

stopped from embarking, however, with Sir David Baird's authority, and McGrigor retained a wonderful memory of that cup of tea which Colonel Macquarrie provided for him in his extremity!

Though written several years later there is no better account of his sojourn in Egypt than that contained in his book, "Medical Sketches of the Expedition to Egypt from India." I therefore propose to give a sketch, from this publication, of the strictly professional notes about the expedition and, particularly, about the plague, as met with in epidemic form, during the expedition.

Now that we know the secret of the transmission of plague, at least in its bubonic form, from the sick to the healthy, by means of the infected flea, and of its direct transmission, in its pneumonic manifestation, from one human being to another, we realize what a serious malady it is and how hard to stop in a native or a military community; but nowadays we are in a position to act scientifically and we know, at least, that without the intervention of the flea, the bubonic type, the commonest, is not transmitted at all. This knowledge gives us great confidence in the protective effects of cleanliness and how anti-flea measures can be successful. It must have been terrible, indeed, to encounter the plague without it.

(To be concluded)

DR. JAMES BARRY

ELSEWHERE in this issue our readers will find the Review of a book dealing, in novel form, with the life of this exceptional individual. From time to time much has been written about her—and, no doubt, much more may be written in the future.

It so happens that, coincidentally with the appearance of this latest book, there has come into our possession a copy of a photograph of Dr. Barry together with an individual described variously as a "Malay Slave" or a "Coloured Servant." For this photograph we are indebted to Major T. A. Yorke, M.C., R.A., who sent with it a letter written to the Editor of *The Times* by his father, the late Colonel F. A. Yorke, in 1919.

It will be noted that there is some divergence of opinion as to the last resting place of the worthy Dr. Barry. In an article entitled "The Lady Army Doctor," by Marianne Robertson Spencer, which appeared in *The Lady's Realm* some years ago, the burial place is given categorically as "Kensal Green Cemetery, grave number 19,301; square 67; row 6." This is accepted as authentic.

It is interesting to note that Dr. Barry was commissioned as Hospital assistant in July 1813 when John Weir was Director-General. She became Deputy Inspector of Army Hospitals in May 1851, the year of Sir James



McGrigor's retirement. She served throughout the Directorships of Sir Andrew Smith and Thomas Alexander retiring during that of Sir James B. Gibson.

It is interesting to speculate whether Sir Harold Fawcus, Sir James Hartigan, Sir William MacArthur, Sir Alexander Hood and Sir Neil Cantlie could remain (presumably) in ignorance as to the sex of one of their senior officers. Now that Commissions are open to women it seems that Dr. Barry must remain a unique and enigmatic personality.

To the Editor of *The Times*

Sir,

I was much interested in reading an account in *The Times* of the 23rd inst. of the Play entitled "Dr. James Barry" and the following may be of interest to your readers. My father knew her well both in the West Indies and Mediterranean. I, as a small boy, was attended by her and can remember seeing her riding down to the officers' mess in the scarlet shell jacket of those days with the groom walking behind. It was always suspected that Dr. Barry was a woman. She died in Jamaica and was buried in Up Park Camp Cemetery in that island. I possess a photograph of her in civilian male attire with her negro servant standing beside her. It is said that Dr. Barry had fought a duel and also seen service.

Yours truly,
F. A. YORKE,
Col. late R.A.

Twyford, Winchester.
26 July, 19.