

except the two chief ladies of the place, who received me in their own houses. When I was allowed to see them, I found them in their most gorgeous raiment, and jewels, a little frightened too, but this wore off soon when I had told them they were all well, and consented to eat paucipari with them (a mixture of betel nut, cloves, carminative seeds, and other spices mixed). The two chief ladies were more intelligent than most Hindu women, and prided themselves on being travellers; they had come from the middle of Kathiawar when they were married, but had been nowhere since. One of them had two very beautiful daughters, of whom she was very proud. I found no traces of plague, and I was conscious all the while that they might be concealing some cases, but I was alone, no man being allowed to accompany me, and so I had to take their word that I had seen them all. Yet ten days later the mother of the beautiful girls died of plague, and going out I found the youngest girl with a temperature of 105 degrees, and three other cases. So they too had to be turned out on the maidan, and make a temporary hospital for themselves in which to isolate their sick. They were, of course, of much too grand a caste to go to the other hospital, in which I had that same morning opened three buboes, and done many dressings. The little girl recovered, and we were great friends in my after visits.

From Pubrey, ten miles distant in another direction, came a report of plague among the Tharkores there. It had been in the village some time, and the people were already out on the plain in temporary houses. Being my day out, I set off with only my cheerful camel-wala, Jalon Sunghi. Arrived there, I first found the Patell, the head man of the village, and told him I had come to search the gudh. He looked serious, and said the people would be very angry at any interference. I told him it was "jabberdusti" (ordered), and so we proceeded to the place; but found the great doors shut against us, and with no intention of opening. The Patell, not being one of their caste, had no influence with them, and the Tharkores, from their exclusiveness, are generally very ignorant and suspicious. It was an hour before I could effect an entrance, and then only on condition that I would come alone, and go where they showed me. Two or three men conducted me through the little irregular narrow streets to where all—almost all—of the women were awaiting my coming. Never before have I seen such a frightened lot of women as those huddled together in that large dark room, many of them trembling too much to give me their wrists, or put out their tongues.

The examination over, and my telling them I should give a good report of them restored their confidence a little. Then one of them came forward bringing me a plate with about fifty Paunchias on it, as a gift. The Paunchia is a Cutchee rupee, a fine coin, worth about eight annas more than the Government rupee. When I told them I had done the work I had come for, and did not want, nor would I touch one of their rupees, their fear vanished, and they closed round me, more fully to examine the first specimen of my kind they had seen. I noted a whispering at one end, which resulted in one of them coming and telling me, they had one sick woman, but she had been ill six months, would I like to see her? She was apparently dying of consumption, so I could only tell them to feed her up, and take care of her. Then my men-conductors showed me some of their finest houses, their native carriages and horses—not many of these latter, but one was held in

high esteem, an English horse, brought over by the Rao ten years ago!

On our way to Pubrey in the morning, it being very hot, I rested awhile outside a village called Lakapur. Here, under some shady trees, were three fine wells, round one of which some women were gathered, lowering their chatties for water. One was a step-well, and in an idle moment I went down to the water and peered in to see what of life it contained, for curious fish, and almost always, huge frogs are found in them. On returning in the late afternoon, two men accosted me courteously at the same place, asking me to rest awhile, as the people would much like to see the memsahib. I consented, being amused. Soon a large crowd of some 200 men and boys, led by the Patell in his best robes, was around me. After a few preliminary courteous exchanges, the Patell told me the people were much disturbed by my going down to the well in the morning, and had gone so far as to declare that I had thrown poison into the well, as reports had come from Bombay that the people had done there. From the serious faces of all of them round me, I saw they quite believed what the Patell had said; and though I told them I had not done so, that my object in coming to India was to help their sick folk to get well, not to do injury to others, they were unconvinced, and only shook their heads sadly. Then another idea came to me, and calling Jalon Sunghi, and bidding him bring my drinking cup from the camel saddle bag, I told the Patell I was very thirsty, would he have some water brought from the well they were disturbed about for me? I was sitting on the low parapet round the said well, and my wish was obeyed with alacrity. I then laughingly drank the whole cup full, little as I wanted it, and told them the water was very good. The relief on their faces was at once apparent, and the Patell said they were now quite satisfied, and apologised for the suspicion, and begged me to come again and see them. I remounted our camel "Khanji," and rode off amid a perfect storm of cheers, and through the village I caught the women shyly peeping from their houses, and the children salaamed. So finished a little adventure, much enjoyed by Jalon Sunghi, and which caused much amusement on my recounting it in our tent later. A. J.

News from Holland.

THE second ambulance, which the Society of the Dutch Red Cross is to send to the battle-fields of South Africa, will consist of Dr. J. D. Kusters, army surgeon (first class), in charge of the expedition; Dr. W. F. H. Schelkly, physician at The Hague, and Dr. L. M. Metz, assistant-physician in the City Hospital of Rotterdam. The nurses who are going out with this ambulance, are Miss J. L. H. Slot, head-nurse, late matron of the Sisters of the Red Cross in the Rotterdam City Hospital; Miss A. M. Drayton Lee, nurse at Rotterdam; Miss H. G. C. Westerbeek van Eerke, Sister of the Red Cross of the Hague Women's Committee; Miss H. E. Stoffers, head-nurse in the Wilhelmina Hospital at Amsterdam; Miss G. van Zevenhoven, private nurse at the Hague; Miss S. C. Charbon, and Miss Boer, both head-nurses in the City Hospital at the Hague. The male nurses forming part of the second ambulance are: D. D. Ihle, from Harlem; A. Etter, and A. de Hooge, military nurses; and E. Menleman from the Institution Brinkgreve at Deventer. HOLLANDIA.

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