the elephants over and over again in most splendid fashion, not giving us a fair chance of hitting him, for fear of shooting the elephants, he at last fell, and even when badly wounded fought most bravely and died a grand death. My wounds were slight, but would have been far worse, but for my hat and gun, the latter of which bears the mark of the leopard's claws which, even if I wanted them out, would be very difficult to erase.—"C. M. G." in the Englishman.

THE NEW ERA IN JAPAN.

TOKIO, JUNE 9.

ON July 17 the foreign communities in Japan pass under Japanese jurisdiction. The negotiations preliminary to this result may be said to have extended over a quarter of a century. When Japan concluded her first treaties with foreign States in 1857, she was generally regarded as a pagan country, not qualified for the duty of protecting Christian life and property. Stipulations were, therefore, inserted reserving to Western Powers the right of jurisdiction over their own nationals within her borders. It is probably true that at the time of signing these agreements Japan did not appreciate the full significance of such a surrender of autonomy. Certainly her negotiators did not understand the exact nature of the commercial concessions to which they pledged themselves. But, on the whole, their want of knowledge injured in each case to the benefit of their country for had Japan been entrusted with entire charge of the persons and possessions of foreigners visiting her realm, the radical defects of her laws and the crude condition of her judiciary must have involved her in the gravest troubles, and might even have imperilled her independence; and had she been free to apply her antiquated theory of official monopolies to foreign trade, that important source of national prosperity could never have attained anything like its present dimensions. In truth, by consulting their own interests Western Governments consulted Japan's interests also. They guaranteed her against complications invariably disastrous to an Oriental Power, and they compelled her to allow her commerce to grow in an atmosphere of healthy freedom. Nor is that the whole story. There is an important addendum—namely, that this public proclamation of Japan's disability to be admitted to the comity of civilized States constituted an incentive to which a great part of her modern progress is attributable. For when she discovered the full import of the discrimination exercised against her, instead of girding fruitlessly against it, she set herself to remove its causes by revising her laws and reforming her judiciary. We have no right to assume that her progressive instincts would not have impelled her to take these steps in any circumstances; but, after close scrutiny of her doings during the past 30 years, we have a right to say that had not the spur of her impaired sovereignty been constantly forced into her side, her rate of advance would have been much slower. If the task she has actually accomplished had been clearly defined when she first undertook it; if she had been told that, never having possessed any but statutory laws of a fragmentary, harsh, and arbitrary character, she must proceed at once to compile codes of criminal and civil laws in conformity with the most enlightened principles of Western jurisprudence, and must apply these new laws to a nation hitherto governed in ac-

cordance with the method of military feudalism; and if she had been told that she must forthwith organize a corps of trained Judges, public procurators, and barristers to take the place of the untrained officials who had hitherto administered her so-called laws, it is possible that she might have shrunk from the attempt and certain that she would have approached it with much deliberation, had she not been impelled by a perpetual desire to reassert her national dignity. Thus, when we come to cast up the final account, we find that if Japan has been subjected to somewhat harsh discipline, the advantages that accrue to her more than outweigh the pains she has suffered.

The successive stages and processes of this long period of probation have now passed into the pages of history and need not be detailed in newspaper columns. But there is one aspect of the story which deserves notice. It is the change that Japan herself has undergone as illustrated by the various phases of the negotiations. The easiest way to arrive at a clear idea of that change is to compare the conditions of treaty revision proposed by the Japanese Government on the different occasions of approaching the problem. We may begin with the Conference of 1882, for, though treaty revision had been upon the tapis since 1871, the first really practical scheme was formulated by the Tokio Foreign Office in 1882. The outlines of the scheme were broad and liberal. The whole country was to be opened freely to foreign trade, travel, and residence, foreigners being at liberty to "carry on trade and exercise any other calling, and to acquire real and personal property," on the same footing as Japanese subjects provided that they passed under Japanese jurisdiction. But this complete opening of the country was not to take place at once. There was to be a transition period of five years, during which free travel—without residence—for purposes of trade would be permitted, and the Japanese authorities would be invested with only such a measure of jurisdiction as might be essential for the preservation of law and order. After the expiration of the period of probation Japan was to recover complete judicial autonomy and the country was to be fully thrown open as above stated, but various conditions were offered—namely, that the entire body of new Japanese laws should be in operation and authentically translated into at least one foreign language; that the system of judicature should be organized and modelled on that of France, Italy, and Belgium; that competent and responsible foreign legal experts should be engaged as Judges in number sufficient to guarantee their impartiality in every case where a foreigner appeared as defendant; that in the event of the jury system being adopted by Japan, every jury empanelled to try foreigners should be composed in part of aliens; that exceptional treatment should be accorded to foreign prisoners; that, in matters relating to personal status, foreigners should have their cases decided by their own authorities in accordance with their own laws; and that, as holders of real property, they should have a voice in the management of the local municipal affairs of their former settlements. This project came from the Japanese themselves. It presented certain features obviously difficult to carry into practice, but as to the liberal spirit animating it, and the willingness of the Japanese Government to offer every possible guarantee, there could be no doubt. For five years the scheme remained under discussion, and was at length embodied in a treaty which the foreign plenipotentiaries signified their readiness to endorse. But there the negotiations were suddenly broken off by Japan, and the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Inouye, resigned. A year later the subject was again approached. The Japanese proposals were now found to have been modified in certain respects, the most important changes being that the transition period was omitted, and that the employment of foreign legal experts was to be limited to the Supreme Court, whither appeals could not be carried except on questions of law. Nevertheless, on this altered basis a new treaty was drafted. It obtained the approval of three of the Great Powers, when suddenly Japan again drew back, and again the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Count Okuma, retired, having been mutilated and nearly killed by an assassin's bomb. Then ensued another interval of waiting, after which a new set of proposals was put forward. These too, had undergone material modifications. The idea of employing foreign legal experts to sit on the Japanese Bench was completely abandoned, the privilege of owning real estate was withheld from foreigners, and the sole guarantee offered was that the whole of the Japanese codes should have been promulgated and put into operation at least a year prior to the operation of the new treaties, which event was not to take place until five years after their ratification. On this last basis an agreement was concluded, and is now on the eve of going into force.

The above outlines seem to show that the responsibility of breaking off the negotiations rested with Japan herself on two occasions, first in 1887, and secondly in 1890, and further that, in each instance, she receded from positions which her own negotiators had voluntarily occupied at the outset. But before referring to her action entirely to caprice or vacillation, it is just to note that in 1882 underwent such complicated modifications, and became so loaded with intricate details before it emerged from the hands of the foreign negotiators five years later, that all hope of carrying it successfully into practice had disappeared. The principal European plenipotentiaries themselves acknowledged that their final scheme reflected the many coloured interests of the 17 Powers engaged in elaborating it, and that, as a working programme, they were themselves heartily ashamed of it. Japan's rejection of this extravagantly modelled figure was not wonderful, though she herself had supplied the skeleton. In fact, the long conference and its almost grotesque sequel served chiefly to demonstrate the impossibility of negotiating under such conditions; that is to say, negotiating with the idea of marshalling into line 17 plenipotentiaries, each of whom not only had special interests to safeguard, but also brought to the assertion of those interests a degree of resolution inversely proportional to their magnitude. The experience showed that, if an agreement was to be arrived at, the foreign Powers must abandon the system of joint action hitherto adopted by them in dealing with Japan. It had been an excellent system in its time, for in the face of the overwhelming strength of united Europe and

America, Japan had submissively swallowed many doses of wholesome medicine which she would probably have rejected had there been any room for choice. But, however useful this union of Powers might have been for purposes of concern by which all the allies profited equally, it was worse than useless for purposes of concession involving unequal sacrifices on their part. Hence, on resuming the negotiation, the Powers were not unwilling to be approached separately, and, as has been already stated, three of them—the United States, Germany, and Russia—concluded an agreement on the new lines. But England hesitated, and her hesitation proved fatal. No arrangement could have any practical value without her co-operation, and when the Japanese people that found that her consent was likely to be withheld from an arrangement to which their country had already pledged itself vis-a-vis three of the great Powers they fell into a state of perturbation which, combined with the irksome character of some of the conditions, sufficed to wreck the whole scheme. England received a good deal of blame at the time, but it was soon seen that she had been justified in hesitating, since one of the most important guarantees originally offered by Japan—namely, the employment of foreign legal experts in the capacity of Judges, had now been whittled down to dimensions illusory in practice.

These details explain Japan's proximate reasons for twice abandoning the negotiations at the eleventh hour, but they do not explain why she gradually reduced her price for treaty revision; why, having commenced by offering a bench of foreign experts, a judiciary organized on European lines, special prison treatment, ownership of real estate, and laws translated into at least one foreign language, she ended by dropping all these concessions and limiting herself to the bare guarantee that her new codes should be in operation before she assumed jurisdiction over foreigners. The reason is that during the 12 years covered by the negotiations a new factor of constantly growing strength had been admitted to the Conference—the factor of Japanese public opinion. In 1882 Japanese statesmen had a free hand. There was no Parliament. The Press dared not venture to be outspoken. To whatever the Government did the people had to bow. But every year that passed brought the nation nearer to the opening of the Diet. Political parties rapidly grew to formidable dimensions; the Press became too powerful to be muzzled; and the Administration began to recognize the necessity of deferring to popular judgment. On the other hand, the people had come to harbour considerable resentment against the foreigner. They did not want to drive him out of the country; still less did they desire to return to their old seclusion. But they did want to "get even" with him. They were exasperated by his masterful ways; they felt bitterly aggrieved by his persistent indifference to their national claims; they had grown keenly impatient of his contemptuous discrimination against them; they had learned to believe that conciliation could never soften his obduracy, and they thought that to escape from the humiliation of the old treaties by making concessions which must again proclaim their country's inferiority would be an unsatisfactory exit from a galling situation. No Cabinet could afford to ignore a sentiment so widespread, and it was thus that the guarantees obtainable by Western States gradually came to be reduced to a vanishing quantity. Of course, that trend of events was not obscure to all observers. A few students of the time clearly indicated the direction that things were taking, and urged that an agreement should be concluded while it was still possible to obtain terms satisfactory to foreigners. But the vast majority of the foreign residents declined to give heed to such advice. Their inveterate and very natural objection to pass under the jurisdiction of an Oriental State took precedence of every other sentiment, and Japan had obtained official recognition of her rights while they were still assuring themselves that her probation must continue for another decade at least. Hence it is not surprising that a measure of uneasiness should be felt now, and that some should resent the apparent indifference shown to objections, while others ask whether the administration of unfamiliar laws by inexperienced judges is a safe experiment. On the whole, however, the temper of the foreign residents is excellent, and that nothing of good intention or liberal interpretation will be wanting on the side of Japanese officials may be taken for granted. Friction and complications cannot, of course, be entirely avoided, but they are not at all likely to be serious. It used to be a common saying among the foreign residents that appeals to Japanese Law Courts were useless. But the complaint was based on the old time procedure of the Courts, not on the competence or disposition of the Judges. Before the new Code of Civil Procedure went into operation in 1891 no machinery existed for preventing the alienation of a debtor's property during the interval between the delivery of a judgment by a lower tribunal and its confirmation by a higher. Thus suitors often found that when their claims had been legally recognized there was nothing to satisfy them. Statistics show that in the great majority of cases foreign appeals to Japanese Civil Courts succeeded, but the tangible results were frequently nil. There is no longer any room for such abuses, however, and there never has been any just ground for questioning the impartiality of Japanese Judges. If to these considerations we add the fact that a system of arbitration has been elaborated which ought to obviate nearly all necessity for litigation between foreigners and natives, the outlook ceases to be disquieting.

As to the question whether the complete opening of the country is likely to effect any large increase of the field for foreign enterprise, it is not easy to speak with confidence. The opponents of treaty revision, have always answered in the negative. Yet it seems unreasonable to suppose that, in a country where the banks can afford to pay 6 or 7 per cent on current accounts and where manufacturing industry is on the threshold of a great career, no opportunities present themselves for the profitable employment of foreign capital and foreign experience. The Japanese are obviously unable to fully develop the resources of their islands without aid from abroad—aid in the shape, not only of money, but also of expert knowledge. It is true that they are gradually working their way into the country's foreign commerce. In 1887, out of a total trade of 95 million yen, the share taken by native merchant was only 11½ millions; in 1897, out of a total trade of 482½

millions, their share was 124 millions. It is also true that, in spite of the rapid development of the country's over-sea commerce, the number of foreigners engaged in carrying it on, does not increase appreciably. Thus, whereas the value of the trade swelled from 142½ million yen in 1891 to 442½ millions in 1898, the four nationalities chiefly engaged in conducting it—namely, the British, the American, the German, and the French—aggregated 3,596 in the former year and 3,804 in the latter. In other words, while the trade nearly trebled, the number of foreigners engaged in it increased by only 6 per cent. The apparent inference is that whereas, on the one hand, Japanese are learning to do by themselves the work formerly done for them by foreigners, the foreigners on the other, are not reaping profits proportionate to the increasing volume of their business. The appearance of the settlements suggests a similar conclusion for it is in the native quarters, not the foreign, that signs of expansion and prosperity are chiefly discernible. Probably foreigners will find their best opportunity in combining with Japanese for industrial purposes. Such combinations have hitherto been forbidden by law, but the veto, in common with many other irksome restrictions, will now cease to have effect.—The Mail.

MR. F. ATKINSON, of the Finance Department, has arrived in Simla far a few weeks on inspection work.

A CHEETAH is committing widespread destruction among the flocks and herds of the people around Buddapore, a few miles out of Delhi. The villagers promise every assistance to any shikari who will venture to account for the brute.

THE Simla Masonic week, Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood, commences on the 11th of September and lasts till the 16th. The Masonic ball will be given on the 12th, and a concert on the 14th, the Viceroy probably attending both.

MR. STOVIER has been appointed by the Secretary of State as mining specialist to the Geological Department for five years. He is now assisting the Instructor at the Royal School of Mines, and for many years has been a member of the Prospecting Board of Mines Department, New South Wales.

SOMETHING IS AFTER YOU.

FAR away, in the jungle of Central India, a village lies asleep. Only a solitary human figure can be seen, following the winding jungle path in the moonlight. It is early night, and the native who comes has been delayed on his way home.

But what is that dark shadow that crosses the path behind him? Quite oblivious, the man marches on. He looks neither to right nor left, nor behind him, where crouches that dark shadow. A few yards more and he will be out of the jungle. A few minutes more and he thinks he will be sleeping in the bosom of his family. But see, the shadow moves! With two noiseless bounds like a giant cat the tigress is upon him. One despairing scream and all is quiet. Bitten through the head, the victim is snatched up and carried by the grim man-eater to her lair in the hills. Meanwhile the village slumbers peacefully on.

Was it the man's fault? Yes, I think, it was. Had he not lingered, he would not have been caught. The tigress would not have attacked him in broad daylight. But he was no-wise, I think, than those in this country who are to-day doing the very same thing. Thousands and thousands of English men and women have a shadow in their path. It is after them. The time will come, if they do not take heed, when they will feel, like Mrs. Lydia Golding, "as if something had over-taken" them. Here is a letter from her in which she tells her experience:—

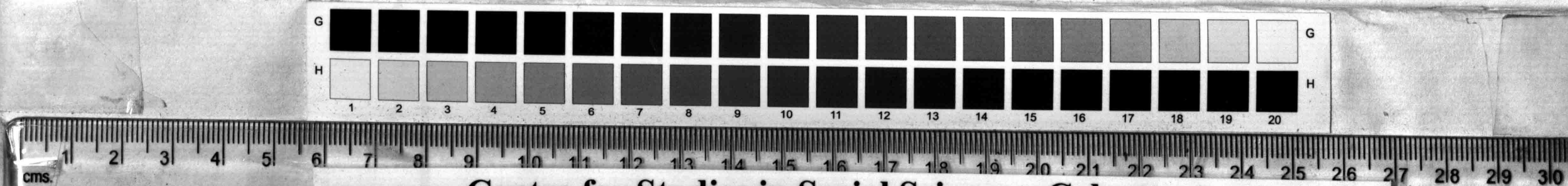
"All my life I had been a strong healthy woman, and up to the autumn of 1891 I never ailed anything. At this time I began to feel weak, weary and tired, and as if something had overtaken me. I had a foul taste in the mouth, my tongue being furred, and a sour fluid would rise into my mouth. I had no appetite to speak of and the little food I took gave me no strength. After eating I had a heavy weight and pain across my chest, and a gnawing feeling in my stomach. I belched up a deal of frothy fluid, and in the night I awoke with a suffocating feeling. Cold clammy sweats broke over me, and with loss of appetite, and not being able to sleep at night I soon got so weak that I found it hard work to get about.

On December 23, 1892, (one Sunday morning) whilst preparing breakfast for my husband, I was suddenly seized with paralysis, which affected the whole of my right side. I had no use of my hand or leg on that side, and a numbness took me on both left and right sides. My husband got me to bed, and fetched a doctor from Northfleet, who gave me medicines. After this I lost my strength rapidly and what I suffered I could not tell.

"I could not rest night or day and I was in and out of bed every now and again, I got little sleep, only dozing off for a short time and then starting up. I was afraid to be left alone, and often in the night I have been so nervous and frightened I could scarcely bear it. I took medicines of all kinds but was little better for anything until one day in August, 1893, my husband read in the paper, "Weekly People," of Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and got me a bottle from Perry and Son, Chemists, High Street, Gravesend. After taking it a short time I began to gain strength, and got stronger, and stronger until I was free from the effects of the seizure. I now keep in good health. You can publish this statement if you wish."—Yours truly, (Signed) MRS. LYDIA GOLDING, 12, Carter's Road, Perry Street, Gravesend, May 14th, 1896.

What was this shadow that had crossed Mrs. Golding's path? What was it that "overtook" her and laid her helpless and suffering upon a bed of sickness? Surely you can recognise the monster that sprang upon her as the dreaded disorder Dyspepsia, which attacks you when you are most defenceless and weakest. Paralysis; yes, Mrs. Golding had it, and could feel it, but what she could not feel was what it was that had so acted upon her nerves and muscles as to cause them to become so helpless. Nor could she, I suppose, understand how Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup cured her so quickly, though we know now that it was because the dyspepsia was got rid of.

But, as the native was never heard of more, so there are some who cannot get out of the clutches of Dyspepsia, even with such help as Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, if the help comes too late. Hence the best way of all, say I, is to keep out of the jungle after dark; and, if you must go, walk quickly.



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