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 [24] *Vide* NETTER, *Presse Med.*, April 7, 1921.
 [25] NETTER. *Loc. cit.*
 [26] *Lancet*, December 18, 1920.
 [27] *Med. Science*, 1920, p. 409.
 [28] *Soc. Méd. des Hôpitaux*, February 18, 1921.
 [29] *Ibid.*, December 3, 1921. (*Vide* also "L'Hermite," *Presse Med.*, December 18, 1920.)
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 [33] McNALTY. Local Government Board Reports, No. 121, p. 28. N.B.—In one case of McNalty's series polymorph cells were found in the cerebrospinal fluid.
 [34] McNALTY. *Loc. cit.*
 [35] STRÜMPFELL. "Spezielle Pathologie und Therapie," 1919, vol. ii.
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Report.

REPORT ON "SADDLE PEAK" (ANDAMANS).

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ON February 18, 1882, a party organized and headed by Major Protheroe, C.S.I., Officiating Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobars, made the first known ascent of the high hill on the east coast of north Andaman Islands, shown in the chart under the name of "Saddle Peak."

The expedition was undertaken with the view of ascertaining the height of the peak, the nature and general character of the country surrounding it, and whether the configuration of its summit was such as would be likely to afford a suitable site for a sanatorium.

The ascent commenced at 8 o'clock a.m., on February 18, and was made from the sea beach up the eastern slope of the north peak, the party gaining the top at 1 o'clock p.m., thus accomplishing the upward journey in five hours; a remarkably short space of time, when the steepness of the hill-side, together with the fact that a pathway had to be cut through the thick jungle undergrowth at almost every step, is taken into consideration. Also a sharp lookout had to be kept in case the wild or untamed Andamanese in these jungles made an attack on us.

The descent by means of the track already cleared was not difficult, and only

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lasted three hours. The whole journey, therefore, to the summit and down again to the place of starting, was completed in about eight hours.

The matter embodied in the following short descriptive report on Saddle Peak, and its surroundings was gathered during the ascent.

SADDLE PEAK.

General Description.—This hill (for it can scarcely be called a mountain) is situated on the east coast of the North Andamans, close to the sea, and at a point which corresponds with longitude $92^{\circ} 59' 30''$ and latitude $13^{\circ} 11' 35''$.

Some eight miles due north of it, lies Port Cornwallis; one of the finest harbours in the world; while thirteen miles to the south, and partly separating the north from the middle Andamans, is another superbly grand land-locked harbour known as "Stewart's Sound," and called so in honour of the present Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir Donald Stewart, Bart., G.C.B., C.I.E. The distance of "Saddle Peak" from Port Blair, which lies to the south-west, may be roughly put down at 100 miles by sea, or close on eighty miles, if measured in a direct line as the crow flies. The party travelled from Port Blair by the I.G.S. "Kwangtung" leaving Port Blair on the afternoon of February 15.

As viewed from the east, the hill appears to be made up of two lofty peaks, lying north and south of each other, with a high connecting ridge between. The outline of the whole against the sky, somewhat resembles that of a saddle, hence its name "Saddle Peak."

The north peak, or that which is supposed to represent the cantle of the saddle is the higher, it is very massive and has a smooth and rounded outline towards the top, with an easy and gradual slope downwards to the north and north-east.

The south peak, orommel of the saddle, is not quite so high as its fellow. The outline is well defined, being sharp and irregular along the top, with an abrupt and almost precipitous decline towards the south. Deep ravines intersect the side in many places, giving to this peak a jagged and rugged appearance. The two peaks just described, are, as already stated, connected and joined together, so as to form one great hill, by a high ridge, which runs due north and south between them. The ridge is about half a mile in length, and its outline completes the body or seat of the saddle.

Its eastern side or slope is very rough and uneven, and is made up of small hills or ridges rising in successive tiers from the level land below.

A thick tree jungle, with most brilliantly tinted foliage clothes the whole hill, from the white sandy beach up to the loftiest summit, and extends also far and wide over the undulating country beneath, as far as the eye can reach.

The surface of the ground for the first three quarters of a mile in a line directly inland, from the point at which the party landed on the east coast and commenced the ascent, is smooth and level and although covered by magnificent timber and some undergrowth, yet allows of easy walking. Further on, however, the land rises rapidly, and continues to do so with varying degrees of steepness, for about a mile, when it suddenly dips and is crossed by a deep and wide ravine, along the bottom of which, a brook of deliciously cool water winds its zigzag way, dashing over and between the many large stone boulders which obstruct and line its course to the sea.

From this ravine the hill-side may be really said to take its commencement

the ascent becoming more and more decided and walking more difficult, owing not only to the sharpness of the rise, which is almost perpendicular in some places, but also in a great measure to the matting together of the numerous creepers, and young trees which compose the undergrowth.

On nearing the top of the north peak, or that which was ascended on February 18, the jungle lessens in denseness, and the surface of the ground gradually changes, and flattens out on the summit into what might be called a plateau. This level ground, or plateau, forms really the top of the hill, and is, so far as could be ascertained, more or less extensive, and well adapted for building upon, if cleared of its covering of scrub jungle, and slightly levelled where rough and uneven.

Geology.—The geological formation of the hill appears to be grey sandstone with a soil composed of yellowish earth, and a black mould rich in decaying vegetable matter.

Vegetation.—Very fine forest trees of many varieties, grow over the hill-side and the rich land at its base. Of these the most valuable are the Padouk, Thitman and Peymah. Rattans, Bamboos and many species of ferns and club mosses abound towards and on the summit. A fact worthy of record and which may be of use to any one making an ascent of Saddle Peak at some future time is, that the bamboos growing near the top of the hill, are filled between their joints with a clear watery fluid, and thus, by cutting one across, a cool and most refreshing drink can be had. The bamboos proved good friends indeed to the party on February 18, as on reaching the top peak we were all very thirsty and our water bottles almost empty.

Population.—A few semi-savage Andamanese inhabit the low-lying land along the sea coast at the foot of Saddle Peak. They are very similar in appearance to their brethren in and around Port Blair but are somewhat taller and more strongly built. They live, however, after the same fashion, i.e., by fishing and occasionally hunting and killing the wild pig. They are wonderful experts with the bow and arrow and kill not only pigs but fish in this way. Their bows are very strong and will send an arrow eighty to a hundred yards. Our party all carried guns or revolvers and the six Sikhs police rifles. A party of tame Andamanese from Port Blair were sent ashore the day before our landing with presents of pigs, chickens, beads, etc., so as to make friends with their wild brethren. It would have been very dangerous to go into the thick jungle without first making friends with these little people, who are very fierce until their timidity is overcome by kindness and presents, etc.

Water.—With the exception of a few small streams at the foot of the hill, and the brook in the deep ravine before alluded to, no water was found, but judging from the configuration of the ground at the top of the hill, there can be little doubt, but that a supply of water could easily be obtained by sinking deep wells at likely spots immediately under its brow. A tank built on the high ridge already described, and constructed so as to catch the water from the two peaks on either side during the rainy season would be another means of obtaining and so storing a good supply of fresh water.

During the ascent, the air cooled perceptibly as the summit was approached, and on the top felt decidedly cold, dry and exhilarating. At the highest point reached water was found to boil at a temperature of 208.1° and 208.4°, conse-

quently (according to Thuiller's tables) showing the elevation above the sea to be from 2,300 to 2,400 feet.

Temperature and Climate.—On February 18, the temperature taken on the hill-top at 2 o'clock p.m., and at the same-hour (in the shade) on board the I.G.S. "Kwangtung" (lying about a quarter of a mile off the shore) registered respectively 74° and 87°, thus making a difference in favour of the hill-top of 13°; or pointing to the air on the summit; as being by so many degrees colder than that at sea level.

Taking the temperature as above stated (74°) into consideration with the fact that at all seasons of the year, the hill has the great advantage of being exposed to a refreshing sea breeze, the climate at the top of Saddle Peak should be cool, pleasant and invigorating throughout the year and more particularly so during the north-east monsoon, or the period comprised between October 1 and May 31.

Conclusion.—In conclusion it may be stated, that so far as regards the geographical situation, geological formation, configuration of the summit (as to building and drainage) temperature of the air and the water supply, Saddle Peak is well adapted in all these respects for the site of a sanatorium, and looking at it and the surrounding country from an agricultural point of view, it is certain that if cleared and properly cultivated, abundance of fine grass and immense crops of sugar cane and rice could be raised from its rich and fertile soil, coffee, tea and tobacco, no doubt, would flourish, and give ample returns if planted along the higher slopes of the hill itself.

The trees felled in the clearing of the jungle might pay in a measure, for the labour expended thereon, especially as many of them are said to be of an exceedingly valuable description of timber.

Good and well sheltered anchorage can at all seasons of the year be found in Port Cornwallis Harbour, and a road up the hill, starting from the southern shore of this harbour, would be easy of construction, as the land from this point has (as already stated) a very regular and gradual rise towards the peak.

Current Literature.

Epidemic Hiccough. J. Lhermite in *La Presse Médicale*, December 18, 1920, p. 916.—According to Lhermite the first appearance of the present type of epidemic hiccough was observed in Vienna during the winter of 1919-20 by Economo who wrote about it as follows: "Some weeks before the appearance of the January (1920) epidemic of encephalitis in Italy, there was in Vienna and its neighbourhood a small epidemic of hiccoughs. Very numerous were the people who were suddenly attacked without preliminary symptoms, the attacks lasting for hours, or even days, and no treatment could master them. I saw a case which lasted a month, the patient having only a few hours' respite each day. This illness had no serious consequences." About a month after the cessation of this outbreak there occurred in Vienna the first cases of a myoclonic form of encephalitis in which clonic convulsions and hiccoughs were followed by a state of choreic agitation resembling the most severe forms of acute chorea. Economo wrote: "It is not possible to say that the epidemic of hiccough was already a precursor