

she has a great shrinking from pain, and she felt she was suffering so uselessly. It had one good effect though; she had to keep quiet for a time, and she is such an energetic girl of the nervous type that it is hard to make her take sufficient rest.

Last summer we had an unusual number of cases of enteric in the bazaar, and in hospital we had seven, some of them very severe. All recovered except one woman who, after a few days in hospital, became impatient and was taken away by her husband without our leave. This was possible owing to their being in an outside ward. She only lived a few days, though probably, had she stayed on in hospital she would have recovered. This woman had developed enteric after childbirth, and the same native midwife who attended her went on to another woman. She also developed enteric and came into hospital, but she had a very sensible husband, who came with her and made a most devoted and intelligent nurse, and though it was a severe case, she pulled through. The way in which these women contracted enteric is an example of the dangers of these ignorant midwives. This particular one is responsible for many deaths from puerperal septicæmia, but nothing can be done to stop her disastrous career, as there is no registration of midwives with us.

Among the enteric cases were three children. I wished I had them in a children's ward at home, for they were the most obstreperous little creatures imaginable. Each was accompanied by its mother, for Indian children cannot be separated from their mothers, and though the latter tried to help us, previous years of spoiling and lack of discipline told badly when it came to giving medicines and enemata. Even the food had to be given to small objects struggling and wriggling in all directions. One little girl of five was very ill, and it was only when almost in the "typhoid state" that she would lie still, and even then we had to let her thread beads with her weak and trembling little fingers, or there was danger of such tears and lamentations as would have been worse than the exertion of threading beads. It was really alarming though when she had tympanites; it was necessary to give her enemata and she was passing casts of the rectal mucosa, and at the same time she was writhing about and fighting the nurses in her efforts to escape from the enema syringe.

In our part of the Frontier nearly all the people are Mohammedans, but they are not above superstitions, and a great many patients who come to hospital have already tried the effects of amulets and charms. All sorts of little objects will be fastened round their arms, on their foreheads, or round their necks. Very often, I believe, they have verses from the Koran written on bits of paper, and sewn up in little bags, but more than once I have seen an onion hung on a string round a woman's neck. Perhaps this is with the idea of a medicinal effect, for I fancy I have heard of such remedies in England.

One day I went to an Afghan family to see a tiny premature baby. It was hardly alive and the poor anxious mother said in an aside to a

friend; "It was a mistake to have put on all those charms we got yesterday from that wise woman, they are too strong for so young a child." I saw about seven little bags hung round the poor little thing's neck. That baby's grandmother is a very polite and fair-speaking woman when she comes to see me in hospital, but I always feel some repugnance in treating her, for I have been told that on one occasion when angry with a woman servant—more or less a slave—she pulled out the offender's eye, and on another occasion poisoned the baby of one of her servants. She herself has suffered at her husband's hands, though a rich woman of good family. One day she came weeping to hospital, and undoing a large handkerchief, showed me the broken pieces of a thick stick, broken over her back by the irate husband. She showed me also many marks on her body of its use.

Just now I am on my holiday, far away from the Frontier, and am writing from the jungle. All is very peaceful around, and it might be an English countryside, but the woods are filled with strange birds, and when we go walks in the evening we have to look out for wild boar, which might prove disagreeable at close quarters, and we have to be careful near the river lest we should offend a man-eating alligator. I have been found out by a few sick people, one a very distressing case. An old man was brought here in a cart from a friend's house two miles away. He had gone there for a feast, from his home thirty miles away, and had been ill three days. His friends put it down to over-eating, but he evidently had obstruction of the bowels and was in great pain, with barely perceptible pulse. I had only two or three drugs with me, so could not relieve his symptoms, and he had to wait till the evening train, when I sent him to the nearest Civil Surgeon, thirty miles away, and three hours by train. I gave him a hypodermic of strychnine as the train came in, with a sympathetic group of men around, all offering suggestions and advice. Next day I heard that the poor old man had died in the hospital. I heard no details, but probably his heart gave way. And this sort of thing is happening all over India. The people wait too long, hoping to get better, and often there is a long journey to go to the hospital, and they dread what may happen when they venture to undergo treatment.

M. B.

CHOLERA IN EUROPE.

Time was when a case of Asiatic cholera in Europe created quite a scare, now thanks to the laboratory we feel more secure. In Hungary and Bosnia-Herzegovina cases have appeared, and in Rumania since the beginning of the epidemic there have been 1,555 cases and 661 deaths, representing 42 per cent. of the total. One hundred and fifty-nine patients have recovered, and 735 are still under treatment. Of the total number of deaths 79 were those of soldiers. All the soldiers in barracks have been inoculated.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)