

## THE TAMASHA—WALA.

By Rev. Norman H. Russell.

That is a strange word and means the man who conducts a "Tamasha," or show. The Hindu dearly loves a Tamasha. He will rush out of his house at the sound of a drum or a band, or in fact at any unusual noise, leaving the most serious business, it may be, and will follow the show with staring eyes and gaping mouth until he has ferreted to the bottom of it and his curiosity is satisfied.

Shows in India are not held in a building nor even within the walls of a tent, but usually upon the street, and they are very

and bear fruit. But their tricks are innumerable and time would fail to describe them.

Another very famous "tamasha" is that of the athlete and tight rope walkers. A man will erect a tall bamboo pole by means of four guy ropes, and placing five clay water-pots on his head climb to the top, where, sitting on the point he will with a pair of swords go through an amazing performance, at the time balancing the water vessels on his head.

Again he will erect a rope somewhat slackly, and after crossing it on both feet and hands, will finally stand on his head on a brass plate and wriggle himself across the rope in a most marvellous fashion.



varied. The most common, and generally the most interesting, is the "zadugar," or juggler, who is sometimes very clever.

I have seen him take a man's turban, about 20 feet long, seemingly tear it in two and then destroy part of it, and after pronouncing some necromancy over the remains return it to the owner perfectly whole.

Again, I have seen him disgorge great clay marbles from his mouth until he had quite a pile of them before him, and talking volubly all the time.

A favorite and very pretty trick is to make a mango tree grow up before your eyes

Then there is the snake-charmer, and the man with performing monkeys, or a dancing goat.

There are also the acrobats, who will, by means of a series of hand springs, travel along the road for all the world like a wheel without felloes. Performing bears, and the mongoose that fights the cobra, are common shows in India.

The men in the picture have a performing ox. No animal in India is clumsier or more unlikely to learn tricks than the ox, unless it be his cousin the water buffalo.

This animal you see has been taught to