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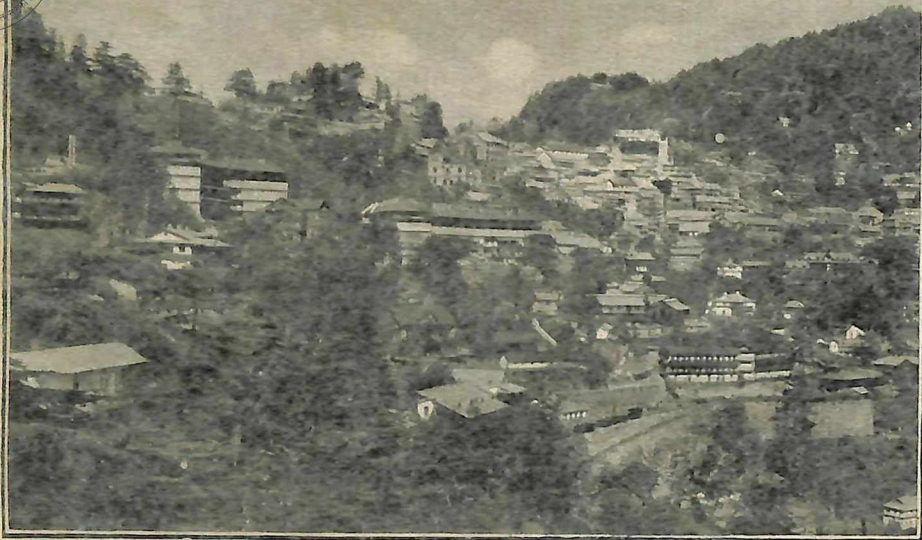
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RARE

**GUIDE
TO
SIMLA**



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THACKER'S
NEW
GUIDE TO SIMLA.

By
F. BERESFORD HARROP

WITH TWO MAPS.

SIMLA.
THACKER, SPINK & Co.,

1925.



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FOREWORD.

An effort has been made to secure all essential information regarding Simla and to condense it into a volume which will fit comfortably and inconspicuously into the pocket. A guide book is composed necessarily of a mass of detail and therefore it cannot be expected to be devoid of error. Nevertheless no pains have been spared to render it as accurate as possible, the information having been drawn from all the most reliable and authoritative sources.

From the new-comer's point of view, Simla suffers under the burden of "officialdom." Do not let this deter the prospective visitor from approaching the incomparable Mountain City. The atmosphere is certainly that of a stately capital, but this obtrudes neither upon the activities nor into the social intercourse of the casual visitor or even the permanent resident. To whatever caste, creed, class or community the new-comer may belong, he will soon find congenial company into which he will receive a quick and easy welcome.



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Finally let me acknowledge my indebtedness and tender my thanks to all those who have so kindly helped me in the compilation of this guide.

Simla.

September, 1924.

F.B.H.



CHAPTER 1.

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GENERAL FEATURES.

On the southern slopes of the Himalayas in north-eastern Punjab lies the district of Simla. It occupies an area of approximately 100 square miles and contains 5 towns, 263 villages and over twenty Hill States. The chief town and centre of administration is Simla, situated, with regard to latitude and longitude, $31^{\circ} 06' N$ and $77^{\circ} 13' E$ respectively, and at a mean elevation of 7,232 feet above sea level. The first European house was built in Simla—or Semla, or Shumla as it was then called—in 1819, since when it has developed with amazing rapidity into what is now termed India's summer capital, being the seat of the Viceroy and Governor-General and the Government of India from March to November. The Governor of the Punjab and his staff also move to Simla from Lahore about the middle of May and stay until October.

Numbers of invalids and infirm people take up their residence here to recuperate in the bracing air; whilst from February onwards, trains arrive loaded with children about to enter or re-join the many schools and convents and shortly to exchange their faded complexions for the red bloom of robust health. Later there will



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come a trickling of jaded and heat-exhausted plains workers anxious to escape, for a time, from the heat and dust of down country and to regain their lost vitality in this revivifying atmosphere.

Climate. The immense popularity which Simla enjoys as a hill station is sufficient proof that its climate is nothing short of delightful. Perhaps the best season of the year is autumn but the early spring runs a close second. During these periods the air is clearer than at any other time of the year, the days being warm and bright with a delicious breeze, and the nights crisp, clear and cool. For the three weeks or month preceding the monsoon it is generally hot; but at no other time of the year can the weather be so described. Even then the breeze is fresh and exhilarating in the shade.

From the middle to the end of June the monsoon may be expected rolling up from the south-west and continuing, more or less steadily, until the middle of September. Then one's eyes are graced by a sight of some of the most magnificent sunsets in the world—sunsets of such a glory and elusiveness as to form the despair of the artist and poet alike. Very soon after the arri-



General Features.

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val of the rains the sun-browned hills take on a soft, green freshness and the drooping trees lift up their parched boughs to the shower.

“Simla in Winter” forms the subject of a separate chapter.

Temperature and Rainfall. The following table, compiled from observations taken over a long period, will afford all necessary information :

ELEMENT.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June
Mean Maximum Temperature ...	57·1	53·0	67·1	74·9	81·0	82·4
Mean Minimum Temperature ...	26·8	24·2	32·6	41·5	47·3	52·1
Rainfall (in inches) ...	2·71	3·13	2·67	1·94	2·87	7·13
Mean Number of Rainy Days ...	4·7	5·8	5·0	3·9	5·3	9·9

ELEMENT.	July.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Mean Maximum Temperature ...	75·9	71·9	71·5	69·3	63·2	59·5
Mean Minimum Temperature ...	56·0	55·9	52·7	45·1	37·8	31·8
Rainfall (in inches) ...	16·88	17·33	6·20	1·08	0·52	1·11
Mean Number of Rainy Days ...	19·5	19·5	8·9	1·6	1·1	2·0

The mean atmospheric pressure (reduced to 32° F and Latitude 45°) is 23·051 inches, and humidity 57%.



During 43 years of observation, the lowest temperature recorded was 17°1 and the highest 94°4.

Distribution of Houses. The town is built upon several hills and their connecting ridges. The principal hills are: Jakko (8,049), Observatory Hill (7,050), Prospect Hill (7,139), Elysium Hill (7,405), and Summer Hill (6,899). The Ridge on which Christ Church stands is 7,235 feet above sea level. Another ridge is that of Chaura Maidan, about a mile and a half from the church, connecting the hills in the western extremity of the town. The houses are built between the elevations of 6,500 and 8,000 feet and take the form of a crescent, facing south, some six miles in extent from Chota Simla in the south-east to Summer Hill and Boileau-gunj in the west. To the east of the station lies the hill of Jakko dotted everywhere with houses on its southern slopes. Few residences are to be found on its northern side, this being considered bleak and cold in winter. Buildings and roads stretch away down the spurs to the south towards the Ashni and Sunal rivers flowing through the Keonthal state. Northern Simla comprises sunny Elysium, Kaithu, and Annandale.



General Features.

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Boundaries. The station is surrounded by hill states. North and west, Patiala, south, Keonthal (or Junga), north-east and east, Koti. The district stretches down from the rivers Sutlej and Tons on the northern and eastern sides, to the plains on the south.

Population. The summer census of 1921 indicated that the population of Simla was 43,333, of which 4,803 were Europeans and 38,530 Indians, this being an increase of over 5,000 since 1911. The birthrate in 1921 was 15·51 and the death-rate 11·00 per thousand.



APPROACHES FROM THE PLAINS.

Kalka. Kalka is the terminus of the Delhi-Ambala-Kalka branch of the East Indian Railway, and is 1,066 miles from Calcutta, 1,028 miles from Bombay (by the nearest route), and 163 miles from Delhi. The journey from Calcutta takes 36 hours, from Bombay 38 hours, Allahabad 19 hours, Cawnpore 15 hours, Lucknow 16 hours, Agra 14 hours, Lahore 10 hours and from Delhi 7 hours. There are through coaches to Kalka from Howrah, Bombay (two routes), Allahabad, Cawnpore, Lahore and Agra. From Lucknow it is at present necessary to change at Ambala. Kalka is 2,400 feet above sea level.

The Kalka-Simla Railway. There is a wonderful railway of 2'6" gauge, 59½ miles long, from Kalka to Simla. The train begins to climb almost immediately after leaving Kalka station and continues to do so until Kumarhatti is reached. Between Sonwara and Dharampore is the longest viaduct on the line. A short distance beyond Kumarhatti the Barog tunnel (3,760 feet long) is entered, this tunnel being the longest on the railway. The mail trains and rail motors halt for refresh-



ments at Barog, a pretty station nearly half way to Simla. Here one partakes of breakfast in a chalet-like restaurant, experiencing for the first time the cool and quiet of the hills. There is a gentle decline from Barog to Kandaghat where the final ascent to Simla begins. Just after leaving Kanoh station, the highest viaduct is crossed. All the viaducts are built in the form of tiers and aggregate $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles in length. There are 103 tunnels of a total length of 5 miles, and twenty stations. The journey by mail train takes $6\frac{1}{2}$ hours and by rail motor, $4\frac{1}{4}$ hours. A sum of Rs. 1,80,00,000 was spent in the construction of the railway and large amounts have since been expended in reinforcement and the erection of retaining walls. The first train ran on the 9th November 1903.

All heavy baggage should be booked through to Simla as only light handbags and rugs (not bedding) etc., are allowed to be taken into the compartments of the Kalka-Simla Railway. During the season of heavy traffic, *i.e.*, March to June, it is advisable to reserve accommodation in the K.S. Railway by communicating, some days beforehand, with the Stationmaster, Kalka; stating the number and class of



seats required and the date and time of leaving Kalka. On arrival at Simla the traveller has no need to take part in the usual headlong rush for the baggage van in order to secure his luggage, but he may hand his receipts to a porter who will do all that is necessary in this respect. Also he should give this person a slip of paper on which is written his name and future address and the luggage will arrive at the ultimate destination within a very short time.

The official rate of payment up to a distance of three miles from the station is two and a half annas per maund per coolie. But here, as elsewhere, the man is by no means satisfied to receive double this rate, and travellers must use their own discretion in respect of remuneration. The coolies, as a rule, do not attempt to strike a bargain before performing the work.

A wholly delightful trip can be made by the rail motor which runs during the season (March to November), once a day. The speed and freedom from noise as it passes through the alpine scenery, the sense of floating down the gradients, and the exhilarating thrill as it flashes round the numerous "hairpin" and "S" bends



Approaches from the Plains.

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are sensations to be remembered for many a long day. Accommodation is to be reserved beforehand and the holder of a first-class ticket to Simla is charged an extra five rupees, payable at Kalka. Luggage can be sent by the ordinary train and taken delivery of at Simla later.

The Cart Road. Many people prefer to motor or cycle from Kalka to Simla. There is an excellent road, 58 miles long, carried with great skill along the hillsides, rising so gradually that the gradient is almost imperceptible—in no part exceeding one in thirteen. Nullahs are crossed by solid bridges and the road is reinforced in many places by stout beams upon which the road takes the form of a causeway or shelf. Like the railway, it provides a most interesting study for engineers. It was commenced in June, 1850 by Major Kennedy, secretary to Sir Charles Napier, and was part of Lord Dalhousie's successful scheme for connecting India with the Chinese empire and the countries north of the Himalayan barrier by means of the great Hindustan Thibet Road.

At 14 miles Dharampore is reached where a branch road turns sharply to the left to Kasauli. There is a dak bungalow



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near this fork, but notification of requirements has to be sent previously to the *khansamah*. Refreshments may also be obtained at the railway station, one mile further along, where a road branches to the left to Sabathu. The only building of note in Dharampore is the sanitarium for consumptives.

Along through beautiful wooded country, the traveller passes around the base of the Dagshai hill, obtaining a glimpse, now and then, of the barracks and cantonment buildings. Eventually one reaches the hamlet of Kumarhatti at the base of the long and steep climb to the top of Baroghat. Motorists are advised to stop here to make sure that their radiators are well filled. After two and a half miles the summit is reached whence a glorious view of the Solan valley is obtained. The descent of five miles on the other side must be taken with more than ordinary care. The first mile takes one through a shady wood at the end of which is an acute bend to the right over a stone bridge. Then along a rocky shelf with towering crags above and a precipice beneath.

There is a sharp climb of nearly a mile into the small town of Solan where petrol



and other supplies may be procured. The dak bungalow is situated at the far end of the bazaar. One mile beyond Solan is a level crossing and then a gentle drop of nine miles to Kandaghat, passing *en route* Dyer's Solan Brewery.

As the traveller nears Kandaghat he will see the Ashni river, bordered by stretches of grey-white sand, winding below. At Kandaghat a motor road leads off to the right to Chail where the Maharajah of Patiala usually resides in summer. Continuing the journey along the Simla road, there commences another climb of five miles to Kiarighat dak bungalow. The first two miles are fairly steep, but thereafter the gradient becomes easier. The road is almost level for the next few miles to Kathleeghat station, after which there is a short rise leading to another level stretch to Shogi and Taradevi, whence a six-mile climb brings one to Simla.

About half way between Taradevi and Simla, the municipal area is entered and here is an octroi post and a motor garage with accommodation for 6 cars. For the use of this garage visitors should communicate with the Secretary, Simla Municipal



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Committee. The rate of hire is Re. 1 per diem, or Rs. 240 per annum.

Passing the Mohammedan cemetery and the Government Press, one eventually crosses a railway bridge where there is a road leading down to the suburb of Tuti-kundi. A little farther along one reaches another garage — that of the Cecil Hotel, — capable of storing 24 cars, and for the use of which a charge of one rupee per car per day, or Rs. 25 per month, is made. Although the garage is open to the public, arrangements for accommodation should be made previously with the Manager, Cecil Hotel. Proceeding, the traveller passes above the railway station and the offices and houses of the Nabha Estate. Half a mile beyond the station a road leads to the left to Simla and up which cars and similar vehicles are not allowed to be taken.

Continuing along the lower road past the goods station and above an old cemetery (consecrated by Bishop Wilson in 1840) the old tonga terminus is reached and this is, for all practical purposes, the end of the road. Near by is a third garage, also under the charge of the Municipal Committee.



The Old Road. A now little-used but historical road is that known as the Old or Staging Road. This will probably attract those pedestrians and equestrians who wish to approach Simla in peace and quiet and who desire to know how the Mountain City was reached in its earliest days.

Having dispatched his baggage by train, the traveller leaves Kalka by the Kasauli road, carrying only those things necessary for the 43-mile, four-stage journey. Coolie transport can easily be arranged at Kalka when starting, and at Kasauli for the second day's march. But for the third and fourth stages, ample warning should be given to the bungalows at Kakarhatti and Sairi, both as regards food and transport. Bedding should, of course, be taken. Kasauli is nine miles from Kalka. The road is a continuous ascent and in parts is fairly steep.

Kasauli, 7,000 feet above sea level, is a military cantonment containing a beautiful little church, an hotel, a club, a dak bungalow and many handsome houses. Here is situated the well-known Pasteur Institute for persons suffering from the effects of the bites of animals. There is also the



Military Food Laboratory where samples of foodstuffs are chemically examined before the bulk supplies are accepted for the armies in India. The tourist should walk down the bazaar to see the diminutive "pill-box" shops where meat and other supplies are vended. He should also see the magnificent view of the plains from the southern side of the hill.

Leaving Kasauli, the traveller skirts the lofty hill of Sanawar, on the summit of which is situated the Lawrence Royal Military School. There is then a long drop down a deep valley to Kakarhatti, 3,400 feet above sea level. The road is steep, save where it passes under Sabathu (dak bungalow), with its military cantonment and leper asylum.

The traveller is advised not to push on to Sairi the same day, but to remain at Kakarhatti as the remaining two stages are both long and steep. Passing through picturesque scenery, the Gambar is crossed by a suspension bridge two miles beyond Kakarhatti and eventually Sairi is reached after an arduous climb. Here the hillmen will be seen busily engaged in their fields raising crops of strawberries and vegetables, for which produce they



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find a very ready market in Simla. About half way between Sairi and Simla is the village and temple of Jatia Debi where an annual fair is held.

The road at length passes under Jutogh with its barracks and wireless station, the aeriels of which form a landmark for miles around. This wireless station was built and opened by the Government in 1911. Leaving Jutogh to the north, the traveller proceeds through Boileaugunj bazaar, beneath Viceregal Lodge, and so to Simla.

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

BY THE CART ROAD,		BY THE OLD ROAD.	
	Miles.		Miles.
Kalka to Dharampore	... 14	Kalka to Kasauli	... 9
Dharampore to Solan	.. 13	Kasauli to Kakarhatti	... 12
Solan to Kiarighat	... 15	Kakarhatti to Sairi	... 12
Kiarighat to Simla	... 16	Sairi to Simla	... 10
Total	... 58	Total	... 43



CHAPTER 3.

A BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH.

Simla, now a place of peace and romance, was born out of the storms and turmoils of war. For many years prior to the arrival of the British, the inhabitants of the district had been crushed under the iron rule of the Gurkha conquerors. No aid was to be obtained from the local chieftains, these worthies being continuously occupied with their own internal dissensions. Unable to withstand any longer the cruelties to which they were subjected, they called in the help of the British. The latter, under General Sir David Ochterlony, brought the ultimate war to a successful close in May 1815, by the storming of the fort of Malaun where the gallant Gurkhas charged to the very muzzles of the British guns. But eventually their leader was killed and they were forced to surrender. The men comprising the remnant of this force then expressed their desire of entering British service and subsequently formed the nucleus of the famous Nusseeree battalion. In this way did the British first gain a footing in the district.

The name of Kennedy is synonymous with the early history of Simla. It



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was he who, in 1822, erected the first permanent residence. This was known as "Kennedy House." The historic building was demolished and the site is now occupied by the Department of Industries and Labour and other offices located in a long low building below the new Legislative Assembly Chamber.

The possibilities of the place as a health resort were realized after the close of the campaign of 1815. In 1817 Captain Gerard, an officer engaged on the work of surveying the Sutlej valley, described Simla as "a middling-sized village where a fakir is situated to give water to travellers."

The land upon which the station stands formerly belonged conjointly to the Maharajah of Patiala and the Rana (now Rajah) of Keonthal. In 1824 invalids from northern India were to be found established there, building houses upon lands granted to them rent free provided they abstained from the killing of cattle and the cutting of trees.

In 1827 Lord Amherst, the first Governor-General to reside in Simla, stayed at 'Kennedy House' with Major Kennedy, then Political Agent. This was the foun-



dation of Simla's greatness. Lord William Bentinck, who succeeded Lord Amherst in 1829, sent instructions to have a house built for him afterwards known as 'Bentinck Castle' the site of the existing Grand Hotel — and was occupied by him in 1832, the year in which Lord Dalhousie, father of the Governor-General of that name, resided in Simla after having succeeded Lord Combermere as Commander-in-Chief. Meanwhile, in 1830 Major Kennedy had been instructed to negotiate with the two chiefs for the acquirement of sufficient land to form a station.

During the last year of Lord William Bentinck's stay in Simla, Sir Edward Barnes, the Commander-in-Chief following Lord Dalhousie, came to Simla and resided for two years in 'Barnes Court,' the present residence of the Governor of the Punjab. The year 1835 saw the retirement of that outstanding character Major Kennedy, who was succeeded in the office of Political Agent by Colonel Tapp.

During 1836-7 a terrible famine devastated nearly the whole of India and also extended to these hills. Hundreds died of starvation and all domestic ties seemed loosened. Parents forgot the natural love



they bore for their children and sold them for a mere pittance, to gain perhaps one meal and then to die. Many of these starvelings were bought by the missionaries who brought them up in their schools as Christians.

The next Governor-General was Lord Auckland and, by this time, Simla had become the recognized summer headquarters of the Government and of the Commanders-in-Chief and their staffs. Lord Auckland purchased the house which now bears his name, and the hill on which it stands was called 'Elysium' as a delicate compliment to his two sisters, the Hon'ble Misses Eden. For many years subsequently, 'Auckland' was designated "Government House" until the time of the Marquis of Dalhousie (1848).

From 1838 onwards, Simla has been associated with many important events in India's history, commencing with the reception of the embassy from the "Lion of the Punjab" — Ranjit Singh. During 1838 Mr. Barrett, the first merchant to establish himself in Simla, instituted a Library, Reading and Billiard-rooms, which formed the nucleus of the present Station



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Library. On the 9th of May of this year the Freemasons inaugurated the Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood No. 459.

In 1845 the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Hugh Gough, together with all available officers, was called hastily away from Simla to the banks of the Sutlej to join the army assembling there for the campaign which eventually resulted in adding the Punjab to the British possessions. During the following year the station was full of maimed and wounded and not a single house remained unoccupied.

There is a considerable divergence of opinion as regards what actually happened in Simla during the mutiny of 1857. It seems to be generally accepted, however, that a mild panic occurred owing to a report having been received that the Gurkhas at Jutogh had become mutinous and were about to loot Simla. Acting upon this intelligence, several citizens assembled at the Simla Bank (now Grand Hotel), for the purpose of making a stand. Upon the return of Lord William Hay (then Deputy Commissioner) from Jutogh, it was announced that the Gurkhas had become quiet and had returned to duty. There seems to have been a considerable



panic on the part of the residents of Chota Simla who heard that the main bazaar was in the hands of the mutineers and that they were about to march eastward. People thereupon seized their belongings and fled down the *khuds* thereby needlessly suffering much hardship.

Simla has been threatened many times with destruction from fire and has suffered periodically from earthquake shocks of more or less severity; the one of 1905, which shook the whole of the Punjab and totally destroyed Dharamsala, causing considerable damage to property in Simla.

The years of the Great War of 1914-18 saw intense activity in Simla. All Europeans of military age and fitness were compelled to join the Indian Defence Force and many went on active service. The female population devoted itself to war work of all descriptions and numberless fetes and festivals were organised in aid of war charities. Army Head-quarters presented a scene of great industry, most of the offices remaining open throughout the day and night.

In 1877 there was much discussion as to whether Simla should or should not



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remain the summer capital and it was decided to continue to utilize it as such. Now, in 1924, with the spectre of New Delhi looming up before it, the fate of Simla as the summer head-quarters of Government again hangs in the balance.

The history of Simla, commencing almost at the beginning of the last century, was at first but the narration of the acts of individuals who came up to these hills and laid the foundation of the Mountain City. Under the guidance of these—the pioneers of the present advanced state of the sanitarium—Simla has grown from a mere village into a large and prosperous town; the queen of the numerous hill stations scattered over the wide range of the Himalayas, the cynosure of all India, having a world-wide fame. The passing of a hundred years sees Simla prospering and flourishing to an extent which was never dreamt of, and would have surprised the adventurous few who turned their footsteps from the hot plains to the breezy heights of these mountains at the beginning of last century. Its history can no longer deal with the actions of individuals alone; its public buildings and institutions having become so numerous as to render a short account of the more important



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ones of more value to the public than a continuation of an account of individual effort.



CHAPTER. 4.

AROUND THE TOWN.

(The names of buildings, institutions, etc. marked with an asterisk are described elsewhere. Regarding these, the reader is referred to the Index.)

Let the visitor start from Scandal Point — the hub of Simla's activity — with his rickshaw, pony or walking stick, and make a circuit of our Mountain City to see the roads, buildings and institutions which have made its history.

It is possible that he is unacquainted with the situation of Scandal Point, the place where the transmitters of gossip are ever at work — where, so people say, the savoury and unsavoury secrets of our society are flashed to the uttermost limits of Simla with all the speed of wireless. It is the place where the four main streets of the town conjoin, and opposite the premises of the Mercantile Bank of India.

I. A Circuit of Jakko.

Leaving Scandal Point, the visitor will take the road leading to Christ Church, passing on the left a rickshaw shed, and on the right the STATION LIBRARY



established in 1844 from that formed by Mr. Barrett in 1838. It is one of the best of its kind in India. Besides a library of some 16,000 volumes, including a *bibliothèque pour les amis de la France*, there are two reading-rooms, a ladies' room and two spacious verandahs. It is perhaps the most frequented public building in Simla, having a membership of 800. The rates of subscription are :—

Fortnight	...	...	...	Rs. 3
Month	...	...	...	Rs. 5
3 months	...	...	...	Rs. 13
6 months	...	...	...	Rs. 25
Season				
(Mar. 15th. to Nov. 15th.)	...			Rs. 30
Year	...	...	...	Rs. 40

Five books may be borrowed at a time and the reading rooms contain all the foremost English and Anglo-Indian newspapers and periodicals of the day.

Proceeding, he passes the Gaiety Theatre with its unlovely roof, shortly to be concealed by a newly-planted border of climbing roses and nasturtiums, and emerges upon THE RIDGE below which is *BLESSINGTON HOTEL and the Y. M. C. A. TENNIS COURTS.



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The most prominent feature of the Ridge is the **BANDSTAND**, presented to the town by Kanwar Jiwan Dass of Jubbulpore in 1907. Opposite the bandstand is a small observatory.

Our road lies to the left of the Ridge, but the visitor should make a deviation to the right past the **HEALTH OFFICE**, ***CHRIST CHURCH** and ***SCHOOL**, beyond which is a path leading up to the **RINK** and **CINEMA** on the right, and the **FREEMASONS' HALL** on the left. This handsome building is the meeting place of the following masonic bodies :—

Lodge Himalayan Brotherhood No. 459 E.C.,
Lodge Kitchener No. 2998 E.C., Lodge
Elysium No. 1031 S.C., Lodge Prospect
No. 3742 E.C., Lodge Donoughmore No.
458 I.C., Royal Arch Chapter Dalhousie
No. 459 E.C., Royal Arch Chapter Simla
No. 2998 E.C., Royal Arch Chapter The
Scottish No. 341 S.C., Royal Arch Chap-
ter Prospect No. 3742 E.C., Mark Lodge
Pinnacle No. 279 E.C., Mark Lodge East
and West No. 678 E.C., Ark Mariner
Lodge Sunshine No. 279 E.C., Rose Croix
Chapter Himalaya No. 80, Knights
Templars Preceptory Himalaya No. 137,
Red Cross of Constantine, Blackham Con-
clave No. 160.

The meetings of the original Lodge



Himalayan Brotherhood were held at first in the old Royal (now Lowrie's) Hotel, until a hall was erected near the Cart Road, after which the fraternity met in rooms in the Town Hall.

Proceeding further up this same path, the visitor encounters the YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION and Royal Army Temperance Association Furlough Home. A new wing was added in 1922 and the hostel has accommodation for 60 visitors. The institution also possesses a billiard-room, reading and music-room, and lectures and debates are frequently held. Further extensions are contemplated which will include 20 additional bedrooms, a large meeting hall, a dining-room to seat 120, as well as more recreational facilities.

Returning to the bottom of this slope, a road to the left will be noticed. This leads past Longacre to the UNITED SERVICE CLUB, one of the oldest of of Simla's institutions. It was originally known as 'The Priory.' In 1862 it passed into the hands of a joint stock company as the Simla Club and North-West Wine Company. The present proprietors obtained possession of it in 1866 and utilized it



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as a residence for members of the services temporarily staying in Simla. It occupies one of the best sites in Simla and consists of seven blocks of handsome buildings. The club has accommodation for 80 resident members.

Repassing the Church, there is a road ascending the hill past Christ Church Lodge and 'Walsingham' to the summit of Jakko, and is the most direct route to the famous Monkey Temple.

On the Ridge a foundation stone at present concealed and protected by a brick wall will be noticed. This was laid by Lord Reading in 1922 and on this site it is proposed to erect the new headquarters of the Simla Rifles, (A. F. I.).

The visitor now passes on to the road through Lakkar Bazaar to Sanjauli, Mashobra, and Mahasu. The first object of interest is a huge brick building on the right. The site was acquired from the Salvation Army and the new building has been constructed with the intention of providing accommodation for five shops, a cinema, dance-hall and restaurant, as well as living quarters and the various offices connected with these establish-



ments. A little way beyond this building is the approach to * CORSTORPH-AN'S HOTEL.

Immediately upon entering the Lakkar Bazaar, the road to Elysium will be seen branching off to the left. The tourist must not fail to take a walk around ELYSIUM HILL at some time during his stay. The circuit (by the longest route) is three and a half miles from the Church along a good and tolerably level road. Splendid views of the Mashobra and Naldera ridges will be obtained, and of the mountains beyond the Sutlej valley culminating in the long line of snow-capped peaks of the upper Himalayas. At the base of the hill below Lakkar Bazaar is 'Belvedere,' once the residence of that curious character, A.M. Jacob, the famous "Mr. Isaacs" of the late F. Marion Crawford in his book of that title; also immortalised by Kipling as "Lurgan Sahib" in 'Kim.' 'Belvedere' is now a sanitarium with hydro-electric and X-Ray installations under the charge of Dr. H. C. Menkel, and here is also the chapel of the Seventh-Day Adventists.

* AUCKLAND HOUSE was one of the first houses to be built in Simla and



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for the ten years 1838-48 was known as Government House, the residence of the Earls of Auckland and Ellenborough also of Viscount Hardinge. It is now the girls' school of that name having been entirely rebuilt. The adjoining house 'Chapslee' was added to this viceregal estate during Lord Auckland's regime and was known as 'Secretary's Lodge,' continuing to be used as the secretariat up to the time of Lord Hardinge.

* ELYSIUM HOTEL is next passed and the visitor arrives at the junction of three roads. The centre one leads up to the * LONGWOOD HOTEL and another famous old house, 'Stirling Castle' which has been the residence of several well-known personages including Sir. W. W. Hunter who here wrote his "History of the Indian People." Taking the road to the right, the visitor eventually reaches * CRAIG DHU an hotel for the use of Government officials. Here the tourist may turn sharply to the left and return to Lakkar Bazar by the west side of the hill, or he may continue along through pretty country to far Elysium past 'Harvington,' 'Kelston,' 'Petersfield' and beyond.

Returning to the LAKKAR BAZAAR



the road to Mashobra is rejoined and the visitor passes the little shops of the wood carvers—mostly Sikhs—who can be seen dexterously plying their craft with their primitive tools. This quaint corner of Simla has formed the subject of many a brush and pencil production. Lakkar Bazaar is frequently raided by bands of monkeys from Jakko, proving a source of considerable inconvenience to the grain vendors who, however, do not attempt to injure these miscreants from the sacred precincts of Monkey Temple.

‘SNOWDON’ the residence of the Commander-in-Chief appears in sight after rounding a bend beyond the bazaar. This handsome and valuable building has been occupied continuously by Commanders-in-Chief since the time of Lord Roberts. The grounds are entered through a gateway inside which is the sentries’ guard-house, a guard being maintained continuously when His Excellency is in residence. The house itself is surrounded by pretty lawns and gardens, and is set well back from the road. ‘Snowdon’ consists of three buildings: the main house, the ball-room and the quarters for the aides-de-camp. The main house was originally the property of Lord Roberts,



who caused the ballroom to be added, the whole being purchased from him by the Government and made the official residence of the Commanders-in-Chief in India. The quarters for the aides-de-camp were added during Sir George White's regime. Lord Kitchener made many alterations including the rebuilding of the dining-room, drawing-room and hall. A billiard-room was also added. His Excellency General Lord Rawlinson has recently presented the house with large portraits of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener. The field guns and trench mortars to be seen in the grounds are trophies captured from the Turks during the Great War.

Leaving 'Snowdon,' the Mashobra hill comes into view, with the Shali Peak (9,400) in the background. The *WALKER HOSPITAL occupies a prominent position on the edge of a spur and a road leading to it leaves the main road a little distance beyond 'Snowdon.'

One and a quarter miles from the church is the *MAYO SCHOOL AND ORPHANAGE with its spacious recreation grounds, occupying a most healthy and bracing situation.



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Were it not for the background of hills—green or brown according to season—the village of SANJAULI, with its corrugated iron-roofs and dilapidated buildings, could only be described as intensely ugly. The individual houses are undoubtedly unlovely, but, when viewed from a distance, the *tout ensemble* is by no means displeasing to the eye. The visitor will notice this as he proceeds along Ladies' Mile which lies to the right of the main road immediately at the entrance to the bazaar.

Constructed during the viceroyalty of Lord Lytton, LADIES' MILE is a beautiful wide road, perfectly level, winding in and out as it follows the contour of the hill. Equestrians may here enjoy an exhilarating gallop, practically impossible elsewhere in Simla. About half way along, the road enters a rocky gallery with a towering cliff above and a deep drop below. The "Devil's Paint Box" is here to be seen, formed of the deposits of various mineral substances upon the rock face and produced by the action of percolating water. Running above and parallel to Ladies' Mile is what is known as the Lovers' Walk, a section of the old road around Jakko.



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At the end of Ladies' Mile is a road leading away to the right, passing above 'Barnes Court,' 'Forest Hill,' 'Benmore' and the United Service Club, emerging on to the Ridge at Longacre near the church.

Our route lies down the hill past 'Eaglemount' (the residence of His Grace the Archbishop of Simla), and the * CONVENT OF JESUS AND MARY, or 'Chelsea' as it is generally known.

Thereafter the road winds down towards Chota Simla through beautifully-wooded country, until at length the visitor passes beneath BARNES COURT, the residence of the Governor of the Punjab and named after Sir Edward Barnes who had been the Duke of Wellington's Adjutant-General at Waterloo, and who resided here for a short time in 1832 as Commander-in-Chief. It was subsequently the residence of five successive Commanders-in-Chief of whom Sir Charles Napier was the first. Since this time several additions and improvements have been made, including the large ball-room decorated in the Moorish style under the supervision of the late Mr. Lockwood Kipling. The grounds are beautiful and extensive with pretty



walks, tennis courts and terraces.

In a short time the visitor approaches the PUNJAB GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT, located on the site of an old house 'Ellerslie,' by which name the building is known today. The offices were designed by Lt. Col. H. E. S. Abbott, R. E., and are substantially constructed of stone and iron. The entrance porch is surmounted by the crest of the Punjab Government—the sun rising over the five rivers—beneath which is the motto *Crescat-e-fluviis*.

Leaving 'Ellerslie,' the traveller comes suddenly upon CHOTA SIMLA bazaar, the prominent feature of which is the Post and Telegraph office. A road turns acutely down to the left through the bazaar leading to KASUMPTI, a small village lying on the intersection of the Simla municipal and Junga and Koti state boundaries. Down this road is the *AYRCLIFF GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, established on the 'Torrentium' estate; and, further down still, the historical 'Strawberry Hill,' one of Simla's first houses, occupied by Lord Dalhousie in 1849, later by the Punjab Government, the Survey of India, and now by Raja Sir



Daljit Singh of Kapurthala.

The road now lies towards Simla, passing below 'Toryne' opposite which is a road leading to the left along the 'Knollswood' spur to * BISHOP COTTON SCHOOL.

The visitor passes above 'The Park' a new estate of some twelve houses, and below 'Woodville' the third of the five houses occupied by Commanders-in-Chief in the past. Sir William Mansfield, Lord Napier and Sir Frederick Haines resided here during their terms of office. Subsequently it became the property of Sir James L. Walker to whom the public of Simla is indebted for the existence of the Walker Hospital. 'Benmore' is the next house of note, having been the scene of much social gaiety in the past when it was the property of 'The Rink Company, Limited.' It is now the office of the Superintending Engineer, Hydro-Electric Circle.

Passing up a short rise a little further along, the wide drive leading to the main entrance of 'Barnes Court' will be noticed. At this point the visitor will see an open shed on the left, standing a few



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yards away from the road, If he walks around to the back of this shed and looks over the railing, he will see Simla's smallest and OLDEST CEMETERY. Occupying a space of about 30 by 15 yards, it was opened in 1828 and the graves date from 1829 to 1840 when it was closed on account of its being too close to the residences which were then in course of erection in the vicinity. The rectangular walls enclose some 40 graves.

On each side of the 'Khyber Pass' (as this cutting was formerly known) stand the houses 'Oakover,' 'The Cedars,' etc., the property of the Maharajah of Patiala and where His Highness resides during his frequent sojourns in Simla. Opposite to 'The Cedars' a road leads down to the *PORTMORE NURSING HOME.

At the base of the hill where is situated 'Glenarm,' the approach to the *LADY READING HOSPITAL for Women and Children will be seen. This hospital was designed by a Simla architect, Mr. Roland Hotz, and was opened by Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Reading on the 25th of April 1924,

A little way past 'Glenarm' is the road



to the Central Hotel (partially destroyed by fire in January 1923) above which is 'Ravenswood,' for many years occupied by Her Highness Shri Maharani Sahiba of Faridkot. A road here leads down to the Bemloe estate, and also one through a short tunnel to the recently closed cemetery.

BEMLOE estate was completed in 1920 and consists of 32 cottages built in English style. The houses are occupied by Government servants. * THE LADY HARDINGE COTTAGE HOME is also situated on this estate.

The CEMETERY, located on the spur of a hill running westward from the Mall, was opened in 1850 and consecrated in 1857, since when various extensions have been made. It is exceedingly well laid out on terraces covered with flowers, rose trees and other shrubs. The background of deodars effectively finishes this picture of sylvan peace and rest. Below the Christian cemetery is that of the Parsi-Zoroastrians, the entrance to which is approached by a broad flight of stone steps.

Immediately above 'Ravenswood' on the Mall is a pavilion, formerly a bandstand, and now the resort of many nurses



and ayahs with their infantile charges. Overlooking this pavilion is the CHALET, an adjunct of the United Service Club, and is the scene of many merry dances and dinners. It was entirely rebuilt in 1909. Above the 'Chalet' are the covered tennis courts of the U. S. Club.

Continuing along the Mall the traveller passes beneath the two buildings 'Brightlands' and 'Kelvin Grove,' the former being occupied by the Army Canteen Board, and the latter by the head-quarters staff of the Royal Air Force. 'Kelvin Grove' was formerly the head office of the now defunct Alliance Bank of Simla, Ltd.

'Craigs Court'—another old Simla house—and 'Willow Bank Range' are passed in quick succession, followed by 'Regent House' where are located the establishments of Messrs. Richards and Co., Thacker, Spink and Co., and the renowned restaurant of PELITI. Opposite are Argyle House and the UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION. Thence one passes on to the COMBERMERE BRIDGE spanning a deep, rocky ravine. Lord Combermere built the first one in 1828, and under it, a tank for the storage of water.



From this bridge the visitor will secure a good view of the lower Simla bazaar—"the crowded rabbit-warren that climbs up from the valley to the Town Hall at an angle of forty-five."

Just beyond the shop of Messrs. Cotton and Morris, the entrance to the lower bazaar is to be found. Below will be seen the MUNICIPAL MARKET built upon the site of the old Simla Theatre which was destroyed by fire in 1889. Near by is the VETERINARY HOSPITAL and SHOEING FORGE.

The LOWER BAZAAR comprises a multitude of native shops—*kabaris*, boot-makers, sweetmeat vendors, fruit dealers, tailors, cloth merchants, ironmongers—all are to be found here, and the labyrinthine approaches are thronged by a medley of Indians of all castes and races; by Afghans, Thibetans, Ladakhis, and men and women whose language and dress proclaim them to have come from even more far-distant and little-known countries. But all jostle, shout, eat, sing, expostulate and haggle. A more cosmopolitan conglomeration of strange peoples it would be hard to find elsewhere. It is a rendezvous of politicians and plotters anxious to snap up



the least little bit of information that manages to leak out of the great Imperial Secretariat above—anything that might be turned to their profit and advantage. For the student of human nature, the lower Simla bazaar provides an inexhaustible field for investigation.

The visitor now passes below the church and *LOWRIE'S HOTEL. The latter is the old Royal Hotel, so intimately connected with the arrival of travellers in the old staging days. It is hard to believe that this spot was, in the days of Lord Combermere, a wilderness of dense undergrowth infested with bears and leopards !

The left of the Mall is now composed of an unbroken line of shops extending into the centre of the town and beyond. Leaving Lowrie's, the visitor will notice a row of Persian and Kabuli shops wherein carpets, furs, brasses and curios are sold.

The remains of the TOWN HALL now comprise the GAIETY THEATRE, a police reporting-room and the office of the tax superintendent. In 1911 it was considered necessary to remove the upper part of the building in the interests of



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safety, and it has not hitherto been considered possible to restore this once fine structure to its pristine grandeur. An idea of the size of the original Town Hall can be had from the following extract from "Lowell's Guide to Simla" giving a list of rooms and floors as they formerly existed :—

"GROUND FLOOR: (1) Theatre with corridors. (2) Masonic Hall with retiring room and vaulted entrance. (3) Municipal offices consisting of four separate offices for European officials, a courtyard and five offices for native clerks. (4) A Police Station, consisting of one large office with treasure room and a Chowkidar's room.

FIRST FLOOR: (1) Gallery of Theatre with promenading corridors, bar-room and several dressing rooms. (2) Station Library, with two reading rooms, to which there is a carriage way ascent from the Mall. (3) A Volunteer Armoury, consisting of two large rooms with an underground entrance.

SECOND FLOOR: (1) A ball room or concert hall, 70 by 50 feet, with two promenading corridors at the sides, two galleries 12 feet above the dancing floor, a band gallery at the east end with a retiring room. This is a magnificent room, the height being no less than fifty feet. (2) Drawing room with ladies' and gentlemen's cloak-rooms, also a bar room and a card room.



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THIRD FLOOR: (1) Gallery of ball room, band gallery at east end and one retiring room. (2) Supper room, with promenading corridor and a purveyor's room. (3) In the tower there will be one room set aside for the Volunteer Adjutant's office and one room for meteorological observations."

The Gaiety Theatre is leased annually from the Municipal Committee by the
***SIMLA AMATEUR DRAMATIC CLUB.**

Adjoining the Town Hall are the Municipal Offices, opposite which is the Fire Station.

A few yards further and the visitor arrives at the starting point and, provided he has kept to the main road throughout, will have traversed a distance of five miles.

II. Western Simla.

Starting again from 'Scandal Point,' the traveller proceeds along the upper Mall past the bank and agency of Messrs. Grindlay and Co., and the Punjab National Bank, to the **GENERAL POST OFFICE**; a tall, half-timbered building constructed in the chalet style, and above which is 'Constantia' the hostel of the

**YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.**

Close to 'Constantia' is St. Andrew's * **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**, and the huge building below is the new Telegraph Office.

The site upon which stands * **PELITI'S GRAND HOTEL** has been most intimately connected with the history of the town. Originally the Simla dak bungalow, this was removed to make room for 'Bentinck Castle,' the residence of Lord William Bentinck ; and, after having been occupied by several notable individuals, it subsequently formed the premises of the Simla Bank which went into liquidation in 1888. Thereupon it became the Simla Club, but hardly had the necessary alterations been effected than the building caught fire and was burnt to the ground. Covered by insurance, however, it was reconstructed by the club authorities but it failed to compete with its more formidable rival—the United Service Club—and the undertaking was finally wound up in 1891. The place then passed into the hands of Chevalier Peliti, becoming one of the best-managed and most comfortably-equipped hotels in India. Fire again attacked the



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premises in December 1922, when the three main buildings were entirely destroyed. Signor F. Peliti announces his intention of reconstructing the main part and it is to be hoped that the Grand Hotel will shortly attain its former greatness. Meanwhile the business of the Hotel is still being carried on in the remaining blocks.

At length a Hindu temple is reached where the road forks. Our route lies to the left, the right branch leading to the suburb of KAITHU, passing close to the CATHOLIC CLUB and the CHELMSFORD CLUB, the latter opened in 1921 by Lord Chelmsford at 'Fingask'—the house of his birth—with the intention of providing a meeting-place for Europeans and Indians for the purposes of political and social intercourse. The president is the Hon'ble Sir Frederick Whyte Kt., the Chairman the Hon'ble Sir B. N. Mitra Kt., C.I.E., the Hony. Secretaries Messrs S. Webb-Johnson and P. Mukerji and Their Excellencies the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief and the Governor of the Punjab are patron and vice-patrons respectively.

Below Kaithu bazaar is the * LORETO CONVENT at 'Tara Hall.'



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This road then forms one of the approaches to Annandale.

Continuing the journey, the visitor emerges upon the main Mall above a huge block of offices comprising the Railway Board and Department of Commerce. A brass tablet over the entrance announces that the building was commenced in April 1896 and completed in August 1897, after costing Rs. 4,08,476 to erect. Opposite is the Secretariat Post Office.

At the base of the hill leading up to 'Gorton Castle' is a road to the left to the railway station. GORTON CASTLE is now the Civil Secretariat. Completed in 1904, this is a very handsome building forming a prominent landmark for miles around.

There is a path to the right of the Mall at the entrance to 'Gorton Castle' leading down to annandale past the Indian Infantry Lines and the JAIL.

The LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER is an imposing building of white stone quarried in the locality. It was designed by Mr. W. George of Delhi and completed in 1921 after having cost nearly 10 lacs of rupees. Anyone wishing to hear the debates may obtain access to



the Visitors' Gallery on application to the Registrar, Legislative Department, whose office is in 'Gorton Castle.' Almost directly below the Legislative Assembly Chamber, on the opposite side of the road, is a large new building—the offices of the Indian Stores Department. Near by is 'Race View,' where are the establishments of the Superintending Engineers, Simla East and West Divisions.

On the opposite side of the road from 'Race View' and a little way below the Assembly Chamber, a long, low building will be noticed. Here are the offices of the Central Board of Revenue, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, the Ex-Services Association, India, and the Department of Industries and Labour. Adjoining this building is the Meteorological Department behind which is an observatory.

The visitor has now arrived at the point where 'Knockdrin'—the residence of the Foreign Secretary—is situated. A wide road here leads down to the right to Annandale and 'The Glen,' and one to the left to the railway station. Just beyond the cross-roads is 'Kennedy Cottage' the office of the Superintending Engineer, Simla



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Imperial Circle, below which is 'Crowboro' recently rebuilt into a rest-house for railway officers.

Some distance further along the Mall, the *HOTEL CECIL is encountered. The Cecil is the property of the Associated Hotels of India, Limited, which company acquired the larger block on the left from Mr. J. Faletti, afterwards constructing an annexe on the opposite side of the road and on the site of 'Annan View.' The original Hotel Cecil adjoins the main block on its west side and was purchased by Mr. Faletti from Mrs. F. E. Hotz of 'The Gables' and 'Wildflower Hall' fame.

We would wish the visitor to leave the Mall and take the road to the right past the CHAURA MAIDAN Post and Telegraph office and 'The Yarrows.' This is a pleasant, fairly level road whence charming views of the country to the north and north-west are to be obtained. It eventually rejoins the Mall near the Viceregal Lodge gates.

VICEREGAL LODGE was designed by Mr. H. Irvin, C.I.E., and stands on the top of Observatory Hill which was levelled into a wide plateau for the purpose.



Commenced in 1886 and finished two years later, it is an object of great beauty and commands extensive views over great distances, especially from the tower surmounting the structure.

The following is a list of the principal rooms :—

GROUND FLOOR: Hall, small drawing-room, Council Chamber, billiard-room, dining-room, ball-room, large drawing-room, room for the aides-de-camp, two cloak-rooms, Private Secretary's office, clerks' office. In the rear are rooms for the accommodation of the Steward, Housekeeper, a table linen store-room, a dispensing and a serving-room.

FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS: Suites of bed, dressing, wardrobe and bath-rooms, sufficient in number for the Viceroy, his family, and a portion of the staff, also the Viceroy's study and Her Excellency's boudoir.

The interior of the building was originally decorated by Messrs. Maple and Co. of Tottenham Court Road, and has, within the last three years, been redecorated and to a large extent refurnished on modern lines. The dining-room is ornamented by shields upon which are embla-



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zoned the coats of arms of every Viceroy and Governor-General who has ruled over the destinies of this empire. The grounds of Viceregal Lodge are beautifully laid out. To the west are terraces well turfed, prettily planted with ornamental shrubs and flower beds around the margin of beautifully-kept lawns. At the extreme west are the excellent and well-maintained tennis courts. In the grounds are three houses for the accommodation of part of His Excellency's staff—'Observatory House,' 'Squires' Hall' and 'Curzon House.'

On each side of the gateway stands the guard-house, and * **A L L S A I N T S' CHURCH** is situated just within the gates.

The visitor passes around Observatory Hill on its right or north side, to Summer Hill. About 100 yards beyond Viceregal Lodge gate is the commencement of a road leading to Annandale, intended as a carriage or motor road from Viceregal Lodge.

Traversing a mile or so of shady woodland, one arrives at the base of a short steep hill leading to Summer Hill railway station. A road to the right will here be



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seen which circles Summer Hill itself, passing by the 'Hazelmere' gardens and 'Chadwick' in its two-mile length.

Passing up the hill to the station, the traveller emerges near the Post and Telegraph office and a small temple. Immediately below is the railway and, further down, the camp and quarters of SUMMER HILL. This has developed within recent years with enormous rapidity until it is now quite a town in itself. The houses are substantially constructed of red brick and are occupied by Government servants. A special train to and from Simla is run daily for the benefit of the residents.

The visitor turns to the left and has the choice of two roads to Boileaugunj; the upper or old road and the lower or new road. Both pass parallel through the same pretty, wooded country, but the lower has the possible advantage of being wider. A path a little way beyond the temple connects the two.

Very soon the octroi post at BOILEAU-GUNJ comes into sight. A continuation of the road just traversed leads to Jutogh, a narrower one more to the left makes a one and a half-mile circuit of PROSPECT



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HILL, whilst the way through the bazaar lies sharply to the left, and this is the road the visitor will take if he wishes to return to Simla.

Continuing along the south side of the Viceregal estate, past 'Minto Court' where the members of the Viceroy's band are quartered, and 'Hawthorne,' the Dispensary, the traveller rejoins the main road at the Lodge gate.

A little distance along the road towards Simla, one passes below 'Peterhoff' which was, from 1862 to 1888, the residence of the Viceroys and Governors-General. The Member for the Department of Education, Health and Lands, now lives there.

The **FOREIGN OFFICE**, lying a little way below the road, is next approached. It is a picturesque building constructed in the chalet style.

The visitor now arrives again at Chaura Maidan and continues by the same route as previously traversed: past the Hotel Cecil, Assembly Chamber and 'Gorton Castle,' until he reaches the handsome premises of the **IMPERIAL BANK OF**



INDIA, LTD., where once stood the old house 'Dalzell' (now written 'Dalziel').

Ascending the Mall, the *UNION CHURCH (on the left) and ARMY HEAD-QUARTERS (on the right) are seen. Army Head-quarters comprises several blocks of handsome buildings—two of them especially so. The upper one contains the offices of the Adjutant-General, The Military Secretary, General Staff Branch and the Military Finance Department; and the lower one the Quartermaster-General, the Engineer-in-Chief and the Medical Directorate. Between them are the Army Head-quarters Post Office and the Central Library above which are the offices of the Army Department. Adjoining the Army Head-quarters Post Office is the Monro Soldiers' Canteen. Below the lower block are the tennis courts and the offices of the Master-General of Supply, comprising those of the Directors of Organisation of Manufacture, Artillery, Contracts and Farms. This building was, until recently, the Government Press and the site of Simla's first Masonic Hall.

Above and to the left of the lower block of Army Head-quarters is the *ROMAN CATHOLIC PRO-CATHEDRAL, below



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which is the *ST. THOMAS' CHURCH of the Church Missionary Society.

Passing up the main road for a short distance, the visitor will see the western entrance to the lower bazaar, and a flight of steps leading down to the COURT HOUSE wherein are included the offices of the District Commissioner (ex-officio Superintendent, Simla Hill States), the District Inspector of Schools, the Superintendent of Police, and the Treasury. The Kacheri presents a very busy scene at all times of the day, and one may see the poor, ignorant villager emerge in open-mouthed amazement after having received the dispensations of justice, and wondering that he should have been thrust—if only for a few brief seconds—into the limelight of the gods of “Shumla.”

Below the District Court are the *RIPON HOSPITAL and EDWARDES' GUNJ, the latter a market for grain and other food supplies, opened by Mr. (afterwards Sir Herbert) Edwardes who, in 1847, was Political Agent.

The new TELEGRAPH BUILDING was completed in 1922 and is one of the largest in Simla. It was designed



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by J. Begg, and constructed of brick and reinforced concrete. The masonry is wired throughout to absorb any shock that might be suffered from earthquake, and so the building is rendered less liable to damage from this source.

On the ground floor to the left is the telegraph booking office in which is also a telephone box for local and trunk calls. From here one may telephone to places as far distant as Peshawar, Agra, Allahabad, Lahore Lucknow and Naini-Tal, and most of the big towns and cities within that area. By the use of repeaters it is hoped that connections will shortly be established with Bombay and Calcutta.

To the right are the newly-opened premises of LLOYDS BANK, LTD.

The TELEPHONE EXCHANGE provides for 1,900 connections of which some 1,130 are at present in use. Underground cables run out to all parts of Simla and environs, carrying a total of approximately 6,800 miles of wire. The exchange is operated on the automatic system and thus the caller "gets his number" immediately by simply rotating a spring dial. The Assistant Engineer is always



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glad to conduct visitors around the exchange and the opportunity of seeing this wonderful example of silent, mechanical efficiency should not be missed.

On the first floor are the offices of the Wireless Branch, and the second floor accommodates the Telephone Offices and Exchange. Staff quarters are located on the third floor, whilst the fourth floor, which adjoins the upper Mall, comprises the Telegraph Signal Offices and staff retiring rooms.

An electrically-operated siren on the clock tower announces the noonday hour, taking the place of the recently abolished time gun.

The following inscription appears on a stone at the south-west corner of the building :—

MOLEM ÆDIFI CII MULTI
CONSTRUXERUNT :—

RATIONEM EXEGIT I. BEGG.

The whole of the right-hand side of the Mall is occupied by shop and bank premises, the latter including the SIMLA BANKING AND INDUSTRIAL Co., LTD.,



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passing which the visitor finds himself back at 'Scandal Point' after having covered a distance of approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

(During the course of the foregoing description, the reader will have noticed the trouble that has had to be taken to explain the direction that the visitor must take on arrival at the various cross and fork roads. This will expose one of the chief shortcomings in the administration of the town, viz., the almost entire absence of street and road names; a drawback which could be easily and inexpensively rectified.)



HOTELS, BOARDING HOUSES AND RESTAURANTS.

Simla is fortunate in possessing a large number of hotels; but the intending visitor is advised to communicate previously with regard to rates and the reservation of accommodation otherwise he might be disappointed to find, on arrival, that the hotel of his choice is full; especially if he visits Simla in the early part of the season.

The HOTEL CECIL is the largest in Simla, having accommodation for some 200 visitors. It is situated close to the railway station and all in-coming trains and rail motors are met by porters. Its spacious lounges are the last word in comfort and taste, and the dining-room is quickly convertible into a huge ball or concert-room. The Cecil Hotel is the property of the Associated Hotels of India, Ltd., which company also owns CORSTORPHAN'S HOTEL, centrally situated, being above the Lakkar Bazaar and about three minutes' walk from Christ Church.

The famous GRAND HOTEL has already been referred to in Chapters 3 & 4.



At the present time there are rooms for approximately 40 residents, but after the work of rebuilding is completed it is hoped that accommodation for more than double that number will be available.

The CARLTON HOTEL adjoins the Mall, a little way beyond Combermere bridge and the business is owned by Mrs. H.S. de-la-Rue Browne. The Carlton has 42 rooms capable of housing over 60 residents.

Immediately below the Ridge lies HOTEL BLESSINGTON, adjoining the Y.M.C.A., tennis courts,

ELYSIUM, LONGWOOD and CRAIG DHU hotels are all situated on Elysium Hill. The two latter are reserved for the use of Government officials and those who are temporarily on duty in Simla.

LOWRIE'S HOTEL is most centrally located, occupying a position between the church and the Mall.

The hostels of the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations also receive visitors.



Besides the foregoing, there are hotels for orthodox Hindus and Mohammedans.

Those who wish to live away from the bustle of Simla will find excellent accommodation at THE GABLES, Mashobra, WILDFLOWER HALL, Mahasu, and THE HOMESTEAD, Taradevi. All are distant some six miles from the town.

Boarding Houses.

It is impossible to compile a list of boarding houses which would remain authoritative for any length of time, as every year sees the springing up of new ones and the closing down or the exchanging of proprietorship of old ones. The visitor is advised to consult the notices appearing in the local press or to communicate with some friend who is a resident of Simla. Boarding houses and establishments receiving paying guests are very numerous.

Restaurants.

The renowned PELITI'S RESTAURANT, such a favourite subject of Kipling, will be found immediately beyond the Combermere Bridge. One may partake



of refreshments in the spacious lower or upper rooms, or sit on the wide verandah and watch the passing of Simla's traffic. Below the restaurant is the new Palm Court where dance teas are frequently held. A new feature is the "Pot-Luck Dinner" which, however, is considerably more recherche than the name would imply.

DAVICO'S RESTAURANT is situated on the Mall below the General Post Office. It is very convenient for those who wish to refresh themselves after a morning's shopping. An orchestra is often in attendance for lunch and tea.

There is the neat little CAFE ELITE opposite the old Town Hall, and is much frequented by theatre goers who may here obtain an excellent after-show supper.

The GRAND CAFE is located below the bandstand, and the PALACE RESTAURANT adjoins the Cinema and Rink.



CHAPTER. 6.

SCHOOLS.

1. Auckland House School.

This School was opened at 'Holly Lodge' on Jakko in 1866, and was known as the Punjab Girls' School. The numbers so increased, however, that in 1868 'Auckland House' (previously referred to as the first Government House) was purchased and adapted to the school's requirements.

Within recent years the school has been entirely rebuilt and is now one of the finest of its kind in India. There is accommodation for some 80 boarders, and a total of 120 girls receive tuition within its walls. A kindergarten class is also a feature of this school. The religious teaching given is in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England.

2. Ayrcliff High School
(Church of Scotland).

This high school for girls was founded by the late Miss Birrell about 40 years



ago; and was, until 1917, conducted as a private school on the Park estate. In January 1918 the 'Torrentium' estate was purchased by the Church of Scotland. At that time there were only 22 boarders and 18 day scholars whereas today the school numbers some 160 pupils. Education is given up to and including the Senior Cambridge standard. Games, music, painting, and dancing (classical and modern), receive special attention. This select school stands in a beautiful, healthy locality and, when weather permits, classes are held in the open air. The Head Mistress is Mrs. E.M. Ancrum.

3. Bishop Cotton School.

During the year 1859 a proposition was made by the then Bishop of Calcutta, the Right Rev. G.E.L. Cotton, D.D., that a public school should be founded at one of the hill stations as a thank-offering to the Almighty and a permanent memorial of our deliverance from the great mutiny. Simla was eventually decided upon as being the best hill station for the proposed establishment. Collections were made throughout India realizing some Rs. 35,000, to which the Viceroy added Rs. 10,000. Jutogh was considered the best of the five



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sites available for the erection of the school and consequently it was formally opened there in 1861 under the name of "The Simla Public School."

Progress and expansion quickly rendered the Jutogh site incapable of permitting further extensions to be made, and the Government acquired the land on which the school now stands from the Rajah of Keonthal, in exchange for a village named Wakna. The transfer was effected in March 1866 and the new building was forthwith commenced. On the 26th September 1866 the foundation stone was laid by Sir John Lawrence (then Viceroy), in the presence of Sir D.F. Macleod, Lieut.-Governor of the Punjab; the Right Rev. G.E.L. Cotton, D.D., Bishop of Calcutta; Col. Reynell Taylor, Commissioner of the Province; Rev T.C. Smith, D.D., Chaplain of Simla; and Rev. S. Slater, the first Head Master of the school. The name "Bishop Cotton School" was then formally and finally adopted. The Holy Trinity Chapel was commenced in 1866 and completed in 1869.

On the 7th May 1905 the school building was destroyed by fire, being subsequently reconstructed and re-entered in July 1907.



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This famous house of learning now has accommodation for 210 boarders and 30 day boys, with a hospital and extensive playing fields. The Head Master is the Rev. W. S. O'Neill from whom particulars regarding fees, etc., may be obtained.

The best approach from Simla is via 'Glenarm' and the Park.

4. Christ Church School.

This school for boys and girls was founded in 1877 by the then Lord Bishop of Lahore. Children of all creeds are admitted and there are at present 100 boys and 50 girls receiving tuition. The school is aided by the Government to the extent of Rs. 10,000 per annum. The Bishop of Lahore is chairman of the committee and the Chaplain of Simla, Honorary Secretary. Erected in 1916, the present building cost Rs. 42,000. Mr. F. Coates is Head Master. A branch of this school exists at St. Martin's, Kaithu.

5. Convent of Jesus and Mary.

In 1866-7 the Convent of Jesus and Mary was built upon the site known as



"little Chelsea" which had previously held a smaller school for orphans and other children belonging to the Roman Catholic persuasion. The convent may be considered as being divided into three departments. The first of these is a boarding school where children of all creeds are received for tuition; this is St. Aloysius' School. The second is St. Francis' School or the Orphanage, wherein orphans and children whose parents are unable to afford the full fees are maintained and educated. The third is St. Bede's, a college opened in 1903 for the training of teachers. There is also a chapel attached to the convent. Applications regarding admission, fees, etc., should be made to the Mother Superior.

6. The Mayo Orphanage and Boarding School for Girls.

The Mayo School, originally known as Mrs. Tytler's Orphanage, was established by that energetic and benevolent lady in 1869, and the present premises were opened by Earl Mayo in June 1871. It was instituted with the admirable object of providing a sound scholastic and industrial training for European and Eurasian orphan



girls, and others whose cases seemed worthy of compassion. There is accommodation for 75 such children and the control of the school is now in the capable hands of Mrs. Wilkinson. Government, masonic and private subscriptions, fees, fancy bazaars and concerts, all combine to maintain this school in sound financial circumstances. Several additions have been made during the past few years including a large playground and a North block for domestic science classes. H.E. the Governor of the Punjab, the Lord Bishop of Lahore and the Chaplain of Simla are President, Vice-President and Honorary Secretary respectively.

7. The Loreto Convent.

The Loreto Convent—'Tara Hall'—was commenced in 1895. There is accommodation for 100 boarders and about 300 day pupils. Small boys up to seven years of age are admitted, and a kindergarten class is maintained. The School is recognised as a High School and receives a small grant from Government.

The subjects taught include French, Latin, Needlework, Dancing, Elocution



and Music, in which latter subject pupils are prepared for all grades of the Trinity College examinations. Games are given special attention and the school is fortunate in possessing ample recreation grounds. The Superior is Mother M. Pancrattius.

8. The Lawrence Royal Military School.

This noble institution stands on the hill of Sanawar, not far distant from Kasauli. It was founded in 1854 by Sir Henry Lawrence who was killed in the mutiny, and to whose memory a tablet and monument are erected in the chapel. On the 17th September 1851 the foundation stone of the chapel was laid by Lady Gomm. It was formerly known as "The Lawrence Asylum" but its name has since been changed to "The Lawrence Royal Military School." This institution, now one of the finest in India, is maintained by Government and public subscription, as well as by fees. It exists for the benefit of the orphan children of military men. The principal is the Rev. G.D. Barne, M.A.

9. St. Edward's School.

This day school was opened on 2nd.



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March 1925 by the Irish Christian Brothers at 'Milsington' on the road passing the Lady Reading Hospital.

There are also many other schools in Simla, both vernacular and Anglo-vernacular; most of them aided by the Government or the municipality. These include the Government High School, the Sir Harcourt Butler High School, Baptist Mission School, the Islamia School, Sanatan Dharm School and the 'Mayfield' Municipal School.



CHAPTER 7.

CHURCHES.

Christ Church.

The first corner-stone of Christ Church was laid on the 9th. September 1844 and the building was opened, by license, for Divine Service on the 11th October 1846. It was not, however, completely ready for consecration until the 10th January 1857; so that it took nearly thirteen years to build. Its original cost was between Rs. 40,000 and Rs. 50,000, of which the Government contributed a little over Rs. 12,000; the rest being raised from private sources.

It lies due east and west and consists of a nave and chancel, but the latter was not built until 1864.

There is seating accommodation, normally, for 574; but this can be increased to 630 by the addition of chairs. The tower is 90 feet high and contains a clock with a brass bell cast out of a mortar captured in the second Sikh war and presented by Lord Hardinge in 1849. A peal of six tubular bells was erected in 1900.



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The subject of the handsome Perpendicular east window is the *Te-Deum* and the execution of the work was entrusted to Messrs. Burlison and Grylls of London. This window was erected in 1890.

Messrs. Morgan and Smith of Brighton constructed the organ, installed in 1899 after costing Rs. 23,800. A further sum of Rs. 16,350 has lately been expended in improvements and a complete renovation. Sir W. M. Young, Sir James Walker and Mrs. Villiers presented the stops *corno-di-bassetto*, *voix-celeste* and *fifteenth*, respectively.

Sir James Walker also presented the church with a window—the one on the south side—erected to the memory of his wife. This window is in three lights and contains six allegorical figures. There are several memorial tablets and brasses.

This is not Simla's first Christ Church. There was a building in Northbrook Terrace, near the site of Messrs. Whiteaway, Laidlaw and Co.'s premises, which, previous to 1836 had been used as a church. This had a thatched roof and provided accommodation for 100 people. After many additions and improvements had been



ected, this building eventually became useless for the purpose owing to the ever-increasing congregation and effects of earthquakes. It was finally abandoned in 1846 in favour of the present church.

Roman Catholic Pro-Cathedral.

The first Catholic Church was built on the site of the "Old Dispensary" at the western end of the Lower Bazaar. This site was purchased in February 1850 for the sum of sixteen hundred Company rupees.

The Church was erected at a cost of Rs. 2,900, much of the material of the old dispensary building being used in its construction. The total amount for the site and building was raised by public subscription.

This church served the spiritual needs of the Catholic community of Simla until the erection, in 1885, of the present edifice. Since the elevation of Simla to an Archiepiscopal See it has been known as the Cathedral of SS. Michael and Joseph. The building is of the French-Gothic style of architecture, and provides seating



accommodation for 400. It is cruciform in shape and consists of a nave, two aisles, a high altar and two side chapels. In the tower is a peal of bells. The organ, one of the best in the north of India, was built in 1913, the cost being defrayed by public subscription. It exists as a memorial to the late Fr. Callistus who, during his twenty years as Catholic Chaplain of Simla, was revered by all irrespective of their creed.

The exterior of the building was, when new, very pleasing in appearance; but the stone has unfortunately shown such serious signs of decay that in the opinion of engineers it is necessary to take immediate steps to rebuild. The present Administrator, Rev. Fr. Sylvester Walsh with the hearty co-operation of his congregation is actively engaged in collecting funds for this work.

Plans for the new Cathedral have already been drawn up by Mr. B. Mathews, and they provide for a much-enlarged Sanctuary, several side chapels, confessionals, a baptistery and extra seating accommodation. The exterior will have a bold and imposing appearance and will be in the Early Perpendicular style.



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St. Andrew's (Church of Scotland).

St. Andrew's Church stands near the Post Office, on the site of the original Union Church, and forms a part of the old 'Constantia' estate. In 1904 the Church of Scotland bought over the buildings, as they then existed, from the Union Church for a sum of Rs. 25,000. A Kirk Session was formed and the church was re-named St. Andrew's.

The present building was erected in 1914-15 and the first minister was the Rev. James Black, who worked indefatigably and successfully to liquidate its cost. It was designed by Mr. John Begg and is furnished throughout in teak. There is a handsome east window in three lancets.

'The Manse' is probably the oldest existing inhabited house in Simla and is retained, as far as possible, in its original style.

St. Mark's Union Church.

The history of the Union Church dates back to 1870; but the several denominations grouped under the term "Free Churches" had held meetings for some



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years prior to that date. These meetings were conducted in 'Argyle House' and in a hall located near the site of the existing Market.

In 1904, when the Union Church sold its property to the Church of Scotland, meetings continued to be held in the Bank buildings until the present site near the Imperial Bank of India was acquired.

By dint of untiring zeal and energy on the part of the committee and congregation, the church was enabled to secure new and improved premises. In 1923 the work was commenced and on the 2nd April 1924 the new building was opened. Besides a church, there are class rooms and a Manse for the minister. A well-attended Sunday School and a Bible Class are held. The minister is the Rev. A. J. Revnell.

All Saints' Chapel, Boileaugunj.

This little chapel was consecrated on the 6th August 1885 after having cost Rs. 8,900 to build and furnish. There is accommodation for 100 persons. The beautiful little white marble font was presented in 1897 by Lord Elgin.



All Saints' Chapel is not easy to find. The road which enters Viceregal Lodge grounds on the south side of the guard-house should be followed and the chapel lies on the right, a short distance beyond the gate.

St. Martin's, Kaithu.

There is a church-room at Kaithu where services are held every Sunday, and there is also a very flourishing little social club. The rooms stand on the 'Firwood' estate. The Christ Church School has a branch at St. Martin's.

St. Thomas' (Church Missionary Society).

The Church Missionary Society has been established in Simla since 1843 when it instituted a mission at Kotgarh. The Society also erected St. Thomas' Church which lies near the Ripon Hospital and Army Head-quarters. This church is used by the Native Christian (Church of England) congregation and services in Urdu are frequently held. There is seating accommodation for over 150. The Vicar is the Rev. Chandu Lall.



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St. Crispin's, Mashobra.

This very neat and comfortable little church was opened in 1923, the cost of erection having been entirely borne by Mr. Charles Allen of Cawnpore. It has a small organ, a peal of tubular bells and stained-glass windows depicting several saints.

The church provides visitors to Mashobra with a very convenient place of worship.

There are also the Chapel of St. Michael's, Jutogh; the Holy Trinity Chapel, Bishop Cotton School; the Chapel at the Convent of Jesus and Mary; the Baptist Mission; and the Chapel of the Seventh-Day Adventists at 'Belvedere.'



CHAPTER 8.

HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CENTRES.

The Ripon Hospital.

This famous hospital is situated below the Court House and near Army Headquarters. The cost of its erection was met by public subscription and it was opened in 1882 by the Marquis of Ripon. Several of the Indian Chiefs contributed handsomely to the fund and a grant was made by the municipality. The original cost of the building was Rs. 1,46,343.

The Ripon Hospital has been gradually improved and enlarged—especially during the last three or four years. Today it is practically complete in every respect and compares favourably with any other hospital in India.

It has accommodation in the free wards for 48 Indian patients and private rooms taking 12 patients, Indian and European. There are two Operation Theatres completely equipped, where any operation can be performed. Eye, nose, ear and throat



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complaints are treated in a special department. Although not an actual part of the Ripon Hospital, there is a complete X-Ray installation attached. The Out-door Department sees and treats some 50 or 60 patients daily.

The hospital is under the direct control of a Superintendent, assisted by a Deputy Superintendent and Sub-Assistant Surgeon as well as by a very efficient nursing staff.

The European Infectious Hospital is adjacent and under the same control but with a separate nursing staff. It consists of 8 private rooms, each for one patient.

The Walker Hospital.

In 1899 it was found that the increase of European patients in the Ripon Hospital necessitated the exclusion of a considerable number of Indians, for whom the hospital was originally intended. Thus the idea of a hospital for Europeans was mooted.

Sir (then Mr.) James Walker lavishly bestowed the whole of his 'Gorton Castle' estate for this purpose; but the managing committee received certain objections to



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this site owing to its close proximity to the main road. 'Gorton Castle' was therefore sold to the Government of India for Rs. 1,20,000 to which the Punjab Government added Rs. 40,000 and made a free gift of the land on which the hospital now stands.

It was opened on the 1st May 1902 with accommodation for 20 patients. Now there are 38 beds and the staff numbers 15, including the Civil Surgeons, Simla East and West; the Surgeon to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief; the Additional Medical Officer, Army Head-quarters; and and a House Surgeon. The services of one matron and two sisters from the Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association are utilized and there are, in addition, seven trained nurses.

The fees for patients are Rs. 12 and Rs. 6 per day, first and second class, respectively. Patients in poor circumstances receive free medical attendance and their hospital charges are met, wholly or partially, by the Franklin Fund. The hospital is aided by Government and Municipal grants to the extent of Rs. 11,000 per annum; but there is no endowment and consequently the hospital's



finances are not in a very sound state. The committee is appealing to the public for help.

The entrance to the Walker Hospital is just beyond the 'Snowdon' gate on the Mashobra Road,

The Lady Reading Hospital for Women and Children.

Situated in the beautiful grounds of 'Bairdville,' this hospital was opened by Her Excellency the Countess of Reading on the 25th April 1924—nine months after the laying of the foundation stone. The original house 'Bairdville' forms a part of the hospital and the residence of the nursing staff.

This institution is a model one, combining the requirements of modern science with an atmosphere of homeliness and simplicity. There are 60 beds including 12 private wards for paying patients. The staff comprises a Medical Superintendent, two Assistant Surgeons, a Nursing Superintendent, nine staff nurses, two compounders and five probationers.

The objects of the hospital are :—



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1. The provision of medical and surgical treatment, by women, for the women and children of Simla and the surrounding district.
2. An institute for the training of Indian women in sick nursing and midwifery.

Dr. C. L. Houlton, M. D. B. S., W. M. S.,
is the Medical Superintendent.

The Lady Chelmsford Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre.

Opened in 1921 by Lady Chelmsford, this Centre is established on the Cart Road in the very midst of those whom it is intended to serve. As its name implies, the objects of the institution are to assist Indian women at times of childbirth and to provide instruction in the welfare and maintenance of infants. It is financed mainly by Municipal funds but is also assisted by public and private subscription.

The Lady Hardinge Cottage Home.

Although neither a hospital nor a health



centre, the Lady Hardinge Cottage Home may well be included in this chapter.

It provides a place of residence, free of rent, for lone, aged men and women in straitened circumstances. It is stipulated that these persons must be of European parentage, domiciled in the Punjab, Delhi or the North-West Frontier Provinces. Especially those who, having no relatives with whom they can live, are in possession of some means such as a small pension, etc., just sufficient to provide for ordinary living but not for rent.

The idea was first raised for discussion in 1912 and in 1913 considerable sums of money had been obtained. The Government granted a corner of the Bemloe Estate on which were erected two cottages providing accommodation for eight persons. A sum of Rs. 43 per month is contributed from the income of the endowment towards the wages of the servants. The rooms are fully and comfortably furnished and are insured against fire.

At present only women are in residence but it is hoped to be able to extend the concession to men as soon as financial conditions permit.



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The Home is under the auspices of the
Chaplain of Simla.

The Countess of Dufferin's Fund.

The Countess of Dufferin's Fund, with its associated institutions — the Women's Medical Service, the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund, the Lady Chelmsford All-India League for Maternity and Child Welfare, and the Lady Reading Women of India Fund — affords considerable help to the medical establishments of Simla.

The Fund was commenced in February 1888 and is at present in strong financial circumstances.

Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.

This Nursing Association was founded in 1906 for the purpose of selecting suitably-trained nurses in England and making the necessary arrangements for their transfer to India.

Europeans are thus enabled to obtain skilled nurses at moderate charges. Any person may become a member of this



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association on payment of a subscription based upon his or her income. Subscribers secure the services of a Nursing Sister at reduced rates and such benefits also apply to all the legitimate members of the family.



CHAPTER 9.

THE ARTS.

The Simla Music Club.

Started in 1921 by Mrs. Kisch, this club has a membership of 160. Mrs. B. Bevan-Petman, is Hon. Secretary. Meetings are held in the 'Snowdon' ball-room lent to the club for the purpose by Lady Rawlinson.

The club is in a very flourishing condition and great interest is taken in its activities. It has so progressed since its formation that the committee has been able to allot considerable sums of money to the Lady Rawlinson Combined Charities.

The type of music rendered is of the highest order and the ranks of the club contain some very skilled artists, both vocal and instrumental. The subscription is Rs. 10 per season.

The Simla Orchestral Society.

This Society was commenced in 1899 under the name of the Simla Philharmonic Society. Performances were frequently



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held in the Town Hall when Herr E. Buchner, then Director of Music to the Viceroy, conducted an orchestra of the leading amateurs and artists of Simla in a series of Charity Symphonic Concerts.

During the late war the Society lay dormant but was revived after the armistice. Meetings are now held every week.

The Simla Orchestral Society has a membership of 20 and is open to anyone who plays a string or wind instrument. The subscription is Rs. 5 per season. Mrs. B. Bevan-Petman is Hon. Secretary.

Regimental Band.

Simla is favoured each year by a visit from a regimental band which performs at various public functions and conducts a series of Promenade Concerts on the Ridge.

The Simla Fine Arts Society.

The Simla Fine Arts Society has been in existence since 1865 and has held annual exhibitions for the past fifty-two years. From the time of Lord Mayo the successive Viceroys have all been associated with the Society.



The exhibition, which is held towards the end of August or during September, is generally of a week's duration. Prizes of a total value of nearly Rs. 2,000 are offered annually for work in water colours, oils, pastels, "black and white," minatures, sculptures, decorative and applied art, as well as for photographs and work by young artists.

His Excellency the Viceroy is patron and president; the vice-patrons include Their Excellencies the Governor of the Punjab and the Commander-in-Chief. Mr. B. Bevan-Petman is Hon. Secretary.

The Simla Amateur Dramatic Club.

There is evidence of amateur acting having been held in Simla before 1838 at a "small and stuffy" theatre in the old Royal (now Lowrie's) Hotel. 'Abbeville,' a house near the site of the municipal market, was afterwards converted into the Assembly Rooms where performances were held until the destruction of the building by fire in 1889; one year after the formation of the present A.D.C.

Lord Lytton, in the keen interest he evinced in the stage, gave a great fillip to



Simla dramatics. He considerably improved the building and equipment of the Theatre. Since his time Simla has been the home of some of the finest acting in the east; most of the well-known London productions having been staged with success.

Owing to the general exodus from Simla during the Afghan war, the club found itself in grave financial difficulties. Lord William De la P. Beresford, although engaged upon the heavy task of reconstructing the Annandale race-course, also undertook this additional burden and, mainly through his efforts, the club recovered and continued to flourish.

The A.D.C., has performed many times at Viceregal Lodge and the Commander-in-Chief's house, and has numbered among its members such renowned people as Rudyard Kipling and Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

The Gaiety Theatre is leased annually from the municipality at a rent of Rs. 3,000. It accommodates an audience of 300 to 400 and is built after the plan which won the prize offered by the Dramatic Society in London for a design for a bijou theatre to



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form part of the Dramatic College. A custom of auctioning the boxes each season has been revived.

Lieut.-General Sir J. S. Shea is president of the Club.

This short account of the A.D.C., would not be complete without mentioning the ever-popular business manager, Mr. H.S. de la Rue Browne who has been connected with the club since its formation.



SPORTS, SHIKAR & FISHING.

The Annandale Gymkhana Club.

The late Lord William Beresford, in the interest he developed in racing, may be said to be responsible for the formation of this club. He considerably improved and extended the Annandale course at a cost of some Rs. 80,000. Since that time several more alterations have been made and Annandale can now be described as almost perfect for the purposes for which it is used.

His Excellency The Commander-in-Chief is President, and the Hon'ble Sir Basil P. Blackett and Lt.-Gen. Sir John Shea are vice-presidents of the Gymkhana Club. There are also strong general and executive committees. Sectional secretaries attend to the business of the Horse Shows, Gymkhanas, Polo, Tennis Tournaments and Races.

The club-house has a library, sitting, dining and dressing rooms, and there are a tennis court, golf course (9 holes), ladies' shooting range and cricket pitch (matting).



Race meetings are held about six times a year and station polo is played every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Great events in the course of the club's activities are the Viceroy's Staff and the Beresford Polo Tournaments, generally played in May. When the weather permits, gymkhanas are held on Thursdays. A Horse Show and a Tennis Tournament are also arranged annually.

All particulars regarding subscription, etc., may be obtained from the Hon. General Secretary.

The Durand Football Tournament.

The Durand Football Tournament is probably Simla's most popular regular function. It attracts hundreds of residents as well as large numbers of football enthusiasts from other stations. The games are played on the Annandale ground and the tournament opens about the middle of September, terminating nearly a month later.

The tournament was instituted in 1888, the challenge prize competed for consisting of a silver football on an ebony stand and gave the names of winning teams and



players. This trophy was won in 1895 for the third time in succession by the Highland Light Infantry and passed into their possession in accordance with a then existing rule.

Another cup was presented by the late Sir Mortimer Durand in 1896 to replace the former and was won outright by the Black Watch in 1899. In presenting a third and final one, Sir Mortimer suggested that it should be considered as an Annual Challenge Cup and a smaller cup given to the winning team.

To this was added several other trophies and the list of prizes now includes:—

Challenge Cup — presented by the late Sir Mortimer Durand, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.,

Simla Cup — presented by Simla Government Offices and Trades (value Rs.1,500).

Viceroy's Cup — to be the property of the winning team.

Silver Medals — to the members of the winning team and a cup to the captain.

Cup — to be the property of the second team (providing 15 or more teams enter).

Bronze Medals — to each member of the second team.



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List of Winning Teams.

1888 Royal Scots Fus.	1904 N. Staffordshire.
1889 H.L.I.	1905 Royal Dragoons.
1890 H.L.I.	1906 Cameronians.
1891 Scottish Borderers.	1907 Cameronians.
1892 Scottish Borderers.	1908 Lancashire Fus.
1893 H.L.I.	1909 Lancashire Fus.
1894 H.L.I.	1910 Royal Scots.
1895 H.L.I.	1911 Black Watch.
1896 Somerset L.I.	1912 Royal Scots.
1897 The Black Watch.	1913 Lancashire Fus.
1898 The Black Watch.	1914-19 <i>No tournament.</i>
1899 The Black Watch.	1920 Black Watch.
1900 S. Wales Borderers.	1921 3rd. Worcesters.
1901 S. Wales Borderers.	1922 Lancashire Fus.
1902 Hampshire Regt.	1923 Cheshire Regt.
1903 R. Irish Rifles.	1924 1st. Worcesters.

Mr. Robert Hotz is Honorary Secretary.

The Imrie and Lawrence Cricket Tournament.

The Imrie and Lawrence Cricket Tournament is held annually at Annandale during May or June.

In September 1921 a number of the leading residents of Simla held a meeting on the question of the encouragement of cricket. It was resolved that a trophy be obtained and competed for each year. Messrs. Imrie and Lawrence, a Simla firm



of jewellers, were generous enough to present the committee with a silver cup.

List of Winning Teams.

- 1921 Army Head-quarters Cricket Club, 'A' Team.
- 1922 Army Head-quarters Cricket Club, 'A' Team.
- 1923 Indian Friends Club.
- 1924 Indian Friends Club.

The Honorary Secretary is Mr. J. F. Masters, Army Head-quarters, Simla.

Tennis Tournaments.

Besides the Annandale Gymkhana Club Tennis Tournament to which previous reference has been made, the Simla branch of the Young Men's Christian Association holds two annual tournaments on the courts near Blessington Hotel.

An Open Tournament is held in May and a Handicap in September.

Golf.

The following description of the Naldera Golf Links may prove interesting to golfers :—



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The Naldera Golf Links are situated in Koti State 12 miles from Simla and 6 miles beyond Mashobra. There is a good road and the journey from Simla takes about three hours by rickshaw or two and a half on horseback. The only accommodation at Naldera is a P. W. D. bungalow consisting of three rooms. There is a *khansamah* at the bungalow who will cook for visitors and, if previously advised will procure necessary provisions. Permission to occupy the bungalow must be obtained from the Executive Engineer Provincial Division, Simla.

Subscriptions to the Naldera Golf Club are :—

Per Season ...	Rs. 25	for one person,	Rs. 35	for a family.
Per month ...	7	“ “ “ “	10	“ “ “
Per day ...	2	“ “ “ “		each person.

No introduction is required. Visitors are allowed to play on payment of the prescribed fee to the *chowkidar* who will give a receipt for all payments made. Golf balls are obtainable from the *chowkidar*. There is a small club-house where clubs can be left. The Honorary Secretary is A. H. Ley, Esq., C.I.E., C.B.E., 'Sylvan Hall,' Simla.



The course consists of nine holes. It lies in a cup in the hills and is most ingeniously laid out. A wooden club is used from the tee by ordinary golfers at five out of the nine holes, the other four holes being mashie shots. To the new-comer, the course appears extremely difficult; but when a little local knowledge has been gained, some of its terrors disappear.

The FIRST green lies on a plateau and is seldom reached from the tee except by the longest drivers. A sliced ball usually finds its way down to the main road whence a player may take many shots to reach the green. A straight drive followed by a decent mashie shot will land the ball on the plateau, and a half with bogey in five is then easy.

The SECOND is a very good hole played from the highest point on the links. The proper direction is about 30 yards to the right of the green and the best way to play the shot is a slight hook with a spoon or cleek. A perfectly straight shot, or, one a little too short, frequently finds the pond in front of the green. A good tee shot makes a half with bogey in four a simple matter and the green being one of



the best on the course, the hole is often done in three.

The **THIRD** hole defeats many a good golfer, especially when the ground is hard. It is a mashie shot of about 150 yards and should be played with a slight hook; but there is a big tree almost on this line and it is difficult to avoid hitting it. Some players use a putter and run the ball under the tree. To get a half with bogey in three is by no means as easy as it looks.

The **FOURTH** is a spoon shot across a broad *nullah* and looks a most terrifying shot. The line to take is over the telegraph post to the left of the green. If played correctly, the ball will run above the green and roll down on to it, but if hit the least bit too hard, it will roll back over the green and down into the *nullah*, when another tee shot must be played. When the tee shot fails to find the green, the second is a very difficult one. It should always be played over the green so as to run down on to it. Bogey four.

The **FIFTH** hole, though barely a hundred yards in length, is a most difficult three. The shot must be played exactly right or



trouble is certain. The penalty for going down the *khud* is loss of distance; and it is not uncommon to see half a dozen shots played from this tee before the player is safely over.

The SIXTH is the longest hole — a full drive and a very tricky second on to a small and bad green. Bogey five.

For the SEVENTH, take a mashie and play slightly to the right into the hollow in front of the green. A pull goes down the *khud* and a short or topped ball into a pond.

The EIGHTH or Temple hole is about 200 yards. A perfectly straight drive is required. The least deviation to the right and one finds one's self behind the Temple with a most awkward approach shot to play. A topped ball from the tee is caught by the pond. After holing out at the eighth, the visitor should go to the edge of the *khud* and look across the hills to the snows before climbing up to the last tee. This is one of the most glorious views in the Simla Hills.

The NINTH and last hole spoils many a good medal round. It is one of the most tantalizing holes on any course. The



distance from tee to green is about 250 yards. The green, which faces the tee obliquely, is very small and is perched on a precipice. Few players attempt to drive the green. This hole was once done in one by Capt. Emmott, A.D.C., to the Governor of the Punjab. The ordinary golfer plays short and hopes for an open approach shot to the green which, however, he seldom gets. Even if he does, and lands his second on the green, it frequently rolls off again; then the third and perhaps fourth, fifth and sixth strokes are played from practically the same spot before a lucky one strikes the green. The hole is bad golf but a most amusing one to watch other people ply. As a test of temper it is unique.

Bogey for the course is 36 and the round takes, on an average, about an hour. A card showing the local rules (which should be carefully studied) can be obtained from the *chowkidar*. The course is at its best after the rains. Not more than six couples can play comfortably at the same time. If more are playing it is decidedly dangerous.

The links are approximately 7,000 feet above sea level.



The Ladies' Mile Rifle and Revolver Club.

The recently-opened Ladies' Mile Rifle and Revolver Club holds meetings on a range below Ladies' Mile. The subscription is Rs. 10 for the season and the club is open to anyone.

Rifles are provided but members pay for the ammunition they use. Mrs. B. Bevan-Petman, 'Armadale,' is Hon. Secretary.

Shikar.

The larger game is becoming scarcer in the immediate vicinity of Simla, but in the surrounding hills it is to be found in abundance. One does hear occasionally of a panther being shot in Simla itself, but to obtain the best sport it is necessary to go a considerable distance afield. Formerly in danger of being completely shot out, the smaller game, under the protection laws, has multiplied considerably and one need not go out of municipal limits to obtain good sport.

An extract from the Shikar Rules will apprise the sportsman of his privileges and restrictions, and will also indicate the



types of game to be found in the neighbourhood :—

The setting of traps, nets and snares, except by special permission of the Chief (of the Hill State), is prohibited. The driving and killing of big game in the snow is similarly prohibited. Shooting of any kind of game is prohibited except under license issued under the orders of the Chief. Permits must be shown to Forest Officials on demand. Applications for these permits, which are not transferable, should not ordinarily be made more than one month beforehand, and should be in writing addressed to the Wazir of the State concerned either direct or through the Superintendent, Hill States. Applications should set forth clearly the forest or forests it is intended to shoot in, the dates on which it is proposed to shoot, the number of sportsmen forming the party, and whether a copy of the Shikar Map is required. (This map is issued on payment of Rs. 3 and has been compiled for the use of sportsmen. It shows the boundaries, distances, dak bungalows, etc.) If the application is sanctioned, the requisite fee will be called for and, on receipt, a pass will immediately be made out and forwarded to the grantee, a copy being



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sent to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Simla. In the case of States under administration, applications should similarly be made to the Superintendent, Simla Hill States, who will send copies of licenses, if granted, to the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Simla and to the State concerned.

A seasonal permit, *i.e.*, from the 16th September to the 15th March will be issued to a licensee for the Keonthal and Koti States only, on payment of a fee of Rs. 20.

A shoot lasting up to 4 days will be charged for at the rate of Rs. 2 per head per day, and for a week at Rs. 5 per head. The charge for 14 days will be Rs. 7, and for a month, Rs. 10. No shooting party may consist of more than 6 guns at a time.

The close season for small game, *viz.*, from the 16th March to the 15th September inclusive, must also be observed in the case of big game. The shooting and snaring, in limited numbers, of any kind of bird may be permitted at any time, free of charge, to *bona fide* naturalists for the purpose of scientific collection.

Any permit issued will entitle the holder to shoot big or small game in any forest



not exclusively reserved for the Chief of the State himself; provided that, except *carnivora*, he does not kill (a) more than the following number of animals specified, or (b) immature specimens, or (c) females:—

Goral	...	...	...	2
Serow	...	...	...	1
Kakkar	...	...	...	3

A permit holder may not shoot more than 2 Munal or Tragopan pheasants, and special permission must be applied for to shoot Musk deer, wild boar, black bear, or Peafowl. In regard to the last, the sentiments of the villagers must be respected. Every permit must be returned to the office of issue within a fortnight of the date of its expiry, and a license holder, in the case of big game and the two game birds mentioned, must endorse upon it the number and kind of game killed.

The State will not make any sort of arrangement (*bandobast*) for sportsmen. Those who go out shooting in the country round Simla whether in British territory or Hill States, are not entitled to give any form of order whatever to the villagers or village head-men to provide beaters or



coolies. Any arrangement made with the villagers or *shikaris* must be purely voluntary and the rates of remuneration must also be mutually arranged. There is no Government rate.

The shooting of monkeys, baboons and village dogs is strictly prohibited.

Breaches of the *shikar* rules are punishable with a fine which may extend to Rs. 50, or by confiscation of any privilege granted under them, or both.

A complete copy of the rules should be obtained from the office of the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent, Hill States, Simla, and studied before making arrangements for a shooting party.

Close Season Periods.

Animals.

ENGLISH NAME.	VERNACULAR NAME.	PERIOD OF CLOSE SEASON.
Musk Deer ... ..	... Kastura, Mushknafa ...	... Whole year.
Serow, or Himalayan.		
Goat Antelope ...	... Almu, Sera, Sarao ...	16th March - 16th Septr.
Goral Ghol, Ghorl, Ghorrar do do
Barking Deer Kakar, Kakkar, do do
Sambar Sambar, Maha Sambar do do



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Birds.

ENGLISH NAME.	VERNACULAR NAME.	PERIOD OF CLOSE SEASON.
Common Peafowl Mor, bodar (female) Whole year
Red Jungle Fowl ...	... Jungli murgha, Kukra, Lal murghi ...	... 16th March—15th September
Wood Cock... ..	... Sham Kukra, Jal Kukri	... do do
Bartavelle or Greek. Partridge or Chukor...	Chukor, Chakra ...	... do do
White Crested Kaleej	Kalij, Kalesha, Kulsa.	... do do
Pheasant ...	Kukra-murghi ...	... do do
Koklas Pheasant ...	Koklas, Plash ...	... do do
Cheer Pheasant ...	Chehr, Cheer, Kharari ...	... do do
Monal Pheasant ...	Monal, Munal, bod (female)...	... do do
Western Horned Pheasant. (miscalled Argus) ...	Jaju, Jajurana ...	... do do
Common Hill Partridge.	Bantitar, Plora ...	... do do
Grey Partridge ...	Titar, Patila, Patilu ...	... do do
Black Partridge...	Kala Titar ...	... do do

Fishing.

GIRI RIVER.

Fish abound in the Giri River from a place called Gaura — about nine miles from Salogra station and at the junction of the Giri and Ashni Rivers — to where it falls into the Jumna.

To reach Gaura, proceed by train to Salogra, K.-S.R., and thence down the path to the Ashni River which should be followed until Gaura is reached. It will be found necessary to wade in places.

Permission to fish as well as to occupy the rest-house at Gaura should be obtained from the Patiala and Sirmoor States.



Transport from Salogra or Simla must be arranged. A timely letter to the station-master of the former place will most probably result in the provision of the necessary number of mules.

The best times to fish are from March to June and from the end of the rains to the end of October. The water is adversely affected by late snowfalls and by deficient or unduly protracted monsoons.

SEER KHAD.

Large *mahseer* is to be obtained in the Seer Khad which joins the Sutlej at Matala, in Bilaspur State, some 55 miles from Simla.

The route lies via Jutogh, Arki, Namhoul, Bilaspur, and there are rest-houses at the latter three places.

As in most other rivers in the vicinity of Simla, the best time is after the rains. The fish will generally take the spoon.

Communicate with the Wazir, Bilaspur State, for permission to fish these waters.

CHAPTER 11.

INDUSTRIES & PRODUCE.

There are no actual statistics regarding the occupations of the inhabitants of the Simla District, but the bulk of the rural population is engaged in agricultural pursuits. The vegetable and fruit supplies of Simla are to a considerable extent procured from Sairi and the valleys and slopes below Jutogh.

The vegetables obtainable are potatoes, cucumbers, pumpkins, vegetable-marrows, peas, French beans, spinach, tomatoes, radishes, carrots, cabbages, cauliflowers, knollkohls, brinjals (*baingans*), artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, turnips, celery, mint, asparagus (to a limited extent), rhubarb, onions, garlic, ginger (green), beet-root, lettuce, &c.

Introduced under European supervision, the potato growing industry has made enormous progress during recent years, and is now one of the staple crops of the district.

The principal fruits grown are apricots, strawberries, wild cherries, medlars, quinces



and peaches (of a poor kind). Mulberries and raspberries are also found on the hillsides.

There is a considerable import trade in Alubokhara plums, and Kashmir and Cabul apples and grapes in the season, and guavas, melons (water) and musk-melons, bananas, mangoes pomegranates, oranges of all kinds, lemons and limes can also be procured. Cape gooseberries (the *tepari*) grow in the vicinity of the station, and are much used in the manufacture of jams.

Nearly all the grain is imported from the plains, that grown in the district barely sufficing to satisfy the wants of the cultivators themselves. Cattle for slaughter for food purposes are chiefly imported — cows and oxen from the Umballa, Meerut and Bulandshahr district, and sheep from the plains and the interior of the hills.

Poultry and such game as wild duck, teal and black partridge are also imported, besides turkeys, geese, guinea-fowl, and the domestic duck. Hill game, such as pheasants, chikor, and wild fowl, are brought from the interior during the open season.



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There is a considerable trade in timber, walnut-wood, and box-wood. The timber is chiefly deodar and pine, and is used for building purposes. The walnut-wood is largely used for making furniture, and the box-wood for combs, &c.

The prices of food grains, meat, poultry and eggs, compare favourably with those in the plains, due allowance being made for the cost of carriage and the Municipal octroi duty.

The late Mr. Lockwood Kipling, in a report on the special industries of the Simla District, wrote :—

“Not only are there few handicrafts practised in the Simla Hills, but certain of those which would naturally be looked for are absent. When wood is plentiful and a severe winter gives long hours of indoor confinement, wood carving and similar industries usually flourish. But, though a hill village has an outward resemblance to a collection of inferior Swiss chalets, it never has any carving to show, and the common implements of agriculture are ruder in construction and finish than elsewhere.”



The entire absence of wood carving in any form is all the more striking from the fact that images are worshipped in their temples and at their fair times. But there is a worse than Fijian crudity of design and execution in the Hill Divinities. Their temples are picturesque in mass and interesting from their quaint Mongolian character, but the details are grotesque and barbaric. Basket-making seems to be the only exception."

The slender *ringall* bamboos found in many parts of the district furnish materials for neatly made and serviceable baskets, which, with a curious want of imagination, are all fashioned more or less on the model of the *kilta*, the long basket borne on the back, and throwing the greater part of the weight between the shoulders, as is customary in all mountainous countries. The truth is, there are but few uses for baskets. One or two are necessary to contain the yarn reeds used in the woollen weaving; others made solid with earth and cowdung are handy for grain; but the capacious *kilta* serves most of the simple purposes of rustic life. The smaller articles are often as closely and neatly woven as the Chinese and Burmese baskets, which are afterwards covered with lac, and if there were any



demand for fancy baskets, such as ladies' work-baskets and tables, it could be abundantly supplied from the Simla hills.

Good blankets and other woollen clothes are woven in the Bassahir State. Some of the *gudmas* or blankets are soft and thick, and woven in brown and grey stripes; but colour is very seldom used, and one monotonous Isabell tint is the rule. There are no embroideries, nor, as might be expected, is woollen knitting well done. Blanket-weaving of a coarse kind is a domestic occupation. The spinning wheel for woollen yarn is the same as that used for cotton. Shuttles are made at Amritsar, and are sold at fairs and other gatherings.

The absence of wood carving as an industry has already been remarked upon, and though the presence at Simla of a large European community has developed a certain demand for furniture to English use, none of the many carpenters who work in the Simla bazars are hillmen. They come up from the Hoshiarpur and Jullundur Districts, bringing with them the decorative notions of the plains. These men are to be found established in the Lakkar Bazar.

Mr. Lockwood Kipling said :—



They are capable of good work, but year by year the European demand seems to incline more to flimsiness and cheapness. A great number of brackets are made based originally on the well-known Swiss carving and often copied from the fretsaw Arabesques which are in some sort of favour in England, sometimes ebonized, but more frequently coated with varnish. Occasionally a handsome carved mantel-piece is ordered by some amateur; but the Sikh carpenter has a rooted habit of unpunctuality and delay. So the best of which they are capable is seldom seen. Fancy chairs, tables, and book-stands are made, especially a teapoy with three legs, radiating from a globe. Two or three of these tables with black-lac polished legs costing about Rs. 3 each, one or two oblong ones at Rs. 5, a few brackets ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 15 are to be found in most Simla drawing-rooms, and form indeed the staple of its furnishing. European furniture, specially of Austrian bentwood, is being introduced, and it seems probable that local workmen will be left behind. Racquets, walking-sticks, and *khud* sticks, which would be called alpenstocks in Europe, share in some shops, with table legs and carved wall brackets, the manufactures of furniture."



In addition to the above industries, of recent years there has been a considerable manufacture of carved and fretwork overmantels, screens, photograph frames, Moorish shaped tables, easels, Koran stands, quaint-looking carved "grandfather clock" stand, cut out of walnut and sheesham wood, carved bellows, and writing tables of the nature of *escritaires*.

A considerable quantity of these articles (with the exception of screens) has been made in the Lakkar Bazar of ivory-inlaid work, for which the Hoshiarpur District is celebrated.

There are several dealers, chiefly Kashmiri immigrant settlers, in astrakhan, silver fox, snow and ordinary leopard skins, and the skins of bears, pinemartins, tiger cats and other furry animals. The skins are fairly well cured. These dealers also vend stuffed *monal* pheasants, yaks' tails for chowris, and occasionally a tiger skin. A good trade is also done by them in musk pods, which are brought in from the interior.

Crude turquoises are obtainable in Simla, being brought in for sale by Ladakhis, and Thibetans. These gems are, however,



scarcely or never flawless though often of excellent colour. *Korundum*, containing sapphires of more or less value and of good hue and flawlessness, are often obtainable at cheap rates. Very fine gems have been cut out of these rough stones. The latter mostly come from the Ladakh and Kulu direction and from Kashmir.



NATIVE CUSTOMS.

The whole of Chapter XIII of "Simla Past and Present" is here reproduced by kind permission of the author, Mr. E. J. Buck :—

No account of Simla would be complete which omitted mention of its native population, its local traditions, customs, its temples and bazaars. A contributor to a 'Chambers' Journal' of 1872 includes in an article on Simla some interesting remarks on the bazaar and its community, which, although written thirty years ago, remain true to-day. The writer then said :—

"The little town is now one of the capitals of the greatest empire in the world. Subject princes, mighty western nobles, and travellers from every country, are seen in its narrow bazaars. Long lines of camels, and caravans of oxen carts, are unceasingly, for six months of every year, pouring into it the luxuries of Hindustan, and the magnificent comforts of Europe. A thousand beautiful villas look down upon it from the surrounding hills, and



the splendid roads which lead from it in every direction may be seen, of a summer evening, a wonderful show of fashion and beauty — the *crème de la crème* of England in Asia. Amid all her greatness, however, Simla never forgets her origin, but still as of old barterers with the simple shepherds of Tibet, supplying all the little luxuries they seek, and absorbing primitive wares brought in exchange. Wild and unkempt-looking fellows are these Tibetans, with their long hair falling over their shoulders and their sheep-skins and woollen jackets hanging down — a mass of rags and dirt. Their sallow faces, small squat noses, and upturned eyes, plainly denote their race, and contrast strangely with the delicate Aryan features of the Punjab hillmen. Always smoking long wooden pipes — like those of the lower classes in Germany — smiling and pleased at everything, ever ready for any amount of conversation or food, they are great favourites with the mountaineers of the lower ranges; and indeed they have many very amiable and lovable qualities. They are eminently truthful, honest, and chaste, easily amused, easily satisfied, very sociable, and of great physical endurance. The women are not characterised by such strongly marked Tartan features as the



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men, and many of them are exceedingly pretty, though sadly dirty always. A considerable number of these people remain in Simla during the whole summer, finding employment as wood-cutters and coolies. Strings of them are always to be seen carrying in enormous beams from the Phagu forest. They fasten them behind them by ropes suspended over their shoulders, and go staggering along almost bowed to the ground with the weight. You sometimes see a young girl bearing one of these huge logs — the best part of a young pine tree perhaps — and though bent double with the ponderous burden, looking quite happy and contented, and carrying in her hand a wooden pipe to which she occasionally applies for comfort and solace. Or a whole family — papa, mamma, big and little brothers and sisters — all are seen struggling along in single file with loads proportioned to their respective ages and sizes, all smoking, talking, and looking merry enough. These great pieces of timber not only stretch across the whole breadth of the road, but frequently far out over the side, and sometimes indeed are of such length that the unhappy coolie has to sidle along with them the whole way from Phagu to Simla, about eight or ten miles. When riding quickly along this



winding road one sometimes comes very awkwardly upon these great timber barriers, stretching one behind and the other across the path, and not unfrequently accidents have happened by this means. But generally the Tibetans arrange by a twist of the body to bring the beams in line with the road with astonishing celerity.

“ Now that we have stopped a little in the bazaar, let us take a stroll through it. It is thronged with natives, from the scarlet and golden messenger of the British Government to our old friends the Tibetans. Sauntering through a bazaar is the *summum bonum* of life to a Hindoo. Standing chattering in the middle of the roadway or smoking a pipe with some friends in a shop, or sitting on the edge of the gutter, quietly contemplating the passers-by, he is perfectly happy. Within twenty yards is one of the grandest sights in the world. A splendid panorama of hill and valley, with the eternal snows as a background on one side, while on the other the view melts away into the distant plain, across which the great Sutlej is seen like a silver band. But to our brown friends such things possess no attraction. The bustle, closeness, smells, flies, pariah dogs, unowned children of the kennel, and all



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the attraction of the bazaar are to them more pleasing than the majestic tranquility of mountain and valley and far-off plain. But one ought not to be too severe on the bazaar — it has its spectacle and pretty sights. Do you see that long line of horsemen coming slowly along with the stout little gentleman in front? He is a mountain chieftain, whose home is a lonely castle on the hillside overlooking a great rich valley which is his own. One cannot help observing how gallantly he is dressed, in gay but well-matched colours, and cloth of the richest coloured material. The horsemen behind are his suite. One is probably his commander-in-chief (for he is sure to have an army, however small), another is the keeper of his privy purse, others lords-in-waiting, and so on. All fine little gentlemen in their way and men in authority. Simla is 'Town' to them, the metropolis of civilisation; the bazaar is Regent Street and Cheapside in one. As they pass, the shop-keepers come to their thresholds and make low salaams. The short stout little prince who is passing is the representative of a family which for generations has been to their ancestors and themselves the ideal of greatness, the incarnation of power, the pink of nobility. Is it not recorded, in their unwritten



traditions, how his grandfather at the head of a great army drove back the Goorkhas who were hovering round the town, and then, out of light-heartedness, looted, them himself, and carried away its female population to a woman, and how when the carpenter, goldsmith, and sweetmeat-maker went as a deputation from the burghers to expostulate with him, he relented and wept on their necks, and promised to give back half of their wives and daughters on condition of receiving a sum of tribute yearly for ever, and how they only got their grandmammias after all! With such legends living in their memory, how can they help honouring and fearing those of the rajahs left to them.

“Look at those gaily dressed, fair, and pretty women. They come from the valleys immediately under the snowy range, to buy nose rings and bangles which their souls love. Although some of them have two or three husbands, they are good and happy women, and have pleasant homes among those giant mountains of the Himalaya beyond the Sutlej. Theirs is a cool fruit-growing land, abounding in peaches, strawberries, walnuts, and grapes, and their fair pretty faces and their merry wholesome laughter speak of the happy glens from which they come.”



Most localities in India possess their own particular legends and queer stories, and Simla is no exception to the rule. Let me then tell of the native belief concerning the little waterfall which is so prominent a feature on the Mall near the Glenarm hotel in the rainy season. At the foot of this waterfall there once existed a spring known as the 'churail baoli,' which was said to be haunted. Even to-day no hill-man will visit the spot at nightfall, and many of those who of necessity pass by sing loudly as they turn the corner. The legend runs that a 'churail,' or the spirit of a woman who had died in childbirth, haunts the place, and lays violent hands on all who would draw water there. It is an Oriental superstition that women who so lose their lives sometimes re-visit the earth, and are recognised by the fact that both their feet are turned inwards. When such a spirit hovers round a household, the immediate relatives lose no time in performing the religious rites, on which the presence of the unwelcome visitor depends. The belief is that the spirit of the 'churail' causes her victims to fall down in a fit, and it is a curious coincidence that a young European was once overtaken with giddiness and fell down unconscious on the spot I have just described.



Among other old 'baolis' (springs) of the station is that of the Combermere bridge, where in former days natives went only in the day time to draw water on account of the bears who inhabited the ravine, and Kunchum's 'baoli' below the Ripon hospital, constructed by the 'chowdry' (overseer) of the market in Lord William Hay's time. Kunchum's son Dultoo built a temple now occupied by Laljee Pundit.

The oldest 'baoli' in Simla is said to have existed just above the United Service Club, but, since the present water supply system has come into use these two sources have naturally been almost completely neglected.

Almost half-way between Mashobra and the golf links at Naldera the traveller passes along a bleak hill-side profusely strewn with curious grey, jagged rocks and boulders, among which snakes and lizards alone seem to thrive. A more desolate God-forsaken piece of hill-side could scarcely be imagined. As the hill men approach the spot they are wont to preserve a strict silence, and the following legend which a local villager told me on the spot will perhaps interest the members of the Naldera Golf Club :—"Once upon a time,



Sahib," said my informant, "before Simla was ever thought of, there stood a wealthy and prosperous city on this spot. The people who lived in it were both sinful and profane. Indeed, so great were their sins that the great Mahadeo arose one day in his wrath and hurled the whole city, with all its inhabitants, down the steep hill-sides. These grey rocks of to-day are all that remain of it, and only the temple of Naldera, where the gods dwell, is left, but no man is brave enough to live in this place!" The following too is a fair specimen of hill legends from the Simla district, and I give it as related in the Naldera village :—"Far away in one of the valleys near Simla lies a little village, where once lived a good man who had his home beside a field, in which grew a beautiful mulberry tree. A *méla* (festival) was regularly held beneath its shade, and the poor carried away basket-loads of its fruit, so that it came to be an annual meeting place. Now the fame of it reached a certain raja who had rented out the land, and one day he came with all his retinue to see it. 'There is no such tree in the royal gardens,' said the grand vizier. 'It is not meet that a subject should possess what the raja hath not,' added the prime minister. The raja replied not a word,



for his heart was filled with envy; and, that night before sleeping, he gave orders that on a certain day at early dawn, before anybody was astir, a party of armed men should take their axes to the village and cut down the mulberry tree. But ill dreams disturbed the raja's rest, and during the night a strange man appeared to him and said, 'O king live for ever! I am the spirit of a 'bunniah' (merchant) who died in yonder village many years ago. During my life time I defrauded the people. I gave them short measure and adulterated their food. When I died, therefore, and passed into the land of spirits, the gods who are just, O king! decreed that I should restore all I had stolen. My soul therefore entered a mulberry tree, where, year after year, the people may gather fruit and regain their losses. In one year more they will be repaid to the utmost cowrie; but you mean to destroy the tree and drive my soul I know not whither; therefore have I come to plead with you to spare it this once; for, when the year is past it will die of itself, and my soul return in peace to the land of shadows.' So the raja listened, and the strange man went away. For one year more the people sat under the mulberry tree as of yore; the next it died!"



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There are several picturesque temples and shrines in and near Simla which are well worth the attention of the casual visitor. In touching on this subject, however, I must confess I have found it is very difficult to get reliable dates regarding the original buildings; more especially as each fakir in charge unhesitatingly asserts that his own particular temple is more than 4,000 years old! Of the earlier wooden structures now left intact the temple at the Waterfalls is said to be the most ancient, and its present incumbent is believed to have come down in direct succession from the fakir who was in charge of the temple seven generations back. Gokal Bunnia of Boileaugunge, who was in Simla for several years before the Mutiny, and who is now 83 years of age, states that he remembers the time when the first fruit garden was planted in the vicinity of Deo's Mundes near the Waterfalls in about the year 1840. There was no municipality in those days, and the amount he then paid to a sweeper for cleaning away the rubbish before his little shop was 9 pies per month!

Certainly one of the most ancient temples in Simla is that at Annandale, and though old cultivators who live near the Kaithu hill say that religious ceremonies



used to be held there, the picturesque old building among the deodars is now falling into silent decay. Better this fate however than that it should be rebuilt, as some of the more modern Simla temples have been, with corrugated iron roofs and inappropriate design.

Kootub's mosque, situated nearly opposite the police station, was constructed in Lord William Bentinck's time by the 'khansamah' of the Commanders-in-Chief Sir Jasper Nicolls and Sir Hugh Gough. This man made a pilgrimage to Mecca, and afterwards died in Calcutta, and later on the only means of support the mosque possessed was the liberality of the Moham-edans who resorted to it.

On the summit of Jakko, about 8,300 feet, is a small temple dedicated to Hunuman, the monkey god, where lives a fakir, chiefly famed as the presiding genius over the troops of brown monkeys which practically own the hill top. Writing of this place in August 1837 Gerard describes his encampment as "situated on Jakko in Simla, a middling sized village where a fakir is stationed to give water to travellers." The shrine as it then existed is no doubt somewhat altered to-day, but it is a



spot that all visitors seem to find of special interest. Simla children are occasionally allowed as a special treat to make the steep journey up the hill, where they throw biscuits and grain to the chattering monkey folk.

It is a curious sight, that of the old fakir in his yellow garments standing in front of the temple, and calling "ajao, ajao," to his monkey children. For many he has pet names, such as 'Raja,' 'Ranee,' 'Kotwal,' 'Daroga,' and so on, and numbers of them eat freely from his hand. The 'Raja,' who is monarch of the troop, keeps his subjects under the strictest discipline, scolding and chastising the quarrelsome, and forcibly ejecting any of the younger gallants who approach his wives. Last year as some visitors were watching the old fakir feeding the monkeys, one of the animals in jumping from one tree to the other missed its footing and fell heavily to the ground. The 'jogi' seemed much concerned at this unusual occurrence, but lost no time in making his apologies for the incident. "Forty years ago," he remarked, "when I first knew that monkey, she could climb as well as any here, but even a monkey can grow old in forty years. Alas poor Budhee!"



In connection with the monkey fakir may be recorded a local incident. Some thirty years ago a Mr. De Russet, a contractor and architect, lived in Simla, and his son became a student at the Bishop Cotton School and a member of the volunteer corps. The boy, however, suddenly declared himself an apostate from Christianity, and joined the fakir as a disciple at the shrine on Jakko. Here he underwent a severe novitiate and for two years he remained under a tree with the sole company of the monkeys, and the attendant who brought him food. Eventually he was admitted into the priesthood, and for some years, from his head-dress of a leopard skin, he was known in Simla as the 'leopard fakir.' He was recently often seen in the station, but has now retired to the seclusion of a temple some distance below Annandale, avoids recognition, shuns Europeans, and appears to have forgotten his mother tongue.*

Mr. John C. Oman, formerly professor of natural science at the Government College, Lahore, in his work on the 'Mystics and Saints of India' (1894), reproduced a photograph of the leopard fakir or 'sadhu,' and

* Charles de Russet now occupies a temple below Chota Simla and is known to the natives as Mast Ram.— F. B. H.



wrote of him as follows: "Some years ago at Simla I interviewed one Charles de Russet, a young man of French descent, who although brought up as a Christian, and properly educated in Bishop Cotton's School in that time, had while a mere boy embraced the life of a 'sadhu'. . . . Of his fellow 'sadhus' he spoke in terms of high praise, and assured me that he had seen 'jogi' adepts perform many most wonderful acts. . . . I have no doubt he commands the highest respect from the natives, and lives idle, happy, and contented, without any anxiety about the morrow!"

If for no other reason, the monkeys of Simla will always have a claim to fame in that they formerly attracted Rudyard Kipling's attention, and have been immortalised in verses. And it must have been on Jakko that he addressed his verses to the 'Glee-some Fleasome Thou,' and has left us the example of the:—

"Artful Bunder, who, never in his life,
Had flirted at Peliti's with another Bunder's wife."

I am told that in the cold weather many of the monkeys migrate to warmer regions; some authorities indeed declare that they visit the plains considerably below Kalka.



In 1862, however, a subaltern who came up to Simla just before Christmas wrote:—
“The monkeys and such leopards and other wild beasts as were gradually being driven in by the all encroaching snows made such a noise that a decent night’s rest became out of the question. It was a wonderful sight, the spectacle of the monkeys in their thousands careering about the mall, or seated on the rails or the rocks, in the early morning.”

Of recent years, the monkeys have become a decided nuisance in Simla, as they are terrible destructive pests in station gardens and do not improve our houses by frolicking on their roofs. The native population of the station, however, accepts the position with that quiet resignation of for which the inhabitant of Hindustan is so famous, and in the Lakkar bazaar the ‘bundars’ are particularly numerous and mischievous.

There is another fakir named Sewa Chatan who lives on the summit of Prospect Hill near Viceregal Lodge and who, native like, has recently offended the authorities by constant and stealthy enlargement of his dwelling place through encroachment on ground to which he appears



to have an uncommonly doubtful claim. When, however, fakirs, are informed that they have to submit like ordinary individuals to the law of the land, they are not wanting in plausible excuses, as the following letter addressed by Sewa Chatan to a junior political officer will show. The epistle evidently drafted by a Secretariat babu, runs :—“ With reference to your letter No. 1468 of 19th instant, I have the honour to enquire why you decline to interfere in the above matter. I look upon you ‘in loco parentis,’ and I expect you to exert yourself in my behalf. I have taken up my abode or domicilium, as the Latins say, for the last many days, and I do not see the reason why I should be ejected, or that if I am, I beg to be compensated in the sum of rupees one hundred ; but I prefer the former. Since my stay on this elevated and beautiful country, surrounded by all the beauties of nature, visited by all the *élite* of Simla with special reference to the feminine gender in which I am old enough to gaze upon without perturbation, I have become as it were a part of my surroundings.”

There are three principal temples to Kali (the goddess of destruction) in Simla ; one on Mount Prospect, a second above the



new railway tunnel near the Hazelmere garden, and the third in the centre of the station just below the Grand hotel. The last-named is a hideous modern structure of no architectural beauty, and was erected about 1845 by a Bengali Brahmin called Ram Churn Brumcharee, but it occupies a conspicuous position, and is a popular place of worship within the temple.

The goddess, as described in 1870, was 4 feet in height; but she has since been replaced by a smaller and better made figure from Jeypore, which reposes in a small room with an iron grating before it, while the door is closed at such times as the goddess is supposed to sleep or rest. The temple is adorned by seven metal bells which are rung at irregular intervals "that the sound may bring peace to the hearts of men!" though I fancy the residents of Peliti's hotel may differ in opinion on this point from the Brahmin in charge. For many years a midday gun used to be fired just below this temple, and the two nuisances have always been associated during the past fifty years. Owing, however, to objections being raised by people in the neighbourhood, and also to a distinguished member of the Government making a sudden and involuntary descent from his pony,



the guns were removed a couple of years ago to a spot below the cart road. In answer to my query regarding the origin of this shrine the Brahmin in charge told the following story:—"Before Rothney Castle was built there stood in its grounds a small temple surrounded by a verandah, and within it was 'Majee' that old old idol which you see in the corner. One day a sahib came to the place, and seeing no priest in charge he had Majee thrown down the khud; and having pitched his camp he made the temple into his kitchen, and ordered the servants to prepare his dinner in the verandah! Although this greatly shocked the Hindu servants they carried out the orders given to them and presently dinner was finished, and the camp wrapt in slumber. The old Majee, indignant at her treatment, wreaked her vengeance; and a terrible vision appeared to the sahib. He saw two horsemen approach with spears, and so real appeared their attack upon him that he awoke shouting for help. The servants told him there could be but one reason for this visitation, and, unless the fallen idol were restored to her home, death would surely visit the camp. On this the sahib sent out and had Majee picked up. He is said to have built another temple for her somewhere near



Christ Church, and when that land was afterwards required for the Rothney Castle site, the present site was selected about 1835, and the building has from time to time been renovated and repaired by native public subscriptions largely assisted by the Maharajah Holkar of Indore."

On the Tara Devi hill facing Simla on the south in the Raja of Keonthal's territory, there are two temples, one of which is of great antiquity, and here in the autumn each year is held a special 'mela,' or fair in honour of the goddess Kali. Two buffaloes are invariably offered to the blood-thirsty goddess, their heads being severed at a single blow by a sturdy Gurkha or hillman armed with a keen 'kukri' or sword. Several preliminary ceremonies precede the actual sacrifice: the buffalo is anointed with sandal wood paste, is sprinkled with rose-water, flowers are thrown over it, it is given sweetmeats, and the tulwar is smeared with oil. The spectators appear to work themselves up into an extraordinary state of nervousness while the preparations are made, and their excitement is intense when the signal is given for the animal's death. The actual deed of killing is over in a second, the buffalo's neck is drawn taut with a



rope over his horns, there is a swish, and the animal falls with its head completely severed from its body. Many an animal has been less mercifully despatched in the slaughter houses of the great markets in England. The question of cruelty can scarcely be said to arise. Many years ago a big wooden idol in one of these temples was found to be minus his head and much consternation was caused among the native residents. The Bishop Cotton School was then situated at Jutogh, and the Tara Devi Hill was one of the boys' favourite resorts, so perhaps further comment is unnecessary.

About the 12th May is annually celebrated a hill festival which from time immemorial has been also observed as a public holiday by the official world of Simla. I refer to the Sipi fair, which takes place in a small valley below the Mashobra bazaar in the Rana of Koti's territory. Of recent years the European attendance at the fair has somewhat fallen off, but to the newcomer the festival has an attraction which it would be idle to deny, and I have heard of no Viceroy or Commander-in-Chief who has not visited the fair at sometime or other during his stay in Simla. But let me try and describe the fair.



Imagine if you can a small teacup-shaped valley shaded by magnificent deodars. On the one side, if the expression may be permitted, picture dozens of swings and roundabouts crammed with hill people is a blissful state of happiness; on the other a long line of stalls crammed with glass beads, necklaces, and cheap finery of every description, and surrounded by a merry, excited throng of wrangling purchasers. In front you will find row upon row of hill women sitting in terraces on the hill slope decked in costumes of every hue under the sun, many laden with massive silver or turquoise ornaments, and all smiling and gossiping to their hearts' content. Some are distinctly pretty, all appear wonderfully healthy, and many, it is whispered, are the marriage alliances contracted by purchase or family agreement during the two days' fair. Behind lie the shamianas and tents reserved for European visitors, some provided by the Rana's thoughtfulness, others by the hospitality, perhaps, of the Viceroy's staff. Sitting with considerable dignity under a shamiana the Rana smilingly receives his European and native friends, invites them to ride on his elephant through the excited crowd, or bids his hillmen display their skill in archery, this latter consisting in



discharging blunt arrows at each other's legs. Add to the above dozens of sweet shops with their overpowering scent of 'ghi' (butter) and frizzling sweetmeats, the crash of the tom-toms, the chorus of dancing 'jampanies' the report of countless crackers, with an ever moving crowd of native and European visitors and the merry laugh resounding clear above the din — and you have a faint idea of the fun, bustle, and noise of the Sipi fair. Similar, too, in some respects to an old English rural gathering is the Himalayan fête, for at either can be seen the merry-go-round and performing bear, while farthing toys, cheap sweets, and games of chance are as popular in the East as in the West.

One more allusion to a local custom and I must conclude a chapter which is already too long. There is a curious practice to which a large number of hill children are subjected by their mothers which never fails to interest European visitors to the Himalayas. Having selected a spot where a stream of water is diverted into the fields, the women lull their little ones to sleep, and then having lain them down, they arrange by means of a hollow stick or piece of bark that a tiny stream of water shall be directed to fall



on each child's head, Half-a-dozen little ones may often be seen lying in a row, all sound asleep, with a cool stream falling gently on the crowns of their heads. The practice is more or less universal in the Himalayas, and the idea is that it increases hardihood and strength. The 'water babies' never seem to object to the process,—indeed, they hardly ever move, and less seldom wake when once placed under the falling water.



CHAPTER 13.

SIMLA IN WINTER.

An account of Simla during the "long-night moons" may well form the subject of a short chapter.—

Towards the end of November the last of the "season" residents departs for the plains. He leaves behind him a frost-glistening, almost silent city. The air is incomparable. If it was bracing during the summer months, it is doubly so now under the touch of the tingling ice-wind from the rapidly lowering snow line. The atmosphere is impregnated with the fresh scent of burning pine wood and one's ears are greeted by the melodious tinkle of mule bells, hitherto practically inaudible among the harsher sounds of busy Simla. The hill farmers are hurrying the last of their potato crops to the railhead before the advent of the snows when mule traffic is impossible.

The Simla Skating Club becomes once more an active organisation. Members renew their subscriptions, wipe the grease from their long-disused skates, and impatiently watch for the appearance of the red



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pennant on the Station Library flagstaff, denoting that the Blessington tennis courts have been prepared for skating. When a sharp frost is expected the courts are flooded and a large canvas screen is thrown up to shield the water from the rays of the sun. Occasionally gymkhanas and carnivals are held.

A gathering of dark clouds indicates the approach of the snow — generally a slight fall at first, followed by a heavier one — when the thick flakes sweep down through the pine needles, bending the long boughs to the ground.

The following morning sees the town as a fantastic fairyland of beauty.

Starving monkeys wail plaintively from the trees and raid the grain shops with more than usual daring. At night the hungry jackals howl from the valleys or flit silently along the roads beneath the electric lamps. Occasionally the cry of some more formidable beast is heard, which sets the fingers of the *shikari* itching to be around the barrel of his favourite express.

Children and grown-ups bring out their toboggans and are to be seen flashing



down the long, frozen snow-paths in an ecstasy of delight.

Christmas arrives under seasonable circumstances. There is an air of England about the place. The shops — most of which remain open during the winter — are adorned with toys and decorations suitable to the occasion. “Compliments of the season” ring out from the lips of passing friends with more than usual fervour, and the yule log burns brightly in the hearth for jovial merry-makers. Briskly-walking men, fur be-wrapped women and rosy-faced children are to be seen hurrying on their respective errands of business and pleasure. Everybody seems to be in the height of spirits and in the pink of health.

As a tonic, an invigorator, Simla in winter cannot be surpassed. It is better than England . . . there is no fog!



CHAPTER 14.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

The Simla Municipality.

Municipal government was introduced into Simla in December 1851, and is therefore the oldest in the Punjab. At first its corporation was wholly elective but it was subsequently constituted on a combined elective and nominative basis. At the present time the committee consists of 8 ex-officio and nominated members, and 2 elected members.

A few of the most important regulations are :—

Rates and Taxes.

- (1) Ground tax is levied on a "sliding scale," details of which may be ascertained on enquiry at the Municipal Tax Office.
- (2) House tax - at Rs. 10% per annum on the assessed rent.
- (3) Water tax - at Rs. 5% per annum on the assessed rent.
- (4) Rickshaws - Rs. 8 each.
- (5) Animals for riding or driving - Rs. 4 each.



- (6) Animals used as beasts of burden - Rs. 2 each.
- (7) Dogs - Rs. 3 for the first dog, Rs. 8 for two dogs, Rs. 15 for three and Rs. 10 for each dog in excess of three.

Regulations.

Dogs must be registered on or before the 7th January of each year, or within seven days after their arrival in Simla. A metal token is given which must be affixed to the collar.

Births and deaths must be registered at the Health Office within three days of the occurrence. Certificates may be obtained on payment of one Rupee. The birth or death should also be registered with the Deputy Commissioner, Simla.

Any outbreak of infectious disease should be notified at once to the Health Officer.

The prices of meat, fish and poultry vended in the Market are controlled by the municipality and the rates may be obtained on application to the Committee or the Market Superintendent, to whom any complaints should be made.



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No building work of any description is allowed within municipal limits without the formal sanction of the Municipal Committee.

Fire.—In case of fire, telephone No. 555 or send word to the nearest Fire Station or Police Post.

Fire Stations.

Opposite Municipal Office.
Entrance to Civil Secretariat (Gorton Castle).
Boileaugunj Bazaar.
Chota Simla Bazaar.

Fire Sub-Stations.

Government Central Press.
Foreign Office.
'Barnes Court.'
'Snowdon.'

Street Accidents.—In case of accidents necessitating the conveyance of injured persons, telephone No. 555 for the ambulance litter which is kept at the Central Fire Station. opposite the Municipal Office.

Felling of Trees.—No trees may be cut down or have their branches lopped without permission of the Municipal Committee.

Civil Veterinary Hospital.—Is situated on the Cart Road below the Market. Animals are admitted or attended to at any



hour of the day or night. A qualified Veterinary Assistant resides on the premises.

Sanitation.

The sewage of Simla is carried away by pipe lines to five disposal works located in valleys on the northern and southern sides of the town. The drainage system is elaborate and efficient. Serious outbreaks of disease attributable to faulty sanitation are now almost unknown. Modern improvements in water-flushing are becoming more general, and it is hoped will become universal with the advent of the increased supply of water from the Guma project.

Water Supply.

The principal pumping stations are located at Chair and Cherote whence the supply is led to the reservoirs beneath the Ridge (1 million gallons), and Sanjauli (2 million gallons), after passing through the filter beds at Dhali.

Simla consumes some 170,000,000 gallons of water per annum. Occasionally, during the hot months of May and June



before the break of the monsoon, some scarcity is felt which necessitates the institution of strict economy. The Guma scheme is intended to obviate this scarcity and will furnish the town with an additional 4,100,000 gallons per day.

It may not be generally known that the Guma water lift is the highest in the world. The scheme, when completed, will cost Rs. 32 lacs.

Electricity.

At present the sole source of supply is Chaba — a hydro-electric plant constructed in 1913 at a cost of 28 lacs of rupees. This plant is now fully loaded and it will probably be necessary to erect an auxiliary generator in Simla, or to utilize a part of the supply from Colonel Battye's Mandi scheme.

The main power station at Chaba contains two 1,000 kilowatt and three 250 kilowatt sets. Two and a half miles from the power station are the head-works on the Nauti Khad, whence water is led through a concrete flume to a reservoir and Penstock chamber. This gives a head of



100 feet to the Pelton wheels driving the generators.

The supply is led direct to Simla and also through Guma, Chair and Cherote to Simla. Both lines concentrate at the main Idgah sub-station where the pressure is transformed from 15,000 to 2,200 volts. This in turn is led to various other sub-stations and re-transformed into 220 volts for lighting, and 381 volts for power purposes. The frequency is 50 cycles per second.

Conductors are led across country by means of standards, the longest span being some 3,200 feet. Trouble occurs on the flume-line during monsoon times owing to landslip; also the snows of December-February often damage the transmission lines.

There is a rest-house at Chaba, but all supplies must be taken. Permission to visit the works must be had of the Secretary, Municipal Committee, or the Chief Electrical Engineer.

The way to Chaba is described in Chapter 18 — Simla to Kulu (via Suni and Mandi).



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Rickshaw Rates.

1. Within Simla Municipal limits.

TIME.	RICKSHAW & 3 COOLIES.	RICKSHAW & 4 COOLIES.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Not exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ hour	0 10 0	0 12 0
Exceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ hour but not exceed- ing 2 hours	1 1 0	1 4 0
Exceeding 2 hours but not exceed- ing 4 hours	1 5 0	1 9 0
Exceeding 4 hours but not exceed- ing 6 hours	1 9 0	1 14 0
Exceeding 6 hours but not exceed- ing 8 hours	1 13 0	2 3 0
Exceeding 8 hours but not exceed- ing 10 hours	2 1 0	2 8 0
Exceeding 10 hours but not exce- eding 12 hours	2 5 0	2 13 0
Exceeding 12 hours but not exce- eding 24 hours	3 4 0	4 0 0

2. To the following place near Simla.

PLACE.	RICKSHAW & 3 COOLIES SINGLE JOURNEY.	RICKSHAW & 3 COOLIES DOUBLE JOURNEY	RICKSHAW & 4 COOLIES SINGLE JOURNEY.	RICKSHAW & 4 COOLIES DOUBLE JOURNEY.
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Mashobra ...	3 0 0	3 6 0	3 10 0	4 2 0
Mahasu ...	3 6 0	3 10 6	4 2 0	4 8 0
Kufri. ...	3 6 0	3 10 6	4 2 0	4 8 0
Fagu... ..	4 8 0	4 14 0	5 10 0	6 2 0
Naldera ...	4 8 0	4 14 0	5 10 0	6 2 0
Jutogh ...	2 10 0	2 13 0	3 2 0	3 6 0
Tara Devi ...	2 10 0	2 13 0	3 2 0	3 6 0



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Renting Houses.

It is customary for houses to be let furnished, to avoid any misunderstanding the lessee should satisfy himself that this provision is included in the lease.

The principal house agents are :—

F. Goldstein, 'Brunswick House,'
Basant Ram & Co.

W. St. John Miller, 'Falklands.'

Also many advertisements appear in the local press, and at the present time, the intending visitor will not experience much difficulty in securing suitable accommodation. Rents range from Rs. 500 to Rs. 2,000 and more per annum according to the locality and size of premises. As a rule no houses are let for any period less than a year, but those people who expect to pass the cold season on the plains frequently sub-let their houses for the winter — generally at a fairly low rental.

Newspapers.

The journalistic history of Simla has been full of disappointments and failures. The first press was established in 1848 and was called the "Albion Press." From it issued



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The Mountain Monitor, edited by Dr. W.L. McGregor. The first number of this journal saw light on the 15th May, and after struggling with many difficulties, came to an untimely end on the 2nd October of the same year.

A native paper styled the *Simla Akbar* was also printed at a small lithographic press, but that also ceased to exist at the close of 1848. An advertising sheet — *The Simla Intelligencer* was produced in 1850 lasting two years, and afterwards another entitled the *Simla Advertiser* which continued to be published for many years.

Since then there have been several publications of more or less literary merit, including *The Indian Weekly Review and Sportsman*, *The Simla Argus*, *Simla Guardian*, *News of India*, and *The Simla Weekly*.

At present the local publications are :—

The Simla Times.

Liddell's Simla Weekly.

Most of the leading Indian dailies and weeklies find their way to Simla where they enjoy a fairly good circulation.



The Simla Rifles (A. F. I.)

The mutiny of 1857 drew strong attention to the necessity of establishing a corps of volunteers in Simla. In 1861 a company of Rifle Volunteers, numbering 60 all ranks, was formed. This force was sanctioned by the Punjab Government and designated the "2nd Punjab (or Simla) Volunteer Rifle Corps," of which Lord William Hay (then Deputy Commissioner) was Commandant.

By 1882 there were five companies and since that time the corps has continued to progress and flourish.

During the late war some 68 members of the Simla Rifles volunteered for active service and in 1916 the unit was included in the Indian Defence Force, when its strength was some 12 officers and 430 men.

In 1920 the corps was again re-formed under the new Auxiliary Force (India) Act, and became "The Simla Rifles (A.F.I.)."

His Excellency the Viceroy (Honorary Colonel of the corps) laid the foundation stone of the new head-quarters on the



Ridge in 1922, Owing to lack of funds the building operations have been delayed, but it is hoped that the new premises will be completed very shortly. The new building will include a large drill-hall and a club-room.

The present strength of the Simla Rifles is 10 officers and 320 other ranks.

In its frequent whist drives, balls, etc., the corps contributes greatly to the social amenities of Simla.

Girl Guides and Boy Scouts.

These two movements are in a very flourishing state nearly every school in Simla and the surrounding district being represented in the numerous troops.

The District Commissioners are Mrs. Wilkinson, Head Mistress of the Mayo Industrial School, and Captain R. J. Wilkinson respectively.



CHAPTER 15.

SHOPPING GUIDE.

The following are the more well-known establishments providing the necessities and luxuries of life :—

Agencies.

Dhariwal Mills, The Mall.

The Cawnpore Agency, The Mall.

The Elgin Mills Co., and "Brushware" Ltd., The Mall.

The Gramophone Co., 8 The Mall.

The Muir Mills Co., 38 The Mall.

Ammunition.

Cotton and Morris, The Mall.

Karam Ellahi, Mahbub Ellahi, Lower Bazaar.

Banks.

Grindlay and Co. Ltd.

Imperial Bank of India, Ltd.

Lloyds Bank, Ltd.

Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.

Punjab National Banking Co.

Simla Banking and Industrial Co. Ltd.

Booksellers.

Thacker, Spink & Co., 'Regent House.'

The Bookstall, Railway Station.

Boots and Shoes.

Alfred Berriff, 2 Commercial Buildings.

Allen Henry & Co. 5 Commercial Buildings.

Aukim Bros., 50 The Mall.

Francis, Harrison, Hathaway & Co., The Mall.

Watts & Co., The Mall.

Whiteaway, Laidlaw & Co., The Mall.



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Camp Requisites.

Cotton and Morris, The Exchange.
Hoosain Buksh & Co. 13-14 The Mall.

Chemists.

Chhajju Ram & Sons, Lower Bazaar.
Frank Bliss & Co., The Mall.
G. Reeves Brown, The Mall.
Neill & Co., The Mall
Wm. Cotton & Co., Commercial Buildings.

Cloth Merchants.

B. J. Beli Ram & Co., 38 The Mall.
Cawnpore Agency, 'Northbrook Terrace.'
Dhariwal Woollen Mills, The Mall.
Elgin Mills Agency, 'Brunswick House.'
Loke Nath & Co., 16 The Mall.

Coal and Wood Merchants.

Alliance Coal Co., Cart Road.
Bengal Coal Depot, Goods Station.
Graphite Coal Co., Goods Station.
Krishna Coal Co. Goods Station.
Punjab Coal Co., Goods Station.
Simla Coal Co., Goods Station.

Confectioners.

Automatic Bakery Co., 'Bleak House.'
Cafe Elite, The Mall.
Davico Bros., The Mall.
F. Peliti, 'Regent House.'
Grand Cafe, The Mall.

Dairy Produce.

Keventers, Ltd., The Mall.



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Drapers and Outfitters.

A. Coutts, Longacre.

A. E. Jones, 6 Commercial Buildings.

Alfred Berriff, 2 Commercial Buildings.

Allen Henry & Co., 5 Commercial Buildings.

Beli Ram & Co., 38 The Mall.

"Cheap Jack," 17 The Mall.

E. Clarke, Bank Buildings.

Fillingham & Co., 'Argyle House.'

Francis, Harrison, Hathaway & Co., The Mall.

Friend & Co., The Mall. (Art Needlework materials).

Galgotia & Co., The Mall.

G. D. Gordon, The Mall.

L. Richards & Co., 'Regent House.'

G. R. Parker & Co., 6 The Mall.

Phelps & Co. 'Albion House.'

Raghoo Mull, 33 The Mall.

Whiteaway, Laidlaw, & Co. Ltd., The Mall.

Dressmakers and Milliners.

Agnes, 'Dalziel.'

E. Clarke, Bank Buildings.

Enid, The Exchange.

Etta, 'Argyle House.'

L. Richards & Co., 'Regent House.'

Miss. Mackinnon, The Mall.

Mme. Clare, 'Brunswick House.'

Mme. Goddard, 'Talbot House.'

Mrs. Copeutt, Willow Bank Range

North-West India Trading Co., 'Albion House.'

Dyers and Cleaners.

Abdul Aziz & Sons, 58 The Mall.

French Cleaning & Dyeing Co., 85 The Mall.

M. Ishaq & Co., The Mall.



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Florists.

- A. Parsons, 'Hazelmere.'
- B. Warde, 'Juba House,
- S. J. Johnston, 'Cherriton.'
- Superintendent, Annandale Gardens.
- T. R. Thorpe 'Emma Ville.'

Fruit Merchants.

- Ali Mohammad, 94 The Mall.
- Market Fruit Stalls.
- Salvation Army Depot, The Mall.
- Simla Fruit House, The Mall.

Furniture Dealers.

- A. A. Rozalla, 'Craigs Ville.'
- Bihari Lal & Co, The Mall.
- F. Goldstein, The Mall.
- F. N. Press, The Mall.
- Khushi Ram, 106 Lower Bazaar.
- Kirpa Ram, Lower Bazaar.
- Miller & Co., under Mercantile Bank.
- Ram Chand, 110 Lower Bazaar.
- Simla Auction Mart, 'Brunswick House,'

Hairdressers.

- Dempster, 'Northbrook Terrace.'
- Rubenstein & Co., Commercial Buildings.

Harness and Saddlery.

- Duli Chand & Bros., 77 The Mall.
- Watts & Co., 26 The Mall.

Jewellers.

- Chutton Lal & Bros., 25 The Mall.
- Cooke & Kelvey, 'Piccadilly House.'



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Ganeshi Lal & Sons, The Mall.
Garrard & Co., Ltd, 'Argyle House.'
Hamilton & Co., 'Allen Ville,' The Mall.
Imrie & Lawrence, The Mall.
J. Bandelier, 'Northbrook Terrace.'
S. P. Q. R., 37 The Mall.

Lace Merchants.

Aukim Bros., The Mall.
Salvation Army Industries Depot., The Mall.
B. Lila Ram & Sons, The Mall.

Music.

A. Kaegi, Punjab Music Warehouse, 'Dalziel.'
Arnold & Co., The Exchange.
Bihari Lal, (Gramophones and Records), 8 The Mall.

Newspaper Agencies.

"CIVIL and MILITARY GAZETTE," Thacker, Spink & Co., The Mall.
"ENGLISH and FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS," Thacker, Spink & Co., 'Regent House.'
"Englishman," Bihari Lal & Co., The Mall.
"LIDDELL'S SIMLA WEEKLY," 'Longacre' Bihari Lal & Co., The Mall.
"PIONEER" Thacker, Spink & Co., 'Regent House.'
"Simla Times," The Simla Stores, The Mall.
"Statesman," Bihari Lal & Co., The Mall.
"TIMES of INDIA" Framjee & Co., The Mall.

Opticians.

Lawrence and Mayo, 5 The Mall.
Walter Bushnell & Co., 2 The Mall.



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Outfitters (see Drapers). Petrol.

Gainda Mul and Hemraj, 67 The Mall.
Kundal Lall & Bros., 55 The Mall.

Photographic Goods.

Chhajju Ram & Sons, Lower Bazaar.
Frank Bliss & Co., The Mall.
Reeves-Brown, The Mall.
Wm. Cotton & Co., The Mall.

Provisions.

Chota Simla Stores, Simla E.
Cotton & Morris, The Exchange.
Framjee & Co., The Mall.
G. F. Kellner & Co., Commercial Buildings.
Hoosain Buksh & Co., 13 The Mall.
Morton & Co., 'Northbrook Terrace.'
and many others.

Shipping Agents.

Grindlay & Co., Bank Buildings.
Lloyds Bank, Ltd., The Mall.

Silk Merchants.

Benares House, 3 The Mall.
Chutton Lal & Bros., 25 The Mall.
B. Lila Ram & Sons, 31 The Mall.
Oriental Arts Palace, 26 The Mall.
Piyare Lall Khanna, 24 The Mall.

Sports Outfitters.

Cotton & Morris, The Mall.
Uberoi, Ltd., The Mall.



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Stationers.

Cotton & Morris, The Mall.

Rama & Co., The Mall.

Thacker, Spink & Co., 'Regent House.'

The Simla Stationery Stores, The Mall.

Tailors.

A. Coutts, Longacre,

A. E. Jones, 6 Commercial Buildings.

Fillingham & Co., 'Argyle House.'

Galgotia & Co., 93 The Mall.

G. D. Gordon, 39 The Mall.

G. R. Parker & Co., 6 The Mall.

Phelps & Co., 'Albion House.'

Ranken & Co., Bank Buildings.

Tobacconists.

G. F. Kellner & Co., Commercial Buildings.

Hatzopolo, Grand Cafe, The Mall.

Stephanato, 20 The Mall.

Wine Merchants.

Chota Simla Stores, Simla, E.

Framjee & Co., The Mall.

G. F. Kellner & Co., Commercial Buildings.

Morton & Co., 'Northbrook Terrace.'

Phipson & Co., c/o Grindlay & Co., Bank Buildings.



SIMLA FLORA.

(From Thomson's "Western Himalaya and Thibet.")

The nature of the forest varies a good deal with the exposure and with the quality of the soil. By far the greater part consists of an oak and a rhododendron, both small evergreen trees, rarely exceeding thirty or forty feet, with wide-spreading arms and rugged twisted branches. A species of *Andromeda* is also very common, and a holly, an *Euonymus*, *Rhamnus*, and *Benthamia*, are the other more common trees, if we except the *Coniferae*, of which four species occur. Of these, *Pinus longifolia* is common at the western or lower extremity of the station, and prevails, to the exclusion of any other tree, on the dry sunny spurs which run towards the south, at elevations of from 7,000 to 5,000 feet. This species is, of all the Indian pines known to me (except its near ally *P. Khasyana*), that which is capable of enduring the most heat, and at the same time the greatest variation in amount of moisture; as it is found at elevations of not more than 1,000 feet above the level of the



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sea, equally in the hot humid valleys of Sikkim, where it enjoys a perpetual vapour bath, and on the dry sandstone hills of the Upper Punjab, on which rain hardly ever falls. It is only, however, at low elevations, where the mean temperature is high, that it is capable of supporting a great amount of humidity, for in the damp climates of the Himalaya it is entirely wanting, except in the deepest valleys; and even in the drier districts it is always observed to select the sunnier, and therefore warmer, exposures. Its upper limit is usually about 7,000 feet above the level of the sea, though on Jako at Simla a few stunted trees will be found as high as 7,700 feet.

Pinus excelsa is also a very common species at Simla, particularly on the southern face of Mount Jako, which is the highest part of the ridge. *Abies Smithiana*, the third coniferous tree, is exceedingly rare, a few trees only occurring in a shady ravine facing the west; while the deodar, the fourth species, is common on the southern and western slopes of Jako, above 7,000 feet, and again in shady groves at the bottom of the valleys on both sides of the ridge, as low as 5,000 feet. This beautiful tree, the cedar of the Indian mountains, seems limited to the western half of the



Himalayan range, extending from the most westerly part of Nipal, as far as the mountains of Afghanistan. It was first described by Roxburgh from specimens sent to him from Kamaon, at a time when the western Himalaya was almost inaccessible to Europeans, under the name by which it is known to the inhabitants of that province, as well as in Kashmir. It is, however, singularly enough, not known by that name in the Simla hills, where it is called *Kélu*; another conifer, *Cupressus torulosa*, a rare tree in the district, having usurped the name, as well as the sacred character, of deodar.

The forest extends in parts close up to the peak of Jako, which has an elevation of 8,130 feet. The very summit, however, which is a short flat ridge, and a considerable part of the east and south face, are bare and grassy, or covered with scattered shrubs. The more common shrubby forms of the vegetation of the temperate zone, are *Solix*, *Rosa*, *Rubus*, *Lonicera*, *Viburnum*, *Berberis*, *Indigofera*, and *Prinsepia* all, except the two last quite European. *Indigofera* forms a remarkable exception, and one well worthy of note, as the genus is a very tropical one, although its shrubby species are particularly abundant through-



out the whole of the western Himalaya. These shrubby species, however, constitute a particular section of the genus, very distinct in habit, and in the large size and bright colour of the flower, from the more ordinary forms, and they are confined to the drier parts of the mountains, being quite wanting in the humid climate of Darjeeling and Khasya, and almost entirely so in the mountains of the Peninsula.

The herbaceous vegetation of the spring months quite corresponds, in the temperate nature of its forms, with what has been found to be the case with the trees and shrubs ; but during the rainy season, as has been well pointed out by Dr. Royle in his valuable essay on the distribution of Himalayan plants, this is much less markedly the case. At the commencement of spring, in April (for March is still too cold for much vegetation), the weather being generally bright, though with occasional heavy showers, the earliest flowers are species of *Viola*, *Fragaria*, *Geranium*, *Veronica*, *Valeriana*, and dandelion. From April, as summer advances, the temperature gradually rises, till towards the end of June, when the rainy season commences. These months are generally dry, and if no rain falls, the heat is sometimes considerable, the thermometer



ing as high as 80° in the shade. Still the flora is almost entirely temperate, the early spring plants being succeeded by many others of European families, principally *Ranunculaceæ*, *Rosaceæ*, *Labiataæ*, *Stellataæ*, *Polygonaceæ*, *Epilobiaceæ*, *Primulaceæ*, &c. I can scarcely enumerate a single spring flowering plant, which does not belong to an European family, unless *Arum* be an exception, which it can hardly be considered, the flowers only being displayed during May and June, while the leaves do not make their appearance until after the rainy season has commenced. Few species are, however, identical with those of Europe, except *Stellaria media*, *Cerastium vulgatum*, *Taraxacum officinale*, *Verbascum Thapsus*, *Thymus Serpyllum*, and *Poa annua*.

The rainy season generally commences about the 20th of June, or between that date and the end of the month, and continues till the middle or end of September, with occasional intermissions, rarely exceeding a week at a time. During the rains the atmosphere is exceedingly moist, dense fogs usually prevailing when rain does not fall. The rain-fall is probably more considerable at Simla than in the lower ranges, which are nearer the plains, for it has been



observed that ranges of 7—8,000 feet (which are generally for this reason well wooded) attract much moisture, and the peak of Jako and other parts of Simla are frequently observed from the stations of Sabathu and Kussowlee, to be covered with dense clouds or mist, at times when at the latter places the weather is bright and clear.

The commencement of the rainy season is the signal in the mountains, as it is very universally throughout India, wherever that season is well marked, for the appearance of a very vigorous and luxuriant growth of plants of annual growth, the seeds (or rootstocks) of which had been lying dormant in the soil awaiting the access of heavy rain. At Simla, as elsewhere in the temperate region of the Himalaya, we find at this season numerous species of Balsams, *Acanthaceæ*, *Orchideæ* and *Labiataë*, several Gentians and *Cichoraceæ*, great many grasses and *Cyperaceæ*, and species of *Parnassia*, *Drosera*, *Pedicularis*, *Roscoea*, *Dipsacus*, *Thalictrum*, *Urtica*, &c., &c. Some of these are quite European genera, while others, as *Roscoea*, are interesting as belonging to orders whose maxima occur in very humid climates. The *Labiataë* of the rainy season



are mostly species of *Plectranthus*, and *Elsholtzia*, both quite Indian genera, and very extensively distributed in mountainous districts. Balsams are quite an Indian order, and they seem everywhere, as has already been remarked by Dr. Royle and by Dr. Wight, to abound in humid shady places, either in dense forest or on the stony banks of mountain streams, in the drier districts only during the rainy season, but in more humid countries more or less throughout the year. The *Orchideæ* of Simla are entirely terrestrial, the dryness and cold of the winter months being greater than are compatible with occurrence of epiphytical species of this natural order, and for the same reason, I presume, *Melastomaceæ*, so abundant in the Eastern Himalaya, are quite wanting.



CHAPTER 17.

ENVIRONS.

The beauty of Simla's surroundings is world renowned. In this book it is impossible to do them even small justice; so we shall confine ourselves to a short account of the more well-known places, giving a description of the routes by which they may be approached.

Annandale.

The valley of Annandale and the festivities with which it has been associated, date back to the beginning of the history of Simla itself. We read of fancy fairs and races being held there as early as 1839. Some of the games, sports and races of to-day are described in Chapter 10. A large and well laid out garden is another feature of this pleasure ground.

There are no fewer than four approaches to Annandale; one through Kaithu, another down a path branching from the Mall near 'Gorton Castle,' a third by way of 'Knockdrin' below the Assembly Chamber, and a fourth from Viceregal Lodge. The two latter are easy descents through beautiful country.



The Glen.

If there is a “most beautiful” spot in Simla, it is the Glen — a level piece of greensward set in the bottom of a deep ravine and surrounded by magnificent deodars, pines and oaks. Alongside it a rocky stream runs, except in the hottest weather, when a couple of springs will be found issuing from the bed of the stream some 150 yards below. Farther down still, the waters pass over boulders in long cascades; an unqualified delight to those with an eye for the beautiful. Children will see in the Glen the “green-wode” of Robin Hood, and will be able to enjoy a good game of “rounders” on its ample space.

The visitor will take either the “Knock-drin” or the “Viceregal Lodge” roads leading to Annandale, until he reaches the Forest Guard’s hut where the Annandale, road leads sharply to the right. At this point he must leave his horse or rickshaw and continue straight ahead alongside the hut and down a steep path for some 400 yards, where he will see a footpath turning abruptly to the left just above an open grassy plot. Twenty minutes walking along the hillside will bring him to the Glen.



This is undoubtedly the "lion" of Simla's picnic places.

Jakko.

There are many roads to the summit of Jakko, the most direct being the one leading up to the left of Christ Church. The visitor need only select one and simply keep climbing—it will surely lead him eventually to Monkey Temple. Here he will see the presiding *fakir* and his army of ever-hungry *Bandars*. Should he wish to review them *en masse*, he may take with him a small supply of gram which when scattered will conjure up the whole band from the "Rajah" down to the newest-born baby.

Several delightful picnic places will be found, especially on its northern and eastern slopes whence glorious views of the snowy ranges are to be obtained.

To see the sun rising over the snows is a never-to-be-forgotten sight and one that will amply repay the energy of the individual willing to make the climb before daybreak. The best time to do this is during October or November.



Chadwick Falls.

The visitor should also see the Chadwick Falls (220 feet). They are at their best about the middle of September, just after the rains.

Follow the Summer Hill road as far as the base of the short hill leading up to the station. Here take the road to the right which passes over the mouth of the Summer Hill tunnel and along the hillside past 'Hazelmere' and 'Cherriton.' Emerging on to the other side of Summer Hill, a path leading down to the right will be noticed. This path will bring the visitor to Chadwick Falls within 30 minutes of leaving the main road. Half way down, a grassy knoll will be seen, and here one should turn sharply to the left and proceed along the side of the hill.

Taradevi.

Taradevi can be reached either by the Cart Road (6 miles) or by railway (45 minutes). The Kalka-Simla Railway has commenced the running of a special train on Sundays during the season. The Station-master, Simla will inform intending visitors of the times and fares.



The most prominent feature of Taradevi is the huge building of Messrs. Keventer's Dairy Farm whence Simla receives its supply of fresh milk and butter as well as other farm produce. Down to the east run the Sunal and Ashni valleys, approached by a path leading through pinewoods and past shady, grassy banks.

Above the station is a well-wooded hill on the summit of which an annual fair is held. Upon this hill will be found the 'Homestead' Hotel where lunches, teas and other refreshments may be obtained. Taradevi is rapidly developing as a resort for "week-enders" and picnic parties. There are several European farms and houses.

Mashobra.

The road to Mashobra lies through the Lakkar Bazaar, Sanjauli, and the Simla tunnel. This tunnel is 560 feet long and was completed in 1852, over 18,000 labourers being employed in its construction. Since the unfortunate accident to the late Lord Kitchener (who was thrown from his horse and lay for some considerable time with a broken leg) the tunnel has been widened and is now lit by electric lamps. At the



western entrance is a road leading up to the right to the new cemetery.

Near the third milestone the old toll bar is passed, beyond which a road climbs the hill to the right past the water-works and the 'Retreat' — where the Viceroy occasionally resides in summer — and thence to Mahasu.

Keeping to the broad carriage road the visitor passes through beautiful wooded country with here and there houses nestling among the trees.

There is a hardly-perceptible gradient all the way from the toll bar to Mashobra. The road at length emerges in front of a temple and near the recently-excavated reservoir of the Guma waterworks project. Near the temple the traveller will see three narrow roads branching away at various angles along the hillside. The centre one leads to Mahasu.

Continuing down through the bazaar, the 'Gables' Hotel is approached. Here the visitor will probably wish to devote an hour or so to the satiation of his appetite — quickened by the fresh mountain air — and will undoubtedly do justice to the excellent fare here provided.



Below the hotel is the Post and Telegraph office beyond which are the 'Gables' tennis courts and gardens. Opposite the entrance to these gardens is the gateway leading up to the new Church of St. Crispin, a neat little structure wherein services are held every Sunday.

On past 'Bendochy' (Mrs. F.E. Hotz), 'Kenilworth,' and 'Carignano' (United Service Club) the visitor eventually emerges at the top of Mashobra hill. A continuation of this road leads to Naldera.

There are some beautiful picnic places around Mashobra, especially down the glade where the annual Sipi Fair is held. Mashobra is 6 miles from Simla and may well be described as the Mecca of Sunday excursionists.

Mahasu.

Here is the well-known 'Wildflower Hall' Hotel, another of the group owned and controlled by Mrs. Hotz, and equal in fame to the 'Gables.' Once the residence of Lord Kitchener, it is situated in beautiful grounds at the top of a hill commanding magnificent views of the Shali peak and the snows beyond.



Mahasu is 6 miles from Simla and the Mashobra road should be followed for three and a half miles when the road branching up the hill will be seen. A two and a half mile climb brings one to the entrance to 'Wildflower Hall.'

A favourite day's outing for Simla people is to arrive at this hotel in time to partake of the sumptuous lunch to be obtained there, then, after a stroll through the grounds, to take the upper road to Mashobra. This passes along a level spur immediately opposite the 'Wildflower Hall' gate and after traversing a distance of half a mile turns down to the right near a sign-post, passing the orchards of the Viceroy's 'Retreat' estate and thence to Mashobra. The return to Simla is made in the evening after having tea at the 'Gables.' Distance: $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

Prospect Hill was formerly a favourite picnic place but it cannot now be recommended as such owing to the extensive building operations that have taken place on its slopes.

The country beyond Elysium and in fact the whole vicinity of Simla abound with ideal places for al fresco parties.



LONGER TOURS.

Happy is he who can fling the collar and tie of convention into the darkest corner and "hike" away to the interior.

Our pen will touch lightly upon the delights of the scenery. We would not wish to anticipate the wealth of beauty that lies around every bend of the road; rather let us permit the traveller to experience for himself the joys of unexpected and pleasant surprise.

Not many marches away lie some of the most wonderful fairylands in the world. Arcadias where the pipes of Pan are reborn in the mountain shepherd's mellow *ranz-des-vaches*. Kulu, Spiti, Lahoul, Ladakh and Thibet — the theme and inspiration of many literary and artistic efforts; the end of the journey for seekers after the aesthetic. And Simla is one of the doors through which they pass.

The visitor will choose his own method of travelling. He may go on foot or take a hill pony, using the ubiquitous mule for the transportation of his baggage. It is



positively dangerous to attempt any of these journeys mounted upon a horse or pony which is unused to the hills.

On the whole, the traveller will find everyone anxious to help him and to make his journey comfortable. The hillman of the interior is a totally different person from his cousin of the plains. Under the more rigorous influence of the colder clime there is an inherent instinct in him to help his fellow man: an instinct born no doubt, from a compulsory banding together to fight the onslaughts of nature that would tend to freeze the lone land-worker out of existence. The further one penetrates into the interior, the more pronounced does this become. Money is not so much his consideration as service.

Transport.

The following is a copy of a notice issued by the Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent, Hill States, Simla, dated the 15th May 1924:—

“ In view of the greatly increased demand for labour for carriage on the Hindustan-Thibet Road, north of Simla, it has been decided that in future no labour other



than voluntary labour will be available for persons other than Government officials travelling on duty. Such officials who are not officials of the Simla district should give timely intimation to the Deputy Commissioner who will issue orders accordingly. Ordinarily mule transport must be used.

“Other persons travelling on the road may use the published Government rates as a guide, but will have to make their own arrangements both as regards supply of labour and the rates of remuneration given. They are advised:—

- (a) To make arrangements for transport for the whole journey and not from day-to-day;
- (b) to use mules as far as possible;
- (c) to avoid travelling during the seasons of agricultural activity especially May and September.

“Arrangements have been made with a contractor for the supply of mules and intending travellers should apply to—Siri Ram, Mule Contractor, Dwarkagarh, near Edward's Gunj, Simla.

“The rates for mules will be Rs. 2 per mule per stage and one rupee per mule each day for halts. If mules are sent back



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unloaded they must be paid for at the rate of twelve annas per mule per stage. These rates are for pairs of mules. For a single mule or for any mule in excess of a pair or pairs the rate will be Rs. 3 per stage, Rs. 1-8 for each day's halt and Rs. 1-2 per stage, when sent back unloaded. The contractor shall be entitled to receive in advance the hire due to him for any journey not exceeding three marches. For longer journeys he shall be entitled to a quarter in advance. For each mule engaged, the contractor must be paid four annas commission whether the journey be short or long. The remaining money is to be paid to the contractor when the mules are handed over by the hirer.

“The present arrangements for supply of grass and wood on payment at the various stages will continue, and the Dak Bungalows will be open as usual.”

A mule carries approximately 200lbs. of baggage.

Outfit.

The traveller in the interior will realize that he will often find himself at altitudes as high as 15,000 and as low as 1,500 feet, and he must therefore make necessary



arrangements as regards clothing. No hard and fast rules can, of course, be laid down ; but in the opinion of the majority of travellers, the following are desirable :—

Light coat	Woollen stockings
„ shirts	Stout shoes or boots (2 pairs)
Woollen underwear	Thick woollen waistcoat
Shorts	Overcoat
Topi,	Woollen blankets and rug (or eiderdown).

The use of tents renders one independent of the road bungalows and the consequent trouble and inconvenience should the traveller arrive at the end of his march to find the rest-house occupied. It must be remembered that the road houses (except dak bungalows) are intended primarily for the use of officials travelling on duty, and the privilege of using them is only extended to the public out of courtesy.

There are various types of tents suitable for use in the hills, but it is better to utilize one that can be comfortably and easily packed to form a mule load, *i.e.*, not more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ maunds. The poles should be of the telescopic or jointed pattern and the traveller must not forget to take the usual accessories such as lantern, bucket, mallet, spade, repairing material, etc.



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Supplies.

Milk, flour, grain, potatoes, grass, straw and charcoal are easily obtainable except in the more remote regions of Lahoul and Spiti, and along certain sections of the Hindustan Thibet Road.

Tea, coffee and cocoa, as well as such tinned and preserved provisions as the traveller might desire should be carried. Chickens and eggs are sometimes procurable upon giving previous notice to the *chowkidars* of the rest-houses, but other meat supplies are uncertain. One or two tins of milk should be taken.

Quinine, iodine, embrocation, boric lint, zinc ointment and bandages are indispensable, and one should remember that every European traveller is considered a doctor by the natives who expect treatment for all their numerous aches and pains. A draught of quinine or of that marvellous curer of native ills—Epsom-salt, will generally work wonders; especially if accompanied by a liberal dose of soothing and impressive patter.

Spirit stove, cooking and drinking utensils, soap, candles, matches, rope and



string must be taken, as well as materials for the repair of clothing. A large proportion of one's money should be carried in the form of small change securely tied up in bags of leather or other stout material. Waterproof sheeting will be required to cover all mule and coolie loads.

ROUTES.

1. Simla to Kulu (*via Narkanda and Ani*).

Leave the Mashobra road just past the old toll bar and climb the hill to Mahasu. An undulating road leads through Kufri to Fagu, the end of the first stage. A descent of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles brings one to Theog and thereafter the road is good and level to Mathiana.

There is a gradual ascent of 11 miles to Narkanda, 9,000 feet above sea level. If time permits, a trip to the summit of Huttoo (10,000) should be made. After Narkanda, no more dak bungalows are to be found until Bajaura (seven marches away) is reached. A steep descent of $12\frac{1}{2}$ miles brings one to Luri (rest-house) where the river Sutlej is crossed by a suspension bridge. After a hot climb of $11\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the traveller approaches Ani (rest-house). Here is situated the Salvation Army Farm.



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Thereafter the road passes through Khanag, Shoja, Jalori Pass (closed by snow from December to March), Banjar, Larji, Bajaura (dak bungalow), to Sultanpur (4,000 feet) the capital of Kulu.

MILES

Simla			
Fagu ...	... 12 -	Dak Bungalow.	
Theog ...	... $5\frac{1}{2}$ -	" "	
Mathiana ...	... $11\frac{1}{2}$ -	" "	
Narkanda ...	... 11 -	" "	also hotel.
Luri Bridge ...	... $12\frac{1}{2}$ -	Rest-House (2,600 feet).	
Ani ...	... $11\frac{1}{2}$ -	" "	Post Office.
Khanag ..	... 9 -	" "	
Shoja ...	... $6\frac{1}{2}$ -	" "	
(Jalori Pass, 10,500).			
Banjar ...	... $9\frac{1}{2}$ -	" "	
Larji ...	... 12 -	" "	
Bajaura ..	... 11 -	Dak Bungalow, Post and	
		Telegraph Office.	
Sultanpur ...	... 9 -	Dak Bungalow, Post and	
		Telegraph Office,	
		Hospital, etc.	

2. Simla to Kulu. (*via Suni and Mandi*).

Another route between Simla and Kulu is that via Naldera, Suni, Suket and Mandi, although it is inclined to be hot in summer — especially near the bed of the Sutlej.

The way lies through Mashobra and thence along the Naldera road past a wonderful rock formation (see Chapter 12).



The traveller skirts the golf links and arrives at the rest-house; (supplies on giving previous notice to the *chowkidar*).

Thereafter the road makes a continuous descent, zig-zagging down the mountain side, to Basantpur (rest-house).

Very soon after leaving Basantpur, the branch road to Chaba will be noticed. Chaba is well worth a visit if time permits. Here are the hydro-electric works and one cannot help being impressed with the sight of this essentially modern gem of engineering in such a wild and romantic setting. Permission to visit Chaba should be obtained from the Secretary, Simla Municipality, or from the Chief Electrical Engineer, Simla.

The beautiful little town of Suni is reached after passing along the banks of the Sutlej for some distance. There is a rest-house in the middle of an open space near the bank of the river. It is much better, however, to apply for permission to occupy the Bhajji State rest-house which is much superior to the other.

Three miles of sandy road along the river-side bring one to Tatapani where



there is an imposing suspension bridge spanning the river. It is fascinating to watch the logs of wood which are thrown into the river near Rampur, floating down to the plains. They sweep under the bridge and crash against the rocky sides of the river — rebound — then perhaps to be sent whirling round and round in an eddy. It gives one the idea that they will never reach their destination.

The village of Tatapani is on the other side of the bridge and the visitor should not fail to see the famous hot sulphur springs, an object of pilgrimage for people from all parts of India. They believe that by bathing there, all their physical ills will be washed away.

Thereafter the road winds over the mountains through the stages Alsindi, Chindi, Jungi, Giri, Bhojpur, Mandi, Katauli and Kandi, to Bajaura and Sultanpur.

This route forms a pleasant alternative to that via Narkanda and Ani.

Routes in Kulu.

From Sultanpur the visitor may continue up the Beas valley through Katrain (right bank) or Nagar (left bank) to Manali,



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Kothi, Rahla, over the Rhotang Pass (13,200 feet, open after May 15th) to Koksar (in Lahoul), Sissu, Gondhla and Kyelang, thence by 16 marches (205 miles) to Leh, the capital of Ladakh.

MILES

Sultanpur

Katrain $11\frac{1}{2}$ - Rest-House - (Nagar.....14)

Manali 12 - " "

Kothi..... $6\frac{1}{2}$ - " "Rahla..... $2\frac{1}{2}$ - " "

At the base of the Rhotang Pass is a P.W.D. Bungalow.

Or from Sultanpur, over the Bhaboo Pass (9,460 feet) through Baijnath to Kangra, Dharamsala, Pathankot, Dalhousie or Chamba.

Starting either from Sultanpur or Bajaura, there is a wonderful trip to be made up the Parbatti valley:—

MILES

Sultanpur

Bhiun 7 - Forest Bungalow.

Jhari $13\frac{1}{2}$ - " "

Manikaran ... 8 - " " (Hot Springs).

Pulga 7 - " "

The visitor to Kulu is advised to purchase the official handbook: "Kulu," price eight annas, obtainable from Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., Simla.



3. Simla to Shipki. (*The Hindustan-Thibet Road*).

As far as Narkanda, the road is the same as that described in the route to Kulu.

Leaving Narkanda the traveller immediately enters the Baghi Forest, a place of unparalleled beauty. A short march from Narkanda brings one to the branch road to Baghi. This branch continues through Kadralla, Sungri and Bahli, rejoining the Hindustan-Thibet Road between Nirat and Rampur. This is a much better way to Rampur than the main road through Kotgarh and Nirat.

From Rampur onwards to Shipki, the road follows, more or less, the line of the Sutlej river.—

MILES

Simla			
Narkanda	40	—	Dak Bungalow.
Kotgarh	10	—	" "
Nirat	10	—	P.W.D. Rest-House.
Rampur	13	—	" " "
Gaora	7	—	" " "
Sarahan	10	—	" " "
Taranda	14	—	" " "
Paunda	5	—	" " "
Nachar	5	—	" " "
Wangtu	3	—	" " "
Urni	10	—	" " "



MILES

Rogi	10	-	P.W.D. Rest-House.
Pangi	10	-	" " "
Rarang	8	-	No " "
Jangi	7	-	P.W.D. " "
Kanam	10	-	No " "
Siasu	10	-	" " "
Poo	10	-	" " "
Namgia	11	-	" " "
Shipki	10	-	" " "

Narkanda to Rampur
(via *Baghi and Bahli*).

MILES

Narkanda		
Baghi	10	- Dak Bungalow.
Kadralla	8	- Forest Bungalow.
Sungri	11	- Dak Bungalow.
Bahli	12	- " "
Rampur	9	- P.W.D. Rest-House.

4. Simla to the Shali Peak.

Only very energetic people can reach the the summit of Shali in one day. It is advisable to halt at Kutnol and make the final ascent the following morning. Tents and all supplies should be taken.

Proceed to Mashobra and then follow the path through Sipi down to the Nauti Khud which must be forded. The ascent of the mountain here commences. A camping ground will be found at Kutnol, which



is situated at about the same altitude as Mashobra. On reaching the summit, pass along the ridge to Choti Shali, and thence to the lake at Kurali. When leaving Kutnol the traveller should take a plentiful supply of water.

The Shali Peak is 9,400 feet above sea level.

5. Simla to the Chor Peak.

The road lies by way of Fagu, through Cheog — a forest of deodars — and thence by a steep descent to Kot, Digtall and the Giri river (difficult crossing during or just after the rains). There is a rise to Bhujjil and through a fir forest to Madhain Ghat, on the north shoulder of Chor. The latter part of the climb is steep. One mile from the summit is Kalabagh where a small camp may be pitched. Chor Peak is 11,982 feet high.

	MILES
Simla	
Fagu	12
Kot	8 $\frac{3}{4}$
Bahla	7
Madhain Ghat	3
Kalabagh	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
Chor	1



Thacker's New Guide to Simla.

CSL

6. Simla to Mussoorie.

Messrs Thacker, Spink & Co., publish a small handbook describing in full detail the road from Simla to Mussoorie.

The End.

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