

corridor, in which we saw brown faces scrutinizing us continually on the way. We at last arrived on a verandah to which was added a small room. Everything in it was as bare as possible. In the room was a small charpoy, or native bed, nicely covered with clean sheets, and on this was our patient. The light, which barely lit up the surroundings, was secured from an oil lamp. We went up to the bed and spoke to her. She replied in Hindustani. Knowing this language it was quite easy to carry on a conversation.

Beside the bed there were an easy chair and one round table with a few medicine bottles. Two windows in the room were tightly locked. At this interval the doctor, a Hindu with an English degree, arrived, made himself affable, and gave instructions for the night. The room being stuffy we asked "May not the windows be opened?" but to this the Princess objected, as one of the windows opened into the compound and she might be seen by any male passer-by. We, however, promised to keep the light out of the room and so succeeded in getting the fresh air so badly needed.

She was a case of malarial fever, about fourteen years of age, but looked years older and was more developed than European girls at this age.

We went to dinner.

I returned for night duty. Near the sick room was a large space of ground enclosed with a high wall, where the Purdah folk took an airing. One window looked on to this; my chair was near this window. I was two or three times that night scared by one of the attendants bobbing her head near enough to peep in. Another thing which struck me very forcibly was that the mother and grandmother of the girl had their cots placed on the verandah close to the sick-room and meant to sleep there for the night. They were two very fat old women and were attended by two servants each, who soothed them to sleep and kept them so by continuous massage of the different limbs of the body.

I must say the mosquitoes were troublesome, and I was glad when dawn broke, as these pests then generally go into hiding. When it was quite light I had a chance of looking around. Everything was as bare as possible; in fact, there were few, if any, chairs or tables about in the many rooms. Large cotton mattresses covered with snowy white cloths were on the ground, and these the guests and people in the house sat on.

Having attended to my patient and made her comfortable, the different members of the family were admitted. There were tots from a few months to old women of sixty years or over, all in strict Purdah. Some of them of ten years of age were engaged to boys at school.

I forgot to mention that we had a guard of native State troops surrounding the house, about eight in number, and at intervals you would hear the call: "No. 1. Aul's weil," until the whole eight had answered. This sound in the silence of the night did make one feel lonely.

(To be concluded.)

OUTSIDE THE GATES.

WOMEN.

Her Majesty the Queen has accepted a copy of "Our Children's Health at Home and at School," edited by Mr. Charles E. Hecht, M.A. "Rearing an Imperial Race," published for the National Food Reform Association, contains a full report of the Second Guildhall School Conference on Diet, Cookery and Hygiene, with Dietaries; special reports from abroad; and articles on children's food requirements and clothing, is also edited by Mr. Hecht. Both books should find a wide circulation among parents and heads of schools.

The International Council of Women will hold its quinquennial sessions at the Hotel Quirinal, Rome, from the 4th to 13th of May. The National Council of Italy will act as hostesses, and many interesting resolutions are down for the meeting. The committee on Equal Moral Standard and Traffic in Women will propose a resolution expressing firm conviction that licensed houses of ill-fame are the principal sources of supply of the White Slave Traffic, and urging their entire suppression. Sister Agnes Karll will attend the meeting from Germany.

At the meetings of the Council the Committee on Peace and Arbitration will propose resolutions in sympathy with the principle of mediation, even where vital interests are involved, in international conflicts; and will appeal to the next Hague Conference to consider how a more effective international protection of women may be secured which will prevent the continuance of the horrible violation of womanhood that attends all wars. The Committee on Laws concerning the legal position of women will urge that in all the countries where there are affiliated National Councils, the laws should guarantee the civil capacity of the married woman in relation to her personal rights as to her property; that in all countries the law should give equal rights to father and mother in respect of the guardianship, the education, and the disciplinary control of their children. That efforts should be made to secure juvenile courts in all the countries where affiliated National Councils exist, and where such courts have not yet been adopted to obtain the declaration that no child should be looked upon as a criminal, and to recommend that women be permitted to conduct judicial proceedings in juvenile courts. The Committees on Education, Suffrage and Laws will recommend the affiliated National Councils to consider what means may be taken in their respective countries to encourage in the continuation schools, and in the upper classes of all schools attended by girls, some sympathetic teaching of the leading principles of the laws which more directly concern women and children, and of the civic duties and responsibilities of women.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)