

**Mrs. CHESNEY OF THE GOCULDAS TEJPAL HOSPITAL,
BOMBAY**

The death of Mrs. Zara Chesney who died in April, was a sad loss to her many friends as she was well known as Nursing Superintendent in several parts of India. I have very pleasant recollections of her as a most efficient, capable, and outstanding character. So attractive and charming to meet, and to those who really knew and appreciated her, she was a sincere friend. We met in the early days of the War in Mesopotamia and again in India, and always I had the same admiration for her wonderful administrative power, if she thought she ought to improve matters for her patients. She tried to overcome all obstacles, and was untiring in her efforts to do so. I remember so well her saying during the War, when a heavy convoy came in, and the wounded had to be put to bed 'Now Sister get blankets, hot water bottles and warm feeds ready as soon as you can' and in a little while the 'hut' as it was in those days, very soon became a comfortable ward, improvising was one of her strong points, and I learnt many valuable ways of 'making do' from her. She loved nursing, and even the last few months of her life was spent in caring for the sick and poor, a wonderful example of nobility of purpose in spite of great physical frailty even to the end. I hope you will find space in our little magazine for these few lines, I would like to publish there in tribute to the memory of a woman I had a great affection for. She was always kind, and so willing to help others with advice, and appreciated above all things, loyalty. I am comforted to know her end came peacefully in her garden and one of her last efforts was to be carried up to the Church for Communion Service on Easter Sunday; and to the end she spoke affectionately of the work she had left only because she could no longer serve.

A FRIEND.

LADY DUFFERIN VICTORIA HOSPITAL, CALCUTTA

BY MISS KELLY

A dispensary called 'The Lady Dufferin Dispensary' for Indian Women and Children was opened in 1886 in Lower Circular Road. There were no in-patients and purdah was not observed.

In 1887 two wards were opened for purdah women and a year later (1888) Lady Dufferin laid the foundation-stone of the Victoria Zenana Hospital in Harrison Road. Completed in 1891, there were 36 beds in 4 wards of 9 beds each.

This building was sold and the present Hospital was built in Amherst Street, Bowbazar, the most prosperous Indian quarter and was opened in December 1898. Calcutta has since spread, prosperity has deserted the Bowbazar district and the Hospital is now surrounded by dilapidated many storied buildings, pitifully overcrowded, and squalor and dire poverty abound.

Unfortunately, diminishing funds have debarred extensions to cope with the needs of the increased population in the vicinity, let alone those of the districts which have been developed since the Hospital was built, so there is a serious lack of accommodation. The wards are overcrowded,

as it has been imperative to increase the number of beds, which is now 125 for adults and 35 for babies. These have had to be fitted into wards originally built for about half that number and to accomplish this feat, all available verandah space has been utilised, either to accommodate beds, or partitioned off as bathrooms, sterilising rooms and dispensary. Above all, a part of a verandah has provided the long wished for laboratory, which materialised about a year ago. Duty rooms are conspicuous by their absence, a common writing table for Doctor, Sister and Nurses usually being placed in the centre of each ward.

The majority of the patients receive treatment, board and lodging entirely free, though there are special cabins, again partitioned off, and a few really nice rooms with tiled walls for paying patients.

In the Operating Theatre, which is of Lilliputian dimensions and barely allows of turning space, an average of 3,000 operations are accomplished annually through the skill of expert women surgeons; while the Birth Register numbering 972 for last year, shows an annual increase of 50.

By the unremitting efforts of Mrs. L. Bavin, wife of Superintendent of Police, the Hospital's kindest friend of recent years, donations have enabled the equipment of an up-to-date Ultra-Violet and Electro-Therapy department, where in quite a short time a considerable amount of work has been done. The treatments include diathermy, massage, artificial sunlight and radiant heat. A shadowless lamp for the Lilliputian operating theatre has also been acquired as a result of Mrs. Bavin's help.

The Hospital is recognised by the State Medical Faculty as a Training School for Nurses, who wish to enter for the junior examinations, and for Pupil Midwives for both the senior and junior examinations. The training for nurses is four years, which includes six months midwifery training. Their salary commences at the rate of Rs. 60 per annum and rises to Rs. 300 in the fourth year, with board, lodging, uniform and dhoby provided. Our greatest need at present is a new Nurses' Home. The patients' needs, as only right, having been the primary consideration, have resulted in a proportionately increased Nursing Staff which has had to be squeezed again and again into elastic dormitories, which permit of no individual privacy and which are by no means conducive to good health. As a last resort every available store-room and godown has been appropriated, and converted as far as possible into semi-detached miniature bedrooms. No mention can be made of a Recreation Hall or Sitting Rooms, for these are unheard-of luxuries; one very small room serves as the Sisters' dining room at meal times and between meals as the only Common Room for Sisters, Staff Nurses, Pupil Midwives and Probationer Nurses.

The whole Hospital, including the Nurses' Home, has been condemned, as the structure and foundations are so bad that the floors have sunk, and continue to do so, whilst really dangerous cracks which have existed for years in some of the walls, have become greatly intensified since the earthquake which shook Calcutta about a year and a half ago. Plans are in preparation for a larger Hospital to be built on the present site but it will be some little time before this hope is realised owing to insufficient funds.

In spite of the above unsatisfactory conditions, adventure and excitement are not altogether absent. Years ago a pioneer monkey decided that the Dufferin Hospital provided food and drink in plenty, with a minimum of foraging, so he made his home on the surrounding roofs. His sons were taught to spit fiery blasts and to bare their teeth at creatures dressed in skirts or sarees, but to leap to safety on sight of the mightier beings in trousers. The intuition has been so perfected through generations of monkey folklore that now-a-days the monkeys, whose numbers have increased to over fifty, are the virtual rulers of the compound and from the monkey's point of view, the staff and patients are only there on sufferance. All the buildings have had to be fitted with wire netting to keep the marauders out, so that contrary to usual procedure, those in the Hospital live in cages. In spite of this protection, latches are opened and an attack is skilfully and successfully organised to the nearest point of vantage, be it a milk safe or patient's locker containing sweetmeats. A fierce chattering scatters every nurse in sight, patient's heads disappear beneath pillows or any available covering and the raiders take their choice of the dainties at hand, passing out from one to another, hand to hand, just what they particularly fancy.

RAW APPLE TREATMENT FOR BACILLARY DYSENTERY

BY SISTER E. McMURRAY OF THE ALEXANDRA WARD, PRESIDENCY
GENERAL HOSPITAL, CALCUTTA

I have been asked to write a short account on our experiments with 'Grated apple' for Bacillary dysentery and Infantile diarrhoea.

The observations given are purely from a nursing point of view. What we noticed about each case as the different treatments were tried. The treatment is only in its experimental stage at present in this hospital. We have treated three cases so far. One a Bacillary dysentery and two the causes of which have been difficult to trace. Only one of the three cases had been treated solely with 'Apple'. The other two had the more orthodox methods tried first. You will see that the one treated with 'Apple' only was well and on normal feeds within five days from the commencement of the treatment.

Method of Preparing the Apple

The apple is peeled and finely grated and served. If kept it colours a little, but discoloration does not affect its action.

It should be prepared freshly daily, and the usual hygienic precautions taken.

I am giving a very brief account or rather summary of the three cases.

Procedure of treatment when only 'Apples' are used.

1. Child put on sterile water and normal saline ad. lib. given orally for 12 hours. (If very dehydrated, normal saline given i. v. or subcutaneously.)
2. Next day the child is given small feeds of whey, and sterile water and normal saline are given between the whey feeds. Grated apple vi-vii oz (less for a child under 4 months) given orally in 24 hours. It works out to about one drachm to $\frac{1}{2}$ drachm 4 hourly.