

Dentist.—'Not for a while unless your teeth hurt you. Ask Mummy to bring you to see me again in three or four months. Then you can tell me the bunny story. Goodbye, I've told all my friends you are the best little patient I've ever had.'

Dorothy.—'Goodbye. Thank you for my book, I'll come again.'
Mummy had decided she had found the ideal dentist.

RUTH GILBERTSON.

NURSING AND DIETETICS IN AN ELEPHANT'S CAMP

BY MISS V. K. PITMAN.

If you go by bus from Mysore to Ootacamund, you will pass through Teppakadu, and if you are observant you may see a notice 'To the Elephant Camp'.

In order to have a really interesting time there, you need to be able to stay after 5 o'clock in the afternoon, or to get there before 7 a.m. This is a working camp, under the Forest Department and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. the working elephants are out carting wood, or clearing the jungle.

We were fortunate for we arrived about 1 o'clock and camped there until 10 a.m. the next day, sleeping in tents with fires and lamps outside to protect us from the wild beasts of the jungle, or from inquisitive tamed elephants, which are allowed to wander in the jungle at night.

In the centre of the camp are large cage-like wooden structures in which the elephants are kept prisoners until they are sufficiently tamed to be let out, fastened to the leader of the herd Cæsar, who is a fine specimen of elephant sagacity.

About six weeks before our visit, five elephants had been captured. Large pits with sloping sides are dug in the forest and covered with branches and leaves, through which the elephants fall and find that they cannot climb out again. Then the trained team of working elephants drag them out of the pit and lead them into captivity.

The elephant being a herd animal has learned the discipline of the herd in its youth, and so can be quickly trained to accept the discipline of the new herd into which it is admitted.

In the early morning and evening the keepers with infinite patience and resourcefulness, and with the help of sugarcane train these animals in their wooden cages or kraals to kneel down, move to this side or that, in fact, to obey any desire of the keeper.

Then comes the day when the elephant is considered sufficiently tamed to be led out and taken down to the river to bathe. Such a day dawned for 'Kesari', a half grown elephant, the morning we were in camp. Loud were her trumpetings and great her objections to the rope noose round her neck, the other end of which was round Cæsar's body, but mightily did she enjoy her bathe in the cool waters of the river.

Some of these recently captured elephants had wounded themselves when they were captured, or by dashing themselves against the bars of their kraals in their efforts to regain freedom. Such a one was Tara, who had torn the side of his mouth and injured his ear. We watched his wounds being most carefully tended by the Forest Ranger, an apparatus similar to a foot pump for blowing up motor tires being used as a syringe for a normal saline irrigation, which Tara seemed to appreciate.

Later we saw him groomed, and sprayed with lysol solution to keep away the flies. The kraals were kept beautifully clean, and there was hardly

a fly to be seen ; far fewer than those which often haunt our Indian hospital wards.

One of the elephants Radha had given birth to a baby elephant soon after she was captured. He was a fascinating little chap of six weeks, when we saw him, imitating his mother in all that she did, but finding that it was very difficult to eat leaves until your teeth have developed, and that it is more satisfactory to take the milk which your mother provides for you.

Radha was allowed 10 cocoanuts a day, and extra rice because she was feeding her babe.

Did you know that the period of gestation for an elephant is 18 months, and that they very seldom become pregnant in captivity ? I was very impressed by the way in which the working elephants carried out the rules of health. We saw them come in from their work, during which they had had excellent exercise, and immediately go down to the river to bathe, from which they returned to wait patiently outside the barrier of the *punthal* from which their food is served twice a day. You may be interested in their diet sheet, so I am enclosing a copy.

After they are fully grown, provided they are quite fit, they are not given gram, and they are only allowed sugarcane during the time that they are being tamed. Cocoanuts, although loved by all, are only allowed to nursing mothers.

A veterinary surgeon visits the camp once a month, and inspects all the elephants, altering their diets if necessary, prescribing tonic for some, and ordering treatment for any wounds. We saw Forster, an enormous great chap lie down perfectly quiet after he had finished his food to have his foot attended into.

He had torn quite a large hole behind the hoof, which was being syringed through with lysol solution with a metal ear syringe, then carefully dried and dabbed with iodine.

Scale of Ration of Elephants in Mudumalai Range

Serial No.	Name of elephants	Gram lbs.	Ragi lbs.	Rice lbs.	Salt lbs.	Jaggery lbs.	Cocoanuts	Sugar-cane.
1	Caesar	...	13	13	1/8	1/3	...	...
2	Forester	10	10	...	...	...	...	...
3	Addi	11	13	...	1/8	1/8	...	...
4	Akbar	...	10	14	1/8	1/8	...	...
5	Suguna	...	...	20	1/8	1/8	...	...
6	Ganga	...	13	13	1/8	1/8	...	...
7	Subhadra	...	10	8	1/8	1/8	...	...
8	Saravana	...	4	6	1/8	1/8	...	...
9	Madhava	...	6	8	1/8	1/8	...	...
10	Vijaya	...	4	8	1/8	1/8	...	...
11	Valli	...	8	8	1/8	1/8	...	...
12	Ayyappan	...	8	8	1/8	1/8	...	...
13	Kasthin	...	6	8	1/8	1/8	...	...
14	Devi	...	...	8	1/8	1/2	...	...
15	Andy	...	8	8	1/8	...	...	6
16	Tara	...	8	8	1/8	...	...	6
17	Leela	...	8	8	1/8	...	...	6
18	Radha	...	...	20	1/8	...	10	6
19	Kesari	...	4	6	1/8	...	...	4
		21	133	171	2.38	2.1/8	10	28

STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION SECTION

Reports and Articles for this Section will be welcomed by the Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss J. ROBSON, S.R.N., D.N., Rainy Hospital, Royapuram, Madras.

DEAR STUDENT NURSES,

I expect that by this time you are all working hard at models for the Exhibition which will be held at Nagpur at the beginning of November.

We have now 14 Units and so expect 14 Representatives at Conference for the Student Nurses' Association Annual Meeting, and we shall look forward to a record gathering.

I believe Miss Sutherland wrote to you all some time ago with a Treasurer's eye to business—asking for money!

We are always asking for money, but the Trained Nurses' Association badly needs more money in order to do more effective work.

Your Delegates at Nagpur will meet Miss Hartley, our new Secretary, who is working very hard for us—money is required so that the Student Nurses' Association, through Miss Hartley, and the Trained Nurses' Association through the Student Nurses' Association may grow and develop. Please try and help us to retain the services of Miss Hartley whose interest and desire for our good is no uncertain thing.

I wonder if we can all try and bring to Nagpur, either our contributions in money, or an assurance that we are working hard to prove that the Student Nurses' Association has not lived in vain.

Some of us may not be able to collect much money, but, in spite of all I have said, I do not believe that money is our object—our interest and our co-operation in service for the work of nursing in India will be of greater value.

If we give ourselves in all we are doing our Association will grow, and our gifts to the Trained Nurses' Association will be finer than ever before.

Those of us who go to Conference will realise what that means.

Further details about the Exhibition will be published next month, but at present, we intend to make arrangements as formerly.

There will be 3 Divisions:

Division I: Drawings and Diagrams.

Division II: Models: Anatomical or demonstrative of any Nursing Procedure.

Division III: Needle-work.

All models exhibited must have some direct bearing upon Nursing—and must be done by individuals.

The Exhibition will be open for competition to all Nurses in training in a Recognised Hospital whether a Unit of the Student Nurses' Association exists or not.

Application forms for Exhibitors may be had from me, and I will also be glad to answer any questions if you will write to me.

We look to you all to make the Exhibition a real success once more.

Good wishes for all you are doing.

Yours very sincerely,

J. ROBSON.