



## NOTES.

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Even before leaving quarantine, Jan. 27th, I was approached by those needing medical and surgical aid. The same desire and request has not ceased to this date, May 8th, 1902.



CARRYING A PATIENT TO THE DOCTOR.

The work has been serious and frivolous. Serious that some patients have succumbed to their diseases as pneumonia, and frivolous that others have come to have an imaginary evil spirit exercised.

Perhaps the following will give an insight into part of our work. While treating patients one morning a porter came with a

large bundle on his back. Upon inquiring why he came to the dispensary and what he had, his answer was to open the parcel and, lo and behold, there was a patient—a woman.

AN INTERESTING WEEK began when the largest number in one day was recorded. The number was fifty-two, the date March 24th. On this same day Mr. Barny, Mrs. Barny, Freddie, Mrs. Worrall and myself were poled up to the grave of Rev. H. J. Weirsum.

The grave is in a plot of ground some five or more miles north of Busrah. The Englishmen here have raised a sum by subscription, bought the property, and after much difficulty obtained the Sultan's permission to have the plot used as a burial ground. There is a high wall of brick surrounding it and within are flowers and plants of various kinds, a keeper being hired to keep the place in order.

Tuesday although there was a goodly number (over forty) at the dispensary there came a little stranger who is now known as Esther Irene Barny. The welcoming ceremonies occupied considerable time of the whole household.

Wednesday also witnessed a large number at dispensary, but is notable for the first chloroform operation which we have had in the dispensary since our return from America. It was a case of cataract. One eye had been operated upon by a native doctor. The cataract had been pushed aside, out of way only and not extracted. The patient now came for the other eye, which had subsequently become blind. The operation was performed about three in afternoon and the cataract came out very nicely. The eye is now to-day, May 8th, in very good condition. To-day the patient came leading another blind friend, asking that this man also might receive his sight.

Friday there came to the dispensary a girl about 10 or 12, her cheek swollen very much, a discharge from her mouth very disagreeable. On examination of her teeth and gums the only tooth to be found on that side of face and lower jaw seemed to be loose. On applying the forceps I noticed that whole of lower jaw bone was loose. Bidding the child to apply hot poultices and bring her father the next morning she was sent off. The father came and upon explanation he told us to do as we saw fit. We applied the forceps. At first one-half of side of lower jaw bone

came away, next about one-third, and the third time the bone way into the joint. Bone was all dead. In three or four days after using a wash the flesh, or rather gum, grew over the cavity left by the jaw bone and was a beautiful pink, being healthy, and if all goes well will become very useful for mastication with teeth supplied by a dentist.

On Saturday came an unfortunate Jewess. While carrying a charcoal stove she had tripped going up stairs, her clothing had caught fire and she was severely burned. The Jewess had been treated by native doctors till she was afraid of all who made a motion to touch her. While picking up a piece of cotton she cried out in terror at the thought of being touched even by it. She refused an anaesthetic and so we were unable to do anything for her.

On April 27th Mr. Barny and I started on a tour to our out-stations. On arrival in Amara a telegram was waiting calling me back on account of an important case. While awaiting an opportunity to return to Busrah a case of fracture of "wrist joint" which is common enough in America, yet in the years we have been here we have only seen two cases. In this case a woman, fearing her child, just learning to walk, would stumble, ran, and while running tripped and fell upon her outstretched hands. Here also was again used the expression "I don't want medicines, doctor; only look at me." On Wednesday, April 30th, Mr. Barny left Amara for Kute-Hai, Nasariyeh and on April 31st I returned to Busrah.

Since my return we have recorded in one day sixty-two patients seen at end of dispensary hours.

The second cataract patient (upon whom we operated) came this morning to have medicine put in his eye. He said he could see better without the dark sun glasses which I ordered him to wear. He seems to see very well and can walk readily without any assistance, which he could not do before.

The weather has become so heated that the six or seven cataract cases waiting operation will probably be postponed till cooler weather comes.

Since arrival from America the record has passed 2,235 as number treated, a period of fourteen to fifteen weeks.

*REINFORCEMENTS FOR ARABIA.*

At its last Annual Meeting the Arabian Mission appointed a committee to prepare a report on the subject of reinforcements and send it to the Trustees. The report has been received and is substantially as follows :

“In January, 1900, the Mission unanimously resolved ‘that in view of the present needs and promise of the work we appeal to the Board for the following reinforcements to be sent out immediately: Two single ladies for evangelistic work, a medical missionary for touring in Oman, and a specially qualified worker (lay, medical or clerical) for evangelistic work among the Bedouin tribes.’

“In January, 1901, after a year of fruitless expectation, the Mission reiterated this plea and at that time Mr. Wiersum was still with us. His death left a large gap, yet unfilled, and the more need for the very workers he plead for with us. We desire to lay before you the following unvarnished facts :

“1. The character of our field and its climate certainly indicate that on the bare plea of economy in money and men, each station should have some reserve force to meet emergencies. Yet Muscat has hitherto had only one man at a time to hold the fort. With only one missionary for all of Oman touring is hardly possible. The same is true in a measure at Bahrein and at Busrah since the doctors are tied down so largely to dispensary and hospital work. Nor must the Board forget that the vast distances between our stations, fortnightly mail service and quarantine regulations all unite to make it impracticable to go from station to station frequently without serious loss of time and much expense.

“In occupying these three strategic points in Eastern Arabia we have not followed our own devices but the leadings of Providence. Every year proves that the centers for influence were well chosen. We cannot and must not give up that which was purchased by so great a sacrifice. But unless we receive reinforcements either the work or the workers will break under the strain. This year the furlough of Mr. Cantine should and would have been asked for had there been a trained second-year man ready for Muscat. All of us would rather take the risk of a too long-delayed furlough than see work well begun abandoned.