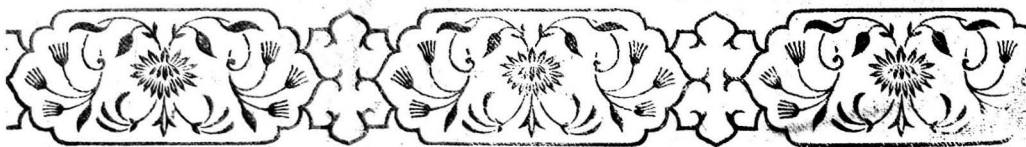
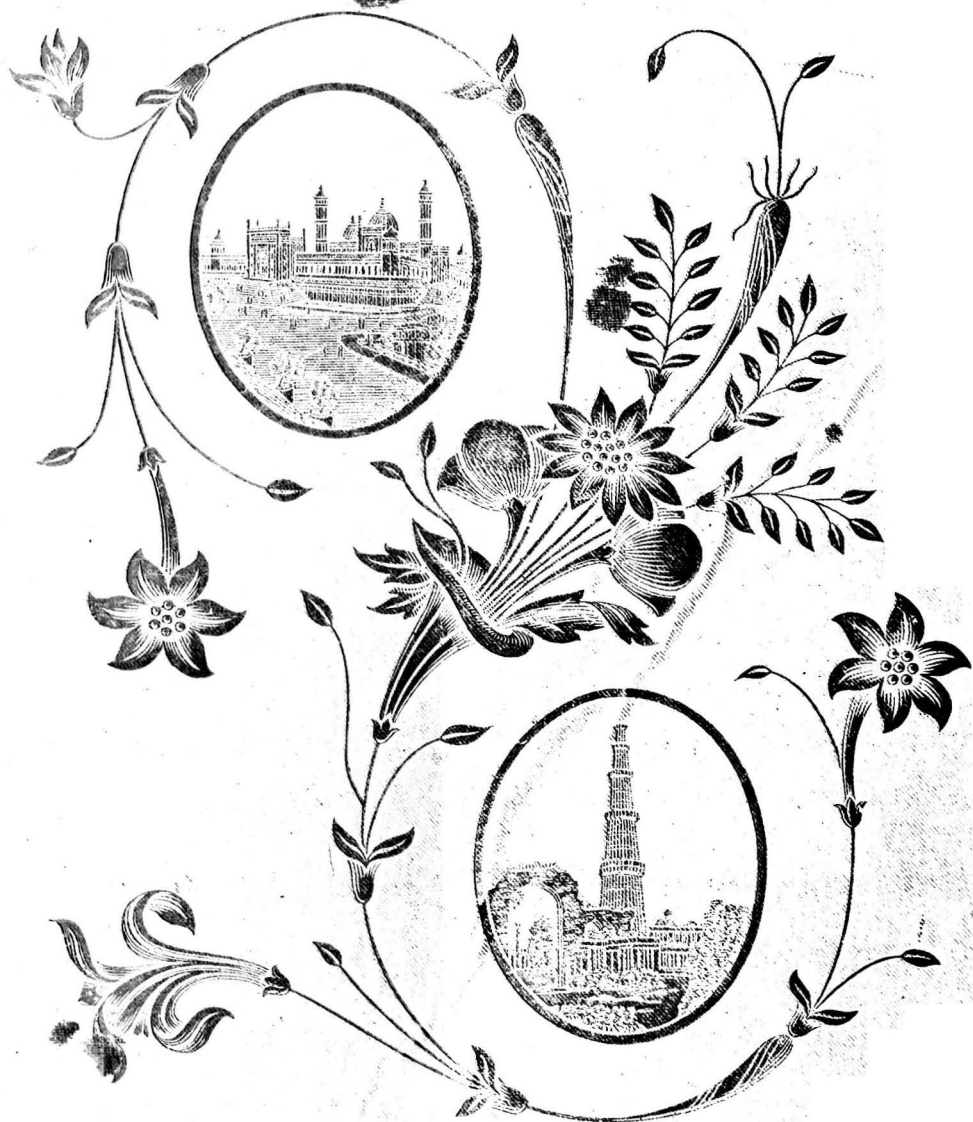


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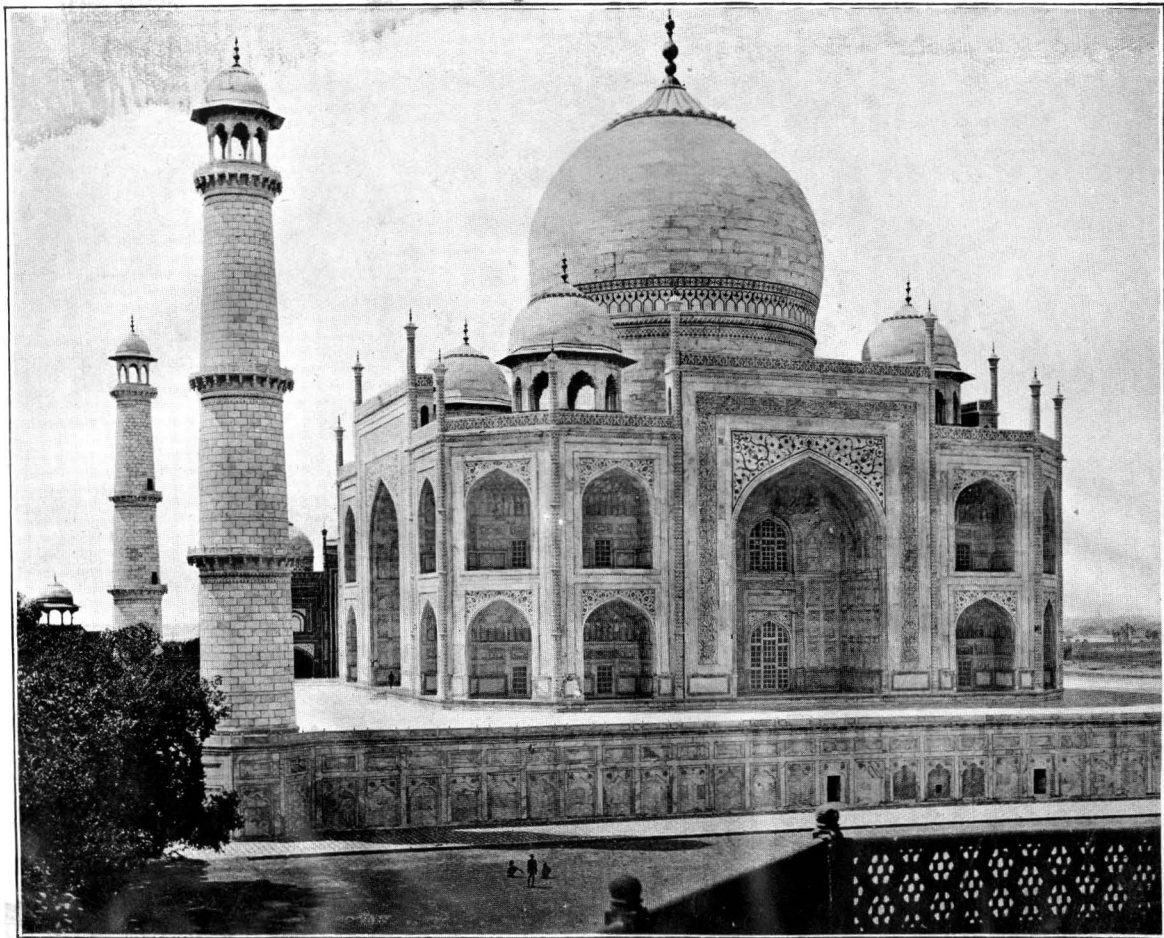
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# THE TOURIST'S INDIA

**“A traveller without observation is a bird without wings.”**

*Persian Proverb.*



THE TAJ MAHAL, AGRA.

[Frontispiece, see p. 109.]

# THE TOURIST'S INDIA

BY

EUSTACE REYNOLDS-BALL, F.R.G.S., F.R.C.I.

*Author of "Cairo of To-day," "Jerusalem," "Rome," "Paris in its  
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## INTRODUCTION

IN introducing this little book I am confronted with the initial difficulty of definition. It is not a guide-book, for I do not venture to compete with the many excellent standard guide-books to India. It is not a book of fugitive travel impressions. It is not a "beautiful book," whose chief merit appears to be a wealth of charming illustrations in three colours, which are too often elusive rather than allusive, having but a shadowy association with the letterpress. Nor, again, is "The Tourist's India" an erudite study of the political and sociological conditions of British India.

In short, it is easier to say what it is not than what it is. I may venture, perhaps, to describe it as a conspectus or popular sketch of the present-day topographical, archæological, historical and social aspects of the great show cities and tourist centres of India. I may, at all events, claim for it, that the details are reasonably accurate, and that in many cases I have gone to the fountain-head for information. For instance, a late Viceroy has kindly revised and corrected the chapter in which I have attempted to elucidate the Frontier Problem, while the chapter on the famous Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh has been carefully revised by a former Principal.

So enormous has been the output of books on India of late years, that some apology seems demanded for adding to their number. Indeed, in the last twelve months the flood of Indian travel literature, in great measure inspired by the historic tour of the Prince of Wales, has assumed

appalling proportions. It is not every book that offers the reader such a wealth of information on India and things Indian, imparted with such literary charm and distinction, as Mr Sidney Low's "Vision of India," and Mr Perceval Landon's "Under the Sun." But these delightful travel impressions are perhaps more readable than practical, and more entertaining than instructive. They presuppose a knowledge of India, which is possessed by scarcely a tenth of the innumerable cold-weather visitors to India. In "The Tourist's India" I have been careful not to assume a very profound knowledge of India and Indian affairs on the part of tourists and others; and my aim has been to embody as much practical and up-to-date information as possible on the present-day aspects of India of the Tourist in a readable and, perhaps, picturesque setting.

My acknowledgments are due to the Editor of *The Queen*, for kind permission to reprint some chapters, which in an abbreviated form appeared in that journal. I have also to thank the Editors of *The World*, *Chambers's Journal*, *New Liberal Review* and other periodicals for the same courteous permission.

But most of all my grateful thanks are due to an Anglo-Indian friend (who insists on preserving his anonymity under the Protean guise of "Panda," "Mofussil" and "Zakpho"), an ex-official of long Indian experience, who, like most of his kind, has a genuine and hearty affection for India and its people, and whose contributions have done so much towards enhancing any permanent value or interest this book may possess.

E. A. R.-B.



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# APPENDIX

## I. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### MOHAMMEDAN CALENDAR

THE year consisting of  $354\frac{1}{2}$  days, the Mohammedan New Year and feasts and fasts are each year eleven days earlier than in the previous year. This makes calculation difficult. The Mohammedan year 1324, for instance, began 25th February 1906, and Ramadan began on 19th October.

### CYCLING

India, with its excellent trunk roads, is not by any means an unsuitable country for cycle touring in winter. Indeed, a well-known cyclist considers that the road between Calcutta and Peshawar, some 1400 miles in length, "is the finest long-distance bicycle track in the world." Another good cycling field is Travancore in South India. Roads are a special hobby of the Maharajah. "And it would be difficult to find in any part of the world more beautiful scenery or better kept highways" (*C. T. C. Gazette*, October 1905). Kashmir, with its sublime mountain scenery, is quite possible for the cyclist, and the main road from Rawal Pindi to Murree and Srinagar is one of the most interesting cycle tours in the East. The gradients are fairly easy, and coming down from Srinagar one can coast with good rim brakes for thirty miles at a stretch. The only drawbacks are the native bullock carts which are constantly met with. The drivers are usually asleep, and when one encounters a score of these carts following in Indian file considerable care is needed in passing them. Cycling in Burmah is largely indulged in and the roads near Rangoon are excellent, but the pariah dogs and the buffaloes are occasionally dangerous. The dogs can easily be kept off with a whip (which every cyclist

should carry), but the buffaloes had best be left severely alone. On one occasion one of these brutes caught up a cycle and its rider upon its huge horns and tossed them away with terrific force with fatal results.

A strong roadster, preferably with tandem tyres capable of resisting thorns and the formidable points of water chestnuts, is the most suitable. Very strong rim brakes and a powerful lamp are essential. Then a very loud-toned bell or even a motor horn should be taken, as well as a couple of inner tubes. In spite of the usual advice it will be well to take a revolver, not so much for use as for show. The sight of a revolver strapped to the handle bar is apt to discourage the attentions of budmashes—the nearest equivalent for the British tramp.

A duty of 5 per cent. is charged on cycles landing in India. Cycles are treated as registered luggage on the railways, and not charged for if their weight and that of the other registered luggage does not exceed the usual free allowance. In Ceylon used bicycles are admitted free.

### MOTORING

Motoring in India is carried on under novel and pleasant conditions; indeed, the country seems an ideal one for motorists. The natives generally regard the motorist with equanimity, while the native police are wonderfully complaisant. Then there is no speed limit, and the "police trap" is consequently unknown. Indeed, there is scarcely need for any such restriction, for one may mote for a score of miles at the highest speed of which the engine is capable without meeting a human being.

The P. W. D. have made long, broad, straight roads, roads which stretch for mile upon mile without an incline, a descent, or a turn to spoil them for motoring purposes. There are no hedges nor ditches, and there are no houses to interfere with the motorist's safety. A paternal Government also keeps the roads in excellent condition, and if the native driver of a bullock-cart or camel-shigram takes the wrong side, the chauffeur has his choice of chastising the evil-doer or handing him over to the local authorities for causing an obstruction.

Only a nominal duty of 5 per cent. *ad valorem* (Ceylon 5½) is levied on motor cars entering India.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

A camera cannot be treated in India as in Europe. It is impossible to prevent dust getting in. The hot sun will cause minute cracks in the woodwork of the camera resulting in a black streak or blue on the plate. If developed in warm weather the film may dissolve away altogether. Iced developing solutions are therefore used. But even then the change from the iced solution to the warm air will cause the film to frill.

*Photographic Maxims—Apparatus.*—1. The convenience and portability of films are universally admitted, and for travellers these are invaluable, though glass plates generally give better results, except with experts.

2. A hand camera (Kodak for choice) enabling time as well as instantaneous exposure to be taken is the best for the traveller.

3. A focussing hand camera is an advantage when objects in the near foreground are required in absolute sharpness as well as the distance.

4. In India, where the atmosphere is very clear and blue sky predominates, it is best to use isochromatic films, and a yellow screen, this having the effect of cutting off some of the blue rays, and thus giving a more truthful rendering.

5. It is a good plan when photographing under new conditions to include in one's kit a few bottles of Burroughs & Wellcome's tabloids, so that a few films may be developed on tour, and thus mistakes in exposure rectified.

6. An ordinary hock bottle from which the bottom has been knocked out will make a rough and ready substitute for a red lamp. The bottom is easily removed by filling the bottle with water, to the depth of about an inch, and placing it in red-hot ashes, when the glass will crack all round at the level of the water. But the folding calico red lamps are very portable, and one should certainly be included in the kit.

7. It is well to test the angle included by the view-finder before setting out on an expedition, as frequently it does not coincide with the angle included by the lens.

*Choice of Subject.*—1. Aim at quality rather than quantity of views.

2. Remember that not every beautiful view will make an effective photograph, and, conversely, a thoroughly artistic

photograph may result from a view which to the eye looks tame and commonplace. In short, be sure the beauty of the view does not lie mainly in the colour.

3. The traveller should make up his mind whether he wants topographical views, or pleasing pictorial records of scenery. Indeed, there must be, to some extent, a conflict between science and art.

4. Photographs of panoramic views are generally unsatisfactory artistically, though topographically of value.

5. On the other hand, details over-accentuated give equally poor results from an artistic point of view.

6. In artistic work it should be remembered that a translation into black and white is desired, rather than a copy of the subject.

7. The colour of objects has to be considered in judging the exposure, greens and yellows having much less effect in cutting off the blue rays (see above).

8. If possible a view should rarely be taken when the light is behind the photographer; a far more satisfactory lighting is obtained when the sun is to one side, or slightly in front of the observer. But it need hardly be said that the light must never fall directly on the lens.

9. Don't, as a rule, photograph a building full face.

10. The most important feature should not be in the middle of the view, as it shows less there.

11. When spectators crowd round with a view of being taken, only pretend to take them, and as they are moving off a good group might present itself.

*Exposure, etc.*—1. As a rule, an instantaneous exposure will only give good results in bright sunshine—in short, only views which with a stop would be given one or two seconds' exposure are suitable for instantaneous hand cameras.

2. Remember that very bright clouds add considerably to the amount of light. Indeed, their value is almost equal to that of the sun in a cloudless sky.

3. Even for an instantaneous photograph the camera should, if possible, be rested on some fixed object. Carrying the camera slung on a strap from the shoulder greatly facilitates steadiness when no fixed stand is available.

4. Several times longer exposure is required in winter than in summer.

5. Objects in the foreground require longer exposure than

those in the background or middle distance ; therefore avoid shadow in the foreground when the background is bright.

6. In pictorial work a sound rule to remember is : " Expose for the shadows, and let the high lights take care of themselves." <sup>1</sup>

## SPORT

*To Recover Duck, etc., from a River or Lake without a Dog.*—Attach a long cord to a stout stick, from the end of which two cords about five or six feet long should be fastened, the other ends being attached to the main cord, forming a kind of triangle. This keeps the stick in the right position when thrown beyond the floating bird:

*Shooting in a Bad Light.*—For shooting in the evening, with a bad light, it is a good tip to tie a sheet of paper or a white handkerchief round the muzzle of the gun. This will assist the aim.

*Preserving Game.*—A good dodge for keeping game from birds of prey is to hang it from an overhanging branch of a tree, as birds usually require a place to stand on when pecking at game.

*Sporting Knife.*—The expensive sporting knives of Colonial outfitters contain an unnecessary number of utensils, while many really indispensable tools are omitted. It would be worth while to have one made to order ; and this, which need not exceed four or five inches in length, should include a stiletto for boring holes in straps, a cobbler's awl, small gimlet, turnscrew, a packing needle (let into the handle), and not more than two small blades. Such a tool will be found far more useful than the elaborate pocket armoury sold by cutlers.

## " V. P. P."

This is the familiar name for the useful value payable parcel post system in India, which corresponds in some degree to the C. O. D. (cash on delivery) system at home. By this method shopkeepers can send their goods to any part of India, the post collecting from the recipient the sum due, plus a commission of one anna for every five rupees up to fifteen rupees. To pre-

<sup>1</sup> For many of the above suggestions I am indebted to Mr F. R. Ball, of the Royal Photographic Society, and Mr R. Reynolds-Ball, Trinity College, Oxford.

vent abuse no person may send an article by the V. P. P. unless he certifies that it is sent in execution of a genuine order. This admirable method of "Shopping by post" is naturally very popular in India.

Should the recipient decline the goods, they are returned to sender at the latter's cost.

## II. HEALTH IN INDIA: SOME PRACTICAL HINTS

*Alcohol.*—In tropical countries like India the physiological arguments against the consumption of alcohol as a beverage apply, of course, with greater force than in temperate climates; Putting the moral aspect aside, the chief objection to its free use as a beverage is that it lessens its value medicinally in disease. As to what constitutes "moderate drinking," Dr Parkes, in his classical work on the subject, lays down the rule that an ordinary healthy adult cannot take daily without injury more than an amount of alcohol which is represented by a liqueur glass of undiluted spirits, or three to four wineglassfuls of sherry, or seven glasses of claret, or two pints of beer daily.

It must not be forgotten that in hot countries alcohol has a much more rapid and injurious effect than it has in a temperate climate; and the casual whisky and soda, which seems such a negligible quantity in a club at home; may mean a fatal attack of heat apoplexy under a tropical sun.

But the delusion that in the tropics whisky and soda, the "typical tippie" of Anglo-Indians, is, on the whole, less harmful than beer or light wines, or at all events that these former beverages are best adapted for India, dies hard. Even plain non-medicinal waters, such as Salutaris, Perrier, or Burrow's Malvern Waters (usually procurable at large stations), for instance, seem tabooed in India, if taken *au naturel*: while it is a popular fallacy that plain soda water is "lowering to the system," whatever that may mean.

It is, perhaps, rash for a mere layman to dogmatise on this subject, but for any person to assert seriously that the continuous consumption of spirituous liquors, albeit considerably diluted, is less injurious than the imbibing of non-alcoholic drinks, indi-



cates a lamentable ignorance of the elementary laws of physiology. He is absolutely beyond the reach of argument. Indeed, if I may obtrude my individual opinion, it is probable that this unfortunate habit has much to do with many liver and kidney "troubles"<sup>1</sup> to which residents in tropical countries are notoriously subject.<sup>1</sup>

*Bites of Wild Animals.*—Wash out the wound with the strongest antiseptic solution—boracic acid is not strong enough—such as zinc chloride (20 grs. in a tablespoonful of water) or corrosive sublimate (very poisonous). Then cover the wound with lint which has been dipped in a boracic acid solution. If there is any suspicion of madness the wound must be freely cauterised with lunar caustic, or a red-hot iron applied.

In the case of a bite by a pariah dog ("pie dog") or jackal, unless it is absolutely certain that the animal is not mad, the patient would be well advised to proceed at once as a precautionary measure to Kasauli, near Kalka, where the Pasteur Institute for all India has recently been established.

The treatment is severe, but in the vast majority of cases efficacious. The "cure" lasts about three weeks, and mainly consists in two to four hypodermic injections once a day of matter taken from a rabbit which has been inoculated with the virus of rabies.

If possible, of course, the suspected dog or other animal which has bitten the patient should be chained up and kept under observation. If the period of incubation has passed, and no symptoms of rabies have declared themselves, then obviously the patient need have no fear of this terrible disease. But *in the meantime* the patient should undergo treatment as a precautionary measure. Generally, however, the dog is killed by natives or others, so that in most cases the only course is to have the head cut off and sent to Kasauli. At the Institute a rabbit is at once inoculated with a portion of the dog's brain, and carefully watched during the period of incubation.

*Snake Bite.*—The great aim should be to prevent the poison reaching the circulation. Therefore bind as tightly as possible with a hastily improvised tourniquet—twisting a stick between the bandage and the limb—*above* the wound—*i.e.* between the

<sup>1</sup> It is only fair to say that this paragraph has been adversely criticised by several Anglo-Indians who have seen it in proof. Indeed, one dear old friend, inspired perhaps by Mr Herbert Vivian's notorious election cry, "Frowsy Fanatics," does not hesitate to term me a "teetotal fanatic!"

bitten part and the heart ; and it would be well also to make a second ligature a few inches higher up. Next cut around the wound, to encourage bleeding, and suck it.<sup>1</sup> Then apply some drug, such as permanganate of potash (very strong) dissolved in water, solution of potash, or carbolic acid (poison). Failing this, apply a red-hot cinder or wire, or caustic ; or, as a last resource, a pinch of gunpowder might be placed on the wound and exploded. Every effort should be made to induce perspiration—in short, to “sweat the poison out of the system,” by giving a dose of salicylate of soda, antipyrin, or ammonia. The patient should be compelled to take violent exercise, and his friends should not hesitate to give him strong doses of neat alcohol. If no drug is available the scrapings of the foulest tobacco pipe obtainable, rubbed well into the wound, will sometimes be found effective.

Within recent years cases have been successfully treated with Calmette's Antivenene Serum. Permanganate of potash has also proved effective in several cases of snake-bite.

The natives in some parts of India implicitly believe in the virtues of a stone made of stag's horn when laid on the bite of the snake. It is called snake's stone. Faraday once analysed a piece : “A piece of charred bone which had been filled with blood several times, and then carefully charred again. It consisted almost entirely of phosphate of lime.”

It is curious that the natives, as a rule, know nothing of medicine or the medicinal properties of their own herbs. They usually pin their faith to fresh turpentine for a poultice, and cedar oil for skin complaints. But they have a passion for taking medicines from foreigners, and quinine is specially popular. Chiretta, a tonic and bitter febrifuge, is the usual native substitute.

*Bite of Scorpion, Centipede, etc.*—The sting of the scorpion, or even the centipede, often causes much local irritation, but the effects are seldom serious. The heroic remedies given above are unnecessary, but the pain may be relieved by sucking the wound and applying a poultice of ipecacuanha powder, mixed with a little water, or washing with a solution of ammonia, or salt water, or vinegar.

<sup>1</sup> It need hardly be said that the matter should be spat out, though as a matter of fact, snake poison, even if inadvertently swallowed, rarely produces ill effects—unless, of course, there is any sore or abrasion in the mouth.

Mosquito, ant, or spider bites can be treated with ammonia, or vinegar. Eucalyptus oil applied to the skin renders the traveller less liable to mosquito bites. It is a popular remedy in India.

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DISEASES TO WHICH TRAVELLERS IN INDIA ARE ESPECIALLY  
LIABLE <sup>1</sup>

*Cholera*.—Cause: Usually tainted water. Symptoms: The most characteristic are diarrhoea, vomiting, thirst, cramp in legs, intense coldness, and collapse. Treatment: Promptness essential. In early stage check diarrhoea by opium and astringents;

<sup>1</sup> For some of these medical hints on diseases I am indebted to the valuable chapter of medical and surgical advice by W. H. Crosse, M.D., in the Royal Geographical Society's "Hints to Travellers."

Give chlorodyne ; camphor also has been recommended. In cold stage keep patient warm ; rub well to maintain the circulation. Put hot bottle to feet ; give small doses of brandy or ammonia.

If no anti-cholera pills or chlorodyne be immediately available, a wineglassful of vinegar taken in sips at frequent intervals is a tolerable substitute.

If the patient is constipated, give an aperient at once. If the griping pains are very severe, ten to fifteen drops of laudanum may be given.

Some discretion should be used in allaying the intense thirst from which in many cases the patient suffers, as drinking aggravates the vomiting. Small pieces of ice, to relieve the thirst, are better, or even warm water to rinse out the mouth.

Inoculation against cholera has been practised of late. It consists of injecting a certain preparation under the skin. It causes a slight feverish indisposition for a day or so. The protective effects usually last for some six months.

A popular native corrective is a drink of Bail fruit, which should be drunk on rising in the morning.

“Bail fruit is classed among the astringents, but it is almost an alterative, its astringent powers being but slight. In irregularity of the bowels presenting alternations of diarrhœa and constipation one draught taken early in the morning often exercises a most beneficial effect in regulating the bowels.”

In Egypt, during the terrible epidemic some years ago, the favourite treatment was a stiff dose of raw brandy and ginger.

*Constipation.*—Give a cascara tabloid (2 grs.) once or twice a day, or a saline draught. If there is vomiting as well, *by no means* give any aperient. If there is colic, apply hot-water fomentations to the abdomen, and give a soap-and-water enema. If pain is severe, give fifteen minims of tincture of opium.

*Diarrhœa.*—Simple diarrhœa is due usually to some irritant in the bowels. To remove this, give castor oil or some mild aperient. If diarrhœa continues, give astringent medicine. Diet : Broths, beef-tea, rice, arrowroot, beaten-up eggs. and other semi-solids. Diarrhœa, even in the simplest forms, should *always be regarded seriously when travelling*, as, if neglected, it might develop into some form of dysentery. Diarrhœa and dysentery are some times brought on by neglecting a chill.

The following homely remedy has frequently checked the trouble when given at an early stage : Give the patient a teaspoon-

ful of flour or unboiled arrowroot, mixed with cold water or milk to the consistency of cream.

*Dysentery.*—Symptoms : The presence of blood in motions an unmistakable symptom ; diarrhoea plus colic pains and straining. Treatment : Rest, warmth, semi-liquid food as in diarrhoea, and very little at early stage. If needful, give an enema at first. If dysentery not checked, give chlorodyne (20 m.), followed by ipecacuanha (20 to 30 grs.), repeated twice a day if necessary. Continue treatment for at least a week.

*Malarial Fever.*—Symptoms : Languor and depression, followed by cold stage, hot stage, and sweating stage. Treatment : Mild aperient to begin with. Then quinine,<sup>1</sup> 10 to 15 grs. (total given in twenty-four hours should not be more than 30 grs., but if much fever 50 to 60 might be given). At cold stage give warm drinks, and sponge with warm water. At hot stage cold sponging, but take care to avoid giving patient a chill ; antipyrin,<sup>2</sup> 5 to 8 grs. Cold drinks, such as water with lime-juice, at sweating stage. Temperature all along best guide to treatment and amount of quinine to be given. For instance, if the characteristic buzzing in the head is felt, the quinine dose should be reduced. As a general rule, aim at increasing perspiration.

In malarial regions take daily (even when perfectly well) 5 grs. of quinine. Important to keep the bowels open. Any neglect of this precaution in tropical countries is likely to be far more serious than at home.

Quinine can be obtained at any post-office in India.

*Ophthalmia.*—This is caused usually by irritation due to sand, insects, cold winds, etc. It is an inflammation of the membrane of the eye and of the eyelids. The eyes are bloodshot, and feel as if particles of sand had got into them, and they run profusely with a thin watery fluid ; and if the trouble be not checked the discharge becomes thick matter. The treatment is bathing the eyes with a lukewarm solution of boracic acid of about 10 grs. to one wineglassful of water. The edges of the lids should be smeared with boracic ointment to prevent their adhering. An alternative treatment is the time-honoured one of sulphate of zinc (2 grs. to half-a-wineglassful of water) as a wash.

<sup>1</sup> Some persons, however, cannot take quinine, and in such cases arsenic in very small doses may be given instead.

<sup>2</sup> But antipyrin is unsuited to some constitutions, on account of its "lowering" effect on the heart. In such cases antifebrine or phenacetine would be more suitable.

When removing foreign objects from the eye, the most effective treatment is to drop in a few drops of cocaine solution (2 grs. dissolved in a teaspoonful of water). Failing cocaine, a drop of castor oil will be found to relieve any pain afterwards.

*Piles.*—These often occur if constipation be not checked. Ordinary ablutions with cold water, or lotions of hazeline, and rest, will sometimes prove efficacious at an early stage. If the parts are very inflamed, apply hot fomentations sprinkled with laudanum. A good homely remedy is to apply salad oil which has been beaten up into a cream in water applied drop by drop.

Typhoid (enteric) is usually caused by drinking polluted water, or by insanitary surroundings. Incubation period from ten to fifteen days. Symptoms: Usually headache, general depression, often diarrhoea (or sometimes constipation), and rise of temperature. Treatment: Absolute rest and quiet. Diet: Milk, three or four pints (of course, boiled) a day, *but taken in small quantities*. If there is constipation at the beginning, an enema must be given, but no aperient.

If fresh milk be not obtainable, condensed milk must serve, but this should be mixed with water which has been *boiled*.

### “DONT’S,” SOME MEDICAL

1. Don't take a cold bath.
2. Don't neglect to take quinine regularly, as a precautionary measure. But Dr Koch considers that repeated small doses are ineffective. He recommends instead 15 grs. on two successive days weekly.
3. Don't neglect to wear a cholera belt.
4. Don't take alcohol in any form *merely as a beverage*, at all events, “when the sun is up.”
5. *Don't neglect to boil all drinking water*, and after it has been filtered.
6. Don't trust *only* to a filter. “Most filters are death traps,” because rarely cleaned properly.
7. Don't drink any cold water, and studiously avoid iced drinks.
8. Don't take exercise soon after a meal.
9. Don't sit out at night when there is a heavy dew.
10. Don't leave your sight-seeing till late in the morning: the earlier the better;

## DRUGS, SOME USEFUL

When possible these should be in the "tabloid" form for convenience.

*Aromatic Chalk Powder and Opium* tabloids (B. & W.<sup>1</sup>), 5 grs. Two to six for a dose. Good for diarrhœa as an astringent.

*Bicarbonate of Soda*. Useful in dyspepsia. Dose 5 to 10 grs.

*Blue Pill and Compound Rhubarb* tabloids (B. & W.), or *Compound Podophyllin* tabloids (B. & W.). For biliousness and liver disturbance.

*Boracic Acid* in powder.

*Bromide of Ammonium*. A useful sedative, and much less depressing than the popular bromide of potassium. Dose, two or three tablets (5 gr.).

*Cascara* "tabloids," 2 gr. For constipation.

*Chinosol*. A new drug, which now replaces carbolic acid, and is free from the latter's poisonous qualities.

*Chlorate of Potash* tabloids. Two for a dose: For sore throat.

*Chlorodyne* (Collis Browne's). Extremely useful for diarrhœa and dysentery.

*Cinnamon, Essence of* (Langdale's). Excellent for colds.

*Dover's Powder* "tabloids," 5 gr. Two for a dose. Acts on skin; useful in early cold.

*Epsom Salts*, as a mild saline aperient, or, better, Magnesium Sulphate Effervescent tabloids (B. & W.).

*Hazeline Snow*.—Good for abrasions.

*Izal*. Valuable antiseptic dressing; non-poisonous, and does not irritate the skin.

*Permanganate of Potassium*. Used in solution with water is a well-known disinfectant; and it is also a useful test for impure water, which it turns brown instead of purple.

*Phenacetine* tabloids. Excellent remedy for headache.

*Quinine Pills*. Of little use in this form, as they are very hard of solution. Tabloids (2 grs.) better.

*Soda Mint* tabloids. Useful for indigestion:

*N.B.*—Drugs in the form of tabloids act better if dissolved in water.

*Medicine Chest*.—There is an embarrassing choice from the stock of the leading medical outfitters, but the traveller will probably not be wrong if he applies to the well-known firms of Messrs

<sup>1</sup> B. & W stands for Burroughs & Wellcome.

Burroughs & Wellcome, or Messrs Park, Davies & Co. Unless the traveller's itinerary take him for a considerable time beyond the reach of medical advice the latter firm's (Park, Davies & Co.'s) pocket medical case (No. 58), at £1, 7s. 6d., fitted complete, will suffice. For more extended travel, and exploration generally, Messrs Burroughs & Wellcome's Aluminium Tabloid Medicine Chest—it weighs, fitted complete, about 27 lbs.—is more suitable. Some travellers prefer to fit the chest themselves. In this case it should contain supplies of the following:—Quinine, in 2 and 5 grain tabloids (not pills). Anti-cholera pills. Permanganate of potash. Chlorodyne (Collis Browne's). Laudanum (tincture). Ipecacuanha (powder). Ammonia (Scrubb's Ammonia sufficient strength). Mustard leaves (in tin), safety pins, rolls of lint, clinical thermometer, vaseline, medicine glass, scissors, lancet. Cascara tabloids (2 grs.). Epsom salts, 2 oz. Small bottle of best liqueur brandy. Boracic acid ointment. Boracic acid powder (in a tin).

*Filters.*—A filter of some kind is usually included in the traveller's outfit. No doubt the pocket filters are useful from their portability, but they must not be counted upon to eradicate noxious organisms. Indeed, a well-known authority on outfit roundly declares that "all pocket filters are worse than useless." Perhaps the only two that can be regarded as absolutely reliable as germ destroyers are the Berkefeld and Pasteur Chamberland, though one is bound to admit that some experts doubt the infallibility even of these famous makes. On the other hand, Dr Andrew Wilson does not hesitate to give his opinion as follows of the Berkefeld Filter:—"The filters sold by the Berkefeld Filter Co., Ltd., London, W., remove all germs from water. They are thoroughly reliable appliances: they realise the ideal of the sanitarian's definition of a true filter—one which will yield a germ-free supply of water."

*Prickly Heat.*—Sponge the part affected with a mild solution of carbolic acid, and take a mild aperient. In slight attacks sponging with toilet vinegar, or hazeline, affords relief. Sprinkling with violet powder is also a palliative.

For ordinary *Sun-blister*, cold cream, hazeline snow, or zinc ointment is a good palliative. Any of these is more efficacious than vaseline.

*Sea-Sickness.*—Sea-sickness, like toothache, headache, and, in short, all minor ills to which flesh is heir, is one of those maladies



which arouse very little sympathy from non-sufferers. Indeed, it is its humorous aspect which would seem to appeal chiefly to the friends of the victim. But, all the same, no other minor ailment has such a demoralising effect upon the sufferer, vividly summed up in the well-known description, attributed to every famous humourist from Sydney Smith to Mark Twain: "In the first hour you are afraid you will die, and in the second hour you are afraid you won't."

Fortunately for the Indian tourist, one is more subject to this distressing malady in short holiday trips in comparatively small steamers than in large ocean steamers. No doubt there are palliatives, but there is, of course, no infallible cure for *mal-de-mer*, *pace* the proprietors of various much-advertised quack nostrums and panaceas. Indeed, the only absolute cure for sea-sickness is a negative one, and that is the proverbial remedy of Punch: "Don't go to sea." Of all the popular remedies, Yanatas—a preparation which goes direct to the seat of the trouble by allaying the irritation of the pneumogastric nerve, is the most likely to be efficacious. It is certainly a useful palliative, and has indeed proved remarkably successful in many obstinate cases.

Those peculiarly subject to sea-sickness should live very simply for a few days before starting on a voyage, and take a mild aperient; and those of a full habit of body should be sparing in the matter of rich diet for two or three days before starting.

Effusion of blood to the brain and disturbance of the digestive system are, no doubt, the chief causes of sea-sickness; and certainly those of weak digestion are particularly susceptible to its attacks.

Then it is undeniable that, to put it bluntly, most people on board ship eat too much and take too little exercise. The over-indulgence in the rich dishes at the elaborate meals on the big ocean liners—where even at breakfast there are more courses than most passengers are accustomed to at dinner at home—is a bad preparation for a severe attack of *mal-de-mer*. Naturally, during the attack the victims are not inclined to eat at all. Consequently it is not surprising that this alternation of repletion and starvation plays havoc with the digestive organs; and, of course, with these organs thus overstrained, the passenger is considerably handicapped in a serious bout of sea-sickness.

For severe attacks there are many medical remedies which would probably be efficacious. For instance, applying a mustard-

plaster leaf to the stomach and a hot-water bottle to the feet will tend to allay the nausea and vomiting.

A simpler and pleasanter remedy is a dose of three or four drops of chloroform on a lump of sugar, or a dose of fifteen grains of bromide of soda and five grains of antipyrin in half-a-wineglassful of water. Some medical men recommend cocaine tablets (consisting of one-twentieth of a grain) every hour or so till the nausea is arrested, while some pin their faith to chlorobrom, a compound of chloralamide and bromide of potassium, originally prescribed by the late Professor Charteris of Glasgow.

Another and less stringent remedy is bicarbonate of soda, which can be bought at any chemist's. Enough to cover a sixpenny-piece in half-a-wineglassful of water is a sufficient dose.

But it cannot be too much insisted on that no drugs should be taken except as a last resource and *only with a doctor's sanction*. Their indiscriminate use is exceedingly dangerous.

In obstinate cases it will often be found that wearing an ice-belt will minimise the feeling of nausea, or if ice be not obtainable the application of a cold compress along the spine is nearly as effective. Even tightening the belt round the waist will often afford some measure of relief.

As for the traveller's home-made remedies for *mal-de-mer*, they are as the sands of the sea for number, ranging from drinking a glass of hot milk, to prevent straining on an empty stomach, to the consumption of a couple of apples. Some travellers implicitly believe in the quaint treatment of keeping one eye shut while the gaze of the other is steadily fixed on the sea!

As to beverages, stout, in spite of its popularity, is perhaps the worst of all. Iced dry champagne is about the most suitable, though it is more useful in the depressing and exhausting stages of a long attack than at the beginning. It should, in short, be regarded as a palliative rather than a preventive.

A favourite specific with captains of Atlantic liners is what is popularly known as a "prairie oyster." This consists of a dessert-spoonful of vinegar, the yolk of an egg, a teaspoonful of Worcester sauce, and a dash of brandy, beaten up in a wineglass. Some add a little cayenne pepper to the mixture.

*Drowning.*—The right methods for restoring an apparently drowned person may be easily summarised. The body should first be raised for about a minute with the chest well above the head, and the tongue drawn forward. This is to allow water that

has got into the air passages to run out.<sup>1</sup> Then some system of artificial respiration should be practised for at least two hours, and in the meantime the body should be stripped, and vigorously rubbed from below upwards. The best and simplest method of inducing artificial respiration is to kneel behind the head of the patient (who should be laid flat on the ground on his back, with a pillow under the shoulders), grasping the arms above the elbow, and bringing them slowly, and without jerking, up above the head to their full extent, holding them in that position for a second and then returning them slowly to the patient's side, pressing them in close. This should be repeated some fifteen to twenty times a minute, and continued for *at least two hours*.

When there are any signs of returning life, a few drops of brandy should be poured down the throat (but with great care, or suffocation might result), and the patient put to bed with hot bottles at feet and sides.

*Sunstroke*.—The treatment is continuous douching of head and shoulders with cold water. Give at once hot-water enema or an emetic, or even both, and put patient to bed, with cold-water compresses (which should be changed frequently) along the spine. Better still, apply an ice-bag to back of neck. If exhaustion cause the sufferer to faint, the treatment is the same as that for an ordinary fainting fit.

#### SURGERY, ROUGH AND READY

*Broken Leg*.—This should be bound firmly to the sound leg and an improvised splint tied on the outer side. The patient must, of course, be carried to the nearest house or camp. A hammock can be improvised by running a stick through the sleeves of a great-coat or ulster, and in carrying the bearers should "break step" to lessen the jolting.<sup>2</sup>

*Bruises*.—The treatment is similar to that for sprains.

*Cuts*.—Cleanse with an antiseptic solution, such as boracic acid, and then bring the edges together with strips of plaster,

<sup>1</sup> To facilitate this a rubber band (or failing this a piece of tape or a strip torn from a handkerchief) should be slipped over tongue and chin.

<sup>2</sup> I have known a case in New Zealand in which a man, when prospecting alone, broke his leg, and managed, by resting the broken limb on the sound one, and *crawling on his back head foremost*, to proceed nearly two miles before he was picked up.

taking care to leave intervals to allow of any discharge. If the cut is extensive, sewing will be required ; but this demands considerable skill, and the untrained had better not attempt it.

*Sprains.* Bandage the part with a cloth that has been dipped in cold water, and keep the bandage cool by frequently pouring cold water over it. The homely remedy of holding the sprained part under the cold water tap is not, of course, possible when the traveller is on a camping tour.<sup>1</sup>

*Thermometer, Clinical.*—A Kew registered one essential, but the rapid “one minute” ones should not be implicitly believed in. Always safer to allow at least two minutes.

*Water.*—See Filters.

*Weights and Measures*—

<i>Solid</i>	<i>Liquid</i>
15½ grains = 1 gramme.	1 minim = 1 drop.
60 grains = 1 drachm.	60 minims = 1 drachm.
437 grains = 1 oz.	8 drachms = 1 oz.
1 kilogramme (nearly) = 2 lb. 3 oz.	20 oz. = 1 pint.

A teaspoonful is approximately equal to 1 fluid drachm.

A dessertspoonful is approximately equal to 2 fluid drachms.

A tablespoonful is approximately equal to ½ oz.

Four tablespoonfuls are equal to 1 wineglassful.

A tumblerful is approximately equal to half-a-pint.

A litre is approximately equal to 1¾ pint.

Some of these hints are taken from my “Practical Hints for Travellers in the Near East” (Marlborough).

### III. TRAVEL HINTS: VOYAGE TO INDIA

*Baggage.*—The amount of baggage allowed by the various steamship companies does not materially differ. Usually about 3 cwt. first and 1½ cwt. second class are allowed free. Some companies reckon by cubic feet, 40 feet being allowed first and 20 feet second class. The following table will serve as an indication of the amount of free baggage allowed :—

<sup>1</sup> The latest medical theory advocates fomentation with water and vinegar as hot as it can be borne—a treatment the very reverse of the time-honoured cold-water cure.

Length		Breadth		Depth		Cubic Contents	
Feet	Inches	Feet	Inches	Feet	Inches	Feet	Inches
2	0	2	0	1	3	5	0
2	0	2	0	2	0	8	0
2	6	2	0	2	0	10	0
3	0	2	6	1	0	7	6
3	0	2	6	1	3	9	5
3	0	3	0	1	6	13	6
3	0	2	6	2	0	15	0
3	0	3	0	2	0	18	0
3	0	3	0	3	0	27	0
3	6	2	0	1	0	7	0
3	6	2	6	1	3	10	11
3	6	3	0	1	6	15	9

Strictly, no trunk exceeding the limits of 3 feet by 2 feet by 1 foot 3 inches is allowed in the cabin, but this rule is not rigidly enforced on some lines.

By all lines matches are looked upon as dangerous contraband, and a heavy fine is inflicted on those taking them in their luggage. I have known a case where a passenger was fined £50 by a well-known steamship company for having two boxes of wax vestas in his luggage without notifying the officials.

*Cabin, Selection of.*—Obtain, if possible, an outside cabin, and one as much amidships as possible. For the outward voyage an outside cabin on the port side is preferable, and on the starboard side on the return voyage. In the big mail steamers the first-class cabins are arranged with due consideration to the unpleasantness of the proximity of the engines or cooking-galley, but in the smaller ships the passengers should take the necessary precautions. In any case, always study the steamer chart before booking. From October to December the outward-bound P. & O. steamers are usually very crowded, and if time be no object, it might be well to book by an intermediate Calcutta steamer. For place at table arrange with chief steward. If a place is allotted at the captain's table the chief steward will expect a tip as well as table steward. Arrange with bath-man or cabin steward about booking a time for bath-room.

*Fares* (see also "Complete Tourist in India" chapter).—Families of not less than three are usually allowed a reduction of ten per cent. on the full fares. For servants there are two rates—European and native.

*Children's Fares.*—As a rule children under three years are carried free, and children between three and twelve years pay half fares. On some lines, however, children over three years are charged at the rate of one-sixteenth of the full fare for each year.

*Meals, Hours of.*—Breakfast, usually from 8-30 to 10 A.M.; lunch, 1 P.M.; afternoon tea, 4-30 or 5; dinner, 7 P.M.; and sandwiches and other light refreshments at 10 P.M.

*Medical Attendance.*—Though the medical officer on most lines is not entitled to charge for attendance, it is usual to pay a fee.

*Outfit for Voyage.*—It is the exception not to dress for dinner on board, but a dinner jacket takes the place usually of the full dress coat. On the P. & O. boats in particular the passenger who ignores this sumptuary convention would probably feel a little "out of it." Tennis shoes and patent leather shoes should replace ordinary boots. Boots that require blacking are intolerable on a voyage. A simple cloth hold-all with a dozen pockets, to hang up in the cabin, will add much to the comfort of the passenger. It should be furnished with straps or strong tapes, so as to serve as a travelling toilet-case.

"For ladies, a tweed or serge travelling dress, with comfortable travelling coat and neat hat for the first part of the voyage, will prove sufficient. For the warmer portion, drill, linen, tussore, or thin flannel gowns will be found most comfortable. Blouses, shady hats, and an evening skirt with a light silk or other suitable bodice for evening wear may be added. It is wise to arrange so as to have easy access to a more elaborate toilette in case of dances or other entertainments which often enliven the tedium of the voyage. Canvas shoes for deck use are convenient; if with rubber soles they give a better foothold in rough weather, but are somewhat trying to the feet, particularly in the warmer latitudes. Both gentlemen and ladies should have dressing-gowns for use in going to and from their baths; and a dust cloak of some light material of neutral tint is invaluable for keeping the clothes clean when travelling."—"Imperial Guide to India."

*Quarantine.*—All companies require the passenger detained by quarantine to pay for his keep—usually ten shillings a day for first class.

"In case of illness, on the Ship's surgeon's certificate, a passenger may be put on shore at any port of call, the company undertaking to convey him to his destination as soon as he is in a fit state to travel. Cost of transshipment and maintenance on

shore is at the charge of the passenger."—Bradshaw's "Overland Guide."

*Return Fares.*—On all lines these fares are calculated on the basis of one and a half the single fare : and they are good for two years.

*Tips to Stewards.*—The usual rule of allowing one-tenth of the passage-money for fee would be unnecessarily lavish on the P. & O. mail steamers where £52 is charged for a three weeks' (or two weeks' from Marseilles) voyage. £1 to cabin steward, 10s. to £1 to table steward, 5s. each to smoking-room steward and bath-room steward would be suitable gratuities. On the smaller lines, City, Anchor, etc., two-thirds of the above amount would suffice. It is advisable to pay half the intended gratuity at the beginning of the voyage, letting it be understood that this will be supplemented by a further tip at the end of the voyage, if the steward's services be satisfactory.

#### RAILWAY TRAVEL

In addition to the hints given in "The Complete Tourist in India" chapter, the following may be of service.

*Bedding.*—Bedding must always be taken even when visiting friends. This consists usually of a pair of sheets, a pillow, rug and a *rezai*, that is a quilt stuffed with cotton. This can be bought at any Bazaar for about five or six rupees.

*Refreshment.*—Most of the through trains on the trunk lines are provided with well-equipped dining cars. Indeed on the famous Bombay-Poona express a passenger can obtain a dinner at a moderate price hardly to be equalled in the best hotel in India.

But when passengers are dependent on refreshment-rooms it is best to be provided with a luncheon basket. This should include in addition to a cold chicken, biscuits, potted meats, Swiss milk, Brand's Essence, methylated spirits and tea outfit. Avoid tea and especially milk at the less important refreshment-rooms.

*Fares.*—Railway fares are moderate, about three halfpence a mile first class, and half that sum second, while for over 300 miles the fares are slightly less. But the fares of mountain railways—*e.g.* Siligarh to Darjeeling and Kalka to Simla—are considerably higher.

*Luggage.*—The free allowance of luggage is one and a half

maunds (a maund is 80 lbs.) first class and half this amount second class.

All first and second class carriages have lavatories attached, and reserved compartments for ladies can generally be obtained at twenty-four hours' notice.

*Railway Time.*—For some inscrutable reason only Madras time is kept on all railways. Calcutta is 33, Allahabad 7 minutes ahead of ordinary time, and Delhi 13, Agra 10, Lahore 23, Karachi 52 minutes behind railway time. Newman's "Indian Bradshaw" (eight annas) gives much valuable information on most of these points.

*Tips.*—For coolies carrying luggage one anna a package is liberal. Waiters at refreshment-rooms should be satisfied with two or three annas, while the butler of the dining car on a long railway journey might be given half-a-rupee. If practicable always do your tipping yourself.

#### IV. BABUISMS

BABUISMS, like the theological howlers of undergraduates (which are popularly supposed to be invented by Dons in their rare moments of relaxation in college common rooms), are usually factitious or fictitious. The following are, however, supposed to be genuine.

A Babu convert, being ignorant as to the correct mode of addressing a lady missionary, taking a line from a clergyman being addressed as Reverend Sir, began his letter "Pious Miss."

There is a story told of a Bengal Babu travelling by rail, whose wife had been insulted by a drunken soldier. When he complained to the magistrate, he was naturally asked why he did not interfere. Whereupon he replied, "Your Honour, I am a fearful man."

*The Pioneer* is responsible for the following delightful example of a letter from a Babu, proposing marriage, addressed to the father of his lady-love:—

"DEAR SIR,—It is with a flattering penmanship that I write to have communication with you about the prospective condition of your damsel offspring. For some remote time to past a secret



passion has firing my bosom internally with love for your daughter. I have navigated every channel in the magnitude of my extensive jurisdiction to cruelly smother the growing love-knot that is being constructed in my within side, but the humid lamp of affection still nourishes my love-sickened heart. Hoping that you will concordantly corroborate in espousing your female progeny to my tender bosom, and thereby acquire me into your family circle.

Your dutiful son-in-law,

An Indian native doctor's certificate of death, quoted by *The Pioneer*, runs :—" I am of a mind that he died (or lost his life) for want of foodings, or on account of starvation. Maybe also for other things of his comfortables, and most probably he died of drowning."

An even more typical case, perhaps, was that of the Parsee doctor who, calling professionally on two ladies whose husbands were absent on duty, thought he was condoling handsomely with them, and in the most approved polite fashion, by assuring them on his departure that he was " very sorry to see a couple of such abandoned women."

The following letter was sent by a young Madrassee servant to his Mem Sahib when leaving India :—

" DEAR AND HONOURED MADAM,—I send you a bouquet of flowers as a token of the esteem and regard I have to you for your kindness during time I am in your service.

" Alas ! the flowers will soon fade, and their perfume vanish, but you, my dear Mrs Tompkinson, will smell for ever," etc. etc.

A London daily vouches for the authenticity of the following letter, in which a Babu writes of his attainments :—" As to my scholastic calibre, I was recently ejected from Calcutta University. I am now masticating." This is almost as big an achievement as that of the lady novelist's Oxford hero, who won a scholarship called an ægrotat, and was consequently excused Smalls.

In one of the lesser Indian cities the clerk in charge of the official documents is a Hindoo, with a peculiar knowledge of English. As rats did much damage to his papers he obtained permission to keep two cats, the larger of them receiving rather better rations. A few weeks later the head office at Calcutta received this despatch :—

" I have the honour to inform you that the senior cat is absent without leave. What shall I do ? "

To this problem there was vouchsafed no answer. After waiting a few days the Hindoo sent off a proposal :

“ In *re* absentee cat. I propose to promote the junior cat, and in the meantime to take into Government service a probationer cat on full rations.”

The collection of bona-fide Babuisms was one of the late Lady Curzon's hobbies in India, and Lord Curzon himself does not disdain to leaven his after-dinner speech with a few of these gems. At one of the annual Dinners of the Society of Authors he quoted one or two choice specimens of this eccentric vernacular. He was once addressed in a petition as “ Your Orpulent and Predominant Excellency,” and had wondered whether the intention of the petitioner would best be served by inserting a C or by omitting an R. Another had written of himself in relation to the Viceroy, “ as a baby waiting to receive his mother's milk.”

The following circular was sent out to their patrons by two Bombay merchants on the death of their father, who had been the head of the firm :—

“ GENTLEMEN,—We have the pleasure to inform you that our respected father departed this life on the 10th inst. His business will be conducted by his beloved sons, whose names are given below. The opium market is quiet, and Mal. 15.00 rupees per chest. “ O death, where is thy sting ? O grave, where is thy victory ? ”—We remain, etc.”

An Indian stationmaster, having been annoyed by a certain female milk hawker, addressed the following remonstrance to her employer :—

“ HONOURED SIR,—I beg you will remove your handmaiden of milk, as she is not good fellow, and we cannot stand her cheeks.”

Many Babu letters, it is to be feared, are either fictitious or considerably edited and embellished. The following one, which reaches me from Assam, is as authentic as it is diverting. It is an application from a native to the steamer agent at Dibrugarh (Assam) :—

“ Respectfully showeth that your humble practitioner is poor man in agricultural behaviour, and much depends on season for the staff of life, therefore he falls upon his family's bended knees and implores of his merciful consideration for a damnable miserable like your honour's humble petitioner. That your humble

petitioner was too poorly during last rains and was trying vernacular medicine without effectuality, but was resuscitated by much medicine of Dr J. Lazarus, which made magnificent excava-tions in the coffers of your humble servant. That your petitioner has a large family of seven lives, two males and five females, last of whom is milking the paternal mother and is very noiseful, through pulmonary catastrophe in the interior abdomen. That your humble petitioner prays that if there is a place ever so small in your honour's benevolence, this slave will be allowed to creep in. For this act of kindness shall, as in duty ever bound, pray for your honour's longevity and procreativeness."

This in its way is even better than the historic one quoted by Mark Twain in "More Tramps Abroad," which describes the death of a distinguished Hindoo judge :

" And having said these words, he hermetically sealed his lips not to open them again. All the well-known doctors of Calcutta that could be procured for a man of his position and wealth were brought—Doctors Payne, Farrer, and Milmadhub, Mookerjee and others : they did what they could do, with their puissance and knack of medical knowledge, but it proved after all as if to milk the ram. His wife and children had not the mournful consolation to hear his last words, he remained *sotto voce* for a few hours, and then was taken from us at 6.12 P.M., according to the caprice of God which passeth understanding."

No doubt this peculiar vernacular, known as " Babu English," is partly due to the native's extraordinary facility in acquiring a smattering of a foreign language, and his inherent love for ornate phrases and idiomatic colloquialisms, which he uses with but slight understanding of their meaning.

But after all we are scarcely in a position to throw stones; Anglo-Indians are painfully familiar with ludicrous examples of ignorant use of Indian words and phrases by their fellow-countrymen. A typical one is that of the lady who took Zenana for the name of a native State. Still more amusing was the ignorance shown by a certain well-known American lady traveller who, in a book describing her travel experiences of India, when referring to social life in Simla, naïvely remarked that " all the ladies in this delightful hill station, where the snowy range is visible from the Mall, go about in pyjamas and rickshaws."

Then there is the much-quoted extract from an actual Indian

Mission Report which began : "Owing to the blessing of God on our work, the women's hospital is so crowded as to be quite insanitary."

Indeed, as Mr Sidney Low aptly observes in his "Vision of India" : "If English boys had to read the Chinese classics at school, and learn Chinese from masters who had never been nearer China than Dover beach, I daresay their literary style would cause amusement in Peking. We take young Hindoos, teach them a little English grammar, under native instructors, and then feed them on Shakespeare and Addison, Sir Walter Scott, Dickens, and the 'Essays of Elia.' No wonder the result is a little mixed."

### "BABU ENGLISH"

By R. A. P.

So many admirable Babuisms have been invented that the genuine article often fails to make the reader smile, especially when it is not uttered in that *chee-chee* accent which is the most characteristic feature of the Hindoo English. Imagine a Yankee yarn told without some attempt at the "Amurrican" accent! Again, most authentic instances of Babu English are the work of men in a comparatively humble position in life—office-seekers, petitioners, clerks on tiny salaries—and it is perhaps hardly fair to make fun of the linguistic attempts of such people. Most educated Indians write and speak impeccable English. For instance, the Hon. Mr Gokhale possesses a gift of natural, unforced and elegant eloquence such as few Englishmen share. If then I venture to quote some scraps from a big bundle of petitions and other papers lent me by a friend, I must premise that they are the blunders of very humble folk, men whose like in England would not dream of using any other tongue than their own:

Many of them come from the pen of that ubiquitous and irrepressible personage the *Umedwar*, the "man of hope," the humble petitioner for employment at ten or twelve rupees a month.

Some of them, poor fellows, are very hard pressed to find reasons for putting forward their claims. For instance :—

"I beg most devoutly to bring to your formidable notice that I got twice plucked in the B.A. examination, and am a native of the Province. *With these humble certificates*, I beg you to favour me with a post."

Another applicant began thus :—

“ In making this more than one effectual effort and abstaining from all interruption of speech that may provoke wantonly of your Honour’s passion for teasing you in this matter, I most humbly beg, etc. etc.”

One petition concluded with this irresistible peroration :—

“ In fine I should like to state that God will certainly assist you to Heaven provided you do help this poor and helpless man.”

One successful petitioner, with a real touch of pathos, thus quaintly expressed his gratitude :—

“ My relations uttered aloud their highest praises, and my uncle and aunt, who are verging on 100, blessed your Honour, madam and children, and prayed to God with tears of Glory!”

Sometimes petitions for posts are cunningly, vainly, and against rules addressed to the *wives* of officials, with a touching belief in British uxoriousness. One of these begins thus :—

“ Before I enter to give you an account as to *how* I am, I think it advisable on my part to make some preliminary remarks as to *who* I am so as to deprive my subsequent sincere affection from its being reduced to officiousness or intrusion.”

Another petitioner indulges in a flight of poetical fancy which is probably borrowed from vernacular literature. His appeal runs thus :—

“ As a man, in wilderness, stricken by severe storm, runs out in great despair to take shelter in to a neighbouring large tree (which by virtue of its philanthropic quality never denies shelter) so I, entirely beaten and thrashed by the severe storm of worldly circumstances, have presented before you to have a kind treatment.”

As most people know, “chits” or “certificates” are much valued as charms for conciliating the mysterious powers that confer appointments. For instance :—

“ You know me well from my earliest state. I have no such a old master as you. You are parents of mine. Therefore I beg your Honour that you will kindly be good enough to get me a Certificate which I shall always salute as You, and by which I shall be set free from any danger.”

But not every writer of this queer dialect is an applicant. Here is a person who stabled his pony in the kitchen of a dak bungalow, and was asked to explain.

“SIR,—I have the honour to explain that I met one mother tiger and two cubs on the way and the stable was not entirely fenced, so for fear of being taken away by tiger, and without knowing that to be a cook-shed, my syce kept my pony in the cook-shed. I beg to say I will be very careful about this in future.”

This somewhat mysterious communication is an authentic police report on the subject of a case of suspected murder :—

“As directed, I went to the spot, and from the evidence of the men noted in the margin as well as from the very sight of the dead body it was proved to my satisfaction that the man has really died by his own sickness under a large stone that stood like a hut near the village where he lived and refused to go to lived with relations and friends. I have *therefore* made over the dead body to the relations of the deceased.”

If the tourist secures, as he may easily secure, the trust and liking of his attendants, he will probably hear from one or other of his servants, after he has left India. One such wrote to his old master :—

“MOST VENERABLE SIR, it is with a devout and heart-felt regret I beg to say that since departure of your honourable self it seems to me that a calf without his mother !”

Metrical specimens of Babu literature must be regarded with suspicion. Most of the humorous examples which find their way into English newspapers are factitious. All genuine vernacular verse is intended to be sung. The following Babu love song, for instance, though excruciatingly funny, is evidently the work of a facetious Englishman. It purports to be composed by an amorous Babu.

#### A LOVE SONG

Come, oh my darling, come !  
 Do you hear how the honey-bees hum ?  
 I love you since last Autúmñ,  
 I love you from heart's bottóm,  
 Come, come, come !

Before leaving the subject of Anglo-vernacular verse I may say that translation from vernacular poetry into English is excessively difficult, and literal translation usually quite impossible. Especially is this the case with Hindoo verse, which is full of allusions to the Sanscrit classics such as would stump even learned European scholars. For instance, here is a literal translation of a pretty little lyric which will puzzle most English readers.

## I

A very miracle—Listen, Lord of men,  
 In the water of the *Kali* pool I saw it with my eyes,  
 Lily maid in lily pond—Vanquishing lightning  
 I saw the maid in the lily marsh.

## II

With looks that askance—Vanquished the swift hind,  
 Her hair like a snake's coil, brighter than lightning,  
 The water, seizing her—Swallowed her suddenly,  
 Suddenly it vomited up again her body.

## III

Now I see her in the water—Now in the lily bed,  
 Now the fair wanton hides in her veil,  
 Brightly she shineth forth—Now in her happiness ;  
 Now the Elephant casts her to the sky !

I must beg the reader to believe that the original is a little marvel of delicate amorousness.

Since most linguists, however gifted, rarely succeed in *thinking* in a foreign language, and therefore have necessarily to *translate* their thoughts into foreign speech, it is small wonder that the Babu's English contains expressions which puzzle or amuse us. On the other hand, Englishmen—and I fear I must add, especially Englishwomen—make even worse mistakes in the vernacular, and every Anglo-Indian has been astonished by the cleverness with which natives of India guess what the Sahibs and Mem-sahibs mean when they think they are talking Hindustani or some other vernacular language. For instance, I knew one lady who invariably used the past tense when she meant to use the future. She would tell her *khansamah* that she "wanted dinner for six

sahibs at eight o'clock yesterday," and the intelligent domestic would duly furnish a meal for six at eight the *next* day without the quiver of a muscle. Perhaps I may be allowed to retell an ancient Anglo-Indian yarn about a Colonel of old times whose regiment of Irregular Cavalry had been converted as a reward for valour into Regular Cavalry, and had received a medal. He is said to have addressed them as follows:—"Oh, pig-people; before, ye were raw pigs, now are ye regular pigs. To every pig will be given a pair of spectacles!" There was an almost excusable confusion between *sawâr* and *sûr*, between *chasma* and *takma*. But I might quote many such mistakes on the part of "mine own people."

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