

much gravity as the Lord Chancellor, puts out the dressings and brings hot water, and the business of the day begins.

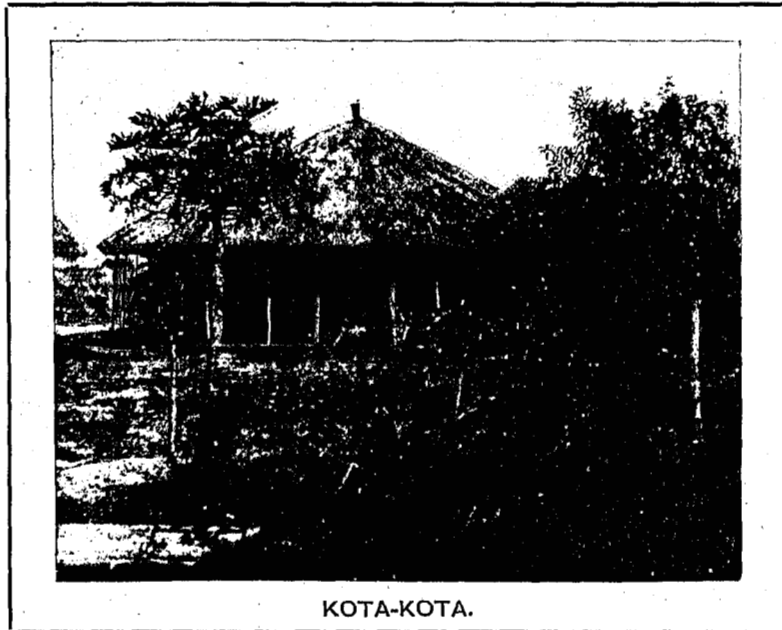
First the school children are attended to. Ulcers of all kinds and sizes have to be dressed; sores that would fill one with despair in England heal up with astonishing rapidity in the tropics when treated antiseptically. Bandages are so scarce that all attempts at elegant figure of eight or reversed bandaging have to be given up, and one becomes quite clever at fixing on a dressing with the fewest possible turns. Sometimes vaseline runs short, and lard is not forthcoming, and then ointments have to be made of clarified hippopotamus fat, a most evil smelling substance. After the ulcers come the eye cases; conjunctivitis is a very common complaint, and there are various other eye diseases which a nurse cannot be expected to diagnose.

Then come the skin cases. No one knows how

a' rush, and it is then the turn of the people from the neighbouring village, and those who have come from even longer distances. All people not directly attached to the Mission are expected to pay a small sum for treatment, and they generally bring eggs, or tomatoes, or rice. Sometimes even, they will pay a bangle, or an ornamental comb.

Tooth drawing is carried on with great success. People will come from quite a great distance to have teeth extracted, and are very brave about it.

Besides the dispensary work there are generally some patients more or less seriously ill, who have to be visited in their own homes. A native hut is not the most desirable spot in which to nurse a sick person. It is small and dark with no window; a fire of wood is kept up day and night, and the floor is of mud. The patient lies on a reed mat near the doorway, and in the smoky obscurity it is quite impossible to judge of his general appearance at all.



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difficult it is to recognize the eruptions on a black skin till they have tried it. And, last of all, the nurse turns her attention to the medical cases.

Coughs are easily disposed of, but more difficulty is found with the other internal complaints from which the natives are apt to say they suffer. "Heart" is a very favourite disease, and Africans seem to wear their hearts in all sorts of odd places! If asked to point out the spot where the pain is, they as often indicate the abdomen, liver, chest, or even back, as the cardiac region. The only thing to do, in the absence of a doctor, is to gather what information one can from the symptoms, and prescribe accordingly.

A good many cases of Malaria occur among the younger native population, and these yield easily to Quinine.

During the rainy season Pneumonia is quite common.

When the school bell rings, the scholars depart with

After having accidentally stepped into the fire, and perhaps also into the water jar, the nurse is quite likely to tread on the patient, unless, having been taught by sad experience, she has remembered to take a lantern with her. Of course a great deal has to be left to the friends of the patient, and this is far from satisfactory, as it is most probable that they will give medicine intended for three doses, all at once, or forget to give it at all, in spite of all injunctions and explanations. Feeding is another difficulty. Natives are quite convinced that if an invalid has no desire for food he ought not to have it, and it is often impossible to disturb this conviction, and persuade them to give him nourishment.

However, here as everywhere else, one is "baffled to fight better." Things are improving, and it is hoped that next year a native hospital will be built, where patients can be received and have proper attention.

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