

IGNORANCE OR FAITH.

(BY EUREKA).

IT is wonderful the amount of superstition or faith that prevails among the sick Indian Poor. I remember being at an out-patient department in a really large hospital and a man was brought in with a very swollen and red looking arm. He gave the history that a log of wood had fallen on it and that he could not use it since then. He was asked which doctor had seen it or treated it. He replied that a hakim had done something and he had given gifts at the temple and prayed. The arm was undoubtedly a simple fracture in two places. He had the arm well smeared with a yellow ointment and from the wrist to the shoulder at a distance of an inch had bangles of peacock feathers. I believe the poor Indian has much faith in the peacock's feathers. Needless to say he was soon cleaned and the arm received the right treatment and it was placed in a splint and he was soon comfortable.

B.—A man suffering from Jaundice (due to gall stones) was admitted into wards. On him being washed I noticed he had a necklet of sticks cut about half an inch in length and about the thickness of a lead pencil, threaded on a string. The wood was yellowish and had a peculiar rank smell. The necklet contained about sixteen of these pieces of wood. I asked him why he had put this around his neck (of course we did not ask him to remove it, his faith in its curative powers being so great) he said as soon as he got Jaundice he put it on and each time the Jaundice decreased a little he added another stick to the necklet. I asked him to get me one of these necklets which he did, and it cost me just six pices. He was operated on for gall stones and made a good recovery.

C.—A patient suffering from cholera was absolutely definite that some of his neighbours had placed a (Jade) on him and hence his condition. It is really extraordinary the amount of silly histories that are sometimes given in an Indian Out Patient Department. I could enumerate on these cases, but I think these three will just show the misery some of them must undergo first.

HEALTH VISITORS AND INFANT MORTALITY IN DELHI.

(BY MISS GRIFFIN.)

ONE is often asked what good is the work of Health Visitors and how does the Public benefit by their employment? The following results of work carried out in Delhi may be of interest.

462 babies were kept under observation from birth till they reached the age of a year. 58 died before reaching the age of one year. This gives an Infantile Mortality rate of 127.4 on the visited infants.

The visiting was carried out in this manner, every day up to 10 days old. Once a week upto six weeks old, once a fortnight up to three months old, and once a month up to a year old.