

wild chorus of shrieks, such as are heard at weddings in Syria, so delighted were they to have their little gypsy friend restored to them again. The account I have given you of Amny is only one of the many "doud" cases we get out here; we call them Herod's disease, and we get all sorts of these cases; for instance, there is a boy named Mahmoud, who comes to us every summer, and his scalp is simply perforated with small holes made by maggots; he suffers from chronic eczema of the head, and I suppose, owing to dirt and neglect, the flies make havoc with it as in Amny's case. He is an odd little creature, with only one eye, and is about twelve years old. He arrived a few weeks ago looking such an object, his old grandmother, who, he says, is his only relative, accompanied him. This part of his story is difficult to believe, as most Arabs have dozens of relations of sorts. An extra good scrub is always needed in Mahmoud's case, so away he is taken to the bathroom, where Habeeb, the ward servant, gives him such a tubbing, and shaves off every hair of his head, and then the work begins! With the use of a fine silver blunt-pointed probe, a syringe, and a solution of chinisol, which we find for such cases the most powerful of all germicides, Mahmoud at the end of three weeks is again free from this loathsome malady. You will scarcely believe me when I tell you 102 maggots were expelled in this case! The boy looks so different now, his cheeks are filling out, and he is altogether another child from the day he was admitted; he is quite bald, but that is not noticeable under his white and gold tarboosh, which is part of the boy's uniform, and a fortnight's massage of the head will soon make his hair grow. Just now he is sitting on one of the balconies which surround the hospital. The centre of a group of other little children, he is telling them a story from the "Arabian Nights," and he has the most attentive audience, such a happy little group! They make quite a picture. Mahmoud always finishes up his story-telling with the history of Haman and Mordecai; in this he is quite dramatic, and looks so funny with his one eye. He is a lovable little fellow in spite of his ugly face.

The treatment of these cases is not pleasant work, but the joy of seeing so many of them get well and strong and made clean is very great. We get a large number of all sorts of "doud" cases. We have had many patients suffering from tape-worm, for this, of course, male fern is given with excellent results, and nearly all the patients out here, men, women, and children, whatever their maladies, have to be treated at the same time for round worms; a dose of santonin from 1 to 5 grains as required generally has the desired effect, though some of the little children who eat uncooked vegetables, such as cabbages and just anything they can pick up, often die of this malady. Last week a dear little Bedawy (gypsy) girl of five years died of worm fever. The temperature rose to 107 degs., 53 worms were passed during the diarrhoea, which was constant, and the child vomited seven large worms. Doses of santonin were given, also small doses of quinine.

The little patient was sponged with tepid water, and then a small dose of quinine mixed with glycerine was rubbed into axillæ, groin, bend of arms, and under the knees to try to reduce the temperature. This treatment has often been found very useful with young children wasted by malaria and other fevers where the temperature ran high. In this case the patient came too late, and all efforts to save this little life were of no avail. Death occurred the third day after admission. Sometimes I am asked by nurses in England and by travellers how I can live amongst "dirty Arabs," and I answer "Because I love them." Some one said to me, "What, love a filthy little object like Mahmoud!" Yes, for the sake of that greatest of all Physicians, who said, "Inasmuch as ye did it to one of the least of these, ye did it unto Me." Besides, it is quite easy to make the patients clean, and even to make them like cleanliness. It is quite the same in England, patients, if dirty, are only so the day they arrive. I think London "street arabs" and the class of patient one gets in the slums far dirtier than our bedaween, fellaheen, or town patients, and whatever may have been written about the odours of the East, I have never noticed out here that awful "smell" of the unwashed" as I often have in Whitechapel. There I was so grateful when any kind friend presented me with a bottle of Eau de Cologne or lavender water; here, under the Syrian sun, where many of the poor people wear but one garment, there is not that awful odour of the many unwashed garments, all worn at a time, as is so often the case in England. Live in the East and you cannot resist its fascination; get to know the people, their manners, customs, and language, and you will find how intensely interesting life is out here, and should it be your privilege to be a nurse come and tend the suffering in this land, and you cannot fail to love them. The charm of the East is best expressed in Mr. Kipling's words:

"When you've heard the East a'calling
You'll never heed nought else."

While I am writing this the sun is setting over the lovely Mediterranean, a fresh cool breeze comes through the windows, and on it is borne the scent of orange blossom, a steamer is in sight, it is the mail-boat, bringing me news from my dear ones in England. SISTER MARIE.

THE CHILDREN'S BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

When the House of Lords considered the Children's Bill on report last week, the Earl of Meath moved an amendment on Clause 25, which provides for the visitation of homes for poor children by persons appointed by the Secretary of State for the purpose, to secure that such persons should be either inspectors or assistant inspectors of reformatory and industrial schools, members of the medical or nursing professions, or persons of discretion, and of experience in the management and training of children. Ultimately, the references to the "nursing profession" and "persons of discretion" were omitted.

On Clause 119 Earl Beauchamp moved to omit the words "or nurse" in regard to authority to order stimulants to infants, and this was agreed.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)