

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—I beg to send you the following particulars of a post-mortem examination which I performed here on the 23rd of February, 1865, before the Court of Inquest. This case is highly interesting, as it bears on several very important questions in jurisprudence.

The body of the woman named Koovertah, aged about 50 years, resident of Baddipoore, in Shah Bunder district, was brought to me by the Police, alleged to have been murdered and concealed among thick brushwood. The pot of milk which she is supposed to have carried was found some distance from the place where the corpse was found. The murderer or the weapon by which the injury was inflicted has not as yet been discovered.

Autopsy 40 hours after death.

The body was that of an old woman of middle size, symmetrical in proportion, and free from old scars.

There were five contused and lacerated wounds on the fore part of the head and face, and an abrasion on the middle of the chest. Her face and upper clothing were besmeared with blood, and on the left ala nasi a gold nose-ring remained suspended.

First wound was situated on the left side of the head, just above the temple, three inches in length, running from before backwards and downwards to the back of the ear in a curved direction, the anterior portion reaching the outer angle of the eye. It was a flap wound; the temporal muscle or the fascia covering it was not injured. The edges of the wound ragged and had an appearance of having been produced by a pointed, curved instrument.

Second situated on the right side of the forehead, two inches in length, with ragged edges and gaping; through this wound the fractured bone was visible.

Third and fourth were situated on the right and left cheek, and had the character of punctured wounds. They communicated with the anterior maxillare.

Fifth was a scalp wound, and situated half an inch behind the outer end of the wound No. 2.

On removing the scalp and clearing away the integuments from the face, the squamous and zygomatic processes of the temporal, the great ala of the sphenoid, the frontal malar, nasal portion of the superior maxillary, the superior and inferior maxillary bones were found broken. The latter bone was fractured in two places, at the symphyses and left angle. The injuries on the left side of the head were more extensive than the right.

On sawing off the calvarium, the dura mater was found lacerated, and the substance of the brain protruded through.

On removing the brain, the bones forming the base of the skull were found broken across.

On cutting into the integuments of the chest, there was a good deal of ecchymosis just under the abrasion noticed above, and the sternum broken across at its middle.

The internal organs of the thorax and abdomen were healthy.

Now the question is whether this woman was murdered by a man or killed by some wild animal.

There is presumptive evidence of some person having removed the body to the place of concealment.

Had she been murdered by a man, what weapon could he have employed to inflict this extensive injury?

Was the injury the result of one or several blows?

Several persons were apprehended on suspicion, and discharged for want of sufficient proof against them.

V. D'SOUZA,

Asst. Apothecary, in Medical charge, Meerpoor, Bakora.

MEERPOOR, BAKORA, }
18th Sept. 1866.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—I find in the editorial columns of your periodical for October last, a notice of the first number of the *Ceylon Medico-Chirurgical Journal*, in which you refer to the first successful case of ovariectomy which has occurred in that island, and you enquire, "Has there been any similar triumph in other parts of India?" I am glad to be able to reply to your query. The first operations of the kind that I am aware of were performed at the Civil Hospital, Combaconum, in Southern India, in 1855, by Dr. J. M. Joseph, F.R.C.S.E., Surgeon on the Madras Medical Establishment, the results of which were communicated

by me to the pages of the *Indian Annals of Medical Science* in 1858.—*Vide* Volume V., page 274. I have myself performed ovariectomy on three occasions at the Civil Hospital of Mamrargoody under my charge. The first, a successful case, was operated upon by me in 1859, and an account of it was published by me in 1860 in the *Madras Quarterly Journal of Medical Science*.—See Volume I., page 177. The second operation I performed in 1861, and the third, more recently, in August last. I am sorry to say that the two last cases, owing to age and debility, proved fatal; one sunk under the operation, and the other succumbed four days subsequent to it.

I am informed that Dr. Harris, Professor of Midwifery, Madras Medical College, has also performed ovariectomy, and that the case has proved a successful one. I believe he has published it in the last issue of the *Madras Quarterly Journal*.*

Your most obedient servant,

P. S. MOOTOOSAWMY MOODELLY, G. M. M. C.,
Native Surgeon, Civil Dispensary,
Mamiargoody, Tanjore District.

MAMIARGOODY, TANJORE DISTRICT,
MADRAS PRESIDENCY,
November, 1866.

We have been favored with the following list of new granular effervescent Citrates, prepared expressly for R. Scott Thomson and Company, Limited, Calcutta. We think it may interest some of our readers.

	Dose.
	A tea-spoonful in a tumbler of water. A tea-spoonful in a tumbler of water two or three times a day.
Quantity of active ingredient contained in each drachm.	
Oxyuriate of potash	4 grs. in ʒj
Hypophosphite of lime	4 grs. in ʒj
Vichy salt
Citrate of lithia	2 grs. in ʒj
Nitrate of potash	4 grs. in ʒj
Citrate of iron	2 grs. in ʒj
Ammonia citrate of bismuth	2 grs. in ʒj
Carbonate of iron	Contains 2 grs. ferri proto carb. in ʒj
Phosphate of iron	2 grs. in ʒj
Citrate of iron and quinine	Quinine 1 gr., ferri cit. 1 gr. in ʒj
Bromide of ammonium	2 grs. in ʒj
Iodide of potassium	2 grs. in ʒj
Citrate of quinine
Seltzer salt
Magnesium aperient
Nitrate of cerium	2 grs. in ʒj
Benzoate of potash	4 grs. in ʒj
	A tea-spoonful in a tumbler of water. A table-spoonful in a small tumbler of luke-warm water.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—In an article by Mr. Macdonald on "Epidemic Diseases met with among the Natives of Tirhoot," which appeared in the last or November number of the *Indian Medical*

* We are much obliged to Native Surgeon P. S. Mootoosawmy Moodelly for the references. We shall be glad to receive any others of published cases, or of cases known to our readers.
We cannot too strongly insist on the necessity, alluded to in the valuable record of his own case, by Dr. Kenneth McLeod, for the fatal cases being recorded, as well as the successful ones.
We can only hear of ovariectomy having been three performed in Calcutta, twice by Dr. T. Wilson and once by Dr. Charles.
One of Dr. Wilson's patients recovered, the other two died.—Ed., I. M. G