

to do this have to take life, and then they hold drunkenness in great abhorrence, and as native Christians and the Goanese cooks, who are usually Roman Catholics, are not unfrequently very intemperate, they set a terrible example, and justly breed contempt in the minds of the abstemious natives. So that no doubt contact with white Christian women versed in the humane arts of healing the sick will do something to inspire the rural native population with admiration and respect.

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It is a sad fact that Goanese cooks, excellent as they are in many ways, and possessed, as a race, of a capacity for their work immeasurably superior to that of the average Englishwoman, should yet be so frequently unreliable and given to strong drink. Who that has enjoyed a dinner prepared by a Goanese who has had a free hand in its preparation has ever, no matter where, had a better one? Indeed, many an English hospital matron might well hail with delight the advent of a Goa, with his admirable cooking, and resourcefulness in emergencies, in place of the stolid Englishwoman, with whom it falls to her lot to deal, and who, more often than not, prepares tasteless messes, unappetising, and of little nutritive value.

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BUT the Goa must have a free hand; economy is hateful to him. He is an artist in his way, and to be cramped and restricted by a consideration for ways and means is intolerable to him. Therefore it is one of his little idiosyncrasies that if the dinner is an ordinary one, in which plain things predominate, it will only be indifferently well cooked, which, being interpreted, means that, considering it unworthy of his personal attention, he has left it to the kitchen boys—without whose assistance no self-respecting Goa would condescend to enter your service—to prepare. But tell him that you want a particularly nice dinner, and his face will glow with satisfaction at the arrival of an opportunity upon which he can do himself justice. You can leave the menu with absolute safety in his hands; indeed, you will do so if you are wise, and you may wait for long in England before you will partake of such a meal as he will prepare. Can anyone make such soups, curries, entrées or puddings as a Goa produces on occasions? He excels in custards. His lemon custards, and what he is pleased to call "brown" custard, a custard whose even outer surface of caramel sauce gives it the appearance of a chocolate pudding, being things to remember. Then again, can anyone equal a Goanese in his preparation of chicken broth? If some is wanted in an emergency—in an hour or two—and you doubtfully consult your cook, he will tell you cheerfully and decidedly, "plenty time," and, well within an hour or two, will produce a strong and most excellent broth from a chicken which is

at that moment running about his kitchen. Again he wins his way into your affections if you are ill, by appearing every day to inquire with the utmost solicitude after your health, in addition to which he probably sends you a message to say that he has had Mass said at his church for your recovery. How many of one's servants at home would go to their parish priest and ask for his prayers under similar circumstances? Therefore, hopelessly lazy, as often, and, gloriously uncertain, as he always is, the Goa finds a susceptible place in your feelings, and you put up with his unpunctuality, his thriftlessness, his uncertainty, and his drunkenness, to an extent which you would have imagined quite impossible before you made his acquaintance.

### The Hospital World.

IN a few weeks time the beautiful new Park Fever Hospital at Hither Green, near Lewisham, will be ready for occupation, and when ready will, we hear, be filled at once with patients. The Metropolitan Asylums Board have lately run the gauntlet of very serious criticism in relation to the expenditure of upwards of £64,000 in excess of the building contract at the Brook Hospital, but as this matter is *sub judice* no doubt a satisfactory solution of the expenditure will be forthcoming; any way the position of the Metropolitan Asylums Board is not an enviable one, having, as it has to do, to build hospitals to meet in every way the requirements of modern science, a very costly, and, to the uninitiated, a very unnecessary expenditure. To hospital experts the policy of the Metropolitan Asylums Board in constructing our new fever hospitals upon the most modern and perfect lines is wise and commendable, in opposition to a penurious policy which would necessitate in a few years the expenditure of thousands of pounds in modernizing and botching up institutions which would surely fail to meet the needs of a progressive professional knowledge on the part of medical science, and the necessities of the sick.

On Friday and Saturday week last the Park Hospital was, on view, and in response to a courteous invitation I paid it a visit, and had the privilege of seeing over the institution under the guidance of the matron, Miss M. E. Jones, who, as my readers know, has been promoted from the Eastern Fever Hospital at Homerton to the more important position of matron of the Park. Last week I remarked that I could wish hospital architects would make these national institutions beautiful as well as useful, and I may say at once that the construction and decoration of this latest "fever palace" is very harmonious and charming. Of course the wards have been constructed on the pavilion system, two stories high, each ward con-

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