

two months I have been in India I have often wondered if all newcomers had to pass through my experience of feeling themselves to be much more an annoyance than a help to the other missionaries. Miss Rodger and Miss Beatty must be heartily tired of my endless questions. I began the regular study of the Hindi language with the first Monday of the New Year, and have made some little progress. I'm sure my attempts to find out what diseases my patients are suffering from, must often be a source of amusement to them. But a native woman is much too polite and respectful to ever show that she is laughing at you. In the last week of January* Miss Beatty was seized with very severe fever, which kept her in bed for more than three weeks. Before that I had visited several of her patients with her and spent some time each day in her camp dispensary, watching her methods, and trying to pick up something of the language. During her illness I had quite an initiation into medical work.

The very first patient which I attended alone was an experience I am not likely to forget. It was an obstetric case, and you may imagine my more than amazement when, on going into the room where the sick woman lay, I found four men among the group gathered around her. You may be sure I soon got rid of them. Such a custom seems difficult to understand among a people who are shocked at the idea of having their women attended by a male physician. It is no unusual thing to find all the male as well as the female relatives in the sick room.

The natives are wonderfully kind to their sick, but they like to pay the doctor with thanks and presents of fruits or garlands of flowers rather than with rupees.† A common way of expressing their gratitude is by saying that we are like the gods in our kindness in coming to them. We can but answer that God has sent us.

Last week being as soon as Miss Beatty could bear the journey, we left Indore for a visit to Mrs. Wilson. Each day shows a little gain in strength, but it will yet be some time before she will be able to resume any part of her work. Mr. Wilson has lent me his

* Some weeks ago, Miss Beatty and Miss Oliver, with Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilson, journeyed to Kashmir, about 1,200 miles from Indore, specially for the benefit of Miss Beatty's health. She remains there with Mrs. Wilkie and the children until September, when it is hoped her health will be fully restored. Miss Oliver has returned to Indore, and will, as far as possible, take up Miss Beatty's work.

† All fees received by our medical lady missionaries for medical attendance are paid into the Mission treasury.