

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Dec. 1, 1917.

THE LESSONS OF THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC.

The lessons of this year's epidemic forced upon those engaged in the sphere of sanitation seem to afford an opportunity to the public of profiting by them. The excessive rainfall this year is largely responsible for the present Cholera epidemic in some urban and rural areas: this epidemic appears to be chiefly water-borne and due to the water-logging of the soil and, in some places, to the contamination of the surface wells and other sources of water supply by washings of fouled matter falling into them. The excessive rainfall, again, was a factor which severely operated against the activities of public bodies towards stopping or checking the spread of cholera. *As soon as the weather improved and dry, sunny days came, the virulence of the epidemic began to die out rapidly.*

The first lesson is the comparative helplessness of stopping an epidemic when it has once taken a firm hold in an area. The prevalent social system does not permit of the more important measures, namely, segregation and isolation which are necessary adjuncts to check its spread. The corollary to that lesson is that prevention becomes infinitely more important and that definite preventive measures are required to prevent the recurrence of such an epidemic.

In order to determine and to understand the preventive measures which are required and which are most useful it is necessary to explain how cholera epidemics begin. The disease is due to a germ which causes the disease when it is taken into the human body with water or food which has been contaminated. The methods of contamination are several. Direct contact of soiled hands or vessels with food or water is one way and indirect contact from excreta by means of flies or by means of the excreta being washed into water supplies. The latter means—viz, indirect contact either by water or by flies is the most usual method. The Cholera germ cannot live long outside the human body and it exists in the intervals between epidemics in the intestinal tract of some persons who have had the disease and recovered. These persons are called "carriers" and when they suffer from any looseness of the bowels they excrete the germs of cholera and are liable to start an epidemic. When the weather is unusually wet and all the wells and other sources of water supply are filled up and being contaminated with surface water, it becomes easy for contamination of water supplies to take place owing to the habit of using fields as latrines: the germs get washed from the excreta by the rain into the neighbouring streams, tanks, and surface wells.

When on the other hand the weather is dry, this cannot occur easily, but the contamination is done by the agency of the common fly which is

present in much larger numbers in a dry season than in a wet one, as it is able to breed in much larger numbers when the weather is warm and moist, but not too wet.

It will thus be seen that a pure water supply is not in itself enough to prevent cholera though it is undoubtedly one of the essentials.

Good conservancy entailing the collection and disposal of all excreta and the prevention of the use of parti lands as latrines is the other essential, and it is of primary importance, as it cuts off the sources of contamination at its origin.

In municipal towns full of fields and vacant lands, such as Hazaribagh, the necessity for good conservancy is very great. The municipal Boards should consider the question of prevention of the use of fields and parti lands as latrines. In rural areas it is for the educated land-owners to take such steps. With the co-operation of neighbouring zamindars, a sound and practical scheme may be drawn for small areas.

The other essential preventive is a piped water supply which will entail a considerable expenditure. But, between the enlightened zamindars whose income is derived from the toil of the cultivators and artisans, it should not be such a formidable task as to scare them from financing a scheme of water-supply. Disinfection of wells at the onset of rains and at intervals is a temporary measure of some value but it is not and cannot itself be sufficient to prevent or cope with Cholera.

EXCISE ADMINISTRATION IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

The excise administration in this province is not entirely free from difficulties. The total excise revenue of the year 1916-17 amounted to a little over 112 lakhs of rupees, which shows an increase $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs over the preceding year, but more than $3\frac{3}{4}$ lakhs short of the figure for 1914-15. The incidence of total excise revenue is nearly 5 annas 2 pies per head of the population against 5 annas 1 pie of the preceding year. Consumption of country spirit has largely increased in the district of Muzafferpur. This is mainly due to the fact that smuggling from Nepal has been entirely stopped. This is very good, for weaker and more wholesome liquor has been substituted for the stronger Nepal Brand. This is the apparent cause of the increase, but this increase in consumption does not necessarily show an increase in drunkenness. The number of persons convicted for drunkenness has increased considerably in some districts, while in others it has decreased. But this fluctuation does not indicate in any way an increase or decrease in drunkenness. Opium presents here a considerable difficulty for cases of smuggling have increased seriously but it is hoped that the readjustment of the staff on the Nepal frontier will prove a successful remedy.

Illicit sale or possession of cocaine has fallen off considerably. The total number of persons convicted was 1386 as against 1527 in the preceding year but punishments imposed were considered inadequate.

quate in a majority of cases by the Collectors. It is reported that in some cases notorious smugglers have sent parcels by post or railway under a false description. In such cases it is indeed very difficult to bring the offenders to book. Illicit distillation of country spirit is not entirely unknown. Cases of such distillation are numerous chiefly in the Santal Parganas, Angul, Manbhum and Singbhum. No definite statement can be made whether the consumption of foreign liquors has really decreased. This is due to the fact that there are many in this province who obtain their supplies direct from Calcutta or from manufacturers in other provinces.

Temperance movements in this province are indeed very poor. There was a movement, known as the *bhagat* movement, amongst the Oraons but it is a matter of regret that the earnestness and vigour of this movement are now fading away. Attempts are, however, made regarding temperance teaching in schools. Books containing lessons on temperance are recommended to be perused in schools. In some cases, District Boards have been asked to encourage private enterprises to open tea stalls near country spirits shop for providing counter-attraction to intemperance but in a majority of cases these have proved to be failures. In this connection we like to add one suggestion which we think may be found useful. Popular lectures may be made with the help of magic-lanterns describing the evils of intemperance. These lectures may be delivered near the spirit shops, and private bodies, or members of libraries may be encouraged to volunteer for this noble purpose.

THE USURIOUS LOANS BILL.

We have received from the Honorary Secretary Bengalee Settlers' Association, Bihar and Orissa Bankipore, the following draft of the Central Committee's opinion on the Usurious Loans Bill which, however, could not be sent to the authorities in time on account of the shortness of notice received:—

My committee have full sympathy with the principle underlying the Bill. But they regret to say that they are unable to support many of its provisions.

My committee find the following objectionable points in the Bill viz.

(a) "Excessive interest or return" and "unfair transactions" have not been defined in the Bill. Nor are the circumstances defined under which the court is to deem the interest or return to be excessive or a transaction to be unfair as mentioned in sub-clauses 2 (a) to 2 (d) of clause 2 the Bill. They leave both the lender and the borrower in the dark.

(b) The too wide and comprehensive discretionary powers which have been given to Judicial officers, irrespective of their grade and experience on the Bench, will make dispensation of justice depend in many cases upon the whim and caprice of individual judges.

(c) The powers which have been given to courts

to reopen settled accounts irrespective of fraud and mistake are against judicial procedure now observed in our law courts.

(d) Provisions of the Bill which authorize courts to order refund to debtors of money which the court considers the creditor has obtained in excess of his dues is oppressive to the lender and are likely to restrict loan transactions and hamper business.

For the reasons given above my committee beg to make the following suggestions:—

(1) The maximum amount of interest to be realised might be fixed on the lines of the law of Damdupat whereby the creditor should not be allowed to realize as interest or return more than the principal amount lent.

(2) The courts be empowered to reopen settled accounts only on the ground of fraud and mistake.

(3) That in cases other than those of fraud or mistake no refund be ordered.

THE STORY OF A DISMISSAL.

In the ruthless turning of the administrative steam roller, there is nothing more tragic than the hasty and, often, unjustifiable dismissal of tried servants who had accustomed themselves to their work and, in many cases, discharged their work to satisfaction. There are, it is true, excellent rules protecting Government servants from any thoughtless action of a superior; there are definite rules that no one should be punished on suspicion, and that, as far as possible, the servant with experience should be judged from a most generous angle of vision, and be recommended for punishment only when guilt is most clearly proved. But these rules are more honoured in this breach than in the observance. An instance of a particularly sad case of dismissal of a tried servant in the District Board with twenty-two years' service—a long span of mortal years—deserves the attention of any merciful official with power to right the injustice.

It appears that this officer was an accountant in the Arrah District Board. The head and front of his offence was that a sum of money which he had entered as recovered was found to be short. The explanation that he gave of the deficit was a very reasonable one. A contractor, from whom a sum of money was due to the Board, had to come to him for payment of a bill. In accordance with usual practice, he had passed the bill with an instruction to the cash department to deduct the amount due, and thinking that the money was safe, he had entered it as recovered. Now, if this be all that has been found against the unfortunate accountant, we are of opinion that it is a clear case demanding lenient punishment, if punishment was required at all. The worst offence that can be laid at his door is negligence, negligence after all not very serious, considering the usual practice and the unflinching precision of official routine. Here is an officer with twenty-two years of meritorious service, sent out to the world to starve with his family and children, not for any proved dishonesty, not for any gross negligence on his own part but the

negligence of a third person. We trust sincerely that his appeal will receive a merciful response from Government.

RANDOM SHOTS

by
SHAMLA.

PATNA MUNICIPAL CONSERVANCY.

An ounce of fact, they say, is worth a ton of theory. We have been lately treated in the local papers to a series of learned lectures on conservancy problems of this city by no less a person than the Lord Mayor, we mean, of course, the Chairman. A perusal of them conjured up a thousand delicious visions of the beauties of the Patna to come. Rapt and absorbed in these dreams, we were entering the Bar Library, when a rude shock on our olfactory nerves awakened us to the horrid realities of life. In our ecstasy we had forgotten for the time being the public latrine and drain near the District Bar Library which for a radius of 200 yards emit the foulest and most sickening of all the varieties of odour that even this city can boast of. Here, we have a sample of what a public latrine and a public drain at Patna actually are, while we have been called upon to accept with gratefulness the scheme before the Municipality, which provides for a generous supply of public latrines in all the mahallas of the town. Neither the Chairman nor the Health Officer has probably ever dared to come within smelling distance of the Bar Library hell and that is why they do not understand the public opposition to their pet scheme. There is a stylish club as well as a convent and boarding school for girls in the locality. The inmates of both these institutions must suffer terribly from the nuisance but everybody's business being nobody's business, probably no one has ever moved against the disgraceful state of things.

LEGISLATION IN A HURRY

The efforts of the young to get rid of leading strings and put on adult habiliments may be quite intelligible, but the baby in daddy's pyjamas is not much of a sight. Some very queer effects have resulted from the perfectly natural endeavour of this province to get full-fledged in a day. The Patna University Act, for example, was a measure which was rushed through out of consideration to the feeling above referred to. It is not surprising therefore, that some very curious provisions are to be found in that notable piece of legislation. One of the provisions of the Act is that the First Senate and the Syndicate are to be constituted by the gentlemen named in the schedules annexed to the Act. Now, as there is no provision for filling up vacancies in the First Senate or the First Syndicate, there is just the chance, from which angels and ministers of grace defend us, that the First Syndicate may come to an untimely end through want of a quorum due to a depletion of members. Similarly, should it so happen, the overwhelming official and expert majority in the Senate, so carefully manoeuvred, may disappear through the retirement, or transfer of these officials or if they

join the army or the majority (which last may heaven forbid). What may happen then brings us to another tale.

LIFE UNTIL DEATH IS DESIRED.

We have read in the *Mahabharata* how the venerable Bhishma was gifted with the power of living so long as he did not wish to die. Since then, up to the year of grace 1917, it has not been the lot of any human institution, not to speak of human beings, to be blessed with such a remarkable gift. It was however reserved for the Patna University Senate to rival the grandfather of the Kurus. Under the act, the term of office of the First Senate will be prescribed by the Regulations. And who are to frame these regulations? Why, the First Senate! And should such a contingency happen as has been hinted above, what is to prevent the residuum of non-official fellows to go on, like the poet's brook, for ever? Only in this case, the men, that is, the official Senators may go, but they may not come, at least under the present Act. Here is a chance, though quite a sporting chance, for Home Rulers!

TEMPERANCE OR SEDITION.

The genius who was responsible for "the Barisal Stare" and for the unearthing of sedition in the Gita is apparently still on Indian soil. In a recent article on the Excise Administration in this Province, the Allahabad oracle lays down the remarkable proposition that the temperance movement among the Oraons was seditious because the liquor supplied was official and a movement against drinking the same must be a movement against Government. There is therefore a clearly discernible note of pleasure in the *Pioneer's* article at the fact that the *bhagat* movement has practically died down. Sedition in India has lately provided a universal peg to hang all sorts of things upon. It now remains for some juvenile examinee of Patna to sing its praises in terms similar to the following, which, we believe, is from an essay on parallel straight lines by a would-be matriculate of Calcutta:—"Unparallel straight lines are the curse of the world, they cause book-binding, picture-framing, writing etc. to look ugly, they cause a Railway train to be derailed and capsized, they cause buildings to collapse—in fact all the ugly things, horrible phenomena and deadly calamities in this world are due to unparallel straight lines etc. etc."

Meanwhile, let there be no further signing of the pledge, by order of the Discoverer General of Sedition at Allahabad.

NOTES.

Bengal Internments.

In the Bengal Council, H. E. Lord Ronaldshay made a long statement on the administration of the Defence of India Act. Lord Ronaldshay has not been able to maintain his predecessor's attitude. He has made a double concession. He is prepared to submit all future cases to a tribunal consisting of two judges. He has further resolved that the question whether a real conspiracy exists for the overthrow of the British Government shall be examined by a committee presided over by an eminent English Judge of the King's Bench.

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The Capacity of the Masses.

In connection with Sir James Meston's recent references in his speech on self-government to the unfitness of the masses to exercise political rights, the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" tells an instructive

and, at the present time, extremely appropriate story of an incident that occurred in Bengal in 1886. A mass meeting was held at Jhinkargachia, in the Jessore District, to protest against the Chowkidari Bill which sought to place the villagers at the tender mercies of the Chowkidar or village watch. About a lakh of people assembled. The Bill was of an intricate nature, and the Magistrate of Jessore, Mr. Tute, thought that the demonstration was the work of some educated Babus, the deluded ryots being only tools in their hands. So he attended the meeting to expose its hollowness by cross-examining the ryots, some of whom were to have taken part in the proceedings. "To his utter surprise and confusion he soon came to find out that the ignorant ryots knew more about the matter than he himself did. And he had the fairness to say so in his report, with the result that the Bill was dropped." No doubt as the "Amrita" says, some "educated Babus" engineered the movement but what they did was to educate the ryots in regard to the provisions of the Bill. The moral is obvious.

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The Calcutta Municipal Bill.

The Calcutta Municipal Bill, which Sir S. P. Sinha has introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council, will greatly change the present system of municipal administration in Calcutta. Under the proposed system, the Chairman will become the head of the Executive, styled, as in Bombay, the Commissioner, while to avoid confusion the members of the Corporation will be called Councillors. The Commissioner will have the right of attending meetings of the Corporation and of Committees and of speaking but he will have no vote. A President annually elected by his fellow Councillors will be the chairman of Corporation meetings, and each Committee will choose its own chairman. Much depends on the choice of a Commissioner. The new Bill does not contemplate that he shall necessarily be a Government servant, and it is understood that an effort will be made to secure for the Corporation the right to elect the chief executive officer. Much depends also on the effect of the change in the composition of the Corporation. At present there is one elected commissioner for each ward or 25 elected commissioners in all. Under the Bill twelve of the more populous wards are to be given an additional member, so that the total will be raised to 37. A new provision ensures the return of nine Mahomedan Councillors by a Mahomedan electorate which will be debarred from participating in the ordinary ward elections. To balance the increase of ward commissioners the Bengal Chamber of Commerce is given two additional representatives while the Calcutta Trades Association receives one extra member. The Port Trust will nominate two Councillors, the Marwari Association two, the University of Calcutta one, and the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce one.

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The Council of Princes.

In his closing speech at the Delhi Conference of Ruling Princes and Chiefs, the Viceroy, referring to the request for the early establishment of a constitutional chamber to represent the interests of the Princes in matters of Imperial or joint concern, said he had deprecated the immediate institution of a more formal assemblage with a fixed constitution and strictly defined powers for the reasons explained in his opening address. He did not, however, wish in any way to discourage Their Highnesses from devoting to the subject at once the attention which its importance demanded and he could assure them that any scheme which they might put forward would receive the most careful and sympathetic consideration. It

might be possible to arrange for a preliminary and informal discussion of the subject towards the close of Mr. Montagu's stay in India and he (the Viceroy) would lose no time in placing before the Secretary of State their views when they had been formulated. In the meantime Lord Chelmsford suggested that the Princes should turn over the matter in their minds with a view to outlining a scheme which, while ensuring due scope for the representation of their views, would not infringe the principle to which they had given expression, namely, that the scope of any such assemblage which they might advocate should be strictly limited to matters relating to themselves and their States or which were of joint interest to themselves and the Government of India. His Excellency, in expressing his satisfaction and gratitude at their Highnesses' assurance of continued co-operation in the prosecution of the war, said that when the war was over there would not be one among them who would not have cause to look back with pride to the services his State had rendered to the cause of justice and freedom.

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LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

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H. H. the Maharaja Bahadur of the Sonpur Feudatory State, Orissa, came on a pilgrimage to the Sonpur Fair. His Highness halted at Bankipur for a day and left for Calcutta to be at the reception of Mr. Montagu.

So Mr. Reid, the Planters' representative on the Bihar Council has had to make room for Mr. Jameson presumably because he was more reasonable than Messrs. Irwin and Co. The appointment of Mr. Pringle Kennedy as Additional Member of the Council for three months is in connection with the legislation on the Champaran question which was introduced at last Thursday's Council meeting and referred to a select committee.

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At the last meeting of the Commissioners of the Patna City Municipality, the Health Officer's scheme of studding the town with public latrines was adopted with the reservation that the scheme may not be preceded with for the present so far as sites which had been objected to are concerned. We thank our City Fathers for even this small mercy.

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THE half-a-dozen street hydrants with which Bankipur has been favoured by the Patna Waterworks scheme have since the beginning of this week been giving an intermittent supply of muddy water. From an experiment, it was found that it took fully 15 minutes for sufficient water to trickle from the spout to fill a *ghaila*. After dusk, of course, the supply is cut off.

VIOLENT METHODS

Are unnecessary to conquer that bitter enemy of civilization Rheumatism. All its forms, including Rheumatic Gout, can be cured permanently, safely and inexpensively by **Little's Oriental Balm**. No matter how much pain your Rheumatism is causing you. No matter if you have tried a dozen oils, ointments and embrocations without material relief. Here is a remedy that gets down to business at once, and knocks out every vestige of pain. It is the only thing you can depend upon with certainty. It never disappoints. Helpless cripples have left the hospital with their last hope gone. Sceptically they tried **Little's Oriental Balm**. Got relief and final cure. What the medicine did for them, it will do for you. Don't let another day pass without it. Sold at Re. 1 per bottle. Of all Chemists and Medicine Vendors throughout India.

THE following five students top in order of merit all the matriculates from Bihar and Orissa and have been awarded first grade junior scholarships of Rs. 20:—Manindra Nath Guha, Cuttack Pyari Mohan Academy, Renupada Mukherji, Pakaur Raj H. E. School, Rameshwar Prasad Gupta, Arrah Zilla School, Byidyanath Rath, Ravenshaw Collegiate School, Sahadeb Das, Deoghar R. Mitra Institution.

THE Sonepur Fair this year was a poor affair due mainly to Railway difficulties. There was however a fair gathering of horses and cattle. The Police arrangements in the temple left nothing to be desired. We wish we could say the same thing as regards the arrangements for safe traffic. The practice of riding on elephants through the crowd, which very often causes annoyance, should be kept within reasonable limits.

AS anticipated by us, at the meeting of the Senate, to be held on the 8th December, the draft regulations of the University are to be taken up and passed. A transitory regulation to the effect that articles 8 to 73 of the Calcutta regulations will remain in force for a time is also to be considered. So far as we have been able to gather, none of the Indian Senators have yet seen the draft regulations that they have been asked to pass next Saturday.

THE Lieutenant-Governor of Bihar and Orissa has learnt with deep regret that Lieutenant T. J. Kelly, Indian Army Reserve of Officers, was killed in action on the 7th November. Mr. Kelly entered the Indian Police Service in 1908, and in May 1915 he joined the Indian Army Reserve of Officers. His death has deprived the service of one of its most promising young officers. Standing 6 ft. 3 inches in his shoes, Lt. Kelly had a giant's physique with the soul of a child.

AN Urdu daily learns that His Highness the Nizam has contributed a lakh of rupees towards the Behar Relief Fund. Arrangements have been made for this announcement to be repeated in the principal mosques in Calcutta. A considerable sum is expected from all parts of India. Up to date two relief missions have been sent from Calcutta to Behar, each carrying Rs. 10,000 for the relief of the sufferers in the riots. A third also with Rs. 10,000, was expected on Saturday. The members of the three missions are paying their own expenses.

WE heartily endorse every word of the following remarks of the *Express* on the question of fees for University Examinations:—"The Calcutta University has recently raised the rate of fees which candidates for the different examinations are required to pay with the object, it is said, of meeting the cost of post graduate scholarships. This may not be felt as a great hardship in Bengal where education has already widely spread even to the remotest corners of the province. We earnestly hope, however, that the Patna University authorities will fix the rate at a much reduced scale, so that high fees may not discourage students of indigent means from entering the portals of their *Alma Mater*. In a backward province like Bihar and Orissa every facility should be given to the poorest students to get the benefit of high education and no obstacles should be put to scare them away."

THE "Jagatdhatri Puja" was celebrated by the Maharaja Bahadur of Hathwa at Bankipur with great eclat on the 23rd ultimo. The image of the

Goddess was an excellent work of art constructed by Gopal Das, an artist of Krishnagar, now residing at Bankipur, and extorted admiration from the visitors. The Puja was performed on a grand scale. A large number of Brahmins were sumptuously fed and nine Kumaries were worshipped and given rich clothes and ornaments. The services of several Pundits were requisitioned who were given handsome "Bidais" in the shape of shawls, silk cloths, and cash money etc. The immersion procession to the Ganges which went round the town with bands, music and light was superb and attended by a large crowd of people. In connection with the Puja, the Residents' Dramatic Club staged "Chandbibbi" successfully on Sunday night.

THE "Englishman" gives the following details of a railway robbery near Chapra on the B. and N.-W. Railway: Mrs. Jackson, wife of Mr. F. E. Jackson, I. C. S. (posted to Lona as Deputy Commissioner) was in a first class compartment, alone, her husband with some other man being in another compartment. Three or four stations from Chapra she felt some irritating stuff on her face which she took for fine sand or dust and put a sheet over her face. She did not remember anything more. The cold air from the open door awakened her. She got up on finding the door open and looked for her bags. All were missing. She pulled the cord, without result and then rushed into the bath-room when she found the bags cut open and the contents scattered about, everything of value being removed. Mr. Jackson's despatch box bags contained some Rs. 360 in gold and silver, some jewellery and many silver articles. The train was then slowing down



DREAD and FEAR Won't Make You Well.

DON'T live in constant fear of disease. Fear works on the nerves, and makes little ailments bigger.

If your back aches, don't be afraid that gravel, dropsy, or Bright's disease will follow.

If you have too much uric acid in your blood don't fear chronic rheumatism.

Just say: "I'll start right now to cure my kidneys, and if I live more carefully, I'll be healthy."

Take enough exercise to keep the blood circulating freely through the kidneys. That will help to keep the blood pure.

If you are eating too much, working too hard, worrying a lot, and not getting the sleep you ought, it's an easy matter to change these habits for a while, and to repair the weakened kidneys with Doan's Backache Kidney Pills.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills, if taken in time, will cleanse the urinary channels, stimulate the kidneys to greater activity, and rid the system of waste that causes so much disorder. Do not brood over your health; cheerfulness and Doan's Pills are the two best medicines.

Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are Rs. 2 per bottle; 6 for Rs. 10,8; obtainable from all dealers.

for Chapra station. The police believe Mrs. Jackson had been drugged with some powder.

THE triennial report of the working of hospitals and dispensaries in Bihar and Orissa for the years 1914, 1915 and 1916 draws special attention to the depletion of Indian Medical Service officers on account of the war. The Local Government had to send away 15 officers of the I. M. S. and two civil surgeons belonging to the Indian subordinate medical department. When the report was written there were only three civil surgeons belonging to the I. M. S. in the province, the vacancies having been filled by the temporary employment of two European doctors and by the officiating promotion of civil assistant surgeons. The Lieutenant-Governor in his resolution on the report observes with regret that many of the sub-assistant surgeons 'did all in their power' to evade military service, with the result that no less than ten had to be dismissed for refusing to join while one has since deserted. 'This strong aversion to military duty is believed to be the cause of the difficulty which is being experienced in securing recruits for the service at the present time.' This state of things is no doubt regrettable, but the result of the military policy pursued by the Government in spite of repeated protests from the people, could not be otherwise. The transfer of the public works cess to the resources of the local bodies resulted in an increase of 39 local fund dispensaries and further increases are expected. The most notable improvement in the hospitals of the province during the triennium is said to be of the Bankipur general hospital which has been rebuilt and enlarged at a cost of about 3½ lakhs of rupees. The number of in-patients treated in state-public, local fund and private aided institutions rose from 31,593 in 1914 to 35,172 in 1916, and that of out-patients from 2,230,361 in 1914 to 2,516,117 in 1916. The number of cases of malaria treated was larger than in the preceding triennium, and reached its maximum of 706,722 in 1916. The malaria lecturers who tour in the most affected districts of the province are said to have done good work, but no practical result of that work has been brought to light. Special tuberculosis wards have been sanctioned for some hospitals and the local Government has accepted the recommendation of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals that the provision of such wards should be extended.

THE planting community, or rather the redoubtable Mr. Irwin, is just now much exercised over a notice, which, printed in vernacular, is being circulated in Champaran by the order of the Local Government. The following translation of the notice has been sent by Mr. Irwin to the Anglo-Indian papers:—

NOTICE.

The Lieutenant-Governor in Council received the report of the Champaran Agrarian Committee, and on considering the report, His Honour passed the following orders:—

I. *Tinkattia* system be abolished and be considered as illegal.

II. (a) The contracts between a planter and a tenant for the growing of indigo or any other crop shall be entirely voluntary.

(b) These contracts shall not extend for more than three years.

(c) The price to be paid shall be a matter of voluntary agreement and shall be fixed on the weight of the crop, when both parties agree the rate to be paid shall be fixed by panchayets.

(d) Price shall not be paid less than what is

fixed by the Planters' Association and sanctioned by the Commissioner.

(e) No contracts will bind a tenant to grow indigo or any other crop on his particular plot of land.

III. Turkowlia, Motihari and Pipra concerns have agreed that the *sarahbeshi* which they have been taking will be reduced:

In Turkowlia at 20 p. c. (which is 3 annas 2-2/5 pies per rupee) and in Motihari and Pipra concerns at 26 p. c. (which is four annas seven pies per rupee) from the 1st Aswin 1325. In the two other concerns, Sirni and Jalaha, the *sarahbeshi* that has already been allowed will be reduced at 26 p. c.

IV. In those factories where *sarahbeshi* has not been taken and the growing of indigo has been recorded in the Survey Khatian as an obligation—such term will be cancelled and in its place *sarahbeshi* will be allowed, as allowed in the above factories, from the 1st Aswin 1326.

V. Manager, Bettiah Raj, will not grant leases of those villages where *taman* has been taken but can renew the leases if 25 p. c. of the *taman* (*tawan*) collected is refunded through the Bettiah Raj.

VI. In those Thika villages where *taman* (*tawan*) has been collected, the Raj must forego for seven years any enhancement of rent that has or may be granted by Settlement Courts, unless the whole amount collected as *taman* is refunded by the Raj.

VII. It should be generally informed that the exaction of *abwab* is illegal. The practice of landlords' servants levying a commission on payments is equally illegal.

The tenant is entitled to receive rent receipts without paying these illegal demands.

VIII. The Behar Planters' Association will be asked to prepare a minimum scale of labour wages based on the local market rates to be paid by the indigo concerns with the approval of the Commissioner.

Thinness means weakness

Against this condition SCOTT'S Emulsion is a true specific. A course of SCOTT'S Emulsion enriches the blood, promotes natural appetite and restores the plumpness and vigour of robust health.



Young babies, growing children, malaria weakened men, and all suffering from the devastating effects of tropical climates need this valuable body-building food.

SCOTT'S Emulsion is largely prescribed by physicians for anæmia, scrofula, rickets, marasmus and wasting.

SCOTT'S Emulsion

IX. The Behar Planters' Association will be asked to fix a proper rate for cart *sattas*. The *sattas* will remain in force from 3 to 5 years.

(Sd.) H. COUPLAND.

Secretary, Government.

Dated Oct. 18.

A great deal of legal learning has been bestowed on the legality or otherwise of items II, III, IV, V and VI of the notice. Accepting Mr. Irwin's translation as correct, III, IV and V are only statements of fact and there is, we suppose, nothing, even in Champaran Law, against the publication of a bald recital of facts. As regards II, it only enunciates a well-known principle of law which nullifies involuntary contracts. As regards VI, it is a question between the Raj and the Court of Wards and Mr. Irwin need not bother his head about it, and should remember the Indian proverb,—she is a witch who loves a child better than its mother.

MUZAFFARPUR NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MR. GANDHI.

Mr. Gandhi arrived here from Motihari on the 11th instant, and delivered a Hindi lecture, in the spacious compound of the Dharamshala, near the Muzaffarpur Railway Station, before an audience, numbering over ten thousand. On arrival at the station, Mr. Gandhi was received by an immense concourse of people, who like a flood, filled the platform, and every nook and corner of the station premises. Flowers were showered upon him, and cries of "Mahatma Gandhi ki Jai" rent the air. Mr. Gandhi was conducted to the motor car of Babu Krishandeo Narayan Mahtha, a prominent Banker, Zemindar, and Honorary Magistrate of this town; and he was seated along with the owner of the car, and Babu Gaya Prasad Singh, pleader. Immense crowds lined on both sides of the road, and they showered flowers and garlands upon the distinguished philanthropist. The Marwari community presented sacred "arti" to him; and offered signal marks of distinction. At 3 P.M., the mass meeting was held, and it was attended by the representatives of all sections of the public, a special feature being the presence of a large number of villagers from interior, who evinced the most enthusiastic interest in the proceedings. Maulvi Latif Hussain, recited an appropriate Hindi verse of welcome, which was much appreciated; after which Mr. Gandhi delivered his speech, in course of which he referred, to the Champaran matter, Shahabad affair, Hindu-Mohamedan unity, and Swaraj, and touched upon Mr. Montagu's Mission in India. The discourse was highly applauded; and many thousands of signatures were obtained to the petition to be presented to Mr. Montagu. At 7 P.M., Mr. Gandhi, accompanied by the leading Hindu gentlemen of the town, went to the Moslem Club, and was warmly welcomed by the leaders of the Moslem community, who garlanded the gentleman present, and offered fruits to Mr. Gandhi. After some informal talks, Mr. Gandhi drove to the station, and proceeded to Motihari by the night train. Great credit is due to Babus Krishandeo Narayan Mahtha, Durga Das Sondhi, Rannavami Prasad, Ram Dayal Sinha, and Maulvi Nurul Hussain, for the success of the arrangements.

OUR DAY.

Arrangements are proceeding briskly in connection with "Our Day" celebrations, in which Bioscope, Theatricals, Motor Car Raffle, Wrestling, Gramophone Raffle, Lucky Bag, sports &c. will form important items on the programme.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the facts and opinions stated by our correspondents.]

HACKNEY CARRIAGE SCARCITY IN PATNA.

To The Editor, "Behar Herald."

Sir,—Will you take up your pen on behalf of the long-suffering residents of the town against the extortionate demands made by the *gharrywallahs* of Patna? On the 28th instant, my family went to bathe in the Durbhanga Ghat which is about a furlong from my house near the General Hospital. For the journey to the river and back, the *gharrywallah* charged me one rupee. I demanded a receipt, but was refused. The number of the *gharry* is 92, second class, the proprietor is one Imrit Kumhar. I may mention that the entire time during which the carriage was employed did not exceed half-an-hour.

ROBBED.

A DEWAN MAHALLA GRIEVANCE.

To the Editor, "Behar Herald," Bankipur.

Sir,—There is a lane called Sirhi Ghat in Dewan Mahalla, and it runs from near the house of late Rai Sultan Bahadur to the banks of the Ganges. Being the only way which leads to the Ghat, people frequent this from early in the morning till late in the evening. Fancy this lane which is so very useful to the people of this quarter, has been totally neglected by our City Fathers. If one traverses through this lane in the rainy season, there is every likelihood of hurting oneself, as blocks made of bricks and stone are to be found in abundance. And no sooner the rain begins to work, the whole lane seems to be in a process of excavation. Another point, which I wish to bring to your notice is that no light is provided for this lane. People especially belonging to the Hindu community are fond of bathing before the sun rises. How difficult it is to pass this lane, in pitched darkness of night! They have to take their steps warily and still the danger of their stumbling and thereby hurting themselves is not averted. Before this, the late Moulvi Kazim Hossain, a pleader of the Judge's Court and myself sent a representation signed by the Mohalla people to the Vice-Chairman. But to my regret and surprise, I have to say that no notice of it was taken by the Municipal authorities. I shall, therefore, feel obliged if you kindly give a column in your well circulated paper for the publication of this letter.

G. N. MATHUR.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Sale of unclaimed property.

Notice is hereby given that unless the undermentioned goods are removed and all charges due thereon paid before the 8th December 1917, they will be sold by Public Auction and the proceeds disposed of in terms of the Indian Railways Act IX of 1890.

Consignment—22 tins ghee.
Ex Patna Ghat to Giridih Invoice
No. 6. R/R No. 38432 dated 8-4-17.
Sender Golab Roy Ram Protap.
Consignee Chiman Ram.

By order,
CALCUTTA, { C. M. PEARCE,
The 21-11-1917. } General Traffic Manager.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela at Allahabad 1918.

Pilgrims intending to travel by rail to attend the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad are advised in their own interests to refrain from doing so. During the period the Mela is held, viz, from 13th January to 25th February 1918, the East Indian Railway will be required to carry large quantities of urgent Coal, Military and Government traffic, and it will not therefore be possible to run Special Mela trains for the convenience of pilgrims.

As the regular Passenger Train services have had to be curtailed to make room for Goods trains carrying urgent Coal and Goods traffic the Passenger trains now running will not have accommodation for pilgrims travelling in large numbers, and Pilgrims are warned that if they journey by rail to this Mela they are liable to suffer serious detention waiting for trains.

GENL. TRAF. MNGR'S.
OFFICE,
Calcutta, 11th Oct.
9-4 1917.

By order,
C. M. PEARCE,
General Traffic Manager.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

ALTERATIONS TO TRAINS.

On and from 1st December 1917 the following alterations to Mail, Passenger and Suburban Trains will come into effect.

No. 1 Up Mail will run a few minutes later than at present between Jhijnhak and Sonapat, and No. 2 Down between Delhi and Kiul.

No. 5 Up Express will leave Howrah at 14-06 or 25 mts. earlier than at present, the train will take up its present timings from Gya and make additional stops at Durgapur, Kaloobathan, Nimiaghat, Parasabad, Paharpur and Manpur.

No. 6 Down will run through Mohri, Dhirpur and Taraori between Ambala and Karnal. The train will leave Etawah 5 mts. earlier than at present but will leave Gujhandi 2 mts. later than at present and will run somewhat later to destination arriving at Howrah at 20-26 instead of 20-00. There will be a halt of 25 mts. at Burdwan for Refreshments and the train will stop at Sheoraphuli.

No. 9 Up Loop Mixed will leave Howrah at 17-56 instead of 18-00 and adopt present timings from Chandernagore.

No. 10 Down Loop Mixed will leave Jamalpur at 13-45 or 10 mts. later and

will arrive at Howrah at 6-16 instead of 6-00.

No. 13 Up Passenger will leave Mokameh at midnight instead of 2-25 and will arrive at Benares proportionately earlier.

No. 19 Up will leave Howrah 9 mts. later and will connect with No. 36 Down Local at Bandel.

No. 23 Up Passenger will leave Kiul at 21-43 instead of at 22-30 and arrive Mokameh Jn. at 23-04 instead of at 0-02.

No. 25 Up will leave Howrah at 9-46 instead of 10-40 and will leave Burdwan at 13-58 instead of at 14-50 arriving at Kiul at 1-37 where it will connect with No. 30 Down running on an earlier timing.

No. 24 Down will leave Burdwan at 16-13. Passengers by this train for the Bandel-Katwa section and the Tarkessur Branch from the Loop line should change into No. 4 Down at Burdwan for connections at Bandel and Sheoraphuli respectively.

No. 26 Down will leave Kiul at 22-00 or 15 mts. earlier than at present, arriving 12 mts. earlier at Howrah.

No. 27 Up will leave Monghyr at 17-50 instead of 16-53 and leave Kiul at 19-50 or 10 mts. later than at present arriving at Gya to time.

No. 29 Up will leave Cawnpore at 5-49 but leave Jhijnhak 20 mts. earlier than at present and Kanchausi 7 mts. earlier arriving at Delhi 6 mts. earlier.

No. 30 Down will leave Tundla at 17-35 or 20 mts. earlier but will take up its present timing from Cawnpore. The Train will leave Mirzapur 3 mts. earlier than at present, leave Moghal Sarai 15 mts. earlier and run on a somewhat earlier timing to Howrah where the arrival will be 16-20 instead of 16-55.

No. 20 and 50 Down will leave Katwa at 13-02 instead of 13-10 and at 5-00 instead of 5-10 respectively but will leave Purbasthali as at present.

No. 53 Up will leave Bandel at 19-40 or 11 mts. earlier and connect with No. 6 Down Express and will arrive Katwa as at present.

An additional Shuttle Train after connecting with No. 36 Up on Saturdays will leave Bandel at 15-46 and arrive at Katwa at 19-00.

The Train Service on the Ondal-Sainthia Chord has been revised and Branch trains will be altered to maintain connections with Main line trains.

For fuller particulars the public are referred to new Time Table and Guide for the quarter commencing 1st December 1917.

CALCUTTA,
The 27-11-1917.

By order,
C. M. PEARCE,
General Traffic Manager.