

## Inventions, Preparations, &c.

### MAGGI SOUP.

WE have on previous occasions drawn attention in these columns to the excellence of the preparations of Messrs. Cosenza & Co. This firm has recently received the following valuable testimonial to the worth of the *Maggi Consommé* and Soups:—

Jeaffreson Farnham Arctic Expedition.

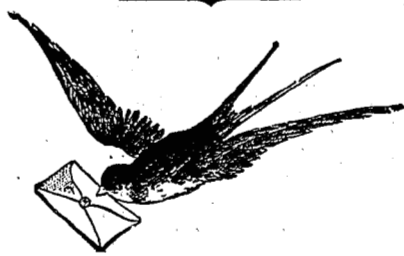
April 7th, 1897.

GENTLEMEN,—Last year inside the Polar Circle, when every ounce of food was worth more than its weight in gold, having no means of transport, I found your speciality the most sustaining I have ever used. It is just the thing for Arctic work, when the greatest amount of nourishment in the smallest space is a desideratum.

Yours gratefully.

(Signed) W. B. FARNHAM, M.A., F.Z.S.

It would be difficult for any preparation to be submitted to a severer test, or to receive a higher tribute to its value than that which we quote above.



### Our Indian Letter.

DEAR EDITOR,—Seeing an extract from a letter from you in the *Times of India*, asking for funds for the sufferers by famine and plague in India, reminds me that it is a very long time since I have written to you.

The Indian Famine Fund has been most nobly supported in England, being now, I think, over £500,000. But there are over 4,000,000 of people here on famine relief works, and that represents a small proportion of those who are suffering from famine. Supposing the rupee at its nominal value, the Famine Fund gives us Rs. 4,000,000, just one rupee to each person on relief works, enough at the present price of food to keep a family for two or three days. The difference in exchange may fairly be set off against the expenses of distribution, and the handsome fund becomes a mere drop in the ocean.

They have had to establish extensive *crèches* for the babies of mothers who are on relief works. To avoid confusion the babies are ticketed, duplicate tickets being given to the

anxious parents, like umbrellas and coats at a theatre.

Here in Poona we realise the horrors of plague much more than those of famine. When the house to house inspection began in Bombay, one officer reported to the Health Committee that there was a plague case at, say, No. 4, Paradise Row. Immediately an ambulance was sent to take it to the hospital. When the ambulance arrived no number was to be found in Paradise Row under 20. On the disappearance of the officer the whole street had turned out and altered the number of every house. All the brains they have got seem to be given to monkey tricks to outwit us in our efforts to help them. In many other cases when ambulance or bullock cart has been sent to a patient's house, two or three thousand men have turned out and smashed the vehicle and "rescued" the patient.

When one of them dies they dig a hole in the earth floor of the hut and bury him there, roll up their infected clothes and bedding and go away to another place.

Just now, in Poona, the 500 English troops who volunteered for plague work are daily visiting houses in the city. As soon as they have inspected, disinfected, and cleansed, one street, and are out of sight, the people from the next street, which has not been inspected, bring their sick into the freshly-cleansed houses. By this means they avoid the segregation of the patient, and the disinfecting of their house and clothes. They re-infect the clean house, and entirely nullify the work of the troops. What can we do for such people?

A gentleman staying in a Bombay hotel sent his clothes to the wash. When he wanted to leave the hotel the clothes were not forthcoming. Asking for them with some emphasis, he was told they should be ready to-morrow. When to-morrow came and still no clothes, the gentleman's language became embarrassing, and the hotel keeper, standing on one leg, told him, "Well, you see, sir, the washerman died of plague, and they buried him and all his clothes, and—er—all the clothes that were in his house at the time were burned—and—so—" The English Sahib had to go away dirty.

When the plague first got a footing in Poona, the Municipality offered to supply coolies, with picks and bars, to any reliable person who would make a house to house visitation, and have windows made where they were needed. Dr. Thomson and I undertook to do two villages within a mile or so of our house, one containing 300 houses, the other about 200. We succeeded so well that there is now hardly a room in either village that has not got a window measuring 3 feet by 2 feet.

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