camels are timid creatures in the dark, and slip and stumble about in a most dangerous fashion. If much had not been done, there was the satisfaction of being thoroughly tired, and able to appreciate the cup of tea our butler cook, and hamil rolled into one quickly brought

Our tents were pretty little double ones, pitched near two large banyan trees, under one of which we

always had our dining table spread. These trees were the favourite resort of vultures, white ibis, herons, crows, and manysmaller birds. The crows were most friendly and expected to share our meals, indeed, one old one, with only a few feathers left on his head, boldly flew down to the table and helped himself from our bread, or dish of rice. Less innocent animals lodged in the trees at night, not-ably a small grey and yel-low-ringed poisonous snake, which had an inconvenient way of hanging down and dropping from the branches as one passed. Our orderly, Mahomed Khan, being a Hindu, had no compuncabout tions killing them.

TARKORE'S PALACE, GODRA CUTCH.

After dark we always took the precaution not to go out of our tents without our hurricane lamps, so had no accidents. Scorpions and centipedes were not unfrequently found in our tents, but did us no harm.

Thus the time passed until Christmas drew near, when we were able to close the hospitals at Godra and Meraw, no fresh cases occurring there, and the two or

three patients not yet recovered we brought into Kodaya. Here, too, new cases were much less frequent.

At Tamvana, a hamlet two miles distant, plague had shortly before broken out among the Thorkores, here a very poor branch of the Rao's family. These absolutely refused to bring their sick ones into the hospital, or allow us to go to them. Presently a compromise was effected. We went down occasionally, and they

promised to isolate all their cases in chaprasmade for the pur-pose. Fortunately after about 20 cases, most of them proving fatal, plague dis-appeared from them as quickly, apparently as though the most stringent measures had been adopted.

At Christmas, we went to our bungalow at Mandvi for two or three days, one of us coming out in the morning daily to see o u r patients for a few hours. The mail from home, and baskets of fruit and cakes from a good friend Bombay, did much to tide over the season here, so dull in comparison to home.

We returned again to Kodaya, where, three dayslater, we got the order

to abandon this place, and go to Moondra, a large city thirty-five miles further on the south coast. We paid a farewell visit to Gundiali, then to our Kodaya friends, and our few convalescing patients, who wondered what would become of them now we were going, then went to our bungalow by the sea, where we spent a night before proceeding.

(To be continued.)

previous page next page