

Annotations.

"WORK FOR OUR MEN, BREAD FOR OUR CHILDREN."

No one knows more of the sorrows and sufferings of the poor than the trained nurse, and no one sympathises with their troubles more acutely. The heart of the nurse is often hot within her as she realises that half the sickness and pain with which her work brings her in contact is caused by insufficient food and under better conditions would never have occurred. True, alcohol is a considerable factor in the production of misery, but when wife and children are starving, a man is apt to endeavour to obtain a temporary respite by drowning his bitter thoughts in drink.

It was impossible for one who watched the terrible line of half-starved, miserably clad women who assembled on Monday on the Victoria Embankment, to support their Delegates who were received by the Premier, to repress a feeling of shame that in this city of monstrous wealth, where on all sides are evidences of luxurious living and self-indulgence, thousands of people willing to work, and their children, should be on the verge of starvation.

The women who formed the deputation to Mr. Balfour laid their case before him in words wrung from broken hearts. They received from the Premier an icy douche of philosophy, his speech being described by Mr. Will Crooks, M.P., as a "speech of despair." The deputation took back with them no message of hope to their despairing comrades who were eagerly awaiting their return.

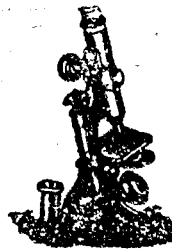
AN AVALANCHE OF MURDER.

Autocracy in Russia is going down in an avalanche of murder and rapine. The account of the special correspondent of the *Daily Telegraph* of the horrors, encouraged by a licentious soldiery and police, makes one wonder how nations professedly Christian can be content to take the position of onlookers, and why they do not rise and demand that the carnage shall cease.

When women are disembowelled, and sick and aged soaked in petroleum and burned alive in their homes, when the victims of the outrages are done to death by the hammering of nails into their heads, their eyes being gouged out, ears cut off, and tongues wrenched out with pincers, it is surely time that humanity, as represented by the Great Powers, should step in and imperatively administer righteous dealing.

Medical Matters.

EPIDEMIC CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.



Dr. K. McGahey, Colonial Medical Officer at Yola, Northern Nigeria, gives an interesting description in the *British Medical Journal* of an epidemic of cerebro-spinal fever which broke out in Yola, on the Benue River, on February 12th, lasting till the end of April. It spread over the greater portion of Northern Nigeria, travelling in a westerly direction, and was very largely confined to the trade routes.

The epidemic occurred in the hottest months of the year, the temperature sometimes being 108 degs. in the shade. The first case was that of an Arab just returned from a pilgrimage to Mecca, and the villages on the road through which he passed were subsequently attacked by the disease. The disease was no respecter of persons, rich and poor, old and young, males and females, being impartially attacked. It remained active for from three to four weeks, and then suddenly disappeared. The incubation period was as short as three days. In the rapidly fatal cases no premonitory symptoms were observed; in the milder ones epistaxis, accompanied by violent headache and a feeling of lassitude, were noticed.

In children there was a typical rash taking the form of an herpetic eruption on the backs of the hands, wrists, and fingers, back of the neck, dorsum of feet, and over the clavicles. In adults it was rarely noticed, owing probably to the difficulty in detecting it in dark-skinned races. The tongue was dry and covered with a thick white fur; constipation was generally present. Retraction of the head and neck was present in all cases. Pneumonia, bronchitis, and arthritis were amongst the complications observed, and blindness, deafness, and partial paralysis occurred as sequelæ.

In fatal cases death occurred as a rule in from one to three days. In those who survived four or five days the prognosis was favourable. In regard to treatment, purgatives and opiates were administered with doubtful result. Rapidity of onset was a marked feature of the outbreak. Thus an instance is given of two men who went to draw water from the river 300 yards away. Both became unconscious and had to be carried back, and both eventually died. Strict isolation proved an effective barrier to the contraction of the disease.

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