

voracious appetite, sleeplessness, and nervous breakdown. The temperature may not be much above normal, but such a condition must always give cause for apprehension. Other diseases to which Europeans are chiefly subject are,—obstinate diarrhoea and dysentery, more especially at the end of the hot season; prickly heat, a condition induced by the over activity of the sweat glands, and boils. These boils originate below the superficial fascia, and are exquisitely painful. Free and deep incision as soon as possible is advisable, otherwise the poison may be re-absorbed, and generally disseminated. Immersing the part affected in hot water affords most relief locally, but this usually causes an aggravated accession of prickly heat, and the condition is one of intense discomfort.

Fever patients should always be nursed in flannel clothing between blankets. They frequently require changing many times in the twenty-four hours, as perspiration is often very excessive. They should be washed from head to foot night and morning, and in cases of high fever, sponging with warm water at intervals is often both refreshing and beneficial to the patient.

In the native wards one meets with much the same diseases as at home, including pneumonia and lung complications, which one scarcely expects to find in the tropics. Beyond this there are cases of elephantiasis, beri-beri, guinea worms. These last are found contained in a cyst under the skin, most frequently in the leg, and give rise to painful local symptoms as well as to constitutional disturbance. The Hospital also numbers amongst its patients released slaves, often in a condition of extreme emaciation, and suffering from painful ulcers; frequently they are what are known as "earth-eaters." The habit of earth eating often begins during the starvation period of a journey down to the coast in a slave gang, and when established is most difficult to cure. The craving for earth in any form corresponds to that of the victim to alcoholism at home, and is perhaps even more intense than this. Gardens, heaps of material for building purposes, plastered walls—all have irresistible attractions for the earth eater.

It may here be mentioned that it is the native fashion always to light a fire under the bed of a sick person, and the fact that this custom does not obtain in the Hospital prevents some of them from seeking admission. On one occasion the relations of a woman with a baby three days old came hastily over to the Hospital for help. It was the hottest part of the hot season. The patient was in a tiny room in a mud hut. She was in convulsions, and had a temperature of 109°. There was no means of ventilation except by the door of the room, which was filled with people, and the heat was insufferable, but there was the inevitable fire under the bed. An instance that the custom may be attended by serious results is that of a woman who was admitted into the Hospital with dropsy and heart mischief, whose back was found to be covered with deep scars and weals. It was supposed that she had been at some time most cruelly beaten, but the reason that she gave in quite a matter-of-fact way to account for this condition, was that it was due to the fire under her bed when she had small-pox.

The Hospital is at present entirely under the care of Dr. Charlesworth, the Consular doctor, who at all times attends the European patients, and it would be impossible for it to be in better hands.

Outside the Gates.



THE QUEEN continues to much enjoy her stay at Cimiez, and is very benefited in health by the long drives and open-air excursions which the beautiful weather allows her to take.

The Soudan expedition is proceeding on its way, and so far, has met with no attack from the Dervishes, whose illegal ways and interference with the commerce of the country has rendered the expedition necessary. As an evidence of the way in which the Dominion of Canada is prepared to rally to the flag of England, when necessary, it is satisfactory to learn that the Canadian Militia Department has transmitted to the Colonial Office an order of the 8th (Princess Louise's) Hussars of New Brunswick for service in the Soudan. The regiment is 600 strong, and one of the best appointed Cavalry corps in the Dominion.

Matters in the Transvaal seem to be settling themselves comfortably. President Krüger has already intimated his intention of proposing to the Volksraad a scheme dealing with the vital question of the franchise, which was one of the chief causes of dissatisfaction. But the President has not "intimated" whether or no he intends to visit England.

Meanwhile the Matabele are giving trouble, having risen and massacred several whites. The natives are reported to intend making an attack on Buluwayo. The bodies of the whites massacred were horribly mutilated. Meanwhile armed forces have already fought the Matabele, and a number of prisoners have been taken. An attempt will be made to capture the supposed "god" who has instigated the rising; when he is captured it is probable that peace will follow.

Great preparations are being made in Athens for the revival of the ancient Olympic games, and numbers of visitors have already arrived in the city to take part in the festivities. Preparations are being actively pushed forward, and it is expected that the celebration will be of a brilliant character.

The Committee of the Field Columbian Museum, at Chicago, have fitted out an expedition of naturalists to proceed to Central Africa to acquire specimens of mammals, especially of the rhinoceros, giraffe, and antelope. The expedition will be accompanied by fifty armed Somalis, in case of hostilities from the natives.

Camberwell is rejoicing that Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, with characteristic generosity, has promised to give £5,000 to build an Institute for the teaching of art subjects as a memorial to the late Lord Leighton, who was first President of the Art Gallery. This magnificent gift, in addition to recent promises respecting new Libraries for Nunhead and Dulwich, brings Mr. Passmore Edwards' benefactions to Camberwell up to £13,500.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)