Travel.

KASauli—A STUDY IN CONTRASTS.

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KASauli, which lies on the outer fringe of the Himalayas at a height of 6,000 feet, is one of a small group of similar Hill Stations which includes also Dagshai (5,800 feet), Subathu (5,100 feet), Solon and Jutogh, all lying on neighbouring hill tops, and, with the exception of Solon, easily visible from KASauli.

Kalka, a small and uninteresting town of some local importance, lies at the foot of the KASauli Hill. It is situated on the cart and motor road between Simla and Ambala and forms the connecting link between the broad-gauge railway system of the plains of India and the wonderful little narrow-gauge Kalka-Simla railway which was first opened up for passenger traffic on November 9, 1903. The construction of this railway was no mean engineering feat.

"Between Dagshai and Solon the railway pierces the Barogh Hill" by

\(^{1}\) It is the Barogh Hill that hides Solon from KASauli.
a tunnel 3,760 feet long, situated 900 feet below the cart road. Throughout its length of 60 miles it runs in a continuous succession of reverse curves of 120 feet radius in and out along the valleys and spurs, flanking mountains rising to 6,000-7,000 feet above sea level, the steepest gradients being 3 feet in 100. The works of construction involved are of the first magnitude, comprising 107 tunnels, aggregating 5 miles in length, numerous lofty arched viaducts, aggregating 1 1/2 miles, and innumerable cuttings and stone walls."  

The equally daring enterprise, the Kalka-Simla cart road (58 miles), originally called by the somewhat resounding title of the Grand Hindustan and Tibet Road, was finished in 1856. Prior to the completion of this road Simla was reached from the Plains by a more direct but poorly graded bridle-path, passing up through Kasauli, Kakkarhati, Hurreepore, and Syree, a total distance, up hill and down dale, of 43 miles. The gradients of this track were too stiff and the surface too bad to allow of any other means of transport than Jampans (sedan chairs fitted with curtains) for the women and children, ponies for the men, and doolies (light stretchers with canvas coverings) for invalids; porterage of heavy luggage was by coolie or pack-pony.

The section of this track from Kalka to Kasauli (9 miles), and on to Subathu, 9 miles further, is still much used for pack-pony transport, etc., but most visitors prefer to make the journey up to Kasauli either by motor from Kalka (22 miles), or to Dharampore by train and thence by the branch road (8 miles) to Kasauli.

**HISTORY.**

Prior to their defeat by Sir David Ochterlony's British force in 1815 and subsequent surrender the Gurkhas had enjoyed a reign of terror and oppression over the Simla Hill district, and by the year 1808 from their capital at Arki (near Simla), had subdued the greater part of the country lying between the Jumna and the Sutlej, including Kasauli and its neighbourhood. The people in their wretchedness applied to the British for protection, but it was not until after fierce fighting and bloody battles, one of them in the near vicinity of Kasauli, that the "little men from Nepal" were finally subdued. The Gurkha rule while it lasted was ruthless and cruel and it is said that they spared no one. Subathu and Kotegarh (beyond Simla) were established by us as frontier posts in 1815 and there is a legend that the British officer in charge of a Gurkha guard, while on the march between these two posts, encamped on the site of where Simla now stands, then a small village, and noted its coolness and suitability as a military station.  

The hill tops in the vicinity are still studded with ruined Gurkha forts, and there is one in a better state of preservation than most near the

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1 "Simla Past and Present." P. 18 by E. J. Buck, C.B.E.
2 Other accounts challenge this statement.
3 This version of the origin of Simla has also been challenged.
parade ground at Subathu, a memento of its former rulers. The site of what is now Kasauli was first surveyed in 1840 by Colonel Tapp, the political agent at Subathu, with a view to its possibilities as a military hill station. His report was evidently satisfactory, as the first bungalows were built in the station about that date, amongst the earliest of which was Sunnyside, built for Sir Henry Lawrence of Punjab fame, and overlooking his daughter’s grave at Subathu. Military building operations actually commenced in 1842, and in 1843 the first British troops, the 13th Infantry (Somerset L.I.), arrived in Kasauli straight from service in Kabul.

The neighbouring cantonment of Dagshai, 10 miles away to the north-east, was commenced in 1846 and first occupied by troops in 1850.

The Lawrence Military School, formerly known as the Lawrence Military Orphan Asylum, was founded at Sanawar (2 miles from Kasauli) in 1846, the actual building operations being under the supervision of Lieutenant Hodson (later Hodson of Hodson’s Horse).

Kasauli, apparently, has enjoyed a fairly peaceful existence since its foundation nearly ninety years ago, and, judging by the graves in the old cemetery (vide infra), was used then, as now, largely as a sanatorium for officers and men recovering from the effects of wounds or sickness incurred during the course of one or other of our frequent frontier campaigns.

The station in common with most other military stations in northern

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1 Hence Tapp’s Nose, a prominent landmark at Kasauli.
India, which were necessarily largely depleted of British troops for the
common weal during the mutiny, had its moments of acute anxiety and
danger during those stirring months: luckily, however, the authorities on
the spot acted with wise discretion during a difficult situation, and there
was no loss of life.

The first news of the outbreak of the mutiny at Meerut on May 10,
1857, reached Kasauli the following day, and on May 13 and 14 the British
regiments from Kasauli, Subathu, and Dagshai marched down the hill to
Ambala, later to form part of the famous Delhi Field Force, only leaving
behind weak detachments. At Kasauli there were left remaining seventy
men, mostly invalids of H.M. 75th Regiment (the Gordon Highlanders) to

![Fig. 3.—Lawrence Military School, Sanawar. Bird's eye view from Kasauli.](image)
guard a total of some 600 Europeans, mostly women and children, at
Kasauli and Sanawar. On May 16 the Gurkha guard in charge of the
treasury became insolent and somewhat mutinous, and looted the treasury
of some Rs. 26,000 which had been placed in their charge. The officer
commanding the Station was actually in the process of falling-in an armed
party of the 75th, amounting to thirteen or fourteen files, to deal with the
mutinous soldiers, when he was met by the cantonment magistrate, who
dissuaded him from precipitate action, stating that, if blood were shed at
Kasauli, the lives of British women and children at Simla would be in
grave jeopardy. These remarks had the necessary calming effect, the British
troops were ordered to act on the defensive only, and the mutineers
decamped with their loot.
All kinds of wild rumours, many of them quite untrue, had been filtering in from Simla, to the effect that the Gurkhas of the Nusseree regiment at Jutogh were in open revolt, that the Simla treasury and Bank were in their possession, and that Simla and Jutogh were at their mercy, etc. Three excited officers had arrived in Kasauli only that very morning "armed to the teeth with double-barrelled guns, pistols and swords," who confirmed the rumour concerning Simla, and added that a number (supposed to be 250 men) of the same regiment were on their way to Kasauli from Harripore and might be expected to put in an unwelcome appearance during the day.

It was on the strength of these greatly exaggerated reports and fearing for the white population of Simla, that the cantonment magistrate issued his warning. It was rumoured later that the treasure looted by the Gurkha guard was in turn filched from them by two British soldiers and hidden under a tree in Kasauli churchyard. Many years later a chaplain, on the strength of a letter purporting to have been written by a discharged soldier, dug under a certain tree in his churchyard to such good effect that the tree had to be removed, but the treasure (presumably) was never found.

There is an old cemetery at Kasauli which contains some interesting historical associations and in which many Mutiny and pre-Mutiny graves may be seen. The earliest decipherable epitaph is that of an officer: "The life of this most amiable and promising officer was spared in the battlefield but he fell a victim to the climate of India 29th July 1846." Close by are the graves of officers who died from the effects of wounds received at the battles of Sobroan (1846) and Chilianwala (1849).

One interesting inscription runs thus:

"—— late Captain in Her Majesty's 75th regiment. This brave and devoted soldier departed this life at Kussowlie on the fourth day of October 1857. He died of wounds received in action before Delhi against the mutineers of India on the 13th September 1857 the night previous to the successful assault by the victorious British Forces. His life was exposed to danger, hardship, trial and privation cheerfully endured in a good cause from the 8th of June when the memorable battle of Budliki-Serai was fought and won to the day of his death."

A noble epitaph of which any soldier might be proud.

One can imagine the poor fellow rushed up to Kasauli from the burning plains of Delhi in the hope that if his life could not be spared he might at least die in peace amongst the calm and beautiful surroundings of this Himalayan Hill Station.

Officers and men from the following regiments lie buried in this old graveyard:

H.M. 29th Regiment (Worcesters), 1847-1848; H.M. 50th Regiment

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1 History does not relate if the letter was written by one of the two soldiers who actually buried the treasure.
(Queen's Own), 1846; H.M. 13th Regiment (Somersets), 1848; H.M. 61st Regiment (2nd Battalion the Gloucesters), 1852-1857; H.M. 75th Regiment (Gordons), 1857; H.M. 32nd Regiment (D.C.L.I.), 1851-1856; H.M. 59th Regiment (2nd Battalion East Lancs.), 1859.

It does not follow that all the above regiments were ever stationed at Kasauli although some of them undoubtedly were. In many cases sick and wounded were sent up from units on the frontier or in the plains to recuperate amongst the pine woods of "Kussowie." A certain number amongst those buried in this graveyard died at Kalka. I have been unable to ascertain if they died on the line of march or if there was some sort of military encampment or station at Kalka during that period. There is certainly no permanent military organization, beyond a few police, at Kalka nowadays.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

It is possibly not realized by those who have never visited the station what an important centre of medical research Kasauli is.

The first of the medical scientific institutions to be established here, the Pasteur Institute, the first of its kind in India, was opened in 1900, with Major D. Semple, R.A.M.C., as its Director. During its first year of activity 321 persons received anti-rabic treatment; twenty years later the numbers treated annually had swollen to 7,506; to-day 300, of all creeds and nationalities, receive treatment every day of the year.

In 1906, the Central Research Institute of India, also with Major Semple as its first Director, was established in a bungalow situated on a magnificent site and presented by the Khan Sahib of Patiala "for the conduct of research into disease."

During the twenty years of its existence an immense amount of research work, much of it recorded in their official organ, the Indian Journal of Medical Research, has been carried on at the C.R.I.

The institute has earned an international reputation, and research workers from all over the world are to be found there from time to time.

Two years ago the famous French scientist, Dr. d'Herelle, paid a visit to Kasauli to investigate the possibilities of the bacteriophage in the treatment and prophylaxis of cholera and the dysenteries, and last year a Russian disciple of his was engaged in similar investigations.

During and since the war the manufacture of vaccines and sera on a large scale for distribution all over India has also been carried on at the C.R.I. In an adjoining building, and recently placed under a separate Director, is the Malaria Survey of India, formerly known as the Indian Malaria Bureau, the Headquarters of Malaria Research in India. The type collection of Indian mosquitoes laboriously collected by Lieutenant-Colonel Christophers, C.I.E., I.M.S., and his co-workers is probably one of the finest of its kind in the world.

1 The present Director of the Central Research Institute and formerly in charge of the Malaria Bureau.
In addition to the above, which are now under the directorship of and staffed entirely by I.M.S. officers, there are three important institutions commanded by R.A.M.C. officers and directly under Army Headquarters, Simla. These are (1) the Food Laboratory, started during the late war for the scientific analysis of the soldiers' food, and which has carried on this important function ever since. (2) The Enteric Convalescent Depot transferred from Naini-Tal early in 1928, which has a very fine laboratory well equipped for its special functions. (3) The Malaria Treatment Centre, an adjunct of the B.M.H., where new methods in the treatment of chronic relapsing malaria receive a thorough "try out" under rigid scientific control. Kasauli is also of some additional interest to our Corps in that it boasts one of the very few if not the only civil surgeoncy in India reserved for R.A.M.C. officers.

CLIMATE.

The climate is that common to most Himalayan hill stations.

The annual rainfall averages sixty-one inches, most of it during the monsoon months of July and August. There is usually one fairly heavy fall of snow during February which disappears in a few days, but producing some very beautiful snow effects, both distant and near, while it lasts.

There are, roughly, four seasons:

(1) January—March.—Cold, windy, wet under foot, with occasional falls of snow and heavy hail storms, the latter of which cause the tin roofs of the bungalows to leak like sieves; some two days in every week are gloriously fine though cold.

(2) April—mid July.—Gradually increasing heat (to a maximum shade temperature of about 95° F.), rainless and very oppressive just before the monsoon breaks. During these months the grass and vegetation gradually dry up (though to a lesser degree than in the plains below), the pine needles cast from the numerous pine trees carpet the ground and the dread of a hill fire is ever at hand. This is a very real danger towards the end of the dry season and immense damage may be done by a match or cigarette carelessly thrown down amongst the inflammable dried grass or pine needles. A picket is always ready warned to deal with these hill fires and there is a special bugle "call" provided.

(3) Mid-July—End of September.—Monsoon months; tremendous spates of heavy rain; days on end when the country is bathed in rolling mists, reminding one, but for the colour, of a London "pea-souper"; glorious cloud-effects and occasional bursts of bright sunshine, maybe lasting a day or two and providing views of unsurpassed beauty. From the commencement of the rains vegetation springs into life again; the pine trees are covered with vigorous young shoots, the hill slopes are clothed in a green mantle of fresh young grass and growing crops, mostly maize; and wild flowers, especially the semi-wild dahlias, a feature of Kasauli, cover the khud side with their wonderful range of colour.
FIG. 4.—Kasauli Bazaar. Winter.

FIG. 5.—Kasauli under snow. Terraced slopes used for cultivation well seen.
Kasauli—A Study in Contrasts

(4) October—December. Glorious.—These to my mind are the months par excellence for sheer enjoyment and joie de vivre at Kasauli. The air has a champagne-like quality absent at other seasons. The countryside is radiant after the rains. The maize has ripened in the fields which resemble great carpets of burnished gold, or has been garnered and is lying on the cottage roofs, dyeing them a rich coral. The innumerable wild cherry trees are, by some perverse law, in full bloom during November, during which month Kasauli appears full of fragrance and blossom. The distant views, too, are superb at this season, and the extensive stretch of plains to the south afford a striking contrast to the northern tumble of hills with their wonderful background of snow-clad peaks lying far beyond Simla,

but showing up crystal clear in these upper regions; the whole presenting a panoramic picture which can scarcely be surpassed, if equalled, from any other viewpoint in the world.

I have visited several Indian hill stations in my time and each possesses its own beauties and attractions. Thus, the Nilgherries to the south with their equable climate, exuberant and varied vegetation, and glorious groves of blue gums and mimosa, are probably unique in their way, and their immediate surroundings and vistas are far more beautiful than are to be found in the vicinity of Kasauli; but Dočabetta (8,640 feet) is their highest peak, and one misses the snow-capped monsters of the northern range, nor are the distant views to be compared either in variety or grandeur with those obtainable in the Himalayas.
The special charm of Kasauli, apart from the glorious show of semi-wild dahlias during the "rains" and the cherry blossom in the autumn, is undoubtedly in these marvellously contrasting views. Let us imagine ourselves perched on some commanding viewpoint such as the summit of "Tapp's Nose" on a clear day, and what do we see?

To the south stretch the scorching and apparently limitless plains intersected by numerous river beds zigzagging out from the foot hills and meandering more or less at right angles to the general line of the Himalayas eventually to join the Jumna or mighty Sutlej, the latter of which may be seen pursuing its tortuous course far away to the westward. In the middle distance, separated from the Himalayan range by a narrow strip of plain lies the picturesque and low-lying range of Siwaliks, compared with which the mighty Himalayas are but a mushroom growth.

Immediately below Kasauli lies Kalka, picturesque at this distance, from which on a clear day the rail and cart roads may be seen worming their respective ways, first through a large gap in the Siwaliks, later crossing the Ghuggar River, and finally losing themselves in the mist well on the way to Ambala, some forty miles distant, which is itself discernible, so it is said, on a clear day.

Now let us turn to the north, where lies the grand Himalayan "tumble" of snow-clad peaks, separated from Kasauli and the plains by many intervening ranges of moderate elevation, on the more prominent of which may be seen perched the neighbouring hill stations with here and there a half ruined Gurkha fort to keep us in touch with history.

Amongst the nearest of the hill stations, at a considerably lower elevation than Kasauli and some eight miles distant, lies Subathu, which looks extremely picturesque straggled out along the crest of a saddle-shaped hill, at one end of which, standing out high above the rest of the station on a small knoll, like an eagle in its eerie, is the British military hospital. Away to the north-east, beyond Dagshai lies the Chor Hill (12,000 feet), nearly the height of Mont Blanc, "but a minnow amongst whales" in this district. This hill, which is situated on the direct route between Simla and Mussorie, is snow-capped from the end of November, and is indeed the only member of the nearer hills which retains its snowy cap during the entire winter.

Simla lying between the military station of Jutogh and the fir-clad Jakko immortalized by Kipling is, on many of these clear mornings, so distinct that individual houses can be picked out with the unaided eye and

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1 It is only during the monsoon and then only immediately after a heavy spate that these rivulets contain any quantity of water; at other times, especially during the autumn and winter months, the bright buff of these dry river beds contrasts vividly with the surrounding green of the cultivated areas through which they run.

2 The Siwaliks, although now dwarfed by their neighbours, belong to a much earlier geological period than the Himalayas.

3 Simla is nearly twenty miles from Kasauli as the crow flies.
the tall wireless masts at Jutogh are plainly visible: in the evening when the slanting rays of the setting sun are caught up and reflected back from its innumerable windows the summer capital resembles some fairy city or a gleaming diamond casket in a magnificent setting of dark green forest trees.

During and after the rains some of the sunsets viewed across the plains are superb, and the occasional soft peach-coloured "after glow" spreading over the mountains, as the sun sinks below the horizon, is as beautiful to look upon as it must be difficult to transfer to canvas.

A curious atmospheric phenomenon known locally as the "winter line" is to be seen on clear evenings during these winter months; this consists of a greyish or neutral-coloured band with a very definite upper border stretching immediately above the true horizon east and west as far as the eye can see. The sun as it approaches the true horizon first appears to sink into this winter line which only partially obscures it, and, finally, as the orb sinks lower below the horizon, the neutral tinted band of the winter line is lit up from behind and takes on the most delicate roseate tint, or may even on occasion approach a fiery red in colour, a unique and never-to-be-forgotten sight.

**FLORA.**

In addition to the ubiquitous cheer pine (Pinus longifolia), horse chestnuts, deodars, and white oaks are amongst a variety of trees which grow in moderate profusion in and about Kasauli.

A few spruce firs and blue gums are also to be seen; the latter do not take kindly to the trying climate of these Himalayan slopes and the few examples that exist are but poor specimens, not to be compared with the giants that grow so luxuriantly, although comparatively recent importations, in the Nilgherries near Ootacamund.

One of the finest trees in Kasauli is a magnificent deodar which stands above and partially ruins by its shade the fine tennis courts of the Kasauli club. This tree, which reminds me strangely of the sacred umbrella tree near "Ooty," is somewhat of a familiar friend to the old residents of Kasauli, who rise up in their wroth when the destruction of their "mascot" is mooted by the "migrant vandals" from the plains with a view to improving the amenities of the courts.

The bright-hued rhododendron so common in the Simla district is unfortunately not seen at Kasauli, its place being taken by the purple flowered bougainvillea and lagerstroemia, nor, I believe, is the wild orchid found on these lower slopes.

Amongst the smaller fry, the little wild zinnias peep out on every side, and the glorious many-hued semi-wild dahlias, recent importations I am

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1 The better grown blue pine (Pinus excelsa) only grows at higher altitudes.

2 The umbrella tree at Ootacamund is connected, in some way, with the religious rites of the Rodas, an interesting hill tribe, confined to the Nilgherries.
S. Smith
told, though none the less beautiful for that, have received notice in a previous section.

There is one striking phenomenon peculiar to the lower Himalayan slopes which cannot fail to be remarked by even the most unobservant eye. This consists of the very remarkable contrast that exists between the thickly wooded slopes with a north and north-easterly aspect, covered as they are with a riot of exuberant vegetation, and those looking towards the south and south-west, which are seen to be but sparsely clothed with stunted trees or prickly euphorbia, uncovered bluffs of rock and arid scarps being much in evidence.

Sir Edward Buck has thus explained this curious phenomenon:

“...For observe the northern and north-easterly slopes are covered with a profusion of vegetation of all kinds, while the southern and especially those which trend westward are almost bare...

“If I may attempt an explanation of so striking a phenomenon, it would be this: young plants and seedlings are, on the southern slopes thwarted in their first attempts to live by the piercing heat of the unclouded sun, aided by the hot blast of the desert winds from the western Punjab and Rajputana. When, therefore, the tremendous downpour of the monsoon torrents beats upon the hill sides, there is no shelter of vegetation, no protecting tangle of matted roots to hold up the soil, and therefore so much the less chance is there, when the next summer returns with hot dry winds and baking sun, for seeds to germinate or tender plants to live. There is a constant tendency to denudation, which results in bareness. The northern and north-easterly slopes, on the contrary, turning away from the mid-day sun are in shade, and are protected also by their aspect from the direct blast of the desert winds, while they are refreshed occasionally by moist and cool breezes from the snows. Young plants can live. A mass of roots and herbage holds up the soil and jealously guards it against the precipitous rush of the monsoon, while leaves and grasses add, year after year, to the depth of rich humus. There is a constant tendency to the formation of soil, which results in a clothing of vegetation.

If this be the only explanation I know not, but the fact remains, and the contrast is there.

FAUNA.

One of the chief delights of the wonderful autumn season to a casual visitor like myself with no stake in the land, but viewed with quite different feelings by the local ryots, is afforded by the hordes of great lungour monkeys and their progeny which come troop down to Kasauli directly the summer visitors have gone and the cherry trees are in full blossom, for lungours love the sweet cherry blossom and will strip a tree in very short time. They are somewhat shy and suspicious and not nearly

1 Lecture to Bombay Natural History Society, quoted in "Simla Past and Present."
so tame or bold as the common brown monkey, but they will, on occasions, approach quite sufficiently near for one to be able to watch their antics at comparatively close range. There can be few more entertaining sights than to sit quietly and watch ma, pa, and baby monkey amusing themselves on a neighbouring tree or basking in the sun, their arms entwined in the most affectionate manner.

The lungour apparently makes an excellent mother and there is something almost human (or more than human) in the care she bestows on her young; she may often be seen sitting by the hour together fondling one of her progeny, slapping it playfully on the face or head, or performing the kindly act of picking out some of the numerous ectoparasites with which monkeys are infested. When on the move they carry their very young hunched on their backs or slung to the under aspects of their bodies, the latter, one would think, somewhat uncomfortable for both. The wonderful precision with which a huge lungour will leap from branch to branch or from tree to tree, often covering a surprising distance in the leap, is little short of uncanny, and the noise made by two or three big fellows jumping about on the tin roof of one's bungalow is deafening and also rather terrifying in the sma' wee hours of the morning before one has collected one's wits. Lessons in the essential art of accurate leaping appear to commence at an early age, and it is rarely indeed that one sees even the tiniest "banda" make a false step (or leap).

Whilst the older "grey beards" are somewhat staid and may be seen by the hour together sitting on their "hunkers" chewing the cud of reflection, when not feeding, the younger members of the family are most playful and are constantly on the move gambolling or quarrelling amongst themselves. Some of the impromptu boxing and wrestling matches between the young "bloods" are most entertaining and they frequently show considerable skill in the gentle art of fisticuffs.

At one time a cohort of lungours took a fancy to the family hospital and many dozens could be seen playing and fighting in the trees in the near vicinity or on the sunlit path in front of the verandah. The hospital sisters were in a constant state of terror lest one of them should run off with one of the infants lying in its cot on the verandah; what a commotion there would be!

On one occasion we were feeding a monkey (a brown monkey, for I have never seen the hill lungour approach sufficiently close to be fed in this way) with one of our cherished Kulu apples from the back verandah; on returning to the dining room to replenish our stock we were chagrined to find the platter bare, the artful bandas having taken the golden opportunity to jump in at the front window and make a clean sweep, while we were feeding their "decoy" at the back.

Monkeys are not our only animal visitants at Kasauli. During the past year panthers have been unusually bold and numerous, and on more than one occasion a lady has arrived at the club in an almost fainting condition,
her dog or young pup having been made off with, and on one occasion actually grabbed at while on the lead, by Mr. "Spots."

Jackals are often to be heard and seen towards the evening, and hyenas prey on the village clearings round about. Some of the worst cases admitted to the cantonment hospital are the results of hyena's bite or panther's claw, the former inflicting terrible and very septic wounds.

There is, of course, an endless variety of bird life to be seen and heard, for many of the hill birds are fine songsters, on these Himalayan slopes. Many of our friends from the plains can be recognized, as well as a host of others only met with in these higher and cooler altitudes. The ubiquitous bulb, cheery myna, cawing crow and soaring kite, are much in evidence, but considerably sturdier and in better "feather" than their prototypes of the plains.

The crow, for example, is a large and very venturesome fellow, glossy jet-black in colour, like well-polished black boots, and without the greyish "coatée" worn by his brother of the plains; some of the kites, too, are immense, with a tremendous wing-span, and appear in their element gliding from crag to crag or from hill top to hill top with hardly a quiver of their wings in a nonchalant manner, which must strike envy into the heart of any flying-man.

Whilst scarcely a shikari's paradise there is a fair amount of "scatter gun" shooting to be had in the neighbourhood, although, unfortunately, most of the best shooting in the adjoining Native States is very strictly preserved. Pea-fowl, black and common hill partridge, pheasant, jungle fowl and an occasional woodcock may all be shot near at hand, and amongst larger game gurral (common) and barking deer (rare, but delicious eating) are to be found.

Panther parties were a feature last season, but with very limited success.

**Motor Trips.**

The motoring possibilities in the district are somewhat limited. There is a delightful 20-mile run to Subathu by a fairly good though narrow and twisting road which coast along one side of a very picturesque valley; Dagshai is only 10 miles away just off the main Kalka-Simla road, the final 2 miles of this run are very steep and the road surface treacherous.

The fifty-mile drive to Simla itself is a very pretty and easy run, and the road well-graded, although liable to produce hill sickness in those with a tendency that way; some of the views along this road, especially as one approaches the summer capital, are very beautiful.

Ambala is an easy run of sixty miles. For the first twenty-two miles one descends the hill by a series of easy curves and hair-pin turns to Kalka; four miles further on lie the beautiful old Mughal gardens of Pinjor, which owing to the care bestowed on them by the Maharajah of Patiala, in whose State they lie, retain much of their ancient glory. An interesting legend attaches to these gardens; they were built by Fadai Khan, foster brother
of the famous Mughal Emperor, Aurangzeb, one of the few "Omrahs" of the Mughal Court whom this bigoted and intolerant monarch really favoured. Fadai, at the time Governor of this district, with the artistic instinct of his age, "planned a great terraced garden, so situated as to embrace 'wide views over the woodlands to the plains beyond . . .'," and right well did he achieve his object. "A quaint story still survives, how, when at length the work was finished and Fadai came in state to spend his first summer there, his enjoyment of the garden and its beauties was short-lived; for the Rajas quickly frightened him away. In the districts round Pinjor, and in fact all along the foot of the Himalayas occasional cases of goitre are to be seen; so from far and wide these poor people were collected by the wily Brahmins and produced as ordinary inhabitants of the place. The gardeners all suffered from goitre; every coolie had this dreadful complaint; even the country women carrying up the big flat baskets of fruits and flowers to the zenana terraces were equally disfigured. The ladies of the harem naturally were horrified; it was bad enough to be brought into these wild outlandish jungles, without this new and added terror. For the poor coolie woman, well instructed beforehand, had told how the air and water of Pinjor caused this disease which no one who lived there long ever escaped. A panic reigned in the zenana; its inmates implored to be removed at once from such a danger, and finally, Fadai Khan had to give way and take his ladies to some other place less
threatening to their beauty. Had it been the terrible Emperor himself instead of his foster-brother, the cunning Rajas would have met their match. But Fadai Khan, thoroughly deceived, rarely came back to visit his lovely gardens, and the Rajas and their fields were left in peace for a time."

The ancient water system, a great feature of all Mughal gardens, has been well preserved, and the authorities will, if given notice, cause the feeding tanks to be filled, so that, with the limpid water running along the wide canals, dashing down the artificial cascades, and thrown up by the numerous fountains, one may obtain some idea of what an ancient Mughal garden is like.

The Maharajah also utilizes the gardens as a pheasantry, and the hundreds of handsome English pheasants, which may be seen running wild within its walls, add to the charm of an already beautiful retreat, besides making one feel quite home-sick. The neighbourhood of Pinjor, originally Panchpura, the town of five, has far older historical associations than this, for the Pandavas, the five sons of Panda, lived in the neighbourhood of this village during their period of voluntary concealment before the first of the historical battles of Panipat was fought.

Some few miles further on one crosses the Ghugar river over a great wire net thrown across its bed; while usually fordable, during the monsoon spates one may be held up for hours on the banks of this monsoon torrent, or be forced to make a precarious crossing by ferry.

At Ambala one meets the grand trunk road, the best motor road I have ever been on, and an absolute paradise for the "speed hog," where "bhall gharries," not policemen, are his only enemies.

A Study in Contrasts.

I have attempted throughout this article to indicate some of the vivid contrasts for which Kasauli, to my mind, is so remarkable.

The scorching plans and snow-clad peaks both visible from the same view-point.

The mighty Himalayas and the age-old stunted Siwaliks.

The arid and sparsely-covered southerly slopes and the well-covered slopes facing the north and north-east with their riotous vegetation and well-cultivated terraces.

The remarkable succession of seasons each with its clear-cut climatic conditions.

These are surely enough to justify my title, but there is still another contrast, common indeed to all hill stations, on which I have not yet touched.


2These old Mughal gardens may be to some extent "dated" by the width of the canal running down their centre. The earlier examples are narrow, those built at a later date, of which Pinjor is one, have a comparatively wide central canal.
During the summer months Kasauli is, like most other hill stations, a seething mass of humanity; the barracks are full to overflowing; every bungalow is crowded and overcrowded; the usual unceasing round of social activities takes place; the Club resembles a swarm of bees; the tennis courts, some of the finest in Northern India, are in constant demand, and tournament follows tournament.

The autumn comes. The summer visitors depart to their plain stations, deserted are the tennis courts.

The Club moves into "winter quarters," shutting down half its accommodation; the hospital, and especially the family hospital, thriving concerns during the summer months, remain practically empty, and the familiar walks are given over to birds and lungours. The bazaar is now a mournful concern, with more than half its shops shut and the other half containing but the bare necessities of life. Then do the permanent residents, staid and "solid" folk, most of them, who have little in common with the frivolous and laughter-loving summer migrants, come out of their shells, and the one common room in the Club "rings" to the tune of their dancing knitting-needles.

REFERENCES.

In writing this article I have made free use of the very interesting volume, "Simla Past and Present," by E. J. Buck. My description of Pinjor is based on the fascinating chapter on Pinjor in "Gardens of the Great Mughals," by C. M. Villiers-Stuart.

The Mutiny references are abstracted from a series of letters and notes collected in an old book of church records; while much information has been obtained from a "Hand-Book to Kasauli." Finally, the residents of Kasauli, who, I trust, will take my friendly "badinage" in good part, have, consciously or unconsciously, contributed their quota.

Current Literature.


In place of subcutaneous injections of toxin-antitoxin or anatoxin, which are liable to give rise to severe local reactions, Loewenstein has recently substituted inunction of the skin with whole, unfiltered cultures of diphtheria bacilli rendered non-toxic by formalin. The inunctions did not cause any local or general reaction.

Children who had hitherto been Schick-positive became negative after a single application in 8 per cent., after two applications in 32 per cent., and after three applications in 67 per cent., while only 28 per cent. remained positive.