

The Behar Herald.

Bankipur, Saturday, Feb. 16, 1918.

THE HARD LOT OF HEALTH OFFICERS.

We have shown in a recent article that only such persons are selected as Health Officers of the second class as have the same medical qualifications as those possessed by Assistant Surgeons. Considering the admitted necessity of sanitary measures and the fact that under the system adopted by Government, it is these Health Officers who are primarily responsible for the direction of such measures the public has a right to examine their conditions of service and to see whether the money that is spent after them is not thrown away in simply feeding an army of grumblers and third-rate men. It may be conceded at the outset that there is at present no love lost between these officers and the public. That itself is a sure indication that something is wrong at the bottom, and that something, as we shall show presently, is the dismal prospect that the Health Officers find in their service. It is this which keeps out the best men from entering the service, and even if a few deserving men join now and then, they only swell the chorus of discontent as soon as they come to realise the true nature of the lot they have chosen. The result is that the public never gets the full value of the money spent and the progress of Sanitation goes on with the pace of the ox-cart.

The hard conditions of the Health Officers' service are best illustrated by a comparison with those of Assistant Surgeons. It would be necessary however to point out in the beginning that the lot of the Assistant Surgeons is far from being enviable considering the amount of their general education, the long period of their medical studies and the high cost of such studies, their exposure to danger both during the time of training and in service, and their extremely onerous duties. But even such amenities, poor as they are in comparison with those enjoyed by other departments, as are allowed to Assistant Surgeons are denied to the poor Health Officers.

Thus both Assistant Surgeons and Health Officers must have L. M. S. diplomas or M. B. degrees, but Health Officers have to undergo an additional training in a Medical College and obtain the diploma of a Health Officer on passing the examination held for that purpose. But the Assistant Surgeons who are mostly maintained by Municipalities and District Boards become Government Servants entitled to pension while the Health Officers whose cost is almost entirely defrayed by Government are only Municipal Servants and their posts are non-pensionable. Assistant Surgeons have not generally to pass through any probationary period before confirmation which Health Officers have to undergo, and which may be any number of years. Assistant Surgeons are Gazetted officers, and entitled to all the privileges allowed to such officers while Health Officers are glorified *Dome Sardars*. But the most important result of the one appointment being Government and the other not, is the difference it makes in the stability or security in the tenure of office. Assistant Surgeons cannot be discharged or compelled to resign except by the Local Government and only after regular proceedings, while there is no security for the Health Officers,—they may be discharged or compelled to resign at the sweet will of the Municipal Commissioners, or of the District Magistrate or of the Sanitary Commissioner. The fact that no Assis-

tant Surgeon has been discharged or compelled to resign since the creation of this Province whereas a very large number of Health Officers were either discharged or compelled to resign during this period, affords a lurid comment on the miserable lot of Health Officers.

Coming to pay and prospects, we find that the pay of the Assistant Surgeons is Rs. 100 rising to Rs. 350 where private practice is allowed, and where such practice is not allowed, the pay is fixed at Rs. 175 to 500. Besides this, there are Jail, Sub-divisional, Hostel, House and other allowances. The pay of Health Officers is Rs. 100 for six months and then Rs. 150-10-300. They are not allowed to practice and are not entitled to any allowance or any professional fees. The scale of pay of the Assistant Surgeons, it should be noted, has been recommended by the Public Services Commission to be raised to one of Rs. 150 rising to Rs. 400. In view of all these circumstances, we appeal to Government to reconsider the entire question of the service and the duties of Health Officers. The present conditions are quite unsatisfactory and drastic changes will have to be introduced before the public can expect to have an efficient Sanitary Service.

THE LIBRARY CONFERENCE AT LAHORE.

The main question discussed in the recent Library Conference at Lahore relates to the desirability of having a number of central libraries in the country to facilitate the work of scholars, lawyers, bankers, merchants and all others who may require books not at present easily accessible to them. The conference evidently has been unable to give a decisive answer to the question. The problem is full of difficulties. We think that the proposed scheme is impracticable, and that even if some central libraries are established, they will not be used to such an extent as to make the benefit at all proportionate to the cost. Scholars who are at present hampered by the lack of books of reference are quite limited in number, and they are in most cases residents in the large provincial capitals. Their needs can be most adequately supplied by enlarging such libraries as there are in those towns. The idea of enabling a scholar to obtain books from a library in a distant town is absurd. The risk of damage being done to valuable books in transit and the cost of sending them to and fro are obvious objections. But there is one more serious inconvenience which is not apparent at first sight. A research scholar has to read not several books in succession but has to handle several books at the same time, and to refer constantly from one book to another. That being the case unless whole almirahs are sent at a time no useful purpose will be served. Indeed we think it is impossible to find a suitable substitute to having a library in the town of the scholar's residence.

We therefore propose that instead of founding new libraries for circulating books in large areas or using the existing ones for the same purpose, attempts should be made to make each great centre of learning a self-contained whole as far as practicable. With this end in view the existing libraries in the large cities should be developed. At present the only considerable libraries are attached to one or other of the Universities. These should be enlarged and made accessible to scholars resident in the towns where they are situated. Where there are more than one libraries, as in Calcutta, care should be taken to make each of them complementary to the others. It is a wasteful process to have the same classes of books multiply in two closely situated libraries, instead of making each specialise

in one or more branches. It may also be advisable to have a government library in each of the towns of Bombay and Madras. But the first care should be to develop the University libraries in these towns. In Northern India too there is ample scope for developing the libraries of the Universities of Lahore and Allahabad and of the new Hindu University. Now that Delhi is again the Imperial City, there should also be a central library in that town.

Coming now to our own city, it is evident that the only existing libraries of any importance are the Oriental Library popularly known as the Khudabuksh Library and the Patna College Library. Neither the one nor the other nor both of them taken together make up a collection at all suitable to a provincial capital. The Khudabaksh Library no doubt contains a valuable collection of Persian manuscripts and is thus something in the nature of a museum. The Patna College Library is not sufficient even to supply the needs of students going in for the M. A. examinations. It is deplorable that although we have a University in this town the facilities for study should be so inadequate. Books are the materials of a University. Without a Library a University is a farce. We expect that with the development of the new University there will be a University Library of adequate size. We suggest that in building the new Library the resources of the whole city in this matter should be considered as one and that the different libraries should be considered as complementary to one another. It is a proposal worth considering that the Khodabuksh Library should be developed into a centre of Oriental study in all its branches—Pali, Sanskrit, and Persian, and the University Library should specialise in the other important branches. We shall thus be able incidentally to utilise the valuable materials at present lying almost useless in the Oriental Library.

THE NECESSITY OF FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN BIHAR & ORISSA

SPECIAL FOR THE BEHAR HERALD.

II.

In our last article, we laid special stress on statistical discrepancies for the very important reason that the whole question requires thoroughly reliable and complete statistics to be properly handled. There is one other aspect of these statistics which should also be pointed out. Being ordinary compiled under the guidance of departmental heads, there is always an unconscious tendency to marshal them in the light which would best support the pet theories of the particular officer concerned or the particular policy which may be reigning at the moment. Thus, though there is some use in showing the actual average cost of education per head of pupil, nothing has led to greater fallacies than deductions made from this average as to the probable cost of universal education. A simple illustration will explain the fallacy. If a school which costs Rs. 20 per month has only one scholar, the average cost per month per student is Rs. 20. If we want to have twenty students in the place of one, it does not necessarily follow that the cost would be twenty times Rs. 20. On the contrary, it is just possible that the cost for 20 students would be the same as that for only one student. This point, simple as it is, escaped the attention of even such an eminent statistician as the late Mr. Gokhale. The same mistake has been committed in the otherwise thoughtful opinion on the Bihar and Orissa Primary

Education Bill submitted to the Government by the Bengalee Settlers' Association.

Another similar fallacy is to make undue generalisations from averages on a matter which affects the remotest parts of the country. A very typical example is the table cited by the Hon'ble Mr. S. K. Sahay in the course of his speech in support of the introduction of the Primary Education Bill at the last Council meeting. The table gives the number of existing schools, the number of possible scholars, and the number of schools in excess or in deficit on the basis of 60 boys to a school. The table completely ignores two important facts; it does not take into account the capacity or otherwise of the existing schools to take sixty boys each, while it is entirely silent on the actual number of scholars attending these schools. And yet we find the Hon'ble gentleman making all sorts of comfortable calculations on the strength of the table quoted by him. In the same manner, the figures given in the recently published Quinquennial Review as regards the percentage of scholars to population of school-going age and the number of schools required in each district on the basis of area, while very useful for purposes of comparison, have very little value unless separate figures for rural and urban areas are given. Take for instance a district with an area of 2,500 square miles and a population of 600,000 males. Taking the number of boys of primary school-going age at 10 per cent of the total population, there would be 60,000 boys of that age in that district for whom 1,000 schools would be required on the 60 boys to a school basis. The same number of schools would be required on the basis of 1 school to every 2½ square miles. Now it is quite possible for such a district to have a town with a population of 60,000 males, that is to say of 6,000 of the primary school-going age. On the population basis at least a 100 schools would be required for such a town. The area of such a town being only about 25 square miles, this would mean that if the area basis is to be considered (and it has to be), much more than 1000 schools will be required for the district, a result which is quite different from that we should arrive at if we based our calculations from the average. Even if the average distance of one school from another is given, it would not be of much assistance, as a number of schools clustered in an urban or a large village centre will reduce the average to a much lower figure than is actually the case.

Bearing in mind the above considerations let us proceed to an examination of the subject before us. At the outset, we may dispose of a preliminary objection which is sometimes raised against indiscriminate spread of education among the masses. We are not referring to the silly argument that if the proletariat were all educated, we should no longer have *doms* and *mehtars*. The days are long past when people could be compelled to remain ignorant. Instances are not rare where men of very low caste have risen to high rank and position by dint of education. In a discussion on primary education we are not concerned with that sort of education which makes people ashamed of their family vocation. We are simply dealing with the problem how to teach the masses to read and write, a stage of enlightenment which does not in the majority of cases make men too proud to work. Those who would rise from their ranks to the higher rungs of the social ladder may do so even now and there is very little reason to fear that a general literacy would so much thin the ranks of manual labourers as to make its introduction a very risky affair. There is however one other argument, which deserves some consideration, because, though equally fallacious, it proceeds more from a concern

for the welfare of the lower orders than from any contempt of or hostility to the movement for uplifting them. There are people, and thoughtful people too, who seriously think that the masses of India would be much less peaceful and contented than they are now if their eyes are opened by education. They hold out the example of Europe and the West, and say:—"Look at the bleaching bones which whiten the soil of Europe, hear the cries of the bereaved women and that orphaned babies; that is what the so-called spread of education has brought Europe to; would you have India step over the brink, and take a leap into this precipice of frightfulness?"

Now, it may be conceded that the knowledge of the three R's may lead some people to shake off their vegetating, happy-go-lucky sort of life and to ask questions about men and things and may in fact create vague yearnings and it is possible that in a few cases these unsatisfied longings may generate in their mind some discontent with their lot in life. All this however is necessary to all awakening whether material or spiritual; Gautama experienced it before he went out in his quest for Nirvana, just as Pre-Revolutionary France went through the same process of quickening at the hands of the Encyclopædists. The direction of this awakening to good or to evil is a matter entirely different from the value of the awakening itself. Judging from the results of higher education, we may safely prognosticate that saturated as the country is with spiritualistic tendencies, a spread of knowledge must ultimately lead to a wave of spiritual revival which might save it from the demon of unrighteousness which has caused the ruin of many of the so-called exalted nations of the world.

Apart from these metaphysical considerations, there can be no manner of doubt as to the utility of literacy among the masses in the practical affairs of life. We do not lay very much stress on the figures of recruitment from the educated aboriginals of Chota Nagpur, for against that it may be urged that more mass education may mean greater facility for the distribution of *patiyas*. These matters as we have already indicated do not depend so much on education as on the influences at work and the susceptibility of the people to these influences. Among a traditionally warlike people, military recruitment will always be brisker than elsewhere even if they be ignorant of the three R's. The value of mass education lies in the fact that it means the greater moral and economic efficiency of the individual. It means a higher level of intelligence for the whole community generally. An intelligent artisan or an intelligent labourer will always produce better work than would be done by dull persons. "Even if the advantages of an elementary education," said the late Mr. Gokhale in the course of his speech on the introduction of his Bill, "be put no higher than a capacity to read and write, its universal diffusion is a matter of prime importance, for literacy is better than illiteracy any day." That sums up the whole argument in a nutshell.)

NOTES.

The Late Sir Sundar Lall.

The news of the sudden death from heart failure on the 13th instant of Sir Sundar Lall the eminent Allahabad lawyer and Vice-Chancellor of the Benares University comes as a shock. The whole country will mourn the loss of this distinguished patriot whose death will, we fear, prove to be a serious blow to the rising University of which he was the heart and soul.

Indians in the Agricultural Department.

The Agricultural Department has to do largely with the people, 90 per cent of whom are dependent for their living on the land and for whom the failure of seasonal rains and crops spells great disaster. The Department has to concern itself with the popularization of improved methods of cultivation and for this purpose, the work of Indian officers has a special value all its own. It is therefore, that we find the public Services Commission recommending in its report that the Agricultural Department should be manned entirely by Indians and that, to begin with, fifty per cent of the higher posts should be thrown open to Indians. But in practice, nothing has been done even to approximate fairly to this standard, in the constitution of the Department. Indians, though possessing high qualifications, are relegated to the subordinate ranks, while Europeans, fresh from the University, having no idea of the agricultural conditions of this country, are placed above their heads. The colour bar has been set up in the department by the erection of the Imperial branch, which is generally, the close preserve for European officers, and only Indians of exceptional qualifications find their admission into this branch on rare occasions. To give an instance in point, in the Imperial branch of the Bihar and Orissa Agricultural Department, there are nine substantive appointments of which only one is held by an Indian the provincial service being filled by Indian officers holding high degrees from continental Universities, who cannot be said to be inferior in any way to the Europeans of the higher branch. But it is the colour that makes the fundamental difference for them. Recently however, there was a vacancy in the Deputy Directorship of Agriculture. It has been filled by an officer belonging to the Provincial Service. And the fortunate man is no other than a junior Anglo-Indian, who has been promoted, superseding the claims of capable, senior Indian officers of higher academic qualifications and larger experience. Is this, we ask, a fair and equitable arrangement? Is it not calculated to cause heartburnings among officers who have been left in the cold shade of neglect for the atrocious crime of colour? We request Sir Edward Gait to look into this matter, for an unjust act of this kind, generates discontent in the ranks, which should, by all means be avoided. —*The Bengalee*.

LOCAL & PROVINCIAL.

DR. Tej Chandra Pramanik, Assistant Surgeon of Muzaffarpur goes as Civil Surgeon of Balasore for three months.

WE are sorry to learn that the Hon'ble Mr. S. M. Naim of Bhagalpur is suffering from a carbuncle. We wish him a speedy recovery.

THE current issue of the Bihar and Orissa Gazette publishes the revised table of fees under section 78 of the Indian Registration Act. The revised table comes into force from 1st April 1918. The draft Rules under the Bihar and Orissa Medical Act 1916 are also published.

SARASWATI Puja was celebrated yesterday with great eclat at Bankipur by the students of the Temple Medical School, the Bihar School of Engineering, the Anglo-Sanskrit School and the T. K. Ghoshe's Academy and also in the Patna College Bengalee Hostel. In the evening there was a public meeting on behalf of the two High Schools

at which several speakers including Professor Sar-
kar addressed the boys.

THE following students have passed the Medi-
cal final examination held in November last:—

HONOURS:—*Second Class*, Adyanath Gupta,
Cuttack.

PASS:—Isaac Santra, Cuttack; Mahendra Nath
Sanyal, do; Bibhuti Bhusan Chatterjea, do; Bishesh-
war Sen, do; Shibdas Banerjee, Patna; Bhut Nath
Sarkar, Cuttack.

Six candidates from Patna and five from Cut-
tack have passed the Primary Examination. Four
Cuttack boys and one from Patna have passed the
Primary Examination in Physics and Chemistry
only. The next examinations of the Board will
commence on Tuesday the 12th March.

WE regret to announce the sad death of Rai
Bahadur Shib Chandrar Chatterjee, the President of
the Muzaffarpur Bar Association which happened
at 4 A. M. on last Monday morning. The Rai Baha-
dur was also the Senior Government Pleader of
of Muzaffarpur for more than 20 years and filled
with credit the office from which he recently re-
tired at the ripe old age of 74 years. With his
death Muzaffarpur loses a most respectable and
venerable member of the Bar who was universally
popular. As a Government Pleader he was as fair
as possible even to his adversary. It will be very
difficult to fill up the place left vacant by him. As
a mark of respect to the deceased Rai Bahadur all
the Courts, Civil Criminal and Revenue, and all
public offices were closed on Monday.

PLAGUE in Bankipur is assuming the form of
an epidemic and has affected many quarters of the
town. Rats are dying everywhere. The disease is
claiming its victims even from the upper classes of
the society and the most lamentable incident that
has just come to our notice is its simultaneous
attack on Babu Amarendra Nath Ghosh a member
of the local bar and his wife. We are sorry to learn
that Amarendra Babu's wife, who was a daughter of
Babu Moti Lall Bose of Bettiah, succumbed, though
his own case has taken a hopeful turn. It is to be
regretted that we do not find any alertness on the
part of the Municipality to cope with the disease.
No attempt has been made as yet this year to kill
rats and take any other preventive measures. A
vigorous campaign of inoculation and rat-killing
only can save the town from what threatens to be
one of the most violent outbreaks it has ever
experienced.

THE next meeting of the Bihar and Orissa
Legislative Council will be held on the 4th March
1918.

THE reply of Government to the Hon'ble Rai
Bahadur Purnendu Narain Sinha's question on the
appointment of one Mr. James Robinson to officiate
as Deputy Director of Agriculture, Patna Circle,
in supersession of five senior officers, is unsatisfac-
tory in the extreme. Apart from the usual disin-
genuous nature of such replies this particular
reply is bristling with inaccurate suggestions.
According to Government, of the five officers
senior to Mr. Robinson in the upper branch
of the Provincial Agricultural Service, "one
is at present in charge of the office of the
Economic Botanist and draws the appropriate
allowances under the Civil Service Regulations."
The whole truth, however, is that while Mr. Robin-
son gets an acting allowance of Rs. 100 per month
besides the other perquisites appertaining to the
Imperial Service, the gentleman who is in charge

of the office of the Economic Botanist gets only
a charge allowance of Rs. 50 a month. This may
be quite in accordance with the Civil Service Regu-
lations, but the point obviously is why these five
senior officers' claim to officiate in the Imperial
Service should be ignored in favour of Mr. Robin-
son. These officers, it is said, had special qualifica-
tions and special appointments at the Sabour
College, while Mr. Robinson in turn has special
qualifications and training in dissemination and
district work. This again is not quite correct for
there was at least one officer, Mr. Bama Shankar
who was Assistant Director of Agriculture and as
such as well qualified in dissemination and district
work as Mr. Robinson. Mr. Bama Shankar's place,
we find, is now vacant, why, let those who know
answer. Meanwhile, it is something to have the
enunciation of a new principle guiding appoint-
ments and promotions to the public services which
may as well be printed in bold types on the title
page of the Civil List:—"Abandon all hopes ye
who specialise here."

THE full text of the important judgment
delivered on Monday by the Chief Justice of the
Patna High Court, Sir T. F. D. Miller, in the case
in which the powers of the Governor-General-in-
Council to create courts in India were questioned,
is now available. The case arose out of the con-
viction of one of the many persons tried by Special
Tribunal for participation in what are now known
as the Bakr-Id riots at Arrah. The accused's
Counsel, Mr. P. R. Das, applied for a writ of
habeas corpus on the ground that confinement of
his client was illegal because the Governor-
General in Council had no power to constitute the
Special Tribunal which had sentenced him, and this
raised the larger question as to whether the
Governor-General-in-Council could create courts
in India. The Chief Justice, in the course of a
lengthy judgment, observed that the Defence of
India Act was designed, among other things, to
provide special measures for dealing speedily with
offences affecting the public safety. He considered
it necessary to consider the Act in the light of the
powers conferred upon the Governor-General-in-
Council by earlier statutes, and, therefore, surveyed
the whole history of the powers conferred upon or
exercised by the East India Company. The
question, he said, their lordships had to consider
was whether the power which was undoubtedly
exercised before 1858 was continued in the
Governor-General-in-Council after 1861 by the
enactments of that year and how far Parliament
had recognised that power. His lordship, after
setting forth his reasons, found that it could hardly
be disputed that before 1858 Parliament recognised
the powers of the Governor-General-in-Council to
create courts and acquiesced in what was done in
this direction and that there was nothing in the
enactments of 1858 or 1861 to lead to the
supposition that a different policy towards the
Indian Legislature was at that time contemplated.
It appeared to him that section 22 of the Indian
Councils Act of 1861, read with section 9 of the
High Courts Act, was in terms amply wide enough
to cover the powers now in question, and had it
been intended to deprive the Governor-General-in-
Council of the powers so long exercised by his
predecessors such intention would have been
expressed in clear and unambiguous language.
Justices Chapman, Mullick, Roe and Atkinson,
who together with the Chief Justice constituted the
Full Bench, concurred with this judgment, and the
petitioner's application, as has already been
reported, was rejected.

THE reader will probably remember the protest made in *Capital* a few months back against the manner in which Mrs. Besant, while in durance was "chivvied by preposterous jacks-in-office." If one touch of nature makes the whole world kin, it would seem, if what is stated in a letter we have received from Babu Vindeshwari Prasad, General Secretary to the Chupra Home Rule League, be correct, the same family touch of "wooden inelasticity" prevails amongst the members of the bureaucracy. Space prevents us from publishing the letter, which, by the way, has already appeared in the *Patrika*, which has the following comments on it:—

It will be seen how some officials in Bihar are openly trying to put down Home Rule propaganda in that district. The Police Superintendent who warns Babu Kedar Nath says that "he cannot disbelieve his sub-inspector." And fancy what this sub-inspector did. He reported that a highly-educated gentlemen of position like Babu Kedar Nath talked sedition in a public speech! Why should he do it, when he is not a fool? And the Police Superintendent sent this report to the Government, and the Government it is said, have warned Babu Kedar Nath. But when Babu Kedar Nath demanded a copy of this warning, the Police Superintendent did not supply it on the plea that it was confidential. The Police Superintendent also threatened Babu Kedar Nath that he would engage "a special staff" to dog his steps. We wonder if all these foolish steps are taken with the permission or knowledge of the higher authorities. By worrying the leaders of the country in this thoughtless way the police serve no other purpose than that of creating unnecessary discontent and resentment among the people. The matter should engage the serious notice of the Lieutenant-Governor of Behar.

The District Magistrate of Chapra is Mr. F. M. Luce. If we are not mistaken, Mr. Luce used to be a keen cricketer. We do not think it necessary, therefore, to point out to him the rules of cricket and fairplay which all lovers of sportsmanship would delight to observe. Here is an organisation to teach the masses the elements of their political rights so that when the new scheme is announced it will find a sufficiently initiated electorate to start with. To throw obstacles in the path of this sort of propaganda is not exactly playing the game. To the Chupra Home Rulers we would also point out the necessity of exercising a good deal of self-control and patience. In the jumpy state of feelings prevailing at present both amongst Europeans and Indians, much is often said and done which would not have been said and done in cooler moments and an overdose of super-sensitiveness is not surely the remedy to soothe the strained feelings and calm the ruffled atmosphere.

BHAGALPUR NOTES.

(From our own Correspondent.)

Since I wrote last, Plague has been increasing in this town although its ravages are still confined in Tatarpur and the Mahallas adjoining to the College. Two deaths have occurred in the compound of Hostel No. 4 and the students are in a state of panic. College classes have already become thin and there is no prospect of a plague vacation this time in view of the fact that the First Year students have begun work at a comparatively late period this time.

The C. I. D. have arrested four students of this

town. I am informed that one of them has since been released but the remaining three are still in Jail pending further enquiries. Our City fathers have arranged to establish depots in each ward for the sale of salt. This is as it should be and now it remains for them to adopt precautionary measures against Plague.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

THE ELPHINSTONE BIOSCOPE AT THE MAIDAN.

To the Editor.

Sir,—On Saturday the 9th February I had the misfortune, I should say, to be a spectator of the Bioscope performance at the Maidan. Amongst other films one named "Changing Partners" appeared to me to be very obscene at least for the student community. As several students were sitting by me, at the time when this film was being shown, I hung down my head in shame. I was thunderstruck to observe that this film elicited the loudest applause. I respectfully draw the attention of the authorities such as the District Magistrate, the Inspector of Schools and the Director of Public Instruction to this state of things.

The student community is tempted to flock to this place of amusement by concessions i.e. they are allowed to sit in the next higher class. So every day, I think, they imbibe this poison in exchange for money but they think that they have gained something by the concessions.

This Bioscope Company at the roughest estimate have earned about Rs. 10,000 from this town out of which the greater part has been contributed by the students. To expend so much money for amusements' sake is a sort of moral degradation on the part of students. If they cannot be restrained, the District Magistrate can at least require the company to set apart certain days of the week for the students when only good films will be shown.

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SELECTIONS.

EDUCATION IN BIHAR AND ORISSA.

Among the *biblia abiblia*—books which are no books, for which Charles Lamb admitted his distaste—must be classed reviews on education. But what would he have thought of a review which runs to 142 pages of closely printed folio, exclusive of its appendices? These are the dimensions of the First Quinquennial Review on the Progress of Education in Bihar and Orissa. It is a truly comprehensive affair, hardly intended perhaps for the general reader who, if he comes across it, will doubtless prefer to leave the review alone and turn to the Government Resolution at the end of the publication. There he will find in a few pages the essence of the matter and may incidentally note that the Lieutenant-Governor in Council has read with much interest what he (the reader) has skipped. Government Resolutions on Departmental Reviews are, by the way, divisible into two classes: the resolution which is of the nature of pemmican, much nutriment in small compass, and the resolution which takes occasion to discourse of other matters. While the former is apt to be indigestible, the latter is attractive fare, flavoured as it is sure to be with the idiosyncrasies of a Lieutenant-Governor or his Secretary. The resolution of the Government of Bihar and Orissa, however, belongs to the former class. Readers of reviews, if any such there be among the general public, may wonder why it is necessary for a Government to say anything at all in supplement. Reports in Great Britain are addressed to "My Lords" or to "the King's Most Excellent Majesty". Neither ever feels called upon to indulge in reflections thereon, but in dignified silence leaves the report to speak for itself. It certainly never occurs to the one or to the other to prepare a kind of precis to save the public the trouble of perusing the report. But in India there is above the Departments an institution called Government, an *arcana* of official wisdom, one of whose functions it is to deliver oracular pronouncements. Such is the weight attaching to its utterances that it has come about that what matters is not so much the report itself as what the oracle may have to say about it. Reports in India have therefore even less chance of being read than in Great Britain. This is sometimes—but not always—a pity. The quinquennial review with which we are dealing merits at any rate a better fate than most of its kind, for despite its inordinate length and the shortness of life, there is much in it that deserves to be read and considered.

The review does not tell us in so many words that the Province of Bihar and Orissa is exulting over its escape from thralldom to Bengal, but there is throughout a subdued note of rejoicing which it was quite impossible to suppress. "Before the districts now forming Bihar and Orissa", we are told, "were constituted into a separate province their educational needs were *naturally* subordinated to those of the more advanced districts under the Government of Bengal". There is much meaning underlying that word "*naturally*", which we have italicised, if rightly understood. . . . The area of the new province is 83,233 square miles and the population at the time of the last census was 34,490,084. The total number of educational institutions taken over from Bengal was 22,792 and of pupils 678,035. "A large number of teachers", we learn, "was drawing stipends as low as eight annas a month." The cost of maintaining a Middle English school was, in one division, on an average not more than Rs. 81 a month, and some of the teachers were in

the receipt of the princely salary of Rs. 4 per mensem. In aided English high schools the rates of pay of teachers ranged from Rs. 12 to Rs. 60 a month. The average expenditure upon the maintenance of a primary school was less than Rs. 79 per annum. The cadre of the Indian Educational Service, on which the ultimate control of education in India depends, was no more than 13 officers. It has been doubled, but is still inadequate. As to buildings let the district officer of Gaya speak: "The district requires 1,210 more school buildings for the existing schools only." The Government of Bihar and Orissa spent Rs. 27,74,761 during the quinquennium mainly on consolidation, and yet the teachers are under-paid and the buildings and equipment for the most part wretchedly inadequate. Investigations instituted in every field of the work during the period have accumulated masses of information which have merely served to show the vastness of the needs; only the fringe has so far been touched. All that it is permitted to say at present is: "It has thus been possible to settle the lines on which development should take place." Are other provinces in much better case, we wonder?

As has already been mentioned, the controlling and inspecting agency has been greatly strengthened and its office establishment increased; but that much still remains to be done may be gathered from an Inspector's piteous complaint, which is quoted by the Director: "We cannot continue to bear this strain indefinitely." An interesting sidelight is thrown upon the way in which things were managed under the former regime by the casual remark that it was not unusual to find the Deputy Inspector worse paid than some of his own Sub-



"Every Picture tells a Story."

POISONING the BLOOD STREAM

There's No Good Excuse for Doing It Yourself.

AN OVERLOAD of uric acid in the blood is a bad thing. It comes in two ways—partly from meat and other strong foods, partly from using up body tissues during exertion. Uric acid victims are rheumatic, nervous, headachy, dizzy at times, or racked with sudden pains. They grow old too fast, and in time develop heart trouble, gravel, hardened arteries, dropsy, or fatal kidney diseases.

Take warning at the first sign of uric acid trouble, for uric acid is the most mischievous poison known to science. Eat little meat and not too much of any food. Drink milk and water. Exercise, rest, and sleep more. Use Doan's Backache Kidney Pills to repair the weakened kidneys and help them filter the uric poisons from the blood.

Doan's Pills take out uric acid and other kidney poisons, the common cause of stone, inflamed bladder and rheumatism, and help to drain away the accumulated water in dropsy. Doan's Backache Kidney Pills are Rs. 2 per bottle; 6 for Rs. 10.8; obtainable from all dealers.

Deputy Inspectors. He must have found it rather hard to maintain the dignity of his office one would think. An Education Code has been drawn up, for which the model has not been that of Bengal, and in it have been included grant-in-aid rules which, instead of disbursing the funds of the State in petty grants which did little or no good, have brought the scale of salaries in selected schools up to a prescribed standard. The Government of Bihar and Orissa seems to have adopted, as far as possible, the sensible plan of aiding only such institutions as can make good use of the money. A whole chapter is devoted to the scheme for a University at Patna. The story of what the Government set out to do and what eventually it accomplished is instructive, but too long to tell here. The whole not very creditable episode may be summed up, in a few words: an attempt was made to establish a centralised and teaching university, but almost all that has resulted is the appointment of a paid Vice-Chancellor. But notwithstanding so dismal a conclusion to high hopes much has been done to strengthen some of the existing colleges, and a Training College for teachers, housed in the bad old days in a bugalow built for a headmaster of which the outhouses served as a hostel, has been transformed into a reputable institution. But notions of educational economy seem somewhat peculiar in Bihar, for after providing the Training College with strong staff it has recently been decided to cut down the number of students from 40 to 20, thus supplying one teacher to every five pupils. Out of 27 lakhs available for increased expenditure on education one would have thought that it might have been possible to avoid such cheese-paring economy: since Government has itself comparatively few trained men in its employ and outside Government service there are hardly any trained teachers at all. The Local Government has however willed it so, and there is therefore an end of the matter. Perhaps the most important reform in the period, having regard to the future, is the change of policy in the matter elementary education. Primary schools are being established under the maintenance and direct management of local bodies. No other system can insure to the teacher permanence of tenure and a living wage. It is a notable advance, but the practice of giving stipends to village gurus is to continue side by side with board schools. It is hoped that by fixing minimum stipends for gurus it may be possible to preserve from disappearance this timehonoured system of instruction. The gentle guru will no longer be assisted with grants of from eight annas to two rupees a month to maintain a school, but, if he is qualified to give instruction—many it appears are not—he will receive a grant which, in the words of an Inspector, should just enable him to have two meals a day, though leaving him no margin with which to feed his family. He ought to be duly grateful but the Boards are asking in consternation where the funds are to come from for such unheard of generosity and Government cannot tell them. There are many other ways in which the Government of Bihar and Orissa is seeking to work improvements in education. Female education has not been forgotten, nor European school nor Mahomedans, who in Bihar as elsewhere clamour for special treatment. Large sums have been spent on buildings and equipment of all classes of schools and especially upon colleges, the School of Engineering and the Ranchi Industrial School. Even aborigines have not been overlooked. As much, in short, has been done as funds would permit, and in the words of the Director, "if progress has not been as rapid as might have been wished . . . the principal cause is the financial stringency brought about by the war and not any lack of activity of the staff". The commendation meted out to all concerned with which the Government

resolution concludes is not a mere formality, but has, we think, been well earned.—*The Pioneer*.

LORD MORLEY'S "RECOLLECTIONS."

We publish below a few extracts from Lord Morley's recently published "Recollections" on the subject of Unrest in India and Deportations. They are of surpassing interest at the present moment when it is apparently the policy of the Government of Bengal to indulge in wholesale internment:—

May 3, 1907.—"It looks (writes Lord Morley to Lord Minto) from your Punjab news as if we were approaching deep waters. It is a pity for a hundred most obvious reasons, perhaps most of all because it will make it much harder to carry out the bold line of reform that you and I have marked out. It is an old and painful story. Short-comings in government lead to outbreaks; outbreaks have to be put down; reformers have to bear the blame, and their reforms are scotched; reaction triumphs; and mischief goes on as before, only worse. Well, we must make the best of it. If rows go on, I daresay some stern things will have to be done. You may be sure of my firm support even if the sternest things should unluckily be needed. It may turn out that you will want that support not only against sedition-mongers, but also against your law-and-order people, who are responsible for at least as many of the fooleries of history as revolutionists are. I only hope that plenty of deliberation, and comprehensive balancing of pros and cons, may precede any strong measures. I hope further that where time permits you will acquaint me with your intentions well beforehand, more especially where the Press is concerned. It won't surprise me if you desire to take some steps in Press matters, but you should know that people here are very sensitive about this, not merely ultra-Radicals, but papers like the "Spectator" from which I enclose you an extract as a specimen. Much attention has naturally been paid to Cromer's resolute refusal, in his last report, to muzzle the Press in Egypt. If there be a scintilla of real evidence that seditious rags are infecting the Native Army, nobody would refuse suppression. Only you won't forget that in moments of excitement, such as this may become, people are uncommonly liable to confuse suspicions and possibilities with certainty and reality."

"The H. of C. (House of Commons) will, I believe, be perfectly reasonable, so long as our majority feel sure that they have the plain truth told them or if I say the truth cannot all be told that there is some good reason for reserve. Balfour is behaving well, as might have been expected. He told me that he had passed the word to his men, that they are not to molest me. Only all depends so far as H. of C. is concerned, on my being perfectly frank and straightforward; and for that purpose, all depends on my being kept by you in the fullest possession of all that you are doing not by any means for public use, but so that I may know the ground. If I have a single thing to grumble about, it is that I am somewhat meagrely supplied with reports, etc., You have no idea of the sensational headlines in some of our most widely read prints! One would have supposed that Pindi was a scene of fire and sword, carnage and rape, as if it had been the siege of Magdeburg in the Thirty Years' War. Idiocy, isn't it?"

"As you may not be surprised to hear, this sort of thing produces some not unnatural excitement in certain high latitudes at Windsor. I was reproached the other night in a good-natured, half-playful way with taking the riots too coolly, where, as they ought, to "prevent me from sleeping at night"! I said, "Well, Sir, if they do I should not be much good by day." Lord Ro

was standing by us, so I appealed to him whether he lay awake when campaigning, He said, decidedly not; and at any short halt he always dismounted and had a good nap on the ground under his horse's nose. It might do no harm if you wrote a tranquilising letter."

(To be continued.)

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Notice.

In supersession of previous notices, it is notified that the booking of Military and Government traffic has been resumed, but booking of Merchandise traffic for the Public will continue to be temporarily restricted, and as it is not possible to give previous intimation of the imposition or removal of restrictions in Goods booking, the Public are advised to communicate with the Goods Superintendent, Howrah, or the Station Master of the despatching station and enquire whether traffic is being accepted or not, before sending goods to a station for despatch.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY,
GENL. TRAF. MNR'S
OFFICE,
Calcutta, 8-2-1918. } By order,
C. M. PEARCE,
General Traffic Manager.
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NOTICE.

CATECHISM ON THE INDIAN PENAL CODE.

By S. N. Singh Esq. B.L. An excellent guide to examinees for the B. L., the Departmental and Mukhtearship examinations. Price Re. 1/- to be had of the author S. N. Singh Esqr. Assistant Manager Hathwa Raj.

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

With immediate effect, the booking of the undermentioned commodities by passenger train as parcels or luggage is prohibited:—

Piece-goods	Chillies
Gunny	Ghee
Hides	Potatoes,

This restriction does not apply when such commodities are booked on account of the Military or other Government Departments.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
Dated 14th Jan. 1918. } General Traffic Manager.
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EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

NOTICE.

Kumbh Mela.

The public are hereby informed that during the period, January 3rd to 26th February 1918 (both days inclusive), no tickets will be issued to any person intending or believed to be intending to travel, for the purpose of taking part in the Kumbh Mela at Allahabad, to any of the following stations:—

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

Allahabad
Bamhauri.
Manauri.
Manoharganj.
Bharwari.
Shujaatpur.
Sirathu.
Kunwar.
Khaga.
Teni.
Rasulabad.
Faiz-ullah-pur.
Fatehpur.
Naini.
Jasra.

Lohgara.
Shankargarh.
Bargarh.
Dabhaura.
Manikpur.
Mirzapur.
Bindhachal.
Birohe.
Gaipura.
Jigna.
Mandah Road.
Unchdih.
Meja Road.
Bheerpur.
Karchana.

ODDH AND ROHILKAND RAILWAY.

Benares Cantt.
Lohta.
Chaukhandi.
Kapsethi.
Parsipur.
Bhadohi.
Mondh.
Suriawan.
Sarai-Kansrai.
Jarauna.
Bhanaur.
Salkhapur.
Jaunpur City.
Mau-Aima.
Bhupia-Mau.
Sarai Gopal.
Ram-Chaura Road.
Bhadri.
Gotni.
Unchahar.
Daryapur.
Jamnapur.
Dalmau.

Jalalpur-Dhai.
Janghai.
Barya Ram.
Bibipur.
Phulpur.
Serai Chandi.
Tharwai.
Phaphamau Junc.
Prayag.
Allahabad Junc.
Barsathi.

Mariahu.
Zafarabad Junc.
Siwait.
Bishnathganj.
Pratabganj (Oudh.)
Atrampur.
Lalgopalganj.
Harnamganj.
Pariawan.
Lachmanpur.
Rae-Bareli Junc.

BENGAL AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.

Benares Cantt.
Balapur.
Raja-Talab.
Kachhwa Road.
Madhosingh.
Konrh Road.
Bhiti.
Saidabad.
Jhusi.
Allahabad City.

Manduadih.
Hardatpur.
Nigatpur.
Katka.
Ahimanpur.

Jangiganj.
Handiakhas.
Hanumanganj.
Izat Bridge.

By order,
CALCUTTA, } C. M. PEARCE,
24th Dec. 1917. } General Traffic Manager.
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