

Ganges, and her mouth and nostrils filled with the holy mud which, of course, hastens the end.

But sad as is the condition of the wife, that of the widow is immeasurably worse. In this respect the high caste lady is no better off than the lowest of her country-women, but is treated as one forsaken of God and man, and only fit to die. In former times she was burned along with her husband's dead body. British law has forbidden this, but it has not been able to prevent her being subjected to such treatment as makes her life one long misery. She must never sleep on a bed but on the bare floor, or at best on a thin mat, and without any covering but the thin garment she wore during the day ; this must be made of the coarsest material, and she must no longer dress her hair or wear jewels. She is allowed but one meal a day, and that must be cooked and eaten apart. Twice every month she must fast for twenty-four hours, and sometimes for two or three days at a time, and during these fasts she dare not touch even a drop of cold water. No love or sympathy, not one kind word or pitying look are ever given to her, for the other women believe that if they are kind to a widow they are in danger of becoming widows themselves.

The life of millions of women in India is one of cruel wrong and unbroken misery. One of themselves has thus described their condition : "The daughters of India are unwelcomed at their birth, untaught in childhood, enslaved when married, accursed as widows, and unlamented when they die."

NOTE.—In a country so large as India the customs of course vary in different provinces. The description I have given of life in a zenana is most applicable to Bengal, where the strictest seclusion is practised. It must also be remembered that it is that of the past, when no stranger was permitted to enter a zenana, rather than of the present, when in many instances more liberal ideas have begun to be entertained, but it is still true of the vast majority of the female population.

QUESTIONS. §

Describe the manner in which the best houses in India are built ; the men's apartments ; the temple ; the zenana. Do many people live together in these great houses ? Who rules the household ? Who the zenana ? What is she called ? Are