

The price of the cheapest vegetable this year is three quarters to one anna per pound. This is a year of scarcity, on account of scanty rainfall; which means that vegetables in a normal year can be had in greater abundance during the latter part of the rainy season, and for one or two months more thereafter, but during the rest of the year the supply must always remain short, unless there are vegetable gardens. In most of the villages there are no vegetable gardens; which itself shows that the supply in the summer and early part of the rains even in normal years must be such as to meet the needs of the better class only.

Yours, etc.,
BROACH. V. W. MARCHANT, L.M.

THE MAYO NATIVE HOSPITAL.

To the Editor of THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—In the interesting reminiscences of Surgeon-Major N. C. Macnamara, contributed by Colonel Kenneth McLeod, I.M.S. (ret'd.), to your March issue, there is a reference to the Mayo Native Hospital regarding which a few further details may interest your readers. They are contained in narrative of the foundation of the hospital, printed by Major Macnamara just before he retired, and which is one of the cherished possessions of the hospital. Major Macnamara met with considerable opposition to his proposal to transfer the Native Hospital from Dharamtolla to the river bank (Strand Road), partly from some inhabitants near Dharamtolla but mostly from the Secretariat, and his account of how he carried the day is instructive and sometimes amusing. Colonel McLeod's reference to Major Macnamara's characteristic energy and his commandeering of the site, alludes to the difficulty that arose in obtaining possession of the site sanctioned by the Government of Bengal and the Port Commissioners. At sunrise one morning Major Macnamara appeared on the scene with a number of workmen, supplied by Messrs. Mackintosh, Burn & Co., and before any one could interfere the whole structure of the bathing ghat on the site was pulled down and removed; thus clearing the ground upon which the erection of the hospital was then begun. Lord Northbrook laid the foundation-stone on February 3, 1873. Major Macnamara raised two lakhs for building and a sum of fifty thousand was received from the Mayo Memorial Committee, on condition that it was known as the Mayo Native Hospital. The name has occasionally been objected to in recent times, but some of our Indian Governors prefer it and undoubtedly it has now and then led to the receipt of legacies from those who desired to assist a charity devoted entirely to Indians. Major Macnamara built wisely and well and even to-day the hospital, though capable of improvement as regards marble floors, etc., remains a living witness to the energy and sagacity of one whom the Indian Medical Service and Calcutta will always hold in honour.

Yours, etc.,
F. P. MAYNARD, Lt.-COL., I.M.S.,
Surgn.-Supdt., Mayo Native Hospital.
10th March, 1919.

SIR PARDEY LUKIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP.

To the Editor of THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—For the information of the numerous subscribers of the Sir Pardey Lukis Memorial Fund, I beg to request the favour of your kindly allowing a little space in your widely circulated journal for the publication of the subjoined proceedings of the Final Meeting of the Memorial Committee held at the Medical College, Calcutta, on the 19th February, 1919, under the presidency of Lt.-Colonel J. T. Calvert, C.I.E., M.B., I.M.S.

Resolution I.—That the fund, amounting to Rs. 4,466 in Government securities and cash as shown in the Abstract Account Sheet, dated the 19th February, 1919, be made over to the Principal, Medical College, Calcutta, by the Joint Hony. Secretaries of the Sir Pardey Lukis Memorial Committee.

Resolution II.—That the interest of the War Bonds and the G. P. Note which will be due on the 14th March next be drawn on due date and this amount, together with the cash in hand, amounting to about Rs. 200, be invested at once.

Resolution III.—That the total annual interest on the whole investment, amounting to about Rs. 240, be applied towards the creation of a scholarship of about Rs. 20 per mensem, tenable for one year, to be annually awarded to the student of the Calcutta Medical College who stands first at the Honours Examination in Medicine at the end of the 5th year. Should the interest on the fund exceed Rs. 240, the excess should be allowed to accumulate until it reaches

the sum of Rs. 100, when it should be invested to the credit of the fund.

Resolution IV.—That the scholarship be named "Sir Pardey Lukis Memorial Scholarship" and the scholar be called "Sir Pardey Lukis Scholar."

Resolution V.—That the Principal, Medical College, Calcutta, be the custodian of the Scholarship Fund and be authorised to invest it, as necessity arises, in Government securities, with a view to secure as far as possible an annual interest of Rs. 240 on the whole investment.

Yours, etc.,
CHUNI LAL BOSE,
Joint Hony. Secretary,
Sir Pardey Lukis Memorial Committee.

CALCUTTA:
7th March, 1919.

"BILLS OF MORTALITY."

To the Editor of THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE.

SIR,—Beyond an occasional comment, usually of a sarcastic nature, anent the large number of deaths attributed to fever, the bills of mortality published from all large important Indian cities excite little interest except with the medical profession and a few zealous *Patres Conscripti*, City Fathers, who are genuinely keen on matters of sanitation and measures for preserving the health of their fellow-citizens. The following extracts, however, from the death returns of Edinburgh in the year 1746 may afford amusement to the general reader and surprise members of the R. A. M. C. and I. M. S. by the extraordinary diseases apparently common in "Auld Reekie" more than a century and a half ago. These mortality rolls were published monthly in the old *Scots Magazine*, a volume of which is in the possession of the writer, and it was only by searching ancient dictionaries that the exact nature of some of the strange complaints responsible for the death of worthy North Britons could be ascertained. "Chincough" figures in every return and seems to have been identical with our whooping-cough, while "tympany"—also a common complaint in those days—is defined with somewhat brutal coarseness as a "flatulent distension of the belly." Inability to perceive a joke doubtless led the compiler of these monthly death statistics to include "Hanged—4" in his return for February 1746. The Jacobite cause was not then quite lost (the *Magazine* gives a capital, if guarded, account of the battle of Falkirk) and perhaps some stray Highlanders were the four victims thus carried off by hempen fever.

"Iliac" passion was another queer form of sickness with which our ancestors were familiar, if unknown now-a-days, and despite the romantic title was a form of colic. In several of the returns the cause of decease is not given but merely the remark "suddenly." The persons dying must have gone out "phunk," as Archie Moncur, of Drumtochty, said of hard drinkers. To find Scotsmen dying from "lethargy" is certainly unexpected, yet to that sickness—a sort of *vis inertiae*—about half a dozen deaths are attributed. An "impostume" corresponds, we discovered, with an abscess, but what was meant by blaming "Evil" for a couple of deaths defied our efforts at elucidation. Had a "D" been placed in front of the word it might have been easier to comprehend. There appear to have been varieties of feverish complaints termed, respectively, common fever, scarlet, malignant, spotted, and a quaint disease called "purples." This proved to be what medical practitioners of those times chose to describe as a "petachial" fever, that is one the symptoms of which took the very unpleasant form of purplish spots breaking out on the body of an unfortunate patient. Head complaints were also pretty rife and enjoyed most weird titles, such as "headmonldshot" and "horse-shoehead," both of which concerned the sutures of the brain in the case of very young children. While "grief" carried off three Caledonians, "mortification" claimed a much heavier toll, but by the latter term was probably meant what is now classed as blood-poisoning. "Rising of the lights" has a theatrical ring but must have been a crude way of diagnosing liver disease. "Tissick" for what we know as consumption is modern compared with the causes of death mentioned above, and in every one of the monthly mortality bills a few deaths are simply recorded as "found dead," the canny Scot who prepared the statistics not caring to commit himself to a definite opinion in cases where doubt existed. To die "bed-ridden" must have been a painless mode of exit from a sinful world and decidedly preferable to losing life from "bursten and ruptures," as several poor wretches are shown as having done. Altogether, these ancient mortality bills are curious reading, and we trust the foregoing specimens given may have been found somewhat interesting as examples of how people in Edinburgh met their end in the past and the great change which has occurred in the nomenclature of disease as well as in its treatment.

Yours, etc.,
SHAHJAHANPUR. ARTHUR GORDON