

wood, with a low table in front of it. On this last was arranged various little vases for holy water, and ewers, dishes for incense, &c., all of brightly polished brass. He told us every morning he made a figure of God of clay, and put it on this table before him, not to worship, but to fix and concentrate his attention. When he had finished with it he gave the clay figure to some poorer member, as he could not break it up or put it to a common use.

We were much interested in our rather long afternoon among the temples, for we had visited some belonging to other castes, and going to see the 200 odd people in our segregation camps, concluded a rather long day.

By painful experience we learnt that there were camels and camels. We had a report of plague in Rattaria, a village four miles beyond Godra, and Dr. M. desired one of us to go and see if there were any cases. To Godra, it being my "day out," I went on our steady old camel, "Carrell," and after seeing to the patients in the hospital, found the Hindu doctor, Atmiram, for once sober, with the two other camels I had ordered ready, and soon we set out on the unknown road to Rattaria. It was certainly the worst I have ever known, at one time over heavy loose sand, then across rocky deep river beds, down which the camels stumbled. We went at a foot-pace, and my beast having a long rolling stride was bad enough walking; its trot (when possible) was even worse, tiring one at the first half-mile. We did the four miles in a little under two hours. On the return journey, I changed my camel with Mr. Atmiram's, and found a little improvement—he appeared to regret the exchange. Arrived there, I went to the Patell's house for a short rest, and soon it was full of the chief men of the village and curious onlookers.

When questioned, they denied having any plague cases or concealing any, and asking why they had returned to their houses from the Chapras on the maidan without permission of the Chief Plague Officer, they said it was so cold at night in those temporary shelters and not having any plague among them they returned. I certainly sympathised with them, for with a 50 degree to 60 degree variation of temperature from mid-day to mid-night, we suffered sufficiently in our tents, with more clothing and blankets than these people possess.

Going out, I saw it was hopeless to go to the houses to search as all the people were out to see their first English visitor, except the lowest caste who must not mix with the people, so had to content myself with ordering that some of the tiles should be stripped off each house, to admit sun and air, then went to the temples, which were less ornate than many elsewhere, but this was a small outlying village. I then returned to the Patell's house, where Atmiram had been busy during my absence preparing khana (refreshments) for me. This consisted of eggs fried in ghee into a kind of omelette,—hot, sweet, spiced milk, and curds and whey. I declined the latter, but took some of the other things to satisfy him, he eating the rest. He is not a typical Hindu, or he would not drink intoxicants or eat eggs. This over, I went to the lowest caste, the Meghwar quarter, and examined each one carefully, as we had had two cases brought to Godra from this caste, but found them free from fever and sickness. Remounting our camels, we slowly returned to Godra, then getting on Carrel, who seemed an ideal camel after my later experiences, returned to our tents after

eight hours in a saddle, besides a good bit of work and worry.

When going from place to place, we often had to put up with such animals as we could get, and frequently got baggage camels with tempers. Without knowing it we sometimes had drivers who were strange to their beasts, and then we were almost at the animal's mercy. Once going from Mandvi to Kodaya, we were passing through Nagalpur village, when the camel, without warning, suddenly dropped down, almost jerking us off, opened its mouth wide, made hideous discord, and tried further to get rid of his driver and myself by rolling.

When living in Mandvi (our headquarters), our bungalow being on the shore, we found the sea a great compensation. Lying in its clear, warm waves, we lost all sense of weariness, and the sun never felt too hot when we were bathing, or going long walks on the lonely further shore, splashing ankle-deep in the limpid waves, disturbing the active large pink crabs, or the beautiful flamingoes, who had come down for their evening's fishing. At night, too, lying on the sand bank, watching the waves rolling in at our feet like molten gold. As the crests caught the clear moonlight we would be lifted out of our little daily worries, and be held entranced for hours. So the time passed.

A. J.

Preparations, Inventions, etc.

HALL'S COCA WINE.

AMONGST the restorative tonics which are now-days prescribed for invalids and convalescents, there are few which are more valuable than this well-established preparation. It has earned the confidence of the medical profession by its reliable and constant composition, its chief ingredients being genuine wine and an infusion of coca leaves. The properties of the latter as a nerve stimulant, and, indeed, as a nerve food, are so well known to our readers that we need not describe them in detail. Some years ago, when this preparation was first introduced to our notice, we called the attention of our readers to the facts not only that the Wine was extremely palatable, but also that, from a theoretical standpoint it should prove to be a valuable digestive stimulant and nerve restorative. Some two years later, after we had given the Wine a careful trial in the case of patients to whom it seemed to be suitable, we reported that it had given excellent results in such cases, and we added that analysis showed that a wineglass of this preparation, the basis of which is an excellent full flavoured wine of the same alcoholic strength as good port, contains about one drachm of the soluble active ingredients of picked coca leaves. We can now add that still further and more extended experience has more than confirmed the favourable opinions we previously expressed as to the peculiar usefulness and value of this Wine, not only for invalids, but also for all who require a nerve tonic and stimulant.

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