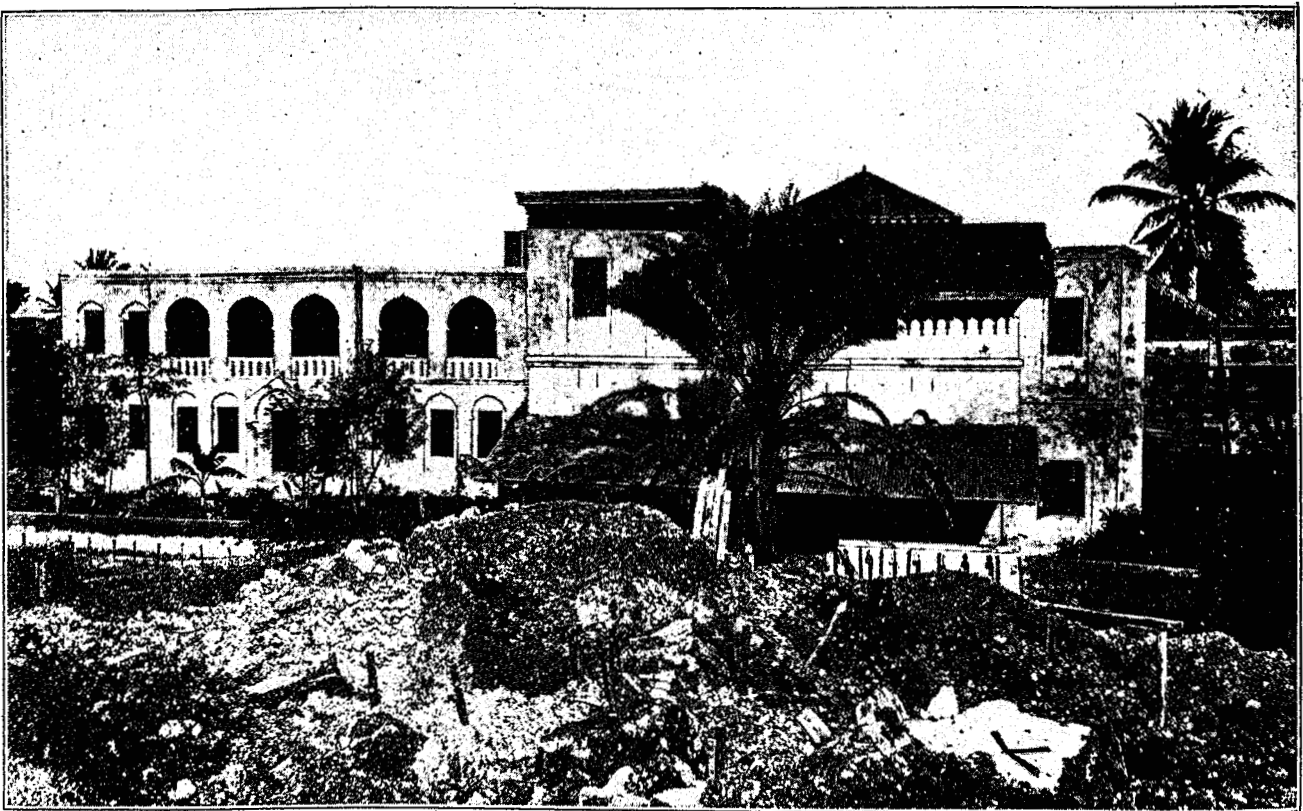


and the voluminous crape of the mourners give the final touch of dreariness to an ordinary English funeral, and add to the general impression of paganism!

As I see a funeral of this description, my thoughts fly back to Zanzibar, and I think if only the people at home *knew* they would not think as they do about deaths in Zanzibar. There the body is reverently prepared for the grave, from first to last, by loving hands. No coffin is used, but it is enveloped by the nurses in a native mat, covered with white calico, and a red cross of Turkey twill bears witness to the faith professed by the de-

in a service as bright as the music and flowers (principally the sweet scented frangipani and fragrant orange blossoms), and the congregation clad in all colours of the rainbow, can make it, the body is laid to rest under the shadow of the handsome mangoes and stately palm trees, which surround the beautiful cemetery at Ziwani. And such a funeral, far exceeding in beauty anything which is, even under the happiest conditions, attained at home, costs in all about six rupees, something under 8/- that is to say. Who would wish to be buried at, say Kensal Green for instance, at a cost of some £50, when he can



THE UNIVERSITIES' MISSION HOSPITAL, ZANZIBAR.

parted. The body is then carried into the Cathedral, and left there till the funeral, which usually takes place immediately after the celebration on the following morning. At this service the Cathedral is filled with a devout congregation, the Europeans, men and women, in white, the Africans in white or coloured garments, the gay coloured handkerchiefs on the heads of the women giving a touch of brightness to the whole scene. Then the little procession headed by the clergy and native choir, the latter in red cassocks and white surplices, winds its way across the creek to the God's acre, where, in the glorious tropical sunshine,

have the most beautiful funeral possible for 8s.?

But, says another, why go to such an un-healthy climate at all, and risk the probability of an early death? If the climate is unhealthy, and even those who best love Zanzibar, cannot testify to its merits as a health resort, surely there is the greater need of nurses. And, for the rest—which is the easier to face—the possibility of a short life, or, upon returning to a healthier climate, the probability of a long one? Those who have solved both problems are best in a position to give the answer.

M. B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)