

# CEREMONIES at HINDU WEDDING

**F**EW foreigners in India have the privilege of witnessing a high caste Hindu wedding and only special circumstances enabled the writer to be present at the ceremonies described here.

Subhodra, the barber, had arranged a marriage between Anandi, only daughter of Dhola Buksh, a wealthy member of the Kahatriya caste, and Surindro Tagore of the same caste. That is one function of barbers in India.

The expenses of a Hindu wedding comes upon the bride's father, and they are so great that a family sometimes is ruined or impoverished for many years by the marriage of a daughter.

The woman barber, who is another great institution in India, came every day. For two weeks she bathed Anandi frequently in perfumed water. Every day the girl's hands and feet got an application of henna. On the evening of the wedding day Anandi was bathed in rose water and her hands and feet got a last application of henna.

### Many Jewels.

She was dressed in a red silk sarree embroidered with gold and finished with a golden border at the bottom. Around her waist were wound chains of gold, which were fastened by gorgeous buckles set with jewels.

Her arms from the shoulder to the wrist were covered with armlets and

of ceremonies and who from time to time blew a trumpet.

The family guru left the courtyard and went into the women's apartments, where stood the women and children, each woman with a chuddah drawn tightly over her face. Then five women came in, all of them closely veiled and wrapped in silk sarrees. The first was the bride's mother. On top of her head was a little tray filled with red hot coals of fire. She carried a jewelled chatee of water in her hand.

### Bride Carried In.

The four other women bore trays loaded with different kinds of fruit. The women marched around the bridegroom seven times, the mother pouring the water gently out of the chatee so that it formed a circle around Surindro. She then stepped aside and the bride was brought in.

A number of symbolic figures had been chalked upon a board. On top of these figures the bride was seated and then carried into the room by the barber and his assistants. Within the circle which had been made by the water the mother had spilled Anandi was carried around Surindro six times. The board was then lowered from the shoulders that bore it and the bride was placed at her husband's feet.

During this ceremony the bridegroom had never moved a muscle. The barber and his assistants now



INDIAN PRINCE, HIS TEN WIVES AND FOUR CHILDREN

bracelets. Close under her throat was a necklace of pearls, below which hung a dozen or more gold chains. Her ears, which had been pierced in six places, had earrings of fine workmanship suspended from each hole. From where the hair met the forehead was hung a fringe of gold and pearls. On her ankles were gold bangles. All of this gold would have proved a heavy burden to the bride if she had been obliged to walk, but she was not.

In another part of the house the guru of the two families were laying down the law to the two fathers-in-law, making the necessary settlements and promises. This ceremony, which is tedious and lasted several hours, was enlivened by the babus who went among guests and sprinkled them with rose water which was carried in silver vases.

On upon the ears of the guests burst the cry "The bridegroom comes!" All heads were turned to see six little girls who could not have been over six years of age bearing lighted torches run through the court and out into the street and lead Surindro in.

The bridegroom was seated upon a rug placed in the center of the court for him. While he was seated on this rug, and it was as much as an hour, he was instructed in his marital rights and duties by the family guru.

On the ground, nearly in front of Surindro, was a small pan of bright red coals of sacred fire; and at his side was the barber, who was master,

lifted Anandi to the level of Surindro's face, underneath a large sheet which had been stretched over their heads. The bride's mother and another woman, near of kin, were on either side of the bridal pair. Each woman held a light close to the face of the bride and bridegroom and the sarree was removed from the bride's face.

The sheets were then carried away and the bridegroom walked into the gods' house. The barber and his assistants carried the bride in just after her husband. Within a circle chalked on the floor the bride and bridegroom were seated opposite one another; between them was a vase filled with flowers. On this vase the back of the bridegroom's hand was placed, while the back of the bride's hand was placed in his palm. The two hands were then bound together with wreaths of flowers, while in them the marriage fee was placed.

After the marriage knot had thus been tied the bride was placed on her feet, standing in front of her husband with her back toward him. The attendants placed in her hand a plate upon which were some rice and some plantain, while a wisp of lighted straw was thrown at her feet. The bride was then conducted to her husband's side; in the parting of her hair at the front some red powder was rubbed. This red powder may be worn by wives only, never by maids or widows, and the chuddah, which she now donned for the first time, was drawn over her face.

## OLD AGE ONLY A MICROBE

Scientist Claims It Is Not Necessary That People Should Feel Burdened With Years.

It seems that according to most recent discoveries old age is not a natural result of years, but is a microbe. At least this is claimed by the scientist, Metchnikoff of the Pasteur institute in Paris.

It is not necessary that people should feel burdened with years and grow feeble and exhausted as the months roll into years. All that is due to a microbe in the body, and when science can once discover the antitoxin which can successfully combat the poisonous effects of the microbe, we can live on, perhaps not longer, but without discomfort until the end comes. He bases his theory on his observations of mammals as compared with birds.

A dog or horse, for instance, shows distinct signs of senility. They grow feeble and decrepit and break down in every way. But birds do not. A duck that is twenty years old shows no signs of advanced age. Parrots remain for long years in a youthful state and retain their brilliant plumage. In the case of a parrot, which, according to reliable information is seventy to seventy-five years old, it is impossible to recognize old age, so entirely normal is its appearance and so easy its movements.

The cause, it is claimed, lies in the difference in the intestines in mammals and birds. The latter are so built that the microbes which are so abundant in the intestines of the mammals do not or cannot accumulate in the bird. In the mammal they increase from year to year, and the toxic effect from these intestinal sources produces the phenomena which we call "old age."—Chicago Tribune.

### The Tale of the Earring.

A curious instance of the survival and revival of a fashion which originated in the remotest times is the earring. Worn by the kings of Egypt, and extremely popular among the ladies of ancient Rome, it subsequently lost favor until the gay day of the Stuart period, after which it again dropped out, and has now once more regained popularity. The very earliest mention of this form of decoration is to be found in the Book of Genesis. Jacob, it will be remembered, on reaching Bethel buried certain strange idols, among them some earrings belonging to his family. Doubtless these ornaments were regarded purely in a propitiatory light as amulets or talismans, such being still their principal office in the east today. That they are of eastern origin is certain, and among Orientals, with the exception of Greeks and Hebrews, it has always been the custom for both sexes to wear them, while frequently only one ear was adorned. Among other races, however, earrings were always worn in pairs, and by the women only.

### World's Largest Index.

On Beacon Hill, in Boston, under the golden dome of the statehouse, is one of the largest indexes in the world. In fact, the Russian public index is the only one known to be larger. More than 9,000,000 names, births, marriages and deaths in Massachusetts from 1943 make a complete record, showing not only where people were born and where they died, but also statistics which are vital in making up calculations. Before this time, says the National Magazine, the records were kept in the different towns, but now they are all concentrated in the statehouse in Boston. In a relatively small space all these records are preserved, and as births, marriages and deaths come in, different forms of cards are used, and a great variety of names, Grecian, Assyrian, Italian and others now mingle with good old New England names that have been on the records since the landing of the Mayflower.

### Treatment for Bees.

A young man on a local newspaper was recently given charge of the "Helps for Suburbanites" column in the absence of the regular editor. The young gentleman managed to wade through the majority of the perplexing questions in his day's mail until at last he came to a stickler. Rushing into the news room he stopped beside the city editor's desk and asked: "Mr. —, can you tell me how to treat sick bees?"

"With respect," retorted the city editor as he resumed his perusal of the rival sheet.—Boston Traveler.

### Man's Heart Is Clean.

Man is worthy of a fairer life and destiny than any of his leaders have yet devised. The impulses of his heart are better than anything that finds expression in the angry, overstrained acts of his daily struggle. Some deeper, sweeter tone than the whirl of machines and the clamor of the streets will dominate the time to come.—Collier's Weekly.

### Popularity.

"Popularity—The afterbirth of a platitudo.—Smart Set.

## MOST SILENT CLUB IN WORLD

It Is Located in London, England, and Called the National Deaf Club.

London boasts possession of the most silent club in the world. It is called the National Deaf club, and the moving spirit and president is A. J. Wilson, who, despite the handicap of being deaf and dumb, conducts a most successful business in the city. Of course, the National Deaf club is a unique institution. There are no talkative waiters, no electric bells, no large print notices calling upon members to be silent in this or that room.

Nearly two hundred members use the premises, in which they can dine and wine or play cards and billiards whenever they like. Women are admitted and at present form about a third of the roll. Bells being unnecessary, signs are resorted to. Thus when one presses the bell of the hall door a red light appears over the doorway and brings the attendant at once. A similar arrangement notifies the waiter when his services are required.

Those fortunate persons who can speak and hear and who have been privileged to watch a game of billiards declare it is more than a relief to see a contest where neither party voices his grievances as he goes along. There are no criticisms of the table, the balls or the cue. Everything is peaceful and quiet. There are some remarkable men belonging to the National Deaf club. One, for example, is head of an important railway firm in Syria and has under his control hundreds of men of all nationalities.

Another member has traveled over the world a record number of times, always unaccompanied, and though he has been in many uncivilized lands has always been able to look after himself. Then there are members who earn their own living in various professions. One actually teaches music; another is a nurse. There is an annual banquet for deaf and dumb persons, which is usually presided over by some eminent mute.—Chicago Tribune.

### Noise Killing Mankind.

Man's nerves and hearing apparatus were evolved in comparatively quiet surroundings, to detect faint sounds warning him of danger or of the presence of game. Sudden loud sounds shock the system greatly—in childhood they may cause convulsions.

In time we might evolve a race immune to noise, but it can only be done by killing off those who are most injured by it, and these nervous people are often the very ones who are doing the most to advance civilization. So the only thing to do is to make the environment fit for them and not kill them as unfit for the environment.

The first step is to abolish unnecessary bells, whistles and street cries, construct less noisy pavements and give children playgrounds where they can blow off steam to their dear hearts' content and not annoy anyone, not even long-suffering, head-achy mamma.

A genius who can still the noise of our dreadful streets and tube railways will be dubbed "blessed" by the world.

### 1,250-Foot Ships in 1930.

At the first international congress of maritime navigation in Philadelphia it was predicted that in 1950 the twenty largest boats on the Atlantic will have an average length of 1,100 feet, with a beam of more than 100 feet, and a draught of nearly forty feet.

A forecast, however, made several years ago for 1923 materialized last year, and it may well be that this forecast for 1950 will find itself an actuality fifteen or twenty years sooner than the time prophesied.

Work being done to better docking facilities all over the world gives a slight indication of what may be expected. The plans for the new locks of Tilbury dock provide for ships of a length of 1,250 feet, a width of 130 feet and a draught of 39 feet. The Suez canal is to be deepened to 39 feet by 1915.

### Disfigurement Explained.

One day an Eldorado man met up with a citizen who evidently had had trouble. His lip was split open and two of his front teeth were missing. His left eye was entirely closed and his right orb of vision was surrounded by a deep border of blue-black color.

"Been fooling around a mule?" cheerfully asked the Eldorado man. "Nope," gloomily replied the man with the split lip. "I saw a man yesterday and we got to talkin' about Kansas and other states. He said to me that Kansas is no good; that any man is a fool who will live in this state."

The Eldorado man flared up at once. "The man is a liar."

"Yes," said the disfigured man sadly, "that's what I told him."—Kansas City Star.

### Nothing in Prophecy.

George Harvey, who so accurately prophesied the election of President Wilson, said at a luncheon in New York:

"But it doesn't pay to be a prophet. If you prophesy right nobody ever remembers it. If you prophesy wrong, nobody ever forgets it."

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### Wise Old Gentleman.

An old gentleman, whose character was unimpeached and unimpeachable, for some slight cause was challenged by a dissolute young Hotspur, who was determined that the old gentleman should give him honorable satisfaction. The old gentleman very good-naturedly refused to fight, and the fellow threatened to "gazette" him as a coward. "Well, go ahead—I would rather fill 20 newspapers than one coffin," rejoined the old gentleman.

No thoughtful person uses liquid blue. It's a pinch of blue in a large bottle of water. Ask for Red Cross Ball Blue, the blue that's all blue.

### Simple Lines.

What we all need is grand simple lines in our characters and our work as well as in our toilettes.

## AILING WOMEN OF MIDDLE AGE

Mrs. Hilbert Tells of Her Distressing Symptoms During Change of Life and How She Found Relief.

Fleetwood, Pa.—"During the Change of Life I was hardly able to be around at all. I always had a headache and I was so dizzy and nervous that I had no rest at night. The flashes of heat were so bad sometimes that I did not know what to do.



"One day a friend advised me to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and it made me a strong well woman. I am very thankful that I followed my friend's advice and I shall recommend it as long as I live. Before I took the Compound I was always sickly and now I have not had medicine from a doctor for years. You may publish my letter."—Mrs. EDWARD B. HILBERT, Fleetwood, Pa.

Such warning symptoms as sense of suffocation, hot flashes, headaches, backaches, dread of impending evil, timidity, sounds in the ears, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregularities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude, and dizziness, are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period in life when woman's great change may be expected.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound invigorates and strengthens the female organism and builds up the weakened nervous system. It has carried many women safely through this crisis.