

brings my hospital nearer. One hundred and ninety-three *new patients attended the dispensary in April, nearly as many as in the three months before it.* I shall not tell how many *old patients* came; you might use it as a guide to my success in curing them. Each sick person brings one or more people with her for company, so we sometimes have quite a congregation. They do not generally care much for talking, but they follow eagerly the singing of gospel hymns by the Bible woman. A class of women whom I had not met before have lately been coming to the dispensary. They are of the Si race, and I am very much in love with them. The first thing you would see is that they are handsome; next that they are very neat and cleanly; then you begin to talk with them and find them very intelligent, open minded—a rare quality—and with an amount of *natural refinement*, delicacy and modesty that takes you by surprise, the more so if you have been talking with a Mahomedan woman a minute before. The most hopeless cases I have to treat are opium eaters. Opium eating is a greater curse here than whiskey is at home. Men and women alike use it, but I believe the women suffer most from it; their home lives are so often wretched, their sense of moral responsibility so low, and their physical sufferings so great, that they fall an easy prey to the demon. They take a little and feel better. If they are better, why should not the baby be better too; so the baby gets its share; and I often have children brought to me who look like little old men or women—they are half stupid, and I find that they have not been free from the effects of opium for days, it may be weeks. It is very very difficult to get a woman to give up eating the drug. Though I have had many of them under treatment for various ills, only one can I be sure of *as having given it up.* All efforts were lost on her till a little boy was born; eight others had died one after the other, and I told her this one could not live if she poisoned it and herself with opium—that God might spare it if she would trust it to Him and give up the opium. She has not tasted opium for four months, and she sends me word from Dhar every little while about the baby and herself.