

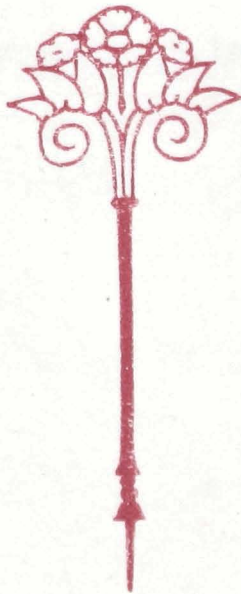


Naini Tal, General View.

# *Naini Tal*

*A historical and  
descriptive account*

1927



ALLAHABAD:

*The Superintendent, Government Press United Provinces*

1928



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## PREFACE

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**T**HIS account of Naini Tal has been compiled under the directions of His Excellency the Governor in the hope of preserving some memories of the past which must otherwise, in the ordinary course, be speedily forgotten; and of interesting visitors to the summer capital of the United Provinces.

The original draft of Chapter I was prepared by Mr. L. C. L. Griffin, I.C.S., Assistant Commissioner, Naini Tal. Mr. E. A. H. Blunt has kindly contributed the section on the A.D.S. in Naini Tal; and Mr. Tillard, the section on the Naini Tal Yacht Club. Chapters II to IV dealing with the flora and fauna and birds are the work of expert officers: Mr. A. E. Osmaston, Deputy Conservator, assisted by his brother Mr. B. B. Osmaston, who has retired from service, and by Mr. H. G. Champion, Deputy Conservator. The material for Chapter V was supplied by the Public Works Department.

J. M. CLAY,

*Deputy Commissioner, Naini Tal.*






# NAINI TAL

## CHAPTER I

### HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT

#### EARLY HISTORY.

HE hill station of Naini Tal is the creation of the British. It has, therefore, no history before its discovery in 1841 by Mr. Barron, and its subsequent rapid development as a hill station, and as the summer head-quarters of the Government of the United Provinces. As an introduction to an account of the growth and present condition of Naini Tal, all that can be attempted is to trace briefly the history of the hill area around it, which forms part of the territory known from the earliest times as Kumaun.

#### THE CHAND RAJAS.

In early times Kumaun was divided into small principalities, and the area with which we are concerned was subject to various branches of the Khasiya family. The first dynasty to achieve consolidated dominion over Kumaun was the Chand dynasty. The traditional founder of this dominion was Som Chand, of Jhusi on the Ganges near Allahabad, who, in about the seventh century, married the daughter of the Katyuri Raja, then holding sway in the interior of Kumaun. Champawat, in the present district of Almora, was given as the lady's dowry, as

well as land in the Bhabar and Tarai. With Som Chand came in the Joshi Brahmans, a clan which subsequently played an important part in Kumaun history.

Champawat was thus the nucleus from which the Chand dominion expanded over the whole of Kumaun. But it was many centuries before this was accomplished, and the area around Naini Tal was one of the last to be absorbed. Bhim Tal is only thirteen miles from Naini Tal, and there, in the thirteenth century, Triloki Chand built a fort to protect his frontiers. But, at that time, Naini Tal itself was not under the Chand rule, and remained on the western border of the kingdom. In the reign of Udhyan Chand, who succeeded in 1420, the Chand boundary on the west appears to have been formed by the rivers Kosi and Sual, and Ramgarh and Kotah still remained under the former Khasiya rule. Kirat Chand, who reigned from 1488 to 1503, and greatly extended his territory, finally overran and annexed the area including Naini Tal, which had so long remained independent.

The Khasiyas made one attempt to reassert their independence. In 1560, headed by the Khasiya of Ramgarh, they enjoyed a brief moment of success, but were quickly subdued with ruthless severity by Babu Kalyan Chand. There was little or no attempt to administer the hill area at this period. The mahals which are mentioned in the *Ain-i-Akbari* are all situated in the plains, and the hills were exempted from payment of revenue on account of their poverty.

One of the chief occupations of the Chand Rajas was waging war against Garhwal, the traditional enemy. During the reign of Deb Chand, who succeeded in 1720, Kumaun was actually invaded by the Garhwalis, but no lasting occupation resulted.

Twenty years later the Kumaun hills were again invaded, this time by the Rohillas, with whom war broke out in 1743. The latter penetrated as far as Bhim Tal and plundered it. They were, however, eventually bought off by the Raja of Garhwal, who had formed a temporary alliance with Kalyan Chand, at that time Raja of Kumaun. Another invasion, two years later, was repulsed by Shib Deo Joshi, prime minister of Kalyan Chand.

With the death of Kalyan Chand in 1747, the power of the Kumaun Rajas began to wane. He was succeeded by Dip Chand, his son, an extremely weak young man, whose interests were solely religious and who devoted himself to the building of temples, the Bhimeshwar temple at Bhim Tal being the only one which concerns us here. Fortunately, however, Shib Deo Joshi was still prime minister, and during his lifetime Kumaun prospered. But in 1764 he was killed by some mutinous soldiers, and from that date onwards the plains became practically independent of the hill state of Kumaun, of which they had hitherto been the most valuable portion.

After the death of Shib Deo Joshi, the affairs of Kumaun were thrown into still further confusion by the intrigue of the Rani, wife of Dip Chand, on the one hand, and of Mohan Singh, an upstart Raotela, on the

other. It is unnecessary to enter into the details of the next few years' events. It is sufficient to say that Mohan Singh, after putting the Rani to death, succeeded in murdering Dip Chand and his two sons in 1777. Mohan Singh then proclaimed himself Raja, as Mohan Chand. His rule, which was marked by persecution of the Joshi family, was shortlived, for in 1779, Kumaun was invaded by Lal Sah, Raja of Garhwal, who placed his own son, Parduman, on the throne. Mohan Chand fled, and the Joshis, of whom Harakh Deo was now the head, were constituted the principal advisers of the new Raja. Parduman attempted to add his native Garhwal to his newly acquired kingdom of Kumaun. During his absence, Mohan Chand again came to the front. War ensued between him and the Joshis, who remained loyal to the Garhwal rule. Mohan Chand was killed, but his place was taken by his brother, Lal Singh, and in 1788 the Joshi party was completely defeated near Bhim Tal. Thereafter Lal Singh became supreme, and the Joshis were persecuted.

### THE GURKHAS.

Meanwhile a neighbouring power, the Gurkhas, was watching with interest the state of affairs in Kumaun. With the aid of the defeated Harakh Deo Joshi, the Gurkhas invaded Kumaun and, owing to the confusion into which the country had lately been thrown by the struggles of the rival factions, succeeded in subduing it. Little of interest occurred during the Gurkha rule. Their policy was one of repression, although the administration

in Kumaun was less severe than that in Garhwal. Gurkha domination did not last long. In 1814, the British Government turned their attention to Kumaun. The East India Company was interested in the hills, owing to the hemp produced there, of which large quantities passed through the Company's factory at Kashipur, then under the superintendence of Dr. Rutherford. Lord Hastings, the Governor-General, attempted to annex Kumaun peaceably, and the Hon'ble Mr. Gardner was sent from Delhi to open negotiations with Bam Sah, the Governor of Kumaun. These negotiations failed, and, early in 1815, war was declared.

#### ANNEXATION.

The actual operations were not closely concerned with the hill area around Naini Tal, which is our main interest, and it is sufficient to say that the British obtained the cession of Kumaun in December 1815. They were aided by the veteran Harakh Deo Joshi. Mr. Gardner was appointed first Commissioner of Kumaun, with head-quarters at Almora, but was shortly afterwards succeeded by Mr. Traill. Mr. Traill, whose administration was practically unfettered by any central authority, remained Commissioner until 1830. He was succeeded by Colonel Gowan, who was followed in 1839 by Mr. Lushington. In 1848, Mr. Batten became Commissioner, and was, in his turn, succeeded in 1856 by Captain Ramsay, who later became Major-General Sir Henry Ramsay, Sir Henry Ramsay's rule lasted for twenty-eight years; and to this day he is spoken of as "the king of Kumaun."

## DISCOVERY OF NAINI TAL.

At this point we may turn to Naini Tal itself, whose individual history can be traced from the year 1841. The first recorded discovery of Naini Tal was in the year 1841 on November 18. Mr. Barron, of Rosa, near Shah-jahanpur, who had been touring in the Kumaun hills in search of health and scenery, arrived there with two companions. One of these was Captain Weller, of the Engineers, who was Executive Officer of Public Works in Kumaun. Mr. Barron had been staying with him at his camp on the banks of the Kossila river, about 25 miles below Almora. The other was a friend to whom he refers as "my companion, Captain C." Mr. Barron, in his "Notes of wanderings in the Himmala"\* under the nom de plume of "Pilgrim", does not take to himself the credit of being the first European visitor to the lake. He mentions the fact that Mr. Traill, the Commissioner of Kumaun, was said to have paid a visit to it some years previously; but he adds that no European then residing in Kumaun had seen it, and that he had not been able to discover more than three visitors to it since the province had come into British possession. It is curious that a place, so suitable from every point of view as a hill settlement, should have remained so long undiscovered, but this is possibly explained by the fact that the lake was held particularly sacred by the hill men, who did everything in their power to prevent its being polluted by the intrusion of Europeans. The legend of its supernatural origin is mentioned later. Mr. Barron

\*Published at Agra, 1844.

in fact relates that they had the utmost difficulty in prevailing on their guide to lead them to the lake. But another factor contributing to this isolation was very probably, as suggested by Mr. Batten, the Senior Assistant Commissioner, the attitude of Mr. Traill, the late Commissioner. His power in Kumaun was practically unfettered, and he exercised it jealously, and disliked the possibility of any influx of European intruders into his domains. So free was he from supervision that on one occasion when a letter from the Board of Revenue referred him to a Regulation, he replied that he had seen none of the Acts of Government for many years.

Mr. Barron and his two companions entered the Naini Tal basin from the direction of Khairna through St. Loo Gorge. They remained only one night and left again the next day, Mr. Barron and Captain C., going to Ramgarh, and Captain Weller returning to his camp. Mr. Barron was very much impressed with Naini Tal, and its possibilities as a hill station and as a sanatorium, and was enthusiastic over the beauty of the scenery, the crystal clearness of the water, and the plentiful animal life.

His next visit was a year later in December 1842. This time he arrived from Bhim Tal, where he had joined his friends, Mr. Batten and Captain Weller. The place had not remained in its former obscurity since his previous visit. It had been examined under official instructions, and the results were already noticeable.



About half a dozen sites had already either been applied for or granted; and Mr. Lushington, the Commissioner, had started to build a small house. Moreover, the Commissioner had already planned out a bazar on the site of the present Malli Tal, and the Government had fixed a general rent for land at twelve annas per acre. This rapid development of Naini Tal was apparently welcome to the hill people, who, according to Mr. Barron, were "flocking in" to take leases of land for shops. Mr. Barron himself selected three sites.

Mr. Barron had brought with him from the plains a boat, measuring about 20 feet in length. After some difficulty, it reached Naini Tal safely the day after his arrival, and he and his friends launched it on the lake, and went for a row. The inhabitants were, in Mr. Barron's words, "frantic with joy at the novel and unexpected spectacle", and on their safe return to land, he and his friends were flattered with references to Hindu mythology, wherein they were likened to the god Vishnu emerging from the ocean.

On their second trip they managed to persuade a *thokdar*, Nar Singh, to come into the boat with them. This Nar Singh had recently failed to establish his claim to Naini Tal and the surrounding mountains in Mr. Batten's court, and the matter was now under appeal. Mr. Barron, whose sense of humour seems to have been primitive, made him waive his claim in writing on the page of a pocket-book, while on the lake, by threatening to upset the boat. On their return to shore, Mr. Barron

exhibited this document to the assembled crowd, who were, so he says, delighted with the practical joke: to explain their appreciation of it he adds that all the *paharis* of Kumaun, however poor, could read and write, and could thus at a glance understand the document. The claims of the unfortunate Nar Singh, it may be added, were finally met by his appointment, on his own application, as *patwari* of the new settlement on five rupees per month. This visit of Mr. Barron and his friend lasted for three days, and on December 14 they left Naini Tal.

When Mr. Barron next came to Naini Tal, in November 1843, the settlement was well advanced. He found a house being built on the hills on either side of the outlet of the lake, where the Talli Tal bazar now stands, and three houses begun upon the lawn at the upper end of the lake, where the Flats are now situated. Quite a large party spent Christmas in Naini Tal, and in the evening the company sat down to dinner in Pilgrim Lodge. This was the house built by Mr. Barron for himself; and it is still in existence, being now one of the cottages belonging to the Club. It is difficult to ascertain which of the other original houses are standing at the present day, or exactly where they were situated; but it is certain that Mr. Lushington, the Commissioner, built himself a house. Among the first applicants for building sites in Naini Tal are found also the names of Mr. G. B. Saunders of Shahjahanpur (probably introduced to the place by Mr. Barron), a Mr. Maclean, also a neighbour of Mr. Barron's at Shahjahanpur, and a Dr. Colquhoun.

After this, Naini Tal grew rapidly. But before we leave the story of its discovery, in which Mr. Barron played so important a part, it is interesting to notice that his motive in publishing accounts of his visits, in which he dwelt very strongly on the natural beauty of the place and its advantages as a hill station, were impugned by a gentleman who wrote under the non deplume of "Bagman" in a paper called "The Hills." "Bagman" seems to have been apprehensive of the rival attractions which Naini Tal might offer to Simla and Mussoorie. He accused Mr. Barron of gross exaggeration of the facts regarding Naini Tal, suggested that the lake was, in reality, stagnant and unhealthy, and asserted that the place was practically inaccessible, the roads being dangerous to a pedestrian. In fact, according to "Bagman," the publicity given to Naini Tal was merely a scheme of the residents of Kumaun, led by Mr. Barron, for their personal advantage. Mr. Barron took this attack very seriously, and devoted a long appendix in his book, already quoted, to refuting the imputation made by the despicable "Bagman", whose identity he apparently knew, and whom, in the last words of his book, he describes as "the man who used to go out shooting the chamois with me, crawled on all-fours, and wore a pair of green spectacles."

#### THE MUTINY.

By the time that the Mutiny broke out in 1857, Naini Tal was becoming an important place. There was, fortunately, no outbreak of disorder there; but fears were

at one time entertained that an attack would be made on it. It played an important part, too, indirectly as a place of security for refugees. A short account is given by Major Ramsay (as he then was), the Commissioner, of the most important events "attending the outbreak of disturbances and the restoration of authority in the district of Kumaun." The report is dated Naini Tal, July 22, 1858, and is included in the large volume containing reports from all the districts to the Government of the North-Western Provinces.

The first news of the Mutiny reached Major Ramsay on May 22, when he was in the snowy ranges of Garhwal. He hastened to Almora, and, after making necessary arrangements there, proceeded to Naini Tal, which was by that time his head-quarters. Thence he directed operations to preserve order in the plains below, where hordes of dacoits from Rampur and Moradabad were pillaging and laying waste the country-side. Early in June, refugees arrived in Naini Tal from Bareilly and Moradabad. All who started, with the exception of Sergeant Stables from Bareilly, reached the hills in safety. From June 6, for nearly a month, Naini Tal was completely cut off from communication with the plains, but early in July a *dák* line was established across the hills to Mussoorie.

About the middle of June, disorder began to occur among the evil-disposed of the hill people, chiefly along the edge of the plains. Major Ramsay, who had no district police, realizing that if this continued, the position at Naini Tal might become critical, adopted stern

measures. He proclaimed martial law throughout Kumaun, and when sentences of long terms of imprisonment upon dacoits proved ineffective, he resorted to capital punishment. This had the desired result, and the hills once again became peaceful. There is a tradition that some of these dacoits were hanged from a tree in the present Hawksdale estate. This is confirmed by several Indian residents, who were children at the time, or were born shortly afterwards, and who, no doubt, had the story from eyewitnesses. The bay below Hawksdale also is shown on old maps as Hangman's Bay.

After the arrival of the refugees, it became evident that there was no prospect of immediate relief. Funds were very low, and consequently Major Ramsay, with the assistance of Mr. Colvin, drew up a scale of allowances, which were paid monthly to every European in Naini Tal. A similar practice was adopted in the Fort at Agra, the head-quarters of Government, and officials were allowed to draw the balance due to them at the rate of 2s 6d in England. Advances were made on receipts, and Major Ramsay, at the time of writing his report, stated that nearly all had been adjusted.

The Baqr-Id festival occurred that year at the end of July. Although the Nawab of Rampur (who had already helped the residents of Moradabad, led by the Judge, Mr. Cracroft Wilson, to escape to Naini Tal) was doing everything in his power to preserve order in his territories and to assist the Government, it was feared that a serious disturbance might break out there; and

that a successful insurrection must culminate in an attack on Naini Tal. As a precautionary measure, therefore, Major Ramsay sent over all the women and children, amounting in number to about two hundred, to Almora. They returned to Naini Tal after the Baqr-Id festival had passed without disturbance; and this was the only exodus from Naini Tal.

Although Naini Tal remained undisturbed, fighting was going on round Haldwani all through the winter. The British forces in the district at the time consisted of the 66th Gurkhas and the 8th Irregular Cavalry. Later on they were reinforced by the Nepal contingent and the Kumaun levies. These forces were occupied mainly in quelling disturbances in the plains below; but a party remained at Naini Tal to protect the passes on the Rampur side. There was, at this time, great difficulty in obtaining coolies, owing to the panic prevailing among the hill men. Major Ramsay, in June 1858, solved this difficulty by releasing forty convicts from the jail and using them as coolies, without guards, on the promise that, if they behaved well, they should be released at the end of the year, while if they failed, they would be banished from the hills. This device was most successful. The coolies worked well, and on one occasion attacked a body of dacoits near Kaladunghi, and killed several of them. Throughout this period Major Ramsay retained Mr. Batten at Naini Tal. Major Ramsay himself was constantly on the move, and he felt the necessity of keeping one civil officer in the station to keep order and to dispose of the numerous

applications, which were received from all sides, without delay.

No further events of importance occurred in Naini Tal during the Mutiny. Though the place was isolated for a time, and occasionally threatened from the plains, its rôle was a peaceful one, and chiefly that of affording shelter to refugees from the neighbouring plains stations. Judging by private letters from residents to friendly Indians in the plains, who had offered assistance, the chief material need was for beer. But, before passing on, it is of interest to refer to a letter of Major Ramsay's to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, dated January 21, 1858, which throws light on the general situation in Naini Tal and Kumaun during the Mutiny. Government had sent an order to Major Ramsay to remove all ladies and children to Mussoorie. The reasons given for this were two: first, that many ladies desired to leave Naini Tal with a view to proceeding to England, and second, that the presence of ladies and children at Naini Tal embarrassed the authorities and prevented any attempt being made from that quarter to restore order in Rohilkhand. Major Ramsay did not comply with the order, and his reasons are given at length in this letter. Briefly they were, that the journey could no longer be undertaken without great hardship owing to the weather and lack of transport; that several ladies had left Naini Tal in October and November 1857; that every one had then the opportunity; and that no one wished to relinquish their comfortable houses at Naini Tal, for whose rent they had made themselves

personally responsible, and to incur the additional expense of hiring another house at Mussoorie "where the rent is most exorbitant and accommodation very scarce." It is evident that a feeling of security prevailed in Naini Tal. This is further borne out by Major Ramsay's comment on the point raised by Government about the embarrassment caused to military operations by the presence of ladies. "The natural defences of Naini Tal", he writes, "are so strong that the women and children are safer there than at Mussoorie. The station can only be approached from the plains by two narrow passes, which can be defended by a handful of men with no other weapons than stones, and, although the Bareilly rebel chief during the last six months sent 3,000 to 5,000 men to destroy the Europeans in Kumaun, these rebels have never been able to enter the outside pass which was defended by the police *burkandazes* only; and that point was eleven miles distant from Naini Tal. The hill people of Kumaun have no sympathy with rebels of the plains and were always ready to assist in defending the passes against any attempt the rebels could have made. But now there is no danger to be anticipated. Perfect confidence has been established all over the Kumaun hills. Thousands of the inhabitants have resorted to the Bhabar, which is, in fact, occupied by the hill people, and the rebels have even deserted their Tarai haunts. Under such circumstances the removal of all women and children would disturb the present quiet, and make a panic throughout the district, as well as cause a great deal of disgust if the inhabitants were to be seized as



coolies and compelled to carry loads beyond their limits, which would be absolutely necessary in the deserted parts above alluded to . . . . I have full possession of the forest (twelve miles broad) at the foot of the hills . . . . As regards the Kumaun hills, the 66th Regiment has long been available. I don't require it to protect Naini Tal, or any other station. The levies now being instructed are quite strong enough to give perfect security to the hills, and the women and children at Naini Tal need not detain the 66th a day in this district." That there were, however, some alarmists at Naini Tal appears from the following sentence: "I dare say the removal of the 66th will create uneasiness in the minds of a few alarmists (well known at Naini Tal) who imagine themselves in danger if they hear of a few weavers ordered by Khan Bahadur Khan to proceed to Bareilly: but these may go to Mussoorie, if they choose, and need not be taken into consideration at all." The Government was fully satisfied with Major Ramsay's reasons for not carrying out the orders.

#### THE SUMMER HEAD-QUARTERS.

James Thomason (Lieutenant-Governor, 1843-53) spent several hot weathers in the hills at Simla. In 1853, after remaining through the hot months at Agra, then the provincial head-quarters, he travelled in ill-health to Bareilly and intended to visit Naini Tal, but died before he could do so (Life by R. Temple, pp. 114, 203-6). It was not till shortly after the Mutiny that Naini

Tal became the summer head-quarters of the North-Western Provinces. The actual date is uncertain, as no record of the matter survives. But Stoneleigh, on the site of the present Ramsay Hospital, the first residence of the Lieutenant-Governor, was occupied about 1862, and it was probably in this year that the Government offices first moved to Naini Tal. In some later years a move was made to Malden House, which was situated just at the head of the great landslip, and was subsequently demolished as unsafe.

#### CHIEF BUILDINGS.

One of the earliest buildings erected in Naini Tal was the church of "St. John-in-the-wilderness." The site was chosen as early as 1844 and approved by the Bishop of Calcutta, Daniel Wilson. The name appears to have originated from him; and as Naini Tal had been discovered only in 1841, the reason for its choice is obvious. The plans were prepared by Captain Young, Executive Engineer, and the corner stone was laid in October 1846. The cost of the original structure was about Rs. 15,000, and was met by private subscription and pew rents. It was first opened on April 2, 1848, though not yet completed. In 1856, it was taken over by Government as a public building. Since then the church has been considerably enlarged. There are several memorials in the church: and of these, two may here be mentioned. One commemorates those who were killed in the landship of 1880, and this will be described later on. The other, the most recent of all, is the memorial tablet to those

members of the Indian Civil Service, who were killed in the War (1914-1918).

The present Assembly Rooms were built shortly after the great landslip, which destroyed the older buildings, at a cost of Rs. 39,600. This sum was raised by the issue of debentures, and interest at the rate of 7 per cent. is still paid. They have not been so successful financially as was originally hoped. At the time of building, it was expected that the debentures would be quickly paid off from the estimated annual profit. This is very far from being the case. For one reason or another the profits have been much less than was expected. Only Rs. 9,600 have been paid off, and a debt of Rs. 30,000 still remains. The profits are now barely sufficient to pay the interest due on the debentures, and to keep the building in repair. Its present condition is not what might be desired. The Assembly Rooms are under the management of the municipal board, whose meetings are held there. There is at present a scheme under consideration for demolishing the present building, and erecting something better.

The Ramsay Hospital was completed in 1892. It was erected as a memorial to Sir Henry Ramsay, who was for so long Commissioner of Kumaun. The original building cost two and a quarter lakhs and various additions have since been made. Subscriptions for its construction were collected throughout the province. It is maintained by income derived from invested capital, by donations and by fees from patients. It also receives aid from Government. But the expenses of maintaining a well-equipped and completely staffed hospital in the

hills are constantly rising, and the Committee have increasing difficulty in making both ends meet. The hospital has served the European residents of the entire province most efficiently for over a generation, and few institutions have a better claim on the public support.

The Crosthwaite Hospital was opened in 1896 by Sir Antony MacDonnell on his first visit to Naini Tal as Lieutenant-Governor. It was named after, and the foundation stone was laid by, Sir Charles Crosthwaite, the preceding Lieutenant-Governor. It was erected at a cost of Rs. 33,733 on the Bellevue estate, purchased for this purpose from Lala Durga Sah, and on an adjoining piece of land, formerly the site of the District Engineer's office. The Ramsay Hospital had originally been intended as a hospital for Europeans and Indians alike, but this arrangement was found to be impracticable, as the hospital is too far away from the Malli Tal bazar for the convenience of Indian patients. In consequence, the Crosthwaite Hospital was founded. The cost of construction was, to a large extent, met by private contributions and a donation from the Ramsay Hospital. The hospital is maintained by the municipal board.

The Grand Hotel, as is apparent from its structure, has been built gradually and enlarged by additions. It was built by a Mr. Tom Murray between 1870 and 1872, and was first known as the Mayo Hotel. Mr. Murray afterwards became bankrupt, and the hotel has since passed through many hands. It was later known as the Albion Hotel, and was renamed the Grand Hotel in 1898 when in the possession of Messrs. Murray & Co.

The Club grounds contain some of the oldest buildings in Naini Tal. Pilgrim Lodge, the first house to be built, has already been mentioned. Blythe Cottage, Sunnyside and Cypress Cottage are all also to be found on a map made in 1872. A main Club building also existed at that date, but the present main block was built in 1892. The records of its foundation have apparently not survived.

The building of St. Joseph's College was completed in 1889, and was opened by Sir Auckland Colvin, Lieutenant-Governor. The arrival of St. Joseph's College in Naini Tal was due to the transfer in 1887 by the authorities in Rome of Darjeeling from the diocese of Allahabad to the archdiocese of Calcutta. Hitherto, the school for Catholics of the Allahabad Diocese had been at Darjeeling, where Father Eaglebert, O.N.C. presided over St. Joseph's Seminary. It was now moved to Naini Tal, still under Father Eaglebert. The pupils arrived towards the end of January 1888, and, until their new premises were ready, lived in a rented house, Long View, a few yards away from the College. The site was purchased from a Mr. Read for Rs. 72,000, and the building cost Rs. 47,000. The large playing field was subsequently purchased at a cost of Rs. 500 per acre.

The present site of Philander Smith College on Sherka-danda Hill was purchased in 1889 from a Mr. Petman. The extensive buildings which now exist have been built gradually since then, and a large dormitory block has recently been constructed. The site is over 7,500 feet

above sea-level and is the highest school site in India, probably in the world.

#### THE LANDSLIP OF 1880.

Mr. Barron, when describing the advantages of Naini Tal as a hill station, did not take into account the possibility of landslips. Of these, there have been several, but the landslip of the year 1880 was, by far, the most disastrous. The events of that time have been described by Mr. C. T. Atkinson in his Kumaun Gazetteer. He was himself an eyewitness, and it seems best, therefore, to quote his own narrative here, along with the accounts which he collected from other witnesses. He says:—

“The rain commenced to fall steadily and without cessation from Thursday the 16th of September, 1880, until Sunday evening, the 19th. During Friday and Saturday, 33 inches of rain fell, of which 20 to 25 inches had fallen in the 40 hours preceding Saturday evening. The rain was accompanied by violent gusts of wind from the east; the roads were injured, the water-courses choked, and there was a general saturation of the soil in all places where the loose debris of rotten shale, of which the northern ridge is composed, allowed the water to penetrate. There was much clearing of new sites during the previous year, and the builders did not always provide for the derangement of natural drainage channels. In many places the water was allowed to sink into crevices in the hill and find new outlets for itself, and this it did with a vengeance. In 1866, a slip occurred to the west of the present one, destroying the old Victoria

Hotel. In 1869, this was enlarged, and the scored sides of the ridge below Alma bear witness to its extent. On the site where the slip of 1880 occurred, was the Victoria Hotel and its offices, and below it was the temple on the margin of the lake, and close to it Bell's shop, and further on the Assembly Rooms, also on the margin of the lake. About 10 a.m. on Saturday morning the first slip occurred in a part of the hill-side immediately behind the Victoria Hotel, carrying away a portion of the out-houses and of the western wing of the hotel, and burying in the ruin an English child and its nurse, and some native servants. Working parties were called for, and Mr. Leonard Taylor, C.S., Mr. Morgan, Overseer, and a party of soldiers and officers from the depôt set to work to dig out those that were buried. In the meantime all the residents in the hotel removed to safer quarters, except Colonel Taylor, R.E., who retired to a small detached room below the hotel generally used as a billiard room; and Major and Mrs. Morphy, with Mrs. Turnbull, who came to offer their assistance, proceeded to the Assembly Rooms. All had made preparations to leave, as nothing more could be done; and about twenty minutes past one I passed from the hotel to the bazar and, whilst passing with Mr. Wright, heard a noise, and saw a large boulder falling from the cliff above towards the hotel. I thought nothing of it and went on. In another ten minutes the landslip took place.

The whole hill-side was one mass of semi-fluid matter, and required little to set it in motion. The state of the hill has been described as in dry weather a mass

of the consistence of oat-meal, which, when mixed with water, spread out like porridge. The motive power was a shock of earthquake, a very common occurrence in these hills, and which was felt on that day by competent observers in the Bhabar below and in Naini Tal itself.”

Several accounts of their impressions by eyewitnesses are given by Mr. Atkinson. It will suffice here to quote the two fullest:—

“A rumbling noise, similar to that occasioned by the falling of large masses of earth, was heard by many in the station; and such as had an opportunity of looking towards the direction of the crash could plainly see vast clouds of dust rising from the situation above described. It was apparent that a large portion of the hill behind the hotel, from the Upper Mall, disunited, had descended with enormous velocity and violence, had completely buried the hotel, and had dashed together into an unrecognizable heap, the orderly, room, the shop and the Assembly Rooms. The wave of earth and water, making a clean sweep of the extensive hotel premises, had apparently driven the shop on to the Assembly Rooms, carrying forward the massive building over 50 yards on to the public rooms, a portion of which was hurled into the lake and the remainder reduced to a heap of ruins. The catastrophe, as far as can be ascertained, was the work of a few seconds only; so that escape on the part of any who happened to be in the course of the avalanche was practically impossible.”



The other account runs :—

“Through the dripping rain came the sound of crackling trees. Some oaks on the hill-side, about 400 feet above Victoria, were observed falling forward. A boulder or two descended, and a shout ‘Run for your lives!’ was heard ringing up from the hotel. It was followed by a noise which, to those near, suggested the rumbling crash of thunder, and to a witness not far distant, the hoarse roar of cheering for some person rescued. By others on the ridge above and on the south-eastern edge of the lake, this noise was not heard at all; but it meant that the hill-side had fallen. In less than half a minute the last stone splashed into the lake. Several great masses rolled down its surface, whilst a cloud of light-brown dust concealed its north-western side and the site of the Victoria from view. As to what had happened in the interval no two witnesses are exactly agreed. For the close observation of details the time and the mood were wanting.”

The dead and missing numbered 151. Of these, 43 were Europeans and Eurasians. “The escapes”, writes Mr. Atkinson, “were many and narrow. Sir Henry Ramsay, whilst directing operations at the east end of the lake, was overtaken by the great wave caused by the debris, swept into the lake and, though at one time waist-deep, succeeded in reaching safety on an ascent off the road; but a British soldier and several natives were swept away close beside him. A Mr. Walker was covered up to his shoulders by the outer fringe of the mud torrent, but escaped. A soldier and a native lad were

swept into the lake and escaped by swimming. Mrs. Knight and Mrs. Gray were in the upper storey of the building known as Bell's shop, and were carried down with it and found amid the girders of the iron roof landed on a heap of the debris, almost unhurt. Immediately after the landslip, jets of water poured forth from reservoirs within the hill on the newly-made face, and, for some time, maintained a direction and volume, which showed the great quantity and force of these factors in the landslip. I will pass over the Saturday night when no one knew whether there would be another slip, as the rain never ceased and boulders continually came crashing down from the hills above. Great cracks opened up and became more easily traced; one from the Mayo Hotel up to St. Loo Cottage, the wall of which was fissured sufficiently to admit of a person walking through, and across Government House, an arch in which was cracked, and over the northern slope of the hill. Another line further east, split into a rock on the summit of the little ridge above Fairlight: a third line proceeded from the Club to the end of the Cheena ridge by the road west of Fairlight. All these were caused by the earthquake, which was as destructive on the northern slopes of Alma and Cheena as within the valley. Sir Henry Ramsay, ably aided by Mr. Willcocks, C.E., and Mr. Lawder, C.E., set to work, and soon placed the roads and drainage on a better footing than before."

A Relief Fund, to help surviving sufferers, was organized. Sir Henry Ramsay was Chairman and Mr. Atkinson Secretary. A sum of Rs. 60,000 was distributed

among the families of those who had perished in the landslip. Prior to the landslip there had been a temple and a dharmsala in the place where the Club Boat-house now stands. They had both been erected about the time of the first settlement in Naini Tal; the dharmsala by a faqir, Parambar Baba; and the temple by Lala Moti Ram Sah, the Almora contractor, who had built Mr. Barron's house and others. These were, of course, both completely destroyed. The present temple, dedicated likewise to Narayani (Naini) Debi, was built after the landslip, on the site where the bell of the destroyed temple was subsequently found. No attempt was made to recover the bodies of the victims of the landslip, but the small plot lying between the Mall and the lake to the west of the Club Boat-house was consecrated as the resting place of the 43 Christians who lost their lives. It is now maintained as a garden by the municipal board.

In 1881, a subscription was opened to erect a memorial to the victims of the landslip. The memorial was combined with a scheme, which had been for some time contemplated, for enlarging the chancel in the church, and included the provision of an east window, an alabaster reredos and a carved altar table.

The window consists of a series of scenes dealing with the Resurrection of the Dead. The following is a list of the subjects:—

- Elijah raising the widow's son;
- Elisha raising the Shunamite's son;
- the man raised from Elisha's grave;

the vision of the valley of dry bones;  
 the raising of Jairus' daughter;  
 the raising of the widow's son at Nain;  
 the raising of Tabitha;  
 the raising of Eutychus; and  
 Christ in the attitude of blessing.

The stonework of the window was carried out at Dholpur, and cost Rs. 2,500. The alabaster reredos and the glass for the east window were designed and carried out by Messrs. Clayton & Bell, at a cost of £350 and £500, respectively. The reredos bears the inscription: "Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judaeorum." The centre panel represents Christ upon the Cross; the right panel, the centurion; and the left panel, Mary Magdalene. Around the sanctuary, on a brass ribbon, are inscribed the words: "To the glory of God and in memory of those who perished in the great landslip—18th September, 1880. They died according to the Word of the Lord and He buried them in this valley." The names of those who perished are inscribed on two brasses, one on each side of the reredos.

There remains the carved altar. It was designed by Mr. Simeon, and carved by Mr. W. H. Robinson of Allahabad. The superfrontal was made by the Sisters of All Saints at Poona.

The entire work of the memorial was completed by 1885. Besides the general memorial, a private one was erected to Mr. L. Taylor, C.S., in the shape of a rose

window in the south transept. It represents, in the central light, a figure of the good Samaritan, and the surrounding lights are filled with figures of angels. Beneath, is the inscription: "In memory of Leonard Taylor, Esq., Bengal Civil Service; killed, 18th September, 1880."

#### CEMETERIES.

The small cemetery on Ayarpata Hill is believed to be the oldest. It was consecrated in 1842, though no burial of earlier date than 1860 can be traced. The cemetery was closed in 1892. The first burial in the cemetery, attached to the church of St. John-in-the-Wilderness, took place in 1845. This cemetery is now used only for the burial of old residents of Naini Tal who have been members of St. John's congregation or who have family vaults. One of the last burials there was that of Sir George Knox, for many years a Judge of the Allahabad High Court. The civil cemetery now in use is situated about two miles along the Kaladhungi Road. It was consecrated in 1890 and first used in 1892. It is known as Saria Tal cemetery. Among those buried there are Surgeon-General Cathewood, and Messrs. Radice, Boas, Burkitt and Bigg-Wither of the Indian Civil Service. The Kale Khan military cemetery is situated about two and a half miles along the Bhowali Road. It was consecrated in 1895 and the first burial took place in 1900. It contains the graves of Major-General Boyce, A. Combe, and Colonel-Commandant Nugent, R.E. Three Boer prisoners taken in the South African War are also buried there.

## DRAINAGE SCHEMES.

In spite of the appalling loss of life and destruction to property, the landslip had one beneficial effect. Before the year 1880, there was practically no drainage system in Naini Tal. The catastrophe of that year brought home to the authorities the urgent need of one. Accordingly, six main ravines were lined with masonry and revetted, at a cost of over two lakhs. This work was done by Government and its upkeep was then entrusted to the municipal board. Further drainage schemes continued to be carried out, including the original Sher-ka-danda drainage schemes in the eighties and early nineties, which cost three lakhs.

In 1898, heavy rains destroyed the Langdale and Endcliffe drains, which had just been rebuilt by the municipal board. The whole position was then reviewed and found to be unsatisfactory. The municipal board could not command the technical knowledge necessary for the construction and upkeep of drains; and, at the request of the president of the municipal board and of the Commissioner, Government transferred the management of all public drains to the Public Works Department. The annual contribution to be made to the Department by the municipal board for this work was fixed at Rs. 7,000.

Closely connected with this matter is the upkeep of roads and protective works. Up to 1907, the upkeep of the roads and protective works remained in the hands of the municipal board. This arrangement was found to

be unsatisfactory, as, since drainage works were in the hands of the Public Works Department, responsibility was divided. In that year, therefore, the Department took over roads and protective works in a certain defined area on payment of a further annual contribution of Rs. 2,500 by the municipal board. The scheme was carried to its logical conclusion in consequence of the slip which occurred on Ayarpata Hill in 1910 and 1911. The remaining roads and protective works were then taken over by the Government engineers, the municipal board paying for this a further contribution. The municipal board is, however, still responsible for roads and drains in the bazars, on which a sum of Rs. 2,000 is spent annually.

Matters remained on this footing until 1923, when the position was further modified on the recommendation made by the Burn Committee in 1921. The six drainage systems of east and west Sher-ka-danda, Cheena, Bara Nala, Ayarpata and Lake Basin were taken out of the hands of the municipality. In addition to this, Rs. 22,000 in cash and labour were given by Government for repairs owing to damage caused by a landslip to Fairy Hall drain in 1921. Government had in practice always given assistance whenever serious damage was caused by heavy rainfall, and this assistance had come to be expected. As a result of the Committee's recommendations, which were accepted by Government, any claim for help arising out of damage caused by rainfall will, in future, be considered on its merits. Besides being itself responsible for the upkeep of roads and drains in the bazar

already mentioned, the municipality now makes an annual contribution of nearly Rs. 10,000 to the Department for the maintenance of roads.

#### OTHER LANDSLIPS.

The most important landslips in Naini Tal itself of later date than 1880 have been mentioned in connexion with the question of protective works and drainage. It remains only to mention the two Brewery landslips of 1898 and 1924. In the former, twenty-eight people were killed. Of these, one was a European, Mr. R. Beechey; an assistant in the brewery. Besides the damage to other buildings, the brewing and whisky distillation buildings were destroyed. In the latter, known as the Charta Hill landslip, a sweeper and an Indian woman, and two Indian travellers were killed. In addition, the Brewery Restaurant; the police station outpost; the Governor's garage; the motor-cars station and various shops and out-houses were completely destroyed. Damage was also caused to the Naini Tal police lines, which were already insecure and have since been condemned; new ones have been built on a site below the Deputy Commissioner's office.

#### THE FLATS.

One of the beneficial effects of the 1880 landslip was, as has been said, the systematic drainage of Naini Tal. Another benefit was the construction of the Flats as they now exist. A small recreation ground had existed there before the landslip, but, as a result of it, the space available was largely increased. The ground is the property



of the Government, but is under the management of the municipality. The board has appointed a Flats Committee, presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, to safeguard the rights of the public to the use of the ground. After this has been done, the management and allotment of the ground is handed over to the Gymkhana Committee. The maximum rent to be paid to the municipal board is a thousand rupees a year, and this is, in practice, always charged.

The Flats, being the only extensive piece of level ground within reasonable access, are of the greatest possible value to Naini Tal as a playground; and during fine weather are in constant use for polo (three-a-side), football, hockey and cricket. Polo tournaments are played there in June and September. The curve of the hill-side turns the Flats into an amphitheatre, and serves to give spectators an unusually good view. An American lady visitor to Naini Tal on a sunny afternoon when a polo match was in progress, the band was playing and the lake was dotted with white sails, is said to have observed that she felt home-sick : it reminded her of Coney Island.

#### DEVELOPMENT : 1895—1901.

Sir Antony MacDonnell's period of office was an important one in Naini Tal's history. He took a keen interest in the development and improvement of the hill station, an interest which was duly appreciated by the people. When he left Naini Tal in 1901, the municipal board presented an address to him. This is the only instance of an address presented to a Lieutenant-Governor

by the local board. The following extract explains the state of affairs at the time: (it may be added that in 1896 there was a sharp outbreak of cholera in Naini Tal):—

“In 1895, our position was a critical one; grave anxiety was felt for the safety of the hill-sides; the supply of drinking water was inadequate, and the general sanitary condition of the town defective. During the past six years the system of hill-side drainage has been entirely remodelled and placed under competent supervision. The abnormal rainfall of the last monsoon has fully proved the efficiency of the measures adopted.

A sanitary committee was appointed by Your Honour in 1896, and, as one result of their recommendation, the new waterworks were opened by you two years ago. These have enabled the board to give the station a good and abundant supply of water. The comparative absence of epidemic disease during recent years has borne amply testimony to the value of the many sanitary improvements introduced.

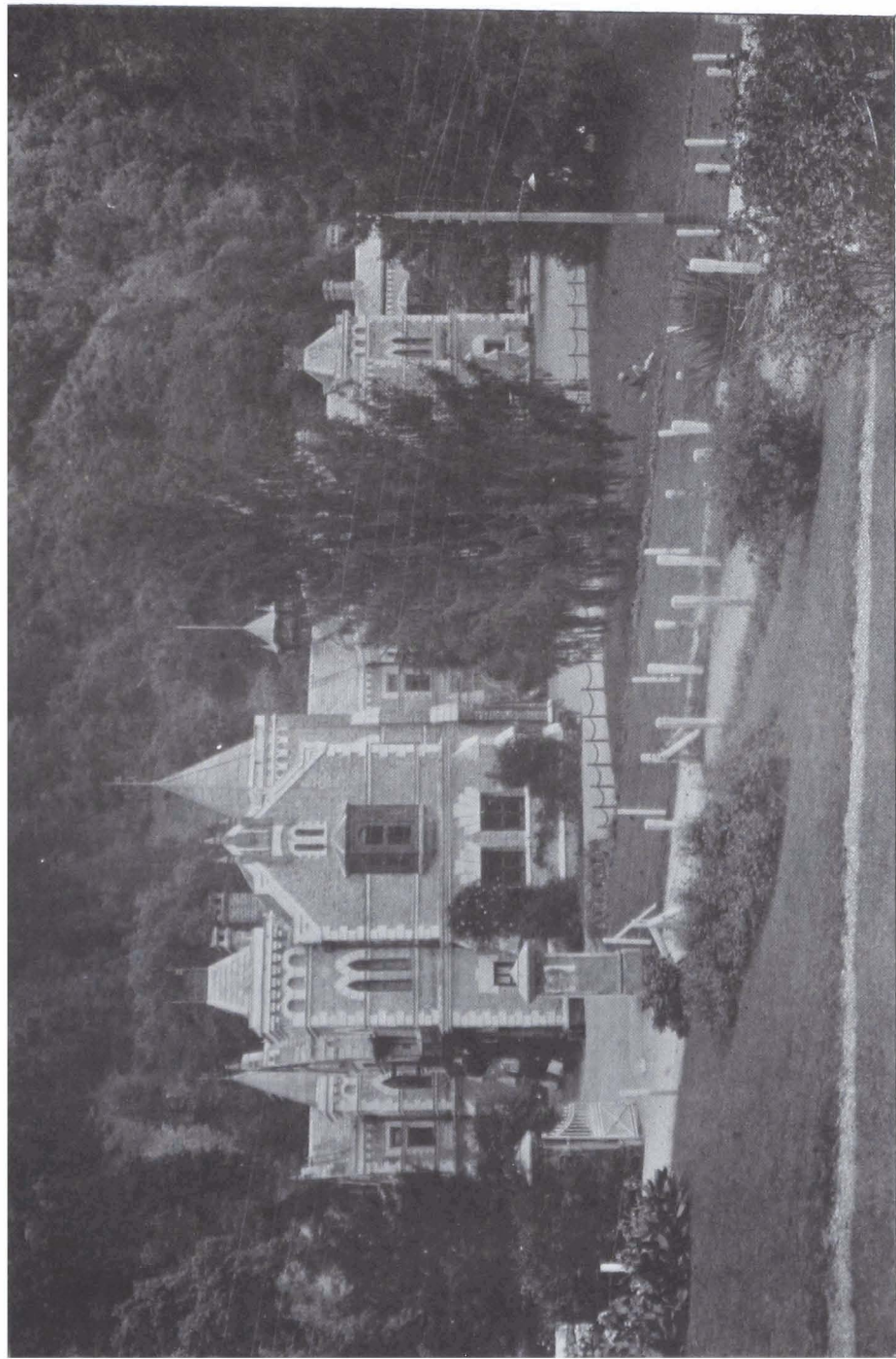
The expenditure entailed by these measures has been considerable, and the board beg to thank Your Honour for the liberal way in which you have dealt with their finances. It is due to this generous policy and to the measures inaugurated under Your Honour's personal direction, that the threatened crisis was averted, all the misgivings as to the removal of the seat of Government were set at rest, and a new and more prosperous era has dawned on the municipality.”

## GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND SECRETARIAT.

Besides these general improvements, Sir Antony Mac-Donnell's administration will always be associated with the building of the present Government House and the present Secretariat Offices.

From 1879 to 1895, the residence of the Lieutenant-Governor (the third residence in point of time since the provincial Government first came to Naini Tal) had been situated on the top of Sher-ka-danda ridge. In 1895, the house was condemned as unsafe. Sherwood, which is still standing in the present Government House grounds, was then chosen as a temporary habitation, and it remained the Lieutenant-Governor's residence until 1900, when the present Government House was completed and occupied. Sherwood was, in 1895, inhabited by the Diocesan Boys' School, for which new quarters had, therefore, to be provided. Accordingly, Sir Antony assigned to the school the Secretariat offices at Barnsdale, the site where the present Secretariat buildings also stand. But the school's abode there was short-lived, because on April 6, 1896, the buildings were destroyed by fire. The school then moved first to Khurpa Tal, which proved to be unhealthy, and then to three houses on Alma Hill, and eventually to its present habitation on Ayarpata Hill at the beginning of 1899. The foundation stone of the new building for the Diocesan Boys' School was laid in June 1897. The whole work was carried out by the Public Works Department, together with the building of the new Government House, under the supervision of Mr. H. S. Wildeblood, Executive Engineer.





The Secretariat.

When Naini Tal first became the summer headquarters of Government, the Secretariat staff consisted of a single secretary, with one or more assistants. There is no record of the office arrangements, but at one time clerks worked in a house on the Mall. As the staff increased, the Pavilion was occupied; and at one time the Finance Department was lodged in Manor House. About 1895, a move was made to Barnsdale. Barnsdale was originally the site of the Diocesan Girls' School, until it was moved to its present quarters on Ayarpata Hill, the foundation stone of which was laid in 1893. But when it became necessary a little later to find accommodation for the Diocesan Boys' School, which had been moved from Sherwood, the Secretariat offices were housed temporarily in the Deputy Commissioner's office. In 1896, there occurred the fire at Barnsdale, which has been already mentioned; and the site was then taken over, and the existing Secretariat offices were completed in 1900 from designs by Mr. Oertel, Public Works Department. Much of the stone used was brought from the old Government House on Sher-ka-danda.

The committee of the Diocesan Boys' School had been extremely unwilling to relinquish their attractive quarters at Sherwood, and at one time, Sir Antony MacDonnell abandoned the idea of acquiring the Sherwood estate for his new Government House. The difficulty of finding a suitable site for Government House, combined with other causes, led him to consider seriously the question of removing the summer headquarters of Government to Mussoorie. The climate of Mussoorie was

believed to be healthier than that of Naini Tal. In 1896, sites were actually explored in Mussoorie, but none was found suitable. This failure, combined with the facts that Naini Tal was easier of access, and that the Government of India had decided to retain Naini Tal as the head-quarters of the Bengal Army, resulted in the decision, mentioned in the municipal address to Sir Antony, that Naini Tal should be retained as the summer capital.

#### MILITARY HEAD-QUARTERS.

Upon the abolition of the Presidency Armies in 1895, and the reorganization of the Indian Army into four commands (Punjab, Bengal, Madras and Bombay), Naini Tal became the head-quarters of the Bengal Command, under a series of Lieutenant-Generals, Sir William Elles, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., Sir Baker Russell, K.C.B., Sir G. Luck, K.C.B., and Sir Alfred Gaselee, K.C.B. In 1905, during the tenure of Sir Alfred Gaselee, the four-command system was abolished by Lord Kitchener, and the Indian Army was divided into three commands (Northern, Western and Eastern) and two independent divisions (Burma and Secundrabad). Naini Tal thus became the head-quarters of the Eastern Command.

This organization was, however, short-lived. At the end of 1907 it was replaced by a new scheme of only two armies, the Northern and the Southern Armies. Naini Tal is shown during 1907 and 1908 only as the temporary head-quarters. Thereafter it ceased to be an army head-quarters. It came within the territory of the Northern Army, and was used as the summer head-quarters of the

eighth Lucknow division. This arrangement lasted until 1921 when the present four-command system was introduced. Naini Tal is now again the head-quarters of the Eastern Command.

#### COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE PLAINS.

The original road to Naini Tal entered the station through the Kaladhungi gorge. It came from Moradabad through Bazpur, Garapur, Kaladhungi, Dechauri and past Khurpa Tal. Later, however, the present road, an extension of the Bareilly-Kathgodam road was constructed as far as the Brewery. The Brewery terminus could be reached by tonga with three changes of ponies: but from the Brewery, travellers took the bridle-path to Naini Tal, and used either ponies or dandies. In 1891, the cart-road from the Brewery to Naini Tal was completed, and, in 1893, tongas conveyed passengers to the edge of the lake, but were found too slow and expensive. The road work was carried out by Lieutenant Ryder, R.E., under the orders of Mr. Holme, the District Engineer. In 1915, this portion of the road was altered. Owing to the Manora slip, which frequently caused serious interruption to traffic, a passage was cut through the hill, and the road diverted to the south side. The length of the road between Kathgodam and Naini Tal is 22 miles. The cost of its upkeep is about Rs. 29,000 a year. The ninth mile in particular gives trouble during the monsoon months. For a long time, however, after the construction of the upper portion of the road, travellers from the Brewery to Naini Tal continued to use the bridle-path,



the road being used mainly for goods traffic. In 1915, motor cars began to run between Kathgodam and Naini Tal, and soon replaced the tonga service completely.

### THE ROPEWAY SCHEME.

Long before the introduction of motor cars other schemes were mooted for the solution of the transport problem between Kathgodam and Naini Tal. The first was a scheme for constructing a wire ropeway between the two places for the carriage of goods, put forward by a Mr. Hanna, a resident of Naini Tal in May 1887. By the beginning of 1888, the Naini Tal Ropeway Company, Limited, had been formed with Mr. Hanna as its managing director. The cost of construction was estimated at Rs. 1,80,000, and the net annual income at Rs. 25,000. The Company asked for various concessions from Government. Some of these, including that of a postal subsidy, were refused, but a right of way (which involved the right to pass over the ground at a height of not less than ten feet above the surface, measured from the lowest point of the suspended load), a grant of land up to ten acres, and the use of water free were conceded. Private land, where needed, and any private rights in water were to be acquired by the Company, and all water utilized was to be returned to its course for use elsewhere. Three plots were assigned by the municipal board to the Company, which was to pay a nominal rent of Re. 1 for them, and a plot near the Brewery was also purchased from Lala Durga Sah, a well-known banker, in April 1890.

Doubts arose, ere long, as to the ability of the managing director to carry out the scheme. In July 1890, two of the directors informed the shareholders of these doubts. Mr. Hanna was then called upon to produce his definite proposals for the construction of the ropeway. He asked for, and was granted time, in order to be able to consult certain persons in England, but in the meanwhile all further work was stopped. Still no proposals were forthcoming, the reason being that Mr. Hanna had become mentally incapable.

This was the death-blow to the scheme. The Government had given every help, but the public had lost faith, and no one could be found to take up the enterprise. In September 1891, the Company went into voluntary liquidation. The land granted by Government was resumed. Some twenty years later there was a faint attempt to revive the scheme. In March 1908, a Mr. Shaw, writing from England, asked the municipal board to verify certain statistics of the traffic between Naini Tal and Kathgodam, and asked to put him into communication with some retired engineer. The board's reply was not, however, encouraging, and the matter ended there.

#### THE MOUNTAIN RAILWAY SCHEME.

Another scheme was for a mountain railway. A proposal was made to Government, in 1889, by Colonel (afterwards General) Thompson, R.E., but it came to nothing, as Government declined the project. Negotiations were revived and prolonged eventually until 1895,

when they came to an end, as the Government was not willing to grant all the concessions demanded. The railway (or tramway as it was originally named) was to be worked by electricity generated by water-power. The use of steam-power and the rack system of construction were both considered, and found impracticable. The line was to be about fourteen miles long with a two and a half foot gauge. In addition, there were to be three lifts on the line, worked by water counter-balance. The course of the line and the position of the lifts were decided, and a map was prepared. The ordinary speed would be eight miles per hour, except over the lifts, where it would be four miles per hour. The minimum carrying capacity per day was to be 50 tons of goods, 30 upper class passengers and 100 lower class. The water-power was to be supplied, to a great extent, from the outlet of the lake, but the promotor had a further plan for utilizing the water from the lakes of Bhim Tal and Sat Tal, if necessary.

Closely connected with the railway project was what was known as the Chirta grant. Chirta is an area of forest of about four square miles outside the Naini Tal settlement, through the border of which the proposed line would run when nearing Naini Tal. General Thomason constantly asserted that the Chirta grant was inseparable from the railway scheme. The forest there was exhausted, and the place was ideal, in the General's opinion, "for a combination of a British sanatorium with factories, without one injuring or interfering with the other." Chirta had no water-supply. This fact was, however, an argument in favour of combining the two

schemes. The lower lifts on the proposed line were located at places where water was absolutely wanting, so that a long lead for the water to these points was unavoidable. This would entail heavy expense. "Given Chirta", wrote the General, "a good deal of this difficulty vanishes, because much of the cost might be made fairly chargeable, in the first instance, to Chirta forests, as protection against fire, and subsequently to the Chirta settlement for water-supply." His idea was to make Chirta both a settlement and a manufacturing centre. "I can only compare", he added, "the water-power, the railway, and Chirta to powder, shot and a capped gun, lying side by side, all perfectly useless until combined; and, if I may be allowed to carry the analogy still further, the perpetuation of Chirta as a reserve forest when it might be doing duty as a charming settlement, seems to me much the same thing as using the gun as a club."

The municipal board passed a resolution in 1895 to the effect that they had no objection to the control of the outlet of the lake by the railway company, as General Thomason proposed, subject to certain safeguards. But the Government could not see their way to granting all the concessions required, and the scheme was abandoned.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

Of recent improvements to the station, the most notable are the water supply and electric light. The water-works were completed at the beginning of 1899, and opened in April. The water, obtained from various springs, is pumped up to reservoirs on the hill-side by

means of steam-power. The original capital cost of this scheme was Rs. 2,47,000. It has subsequently been extended and improved.

#### HYDRO-ELECTRIC SCHEMB.

In 1919, the question of a hydro-electric scheme, which had been discussed from time to time, was taken up definitely. The work was completed, and a regular supply of electricity was available from September 1, 1922. The capital outlay was twenty-two lakhs. At the same time, use was made of the new electric power for pumping up the water-supply, and the old steam plant was thus displaced. The new pumping plant is designed to supply fifteen gallons per head of daily population. There is also an arrangement for filtering and chlorinating the lake water when the supply from the springs becomes insufficient to meet the demand. Both the water and the electric supplies are managed by the municipal board.

#### ORIGIN OF THE LAKE.

The origin of the Naini Tal lake has, in common with the other lakes of Kumaun, been a subject of controversy. There are two main theories, that it was excavated by glacial action, and that it was formed by a landslip. Mr. H. F. Blandford, writing in 1877, and Mr. W. Theobald, writing in 1880, favoured the glacial theory; whilst Dr. Bell, who examined Naini Tal and the surrounding lakes in 1878, was unable to find any proof of the glacial theory, but suggested that the valley had been dammed up by landslip debris. The question

is still unsettled, and will probably remain so. Writing after the landslip of 1880, Mr. R. D. Oldham favoured, although cautiously, the landslip theory. "It is not inconceivable", he states, "that in some cases which have happened in that remote past, of which we have no knowledge but what is written in the rocks, some few barriers so made (i.e. by landslip) were able to stand and form what are known as the Kumaun lakes." This theory receives some support from the formation of the large Gohna lake in the Garhwal district by a landslip in 1893.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE LAKE.

The superficial area of the lake is 120.5 acres and its perimeter is 3,960 yards. The greatest length is 1,567; and the greatest breadth, 506 yards. Its maximum depth is 93 feet, but there is a ridge running across the centre of the lake where the depth is actually only 20 feet. The surface of the lake is 6,350 feet above sea-level.

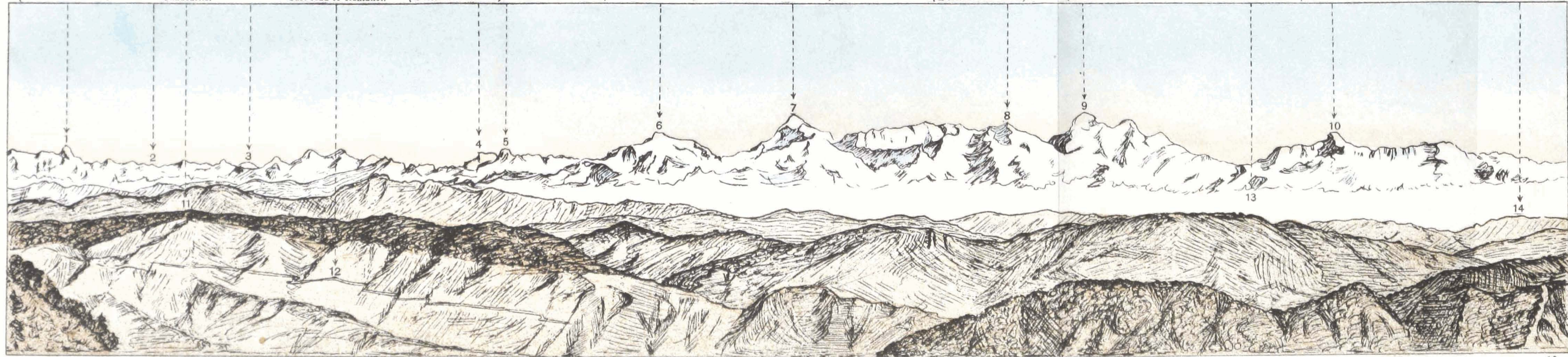
There is a Hindu legend regarding the formation of the lake to the effect that three Rishis (sages)—Atri, Pulastya and Pulaha—came, in the course of a pilgrimage, to the summit of Cheena. Finding no water there, they set to work to dig a large hole. This hole was miraculously filled with water, said to have come from Manasarovar, the sacred lake of Tibet. The lake was, therefore, afterwards known as Tririshi-Sarovar (the lake of the three Rishis). The lake was later renamed after the goddess Narayani (or Naini) Devi. With this, is connected a further legend. It is told that the god

Shiv's father-in-law, Himachal, made a sacrifice in honour of the gods. He invited all, with the exception of Shiv himself, and his own daughter Parbati, Shiv's wife. Parbati, against Shiv's advice, secretly attended and, finding that no offering had been made to her husband, leapt into the sacrificial fire. Shiv then arrived and carried away the half-burnt body of his wife. On the way, her eyes dropped out at the place known to us as "Smuggler's Rock", and, forthwith, the goddess Narayani sprang up. She is the presiding goddess of the lake, and is said to have resided in a cave near the rock, until she descended into the lake. The rock, as any passer-by will notice, is an object of great veneration to the Hindus. The lake, too, is considered very holy, and this fact was, it will be remembered, suggested by Mr. Barron as one of the contributory causes to its concealment from the European. There is a saying that every year one person is drowned in the lake—the annual toll levied by the goddess Narayani.

#### THE SEVEN HILLS.

Naini Tal lake is surrounded by seven hills, known as Ayarpata (7,689 feet), Deopata (7,989 feet), Handi Bandi (7,153 feet), Cheena (8,568 feet), Alma (7,980 feet), Liria Kanta (8,144 feet), and Sher-ka-danda (7,869 feet). Of these, Ayarpata is so called from the *ayar* tree (*Andromeda ovalifolia*), and Handi Bandi, or Hani Bani, from the echo (or devil's laughter) which can be heard there. Sher-ka-danda means the tiger's ridge, and Liria Kanta is said to have been named after some forgotten goddess.

Kamet peak. Ht. 25,443'  
 (Distance 105 miles).  
 Hatthi Parbat. Ht. 22,141'  
 (Distance 91 miles).  
 The peak next to the east is  
 Mana, (the others are unnamed, Ht. 23,862').  
 Gauri Parbat. Ht. 21,747'  
 (Distance 92 miles).  
 Nanda Ghunti Ht. 21,286'  
 (Distance 70 miles).  
 Trisul Ht. 23,406'  
 Distance 66 miles).  
 Trisul East. Ht. 21,858'  
 (Distance 66 miles).  
 Nanda Devi. Ht. 25,660'  
 (Distance 75 miles).  
 Pindari glacier. (Distance 72 miles).  
 Nanda Kot. Ht. 22,530'  
 Binsar, 28 miles distant.



15  
 ↑  
 Ridge (in foreground) coming down from  
 the north side of China.

16  
 ↑  
 Almora lies a little east of this point just  
 hidden by the ridge in the foreground.



To climb the seven hills in one day is a feat which has been repeatedly performed, but it should be attempted only by those who are physically fit.

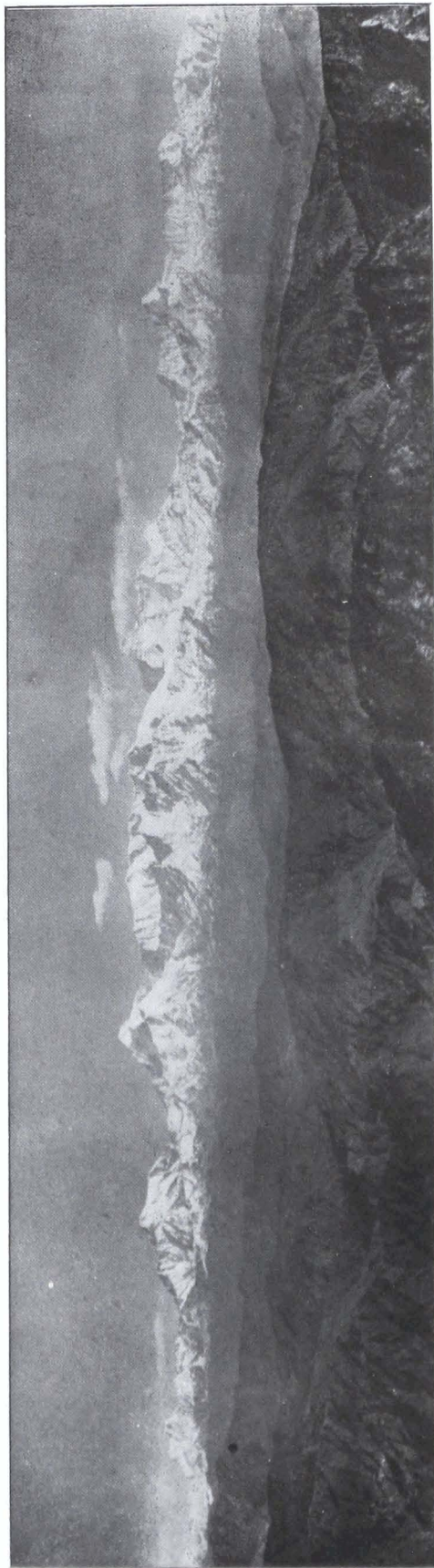
#### THE SNOWY RANGE.

The best view of the famous Himalayas, as might be expected, is obtainable from Cheena Hill. It will suffice here to quote a passage from Mr. Atkinson's Gazetteer. Part of his description is taken from a paper, contributed to the Journal of the Bengal Asiatic Society in May 1848, by Major Madden, Bengal Artillery. It is from a description of his journey in the "Turaee and other mountains of Kumaun" in the cold weather of 1846-47, and gives an interesting account of his impressions of Naini Tal five years after its discovery:—

"The view from Cheena embraces Rohilkhand, Kumaun, Garhwal and the snowy ranges from the sources of the Jumna to those of the Kali. The great Himachal must be about 65 miles distant in a straight line; its details are, therefore, less distinct than from Binsar and Almora, where the superior limit of forest is perfectly defined—much more so than the snow-line—and above which the eye reposes with a never-to-be-satiated curiosity on the enormous shelving masses of rock and snow which appear as if they would squeeze mother earth to a mummy. Here we have the Gangotri group running apparently north, with sloping and apparently stratified planes to the east; then comes the great Kedar-nath mass, said to be the original Sumeru, whence Shiva regards with jealous rivalry his neighbour Vishnu, who

dwells over the way in the still grander mass of Badrinath, or rather on the Nali Kanta peak above the temple. Next come Trisul, about 20 miles more to the south-east, and behind this again Nanda Devi, with its pyramidal grey peak rising to 25,660 feet. Next come Nandkot with the tent-shaped peak which is supposed to form the pillow of the *ḷatiya* or cot on which Sita reclines. Further east are the Panch Chula or five cooking places used by the Pandavas, and then come the peaks of Api and Nanjang in Nepal, and its other unnamed mountains. Though, perhaps, not so clear or distinct a view as is obtained from the hills nearer the snowy range, it is undoubtedly the most comprehensive and impressive in the whole outer range."

The panorama view shown opposite this page was taken from the terrace of Ratan Kothi near the big water tanks behind the house on Alma known as Fairlight Hall, or Tonnochy's. But it is very similar to the view obtained from any point on the top of the ridge to the north of the lake. On the top of Cheena has recently been built an indicator based on the same panorama view. The key to the panorama (after page 44) indicates the principal peaks. A little west of Nali Nanta, just outside the key, stands the large snowy mass of Chaukhamba (often called Badrinath) with four peaks set at the corners of the square, all exceeding 21,000 feet in height. Further west still are the towering precipices, half bare of snow, called the Bharte-Khanta peaks which rise immediately behind the temple of Kedarnath and separate it from Gangotri and the sources of the Ganges.



Panorama of the Snowy Range.



These are the peaks alluded to as the "great Kedarnath mass" in the description quoted from the Gazetteer. Still further west rises Bandar punch (20,731 feet), its summit a sheer precipice of pinkish rock (which has, perhaps, given it its name, the monkey's tail). Most remote of all is the sharp peak of Srikanta near the sources of the Jamna.

At the other end of the key and just beyond it rises the striking mass of the Panch Chula (22,661 feet), a perfect pyramid of snow flanked by four smaller peaks. About ten degrees east of this mountain the snowy range enters Nepal, where most of the peaks are unmeasured and unnamed.

#### RAINFALL.

The rains in Naini Tal are very heavy. Records of the annual rainfall are available from 1895. The annual average is 97.04 inches. The heaviest rainfall recorded was in the year 1910, when it amounted to 150.71 inches, while the lightest was in the year 1907, when only 38.99 inches fell. In August 1898, forty inches of rain fell in one week; and in August 1901, twenty-five inches fell in 96 hours. The heaviest rainfall recorded in 24 hours occurred on September 18, 1927, when 16.05 inches fell. but in 1901 there was a fall of 14½ inches, and in 1924 and 1926 falls of 13 inches.

#### POPULATION.

At the census taken in March 1921, the total population of Naini Tal was 11,230. Of this number 8,666 were Hindus, 1,095 were Muslims and the remaining 1,469

are classed as "others." But the population fluctuates considerably according to the season of the year. The figures given are a record only of the permanent population. At the height of the season the total rises to over 16,000.

There are 396 houses in the civil station, 290 in the Malli Tal bazar, and 279 in the Talli Tal bazar. Owing to the physical configuration of the site, the congestion in both bazars but especially in Talli Tal, is very great.

#### THE MUNICIPAL BOARD.

The municipal board of Naini Tal had its origin in the year 1845. In this year the introduction of the provisions of Act X of 1842 were sanctioned by Government on the application of more than two-thirds of the householders in Naini Tal, and the first committee consisted of Major-General Sir W. Richards, K.C.B., Mr. Lushington, C.S. (the Commissioner), Major H. H. Arnaud, Captain W. P. Waugh and Mr. Barron, who were nominated members.

The municipal board has, in common with all local bodies, undergone changes since then, both in functions and composition. It now consists of three *ex-officio* members, including the Deputy Commissioner, who is *ex-officio* chairman, three nominated members, and six elected members. The income of the board for the year 1924-25 was three lakhs, excluding the hydro-electric receipts and Government grants.

## THE SCHOOLS.

There are several schools. The Diocesan Boys' School was founded in 1869 by Bishop Milman of Calcutta. The original site was at Stoneleigh, where now the Ramsay Hospital stands. In 1873, the school was transferred to Sherwood. Its subsequent history has been described in connexion with Sir Antony MacDonnell's building schemes. The present number of students is 134.

Philander Smith College is the result of the amalgamation of the Oak Openings Boys' High School, Naini Tal, and the Philander Smith Institute of Mussoorie. The latter was founded by a Mrs. Smith, widow of Mr. Philander Smith of Illinois. Her interest in the education of the Anglo-Indian and domiciled European community had been awakened through the influence of the Reverend Davis Osborne of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who opened the school in 1885. Oak Openings School was opened by the Reverend J. W. Waugh, D.D., of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1880 at Stoneleigh, which, since its evacuation by the Diocesan Boys' School, had been occupied by the Lieutenant-Governor. It moved to its present site in 1889. In 1905, took place the union with the school at Mussoorie, which had outgrown the accommodation there. The number of students, which was then under 100, has now grown to over 250.

St. Joseph's College is a school for the Roman Catholic diocese of Allahabad. An account of its arrival in 1888 from Darjeeling has already been given. The present number of students is 302.

There are three European and Anglo-Indian schools for girls. The All Saints' Diocesan Girls' School was founded at the same time as the Diocesan Boys' School, and the two constituted one establishment. When, however, the boys moved to Sherwood, a separation took place, and the girls went to Petersfield until 1874, when they moved to Barnsdale. The history of their subsequent move has already been given. The present number of pupils is nearly 150.

St. Mary's Convent was founded in 1878 by the Reverend Mother Salesia. It is now situated at Ramnee Park, and the present number of pupils is 200. The Wellesley Girls' School on Ayarpata is an American institution, and numbers nearly 150 pupils.

Of Indian schools there are, for boys, the Government High School, with 264 pupils; the Humphrey High School, with 226 pupils; the Municipal Primary School, with 214 pupils; and the Diamond Jubilee Branch School, with 106 pupils.

For girls, there are the Model Girls' School, with 108 pupils; the Mission Zanana Girls' School, with branches at Malli Tal and Talli Tal, having 38 and 78 pupils respectively; and the Bhawani Kanya Pathshala School, with 75 pupils.

There is also a mixed school at Babuliya for the depressed classes, with an attendance of 20; and the Himalayan School for American children, with 60 scholars.



## THE NAINI TAL A. D. S.

The account which follows of dramatic art in Naini Tal has been furnished by one who has himself "played many parts."

The drama has many homes in the Himalayas. If Simla is the greatest, Naini Tal likes to believe itself not much behind. The only stage available in Naini Tal till 1921 was the one in the Assembly Rooms. Except the stages in the "one-horse" American town, described by Mark Twain, or those in the barns of English villages, it was possibly the worst stage in the world. It had almost every defect that a stage can possess. It was too small, and too deep for its breadth: the wing space was cramped; the scenery and the method of fixing it were primitive. The lighting consisted of oil lamps, save when some enterprising stage-manager borrowed the municipal street lamps, or (as happened on two occasions) an electric plant. The auditorium was badly shaped; the dressing-room accommodation inadequate and almost insanitary. Yet, on that stage, were produced such plays as "The Wilderness" (1910), a Drury Lane melodrama; "The Three Little Maids" (1911), a musical comedy of the Gaiety type; "The Arcadians" (1913), which requires the introduction of an aeroplane and a race-horse; and "Iolanthe" (1916), with the outside of Westminster Hall for one of its scenes.

In 1921, the Club carried out a project which its committee had long been considering, and built a stage on to the Chalet ball-room. Since then, the local actor

has had small cause for complaint. The stage is large, well lighted, well sloped. The system of setting the scenery is simple and relatively modern. There is adequate space everywhere; and the dressing-room accommodation, though not perfect, is far better than in the old Assembly Rooms, and has recently (1928) been extended. One of the few professional troupes that have visited Naini Tal in recent years, described it as the best stage in northern India outside Calcutta and Bombay.

As usual in India, the performers have nearly always been amateurs, for the professional in that country is always a bird of passage, who rarely visits Naini Tal by reason of the expense involved in transporting many tons of scenery, properties, and dresses up 22 miles of hill road.

One curious feature of Naini Tal theatrical history is the absence, till recent years, of any dramatic society. Till 1912, the Naini Tal public depended for their plays entirely on the enterprise of individuals, of whom, however, the supply never seemed to fail. In 1912, an A.D.S. was formed, but its life, though merry, was short, for it died in 1913 of debt. During the war period, a committee was formed, known as the Naini Tal War Entertainments Committee which, amongst other activities, produced many good plays, the proceeds of which, of course, went to war charities. It lingered on, with the word "war" cut out of its title, till 1923, when it came to an end on the formation of the present A.D.S.

The new A.D.S. is merely an adjunct of the Club, which bears all expenses and, after devoting 5 per cent.

of the gross proceeds to charity, takes all receipts. The A.D.S. is managed by a sub-committee; its members have each their allotted task—business-manager, stage-manager, producer and so forth—and they work hard at their tasks. In 1924 and 1926, they produced five plays, four “straight”, and one musical comedy. In 1925, they only staged three productions, one of which was again a musical comedy. One of the causes of the success of the A.D.S. is that they are not so much cramped as their predecessors by financial considerations, and can, therefore, spend more money on their productions. The last comedy which they produced in 1926, “The Dover Road”, was staged in a manner which the *Pioneer* described as worthy of any London house.

Naini Tal has always been famous for its musical plays. In early days, these usually took the form of a burlesque, full of topical allusions; the dialogue and the songs of these burlesques were original, while the music was generally that of the popular airs of the day. The last of these burlesques was produced in 1907. It was entitled “Faustus, I.C.S.”, and was written by two members of that service (who ought to have known better). “Faustus” was the Deputy Commissioner of Naini Tal; Valentine, a Colonel in the Indian Army with the orthodox liver and temper; Mephistopheles was a plagiarism from John Wellington Wells in the “Sorcerer” (amongst other titles, he was described as “agent to the underground”); whilst Wagner was a German globe-trotting count. Of the women, Marguerite and Siebel (who was

turned into a girl for the occasion) were the usual boat-house damsels; whilst Martha was described on the programme as “genus, *felis montanus*; species; widow.” The first scene was laid in the boat-house, the second in the Chalet. It is recorded that the Lieutenant-Governor of the time, having witnessed the play, said that he had not previously realized how little work an Under-Secretary to Government and a Secretary of the Board of Revenue had to do.

Of recent years, Naini Tal has made a speciality of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. “H.M.S. ‘Pinafore’” was performed early in the present century, whilst “Iolanthe” was staged in 1916. Since 1922, there has been a regular succession of these operas. “Iolanthe”, for the second time in 1922; “Patience”, in 1923; “The Yeomen of the Guard”, in 1924; “The Mikado”, in 1925; and “The Pirates of Penzance”, in 1926; and in 1927, “The Gondoliers.” Though occasionally urged to desert Gilbert and Sullivan, the A.D.S. will probably complete the cycle. Of straight comedies, the first that the writer can recall is “The Passport”, which was produced about 1906, and revived in 1917. Other pre-war plays were “Lady Frederick”, “The Wilderness”, Pinero’s “Amazons”, “The Duke of Killiecrankie”, “Jack Straw”, and “Cousin Kate.” Some of the plays produced under the auspices of the Naini Tal War Entertainments Committee were Pinero’s “Gay Lord Quess” (the performance of which caused some searchings of heart in Naini Tal society); “The Passport” (for a second time), “Belinda” (which was the first play staged in the

Club theatre); "The Circle" and "Penelope." In 1923, were produced "The Marriage of Kitty", "Her Husband's Wife" and "General Post." The plays produced under the management of the Club A.D.S. have been: in 1924, "Dear Brutus", "Billy's Little Love Affair", "Billeted" and "Tilly of Bloomsbury", with a triple bill of one-act plays. In 1925, "All of a Sudden Peggy", with a triple bill; and in 1926, "The Importance of Being Earnest", "To Have The Honour", "The Laughing Lady" and "The Dover Road." Of all these, perhaps, the last was the greatest success that Naini Tal has ever seen.

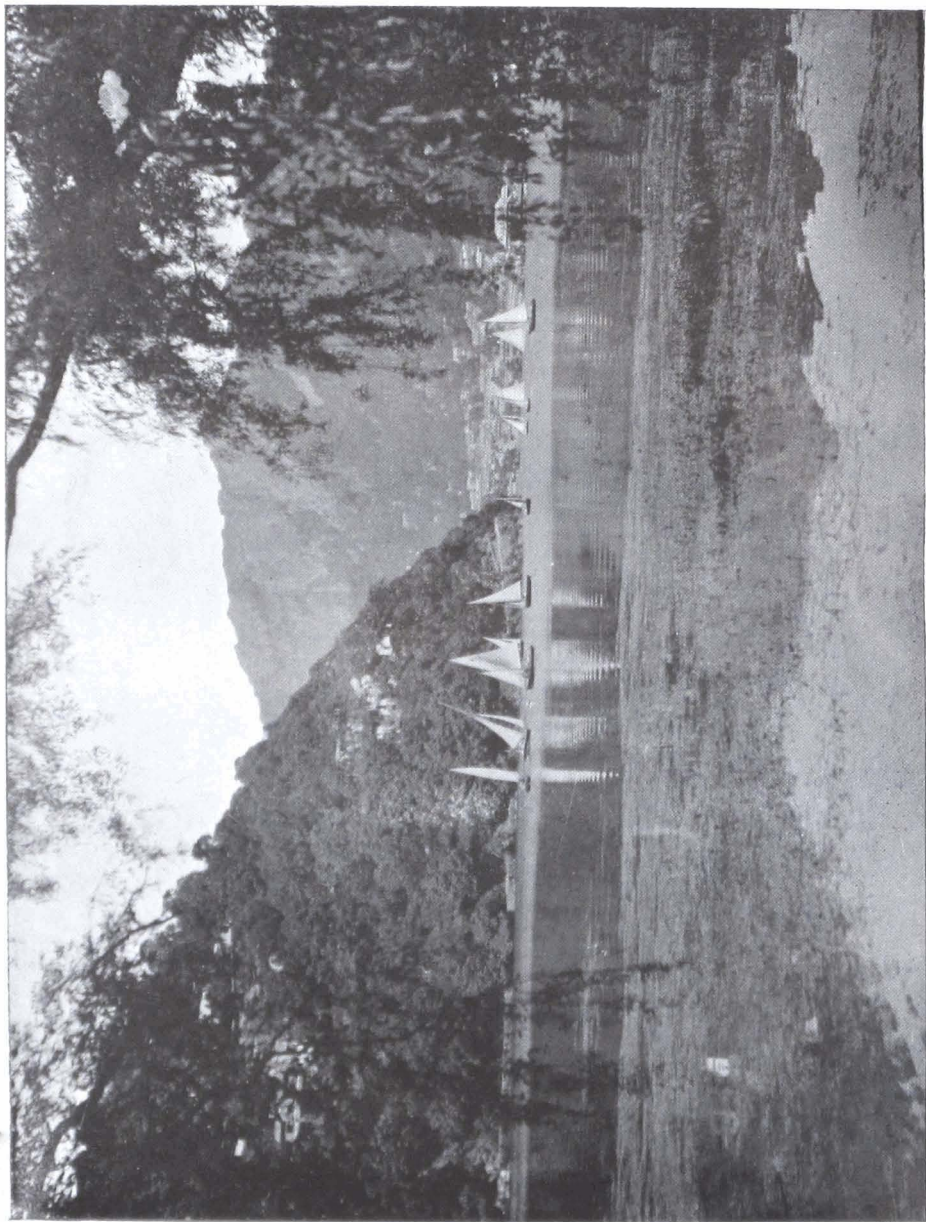
Out of the many who have acted on the Naini Tal stage it is, perhaps, invidious to select names. Those who remember her, will agree that the finest actress Naini Tal has ever seen was Mrs. Jesse (in "The Wilderness", "Lady Frederick", "The Passport" and many other plays). Others, who rank not much behind her are Mrs. Coffin, a well-known producer of the early years of the century, Miss Seymour (subsequently Mrs. Graham), Mrs. Thackwell; and, in later years, Mrs. Mackenzie, Miss Davies (now Mrs. Swinton—who, in one year, achieved a conspicuous success in three heavy parts, namely, Margaret in "Dear Brutus", the name-part in "Tilly of Bloomsbury", and Elsie Maynard in "The Yeomen of the Guard"); Mrs. Peek, Mrs. Cave, Miss Dunn (now Mrs. Moore) (whose greatest success has been in the part of Ann in "The Dover Road"); and Mrs. Crosthwaite,—though her chief fame lies in musical comedy. Of the men, Major Patterson, Major Gilbert

Cooper, Mr. Oliphant, Mr. Northcote, Mr. Shore, all played many parts before and just after the war. Since that date, the names best remembered are Majors Simpson, Paulson, Clarke, Kendrick, Fletcher and Vickers, Mr. Woods, Captain Stevens, and Colonel Frost. In musical comedy, the best known names are, first and foremost, Mrs. Crosthwaite (Phyllis in "Iolanthe", the name-part in "Patience", and Mabel in "The Pirates of Penzance"); Mrs. Raw (the Queen in "Iolanthe"); Miss Harris, subsequently Mrs. Cookson (the name-part in "Iolanthe"); Miss Davies (already mentioned); Mrs. Owen (Yum Yum in "The Mikado"), Mrs. Priest (Phœbe in "The Yeomen of the Guard" and Katisha in "The Mikado"), and Mrs. Aird Davis (Jane in "Patience"). Of the men, Major Fanshawe (in "The Arcadians"), Mr. Robert Anderson (who has taken a part in every musical comedy produced in Naini Tal since 1895, except for a couple of years during the war), and more recently Major Dann (Nankipoo in "The Mikado" and the Pirate King in "The Pirates of Penzance") stand high above all others. And of these, Mr. Anderson stands easily first. In fact, a musical comedy in Naini Tal without the last-named gentleman, would be very much like a Gaiety production without the younger George Grossmith.

#### THE NAINI TAL YACHT CLUB.

The earliest records of sailing on the Naini Tal lake date back to 1880, when the yachts sailed were of the cutter type with lead keels. About this time Mr. Fleet-





The lake.



wood Williams, I.C.S., Commissioner of Meerut, built a schooner yacht at St. Asaphs (now Oak Ridge) and launched it on the lake by means of a trolley. A twin-hulled boat "Gemini" was also built and sailed by Colonel Henry, whilst Messrs. Murray and Company imported three Belfast Lough type sailing boats, called "Coya", "Doodles" and "Dorothy" and let them out on hire for several years.

The Naini Tal Sailing Club was started in 1897. The type of vessel used was the skimming dish or "Sorceress" type. The well-known "Wave" (Dee built) was of this class, and held her own for many years, being one of the last of the old type to disappear. Several yachts such as "Spray" and "Sheila" were locally built to compete with her, without much success.

In 1910, the Naini Tal Yacht Club was formed on the initiative of the brothers Carey, C. W. Carey, a Major in The Guides, and F. Carey, a Captain in the Royal Artillery, who introduced the present "one-design" class, which gradually ousted the yachts of older type until there are none now in existence. The N.T.Y.C. has a fleet of nine yachts designed by Linton Hope and built by Turks & Co., of Kingston-on-Thames. It is affiliated to the Yacht Racing Association, and has a membership of some 250 who are scattered all over India.

The cups sailed for during the season are :—

(1) The Baker Russell Challenge Cup, presented by the late General Sir Baker Russell, G.C.B., in 1898. This is a three days' handicap race.

(2) The Benares Challenge Cup, presented by the Kunwar Sahib of Benares in 1910. A two days' level race.

(3) The One Design Points Cup, presented by the late Major F. Carey, R.A., in 1910.

(4) The Open Handicap Points Cup, presented by the founder members of the N.T.Y.C., in 1910. Both these point cups are raced for throughout the season on alternate days, and the cups are won by the yacht with the lowest total of points in proportion to number of starts.

(5) The Lady Leslie Porter Challenge Cup, presented in 1911. A one day handicap cup.

(6) The Inter-Club Challenge Trophy, presented by the Hon'ble Sir James (now Lord) Meston, K.C.S.I., Commodore of the N.T.Y.C. and the Sailing Committee of the Royal Bombay Yacht Club, in 1912. Sailed for by representative crews of the R.B.Y.C. and N.T.Y.C. The competition consists of two matches of three races each, the first match sailed at Naini Tal in September, and the second in Bombay in March. Up to the present the N.T.Y.C. has never lost the trophy.

(7) The All-India Challenge Cup, presented by His Highness the Nawab of Rampur in 1912, open to any yacht or sailing club in India. The competition consists of two days' racing to be sailed at Naini Tal. The N.T.Y.C. has also managed to retain this trophy without being beaten.

(8) The Ladies' Challenge Cup, presented by the N.T.Y.C. in 1923, sailed for in one day's racing by ladies who have sailed during the season.

(9) The Helmsman's Challenge Cup, presented by Mr. W. F. Brandford in 1924, sailed for throughout the season and won by the helmsman who has the lowest aggregate of points.

The ordinary course for all races is three times round the lake, round four buoys. The record time for the three rounds is 53' 02" and was established by "San Toy", sailed by Mr. Wise on May 20, 1912.

The following have been Commodores since the start of the N.T.Y.C. :—

1910—1912	... Colonel H. N. Thompson, D.S.O.
1913—1917	... H. H. Sir James Meston.
1918—1922	... H. E. Sir Harcourt Butler.
1923—1927	... H. E. Sir William Marris.

The Vice-Commodore (for life) is Lieutenant-Colonel C. W. Carey.

#### THE SEASON.

Naini Tal remains the head-quarters of Government from the middle of April until about the middle of October. During this time, social activities are at their height in the "Ranikhet week", at the end of May or beginning of June, and again in the "Autumn Week", at the end of September or beginning of October. These

attract many extra visitors from the plains and from other hill stations. During each week a polo tournament is played on the Flats, and other matches at tennis, golf, squash-rackets and billiards are also played, in June, between teams representing Naini Tal and Ranikhet and, in September, usually between the I.C.S. and the Rest. During the latter week a regatta, in which the Rampur Fours is the chief event, is also held.

## CHAPTER II

### FLORA OF NAINI TAL.



ONE of the first points which strike a visitor to these hills is the comparative absence of forest on southern slopes, due to the dessicating effect of a sub-tropical sun. The result is, that on south aspects are found mainly grassy slopes, sometimes more or less clad with brushwood or scattered trees, whilst on north aspects, forest predominates. The vegetation may be classified into several broad types, based mainly on variations in altitude, and each type has, to some extent, its own peculiar plants. The existence of such different types of rocks as limestone and shale also adds considerably to the richness of the flora.

We may begin with a brief consideration of the principal vegetative types. On southern aspects, except on steep shaly slopes where the soil is usually bare, the commonest type is grassland with or without scattered trees and shrubs. These grassy slopes are rich in herbs of many kinds, most of which flower during the rains. In fact the herbs and grasses mostly die down from October to May, and thus give rise to the prevailing brown colouration, so characteristic during these months. On the southern slopes of Cheena, which are so surrounded on all sides by oak forest and bare rocky slopes as to be comparatively safe from the ravages of fire may

be noted the cypress. This magnificent and valuable conifer cannot exist where fires are frequent and this is one reason why its occurrence is so scattered and patchy throughout the neighbouring hills. There is, in fact, no other natural cypress within a distance of several marches. Associated with the cypress are a number of very common shrubs, amongst which may be mentioned *Dentzia staminea*, *indigofera Gerardiana*, *viburnum cotinifolium*, *leptodermis lanceolata*, *Colquhounia coccinea* and *jasminum humile*, whilst the beautiful *jasminum officinale* is also common in such surroundings. The two jessamines mentioned are the only two found close to Naini Tal. The former which is a shrub, has yellow unscented flowers whilst the latter, which is a climber, has scented white flowers tinged with pink. *Deutzia*, *indigofera* and *virburnum* flower about May before the rain set in; the pretty white flowers of the first are very like those of dentzias grown in gardens in England, whilst *viburnum* is at once recognized by the conspicuous white woolly under-surface of the leaves. *Leptodermis* flowers during the rains, and its flowers, which are creamy white when they first open, usually turn purple before falling. *Colquhounia* is noteworthy because, though common on the Cheena slopes, it is not again found till you reach the main Badrinath-Trisul range. The rather conspicuous red, orange, and yellow flowers appear just at the end of the rains.

We will now pass on to those forest types which lie on the moister north and north-west aspects, and we shall consider only those which lie above the zone of

the *chir* pine. They are mainly composed of three very gregarious species of oak, each of which occupies a more or less distinct altitudinal zone. That which occupies the highest altitudes is the *karshu* (*quercus semecarpifolia*.) At Naini Tal it is only found above about 8,000 feet elevation round the summit of Cheena, though on the inner hill ranges it forms extensive forests. Perhaps the most characteristic feature about these forests is the manner in which the trees are draped from top to bottom in a clothing of moss and ferns. This epiphytic flora bursts into life with the advent of the first monsoon showers, and thereafter rapidly completes its reproductive functions. Directly the monsoon begins to fail, there is a rapid fall in the humidity of the air, and these plants commence to dry up; so that by the beginning of October they have usually withered away, only to burst forth once more on the re-appearance of the monsoon. The absence of orchids amongst this rich epiphytic flora is a point to be noticed, since such orchids are comparatively common at lower elevations. Though epiphytic ferns and mosses are most abundant in the *karshu* forests, they are also characteristic of the other types of oak in a somewhat modified degree. The *karshu* has an extraordinary acorn, the size of a horse chestnut, which ripens in July and germinates immediately on falling. It is in the *karshu* forests that we chiefly find that beautiful pink rose (*rosa macrophylla*) which flowers just before or at the commencement of the rains; and at about the same time the shrub *spiraea canescens* produces its pretty sprays of small white flowers. The

latter is found on the summit of Cheena and elsewhere, but generally outside the forest itself. Before leaving the *karshu* forest, mention must be made of *senecio rufinervis*, a perennial herb from two to three feet high which forms a dense undergrowth to the exclusion of most other plants. It is easily recognized by the white under-surface to the leaves, and by the yellow flowers which appear soon after the rains have ceased.

The next type of oak forest is chiefly composed of *moru* or *telunj* (*quercus dilatata*). This oak is found between 7,000 and 8,000 feet elevation, and clothes the summits of Ayarpata, Deopata and Liria Kanta. It often forms very dense forest, and contributes more than any other species towards the maintenance of Naini Tal fuel supply. The climatic conditions in this forest zone are not far removed from those pertaining in Europe, and hence we are not surprised to find in the former a number of common broad-leaved trees with close affinities to some that are well known in England. For instance, the birch (*betula alnoides*), the hornbeam (*carpinus viminea*), the ash (*fraxinus micrantha*), the Ilex (*ilex diprena*) and five species of maple. A fine old hollow maple, about fifteen feet in girth, may be seen between the tennis court belonging to Eversley and the road. The ilex is, of course, no relation to the holm oak (*quercus ilex*) which is often grown in gardens in the south of England. It is in reality a species of holly, and the fruit and leaves are sufficiently similar to those of its English cousin for them to be used at



Christmas according to time-honoured custom. A common ringal (*arundinaria falcata*) deserves mention. There are several other species of ringal found in the hills, but this is the only species found at Naini Tal. An interesting fact about these ringals is that they only flower at intervals of a number of years; moreover, all the plants in a given forest flower the same year and then die. Within the station area the *moru* oak is seriously attacked by a species of mistletoe (*loranthus vestitus*), in fact some trees appear to be more *loranthus* than oak. The seeds of this parasite are spread by birds (chiefly one of the flower-peckers) which deposit the seeds on the bark of the branches. The young root of the seedling naturally finds access to the branch easier through a wound in the bark than when the bark is intact; but the oaks within the station are constantly being lopped by mischievous coolies for fuel, and hence the abnormal local abundance of this parasite. The undergrowth in *moru* forests is usually dense and is composed of many vigorous herbaceous species besides shrubs. Only one or two of the more conspicuous will be mentioned. First, *hedychium acuminatum*, a perennial herb from two to three feet high, with large coarse leaves which turn yellow in the autumn, and fragrant pale yellow flowers. This is a common plant, and in October the bright red lining to the fruits is very conspicuous. It is locally known as *haldua* and a yellow dye is extracted from the roots. Second, *polygonum amplexicaule*, which forms dense masses of herbaceous undergrowth from two to three feet high, and produces

very pretty spikes of bright pink or red flowers during the latter half of the rains. Lastly should be mentioned four species of *stropilanthes*; which are abundant and very noticeable whilst in flower. They are all partly shrubby and partly herbaceous and have blue tubular flowers from one to two inches long. Three of them flower from August to October; the fourth, *strobilanthes glutinosus*, flowers from December to March, and is more commonly found at lower elevations in *banj* forest.

One more type of oak forest remains to be considered. This is the *banj* (*quercus incana*) type, which is found mainly between 5,000 and 7,000 feet elevation. The *banj* is easily distinguished from the other two by the white under-surface to the leaf. It is interesting to note that though the timber of this oak is quite suitable for building houses, it is seldom used by hill people because there is a local superstition that the inmates of the house constructed of *banj* oak will be childless; in fact the name *banj* conveys this idea. Both the *banj* and *moru* bear acorns very similar to those of the English oak. As in *moru* forest we found several trees closely allied to English species, so in *banj* forests we find an alder growing mainly along the banks of streams. But the two commonest trees in these forests are *rhododendron* and *ayar*. The former is very conspicuous when in flower during April. The latter has small white bell-shaped flowers, and is well known on account of the poisonous properties of the foliage, especially when

young. The hill Ayarpata takes its name from this tree.

Each of the forest types has now been briefly reviewed. It only remains to mention the fact that during the last forty years the Forest Department have introduced a number of trees which do not occur here naturally. The principal are deodar, blue pine, walnut, horse-chestnut and poplar. All have been introduced on account of their valuable timbers except poplar which, though of little value as a timber tree, is a very useful species for afforesting landslips on which little else will grow. It is noteworthy that no spruce or silver fir is found growing naturally near Naini Tal, though the latter occurs some twenty miles further east at Deothal and both are found along the main Himalayan range.

We will now briefly consider some of the more striking wild flowers. Most people who are interested in flowers will possess or have access to Collett's *Flora Simlensis*, in which nearly all the plants here mentioned are described, and in such cases it will, therefore, be sufficient to give the name with any facts of local interest. It will be convenient to consider the plants more or less in the order in which they flower. *Clematis montana*, with its showy white flowers, is first seen towards the end of March. This is the only clematis flowering in Naini Tal at this season, and it is common all over the station. Two plants with pretty blue flowers which begin to flower in April are *salvia lanata* and *delphinium denudatum*. The *salvia* is common on open rocky

and grassy limestone slopes; when flowering its leaves are small and inconspicuous, but during the rains they grow to their full dimensions. The delphinium is usually found in *banj* forest. The flowers of *morina persica*, *gerbera lanuginosa* and *androsace lanuginosa* first appear in May, and all three are common on steep rocky ground and open grassy slopes. The prickly leaves of *morina* much resemble those of a thistle. *Gerbera lanuginosa*, locally known as *kapás*, possesses a white cottony down which is stripped during the rains from the under-surface of the leaves and woven into cloth.

The rains are now about to break, and, as if in anticipation, the number and variety of flowers increases daily. The most beautiful and conspicuous of these is *lilium nepalense*, which grows between 7,000 and 8,000 feet elevation, but is local and scarce. The stems are from two to three feet high, and produce scented drooping flowers from four to five inches long. The outside of the flower is greenish at the base, passing into orange yellow above and spotted with purple on the lower half of the recurved portion of the segments. This lily is often brought into Naini Tal by malis. Another and far commoner plant which flowers at this season is *ophiopogon intermedium*, often wrongly referred to as the lily of the valley. In the higher oak forests will be found the pretty *aquilegia pubiflora*, recognizable at once by the shape of its flowers as a columbine. Several species of *arisaema* also produce their quaint flowers about this time, and those who recollect the common Lords and Ladies of our English woods will recognize these plants as closely related.

A visit to the top of Cheena and a short search on the rather open eastern slopes will reveal a number of small yellow pansies known to the botanist as *viola biflora*.

Let us now consider those plants which begin to flower when the rains are already in full vigour and are at their height of flowering during July and August. These are: *chirita bifolia*, *begonia amoena*, *platystemma violoides*, *potentilla nepalensis*, *habenaria intermedia*, *satyrium nepalense* and *roscoea procera*. *Chirita* is common on banks in *banj* forest below 6,000 feet elevation, and the large brightly coloured blue flowers are not unlike the numerous species of *gloxinia* with which we are familiar in green-houses at home. The *begonia* has pink flowers an inch or less across and is fairly common on steep banks and rocks in sheltered places. *Platystemma* is found on shady moist rocks both in and around Naini Tal, and its beautiful purple flowers bear an unmistakable resemblance to the cultivated violet. The fine dark-crimson flowers of the *potentilla* are to be seen in plenty on all the hill tops, but especially on the open grassy top of Cheena. The *habenaria* is abundant on all grassy slopes in and round Naini Tal above 6,000 feet. Its flowers are large and greenish-white. *Satyrium* is generally common and grows in similar places, but the flowers are pink and sweet-scented, and the single spur which characterizes all *habenarias* is replaced by two spurs. Both these orchids are frequently used for table decoration. *Roscoea*, with its large lilac flowers, is conspicuous on grassy slopes above 7,000 feet, where it is extremely common.

We now come to the following plants which are in full flower during August and September: namely; *parnassia nubisola*, *anemone vitifolia*, *geranium Wallichianum*, several species of *impatiens*, *lilium Wallichianum*, and *gloriosa superba*. *Parnassia* is found in open grassy places on the tops of the principal peaks round Naini Tal. The *anemone* is common in all the surrounding oak forests, and it closely resembles the *anemone japonica* so frequently grown in gardens at home. The *geranium* is also abundant in oak forests above 7,000 feet, and the large blue and pink flowers easily distinguish it from any of the other species of *geranium*. *Impatiens* is the Latin name for the balsams. These are conspicuous flowers which are easily recognized as balsams by the well-known shape of the flowers. There are both yellow and pink species, and they occur abundantly in *banj* and *moru* forests. The lily named after the great botanist Wallich is sometimes referred to as the Jeolikot lily and sometimes as the Bhowali lily. It is found at elevations between 3,000 and 6,000 feet. The stems are from four to six feet high, and the pure white sweet-scented flowers are from six to ten inches long. This beautiful lily was threatened with extinction some years ago, and a rule was consequently made forbidding any one to dig up the roots, and the flowers to be picked and brought into Naini Tal except on the issue of a written permit. This rule is still in force. *Gloriosa superba* is sometimes called the Bhim Tal lily as it is common in that neighbourhood. This lily is not, like the preceding, of the Madonna lily type

and, by the uninitiated, would possibly not be recognized as belonging to the lily family at all. It is a climber and is found both in the plains and along the outer ranges of the hills up to 5,000 feet. The narrow wavy segments of the flower are at first green, changing later to bright yellow and red. These two lilies are scarcely entitled to a place on our list, since they are mostly found in forest below the oak. The flowers of both are, however, regularly brought into Naini Tal by malis, and for this reason and on account of their great beauty they could not well be omitted.

The rains have now passed, and most of the flowers we have been considering have already withered or are turning brown. There are, however, a few plants still continuing to display their brightly coloured flowers amongst the prevailing signs of decay. Three only will be mentioned, namely *dipsacus inermis*, *aster asperulus*, and *lactuca macrorrhiza*. The *dipsacus*, with its closely packed heads of white flowers, grows abundantly throughout the oak forests and especially in forest blanks. Though looking more like a scabious, it is really a teasel. The *aster* is also common in oak forest and is easily recognized by its large pink or mauve heads. Another less ornamental species of aster with smaller white flowers is common within the station itself. The *lactuca* is very common between 7,000 and 8,000 feet, growing on banks, road-side or rocky ground.

Only those plants have so far been mentioned which have striking or exceptionally beautiful flowers. During the late autumn months a walk through the woods or

even round our compounds will usually result in certain seeds adhering to the clothing in a persistent and exasperating manner. It will, perhaps, prove of some general interest to note on the commonest of these plant nuisances. First, there is a stout shrubby plant *cyathala tomentosa* with large burrs an inch or more across which is not uncommon on waste ground near habitations. Then there is *achyranthes bidentata*, which grows abundantly throughout the station and produces long spikes of hooked oblong fruits about a quarter of an inch long. Equally abundant is *bidens Wallichii*, a small herb, the fruits of which are quite narrow and about half an inch long with three or four barbed bristles at one end. Perhaps the most unpleasant of all is *cynoglossum*, of which there is more than one species, and whose small bristly nutlets, clustered four together, adhere with great tenacity. Lastly there is the common agrimony of England, *agrimum Eupatorium*, with rounded bristly fruits about a quarter of an inch diameter which is abundant in oak forest.

In conclusion, brief mention must be made of the *dahlia*, which, though an exotic, has run wild on the southern slopes within the station area and spreads naturally by seed. It is, however, apparently unable to maintain itself under ordinary jungle conditions, and is, therefore, restricted to the station itself.



## CHAPTER III

### FAUNA OF NAINI TAL

**T**HE following account includes the larger animals to be found in the vicinity of Naini Tal; the smaller mammals, such as bats and mice, have been omitted. The larger mammals belong to four orders—the Primates, the Carnivora, the Rodentia and the Ungulata, and these orders will be considered separately.

The Primates include man, monkeys and lemurs. The only representative of this group, excluding man, is the Himalayan langur (*semnopithecus schistaceus*). A troupe resides almost permanently on the lower slopes of Cheena, and makes constant raids on gardens, tearing up and devouring flowers and vegetables in the most destructive manner. This langur is also abundant in the Tarai and Bhabar forests, and is the only species of langur found here. The Bengal monkey (*macaca mulata*) is seldom seen above 4,000 feet elevation.

The Carnivora include seven animals—the tiger, panther, palm-civet, jackal, fox, marten, and bear. Tigers rarely appear very close to the station itself, and can scarcely be regarded as permanent residents anywhere within a radius of five miles round the station, though they may, and do, temporarily take up their abode in the less frequented forests. They become more

numerous in the hills during the rains, especially during the latter half of the rains when, owing to the dense grass and herbaceous under-growth, conditions in the Tarai and Bhábar are apparently less congenial to them, whilst conditions in the hills become more so owing, perhaps, to the denser cover. Panthers, on the other hand, are common, and a year never passes without one or more dogs being taken. The jumble of rocks at the back of Handi Bandi is a favourite resort of panthers and there is also ample cover for them in all the forests round. They take no notice of the electric lighting and have been known to descend to the outskirts of the bazar. It is consequently unsafe to allow a dog to wander far from heel after dusk. The Himalayan palm-civet (*paradoxurus grayi*) is very nocturnal, and also scarce so that it is seldom seen. It is a grey animal, about the size of the common fox, with a pointed muzzle and long tail. The jackal (*canis sureus*) is believed to be a recent arrival in our hill station. Nowadays their dismal cries as they collect after dusk in the neighbourhood of Sukhá Tal or on the lower slopes of Cheena are frequently heard; but it is believed they have only taken up their quarters here during the last few years. The hill fox (*vulpes montana*) is rarely heard and still more rarely seen. He is little more than a variety of the English fox and only differs in being rather smaller, paler in colour and not so red. The northern Indian marten (*mustes flavigula*), though not a rare animal, is not very often seen. In size and shape it closely resembles the European marten from which it is distinguishable at a

glance by its black head, back, hind quarters and tail. It is also closely related to the sable of Eastern Asia, but the pelt of our Indian marten is of very inferior quality and of little value as a fur. These martens usually roost in hollow trees, and they are practically omnivorous. They are almost invariably seen in pairs, and inquisitiveness is a strong trait in their character which can sometimes be made use of in bringing them to bag. They are very destructive to birds and eggs, and should be shot whenever possible. The Himalayan black bear (*ursus torquatus*) is found at certain seasons in the forests round Naini Tal, but he can scarcely be regarded as common or even as a permanent resident. Feeding mainly on fruits and roots, bears at all times live a wandering life and frequent those forests which are producing for the time being the greatest abundance of the fruits they eat. In September, the fruit of *viburnum cotinifolium*, and in October, the acorns of the *moru* oak attract them; whilst from December to February they feed largely on the acorns of the *banj* oak. Bears do much harm to crops of millet when they are ripening in September; but whereas twenty-five years ago they were very abundant throughout Kumaun they are now comparatively scarce, so that the damage they do is of little importance. Bears make their den, as a rule, in some jungle cave, but it is not generally known that the Himalayan black bears also make for themselves temporary shelters in dense bushy growth by pulling together the surrounding branches and undergrowth. This bear, like the sloth bear of the plains, is black with a white horse-shoe mark on

the chest, but differs from the latter in having black instead of white claws, and a shorter and thicker coat, as becomes an animal living in a cold climate.

In this brief description of the Carnivora no mention has been made of the jungle cat or the leopard cat, either of which may be found in the surrounding forests.

We now come to the Rodents, of which there are three—the flying squirrel, the porcupine and the hare. The large red flying squirrel (*petaurista albiventer*) is about two and a half feet long, but more than half of this is tail. In colour, he is mainly chestnut above and rufous beneath. His limbs are united by a membrane or parachute, which extends along and joins together the fore and hind limbs, forming a broad expansion on either side of the body when the limbs are extended. By this means he is enabled to vol-plane from tree to tree, alighting, of necessity, at a lower level than that from which he started. Flying squirrels live during the day in holes in trees and only emerge at dusk. They are common in Naini Tal itself, and their presence is often betrayed by their characteristic whining call. They live very largely on the acorns of the *moru* oak. Another smaller flying squirrel (*pteromys fimbriatus*) is also probably found in Naini Tal but, if so, it must be very much rarer than the large red one. The Indian porcupine (*hystrix leucura*) lives in burrows and crevices amongst rocks during the day time and only emerges at night. Consequently it is seldom seen, even in localities where it is abundant. Though fairly common in chir forests

they seldom ascend amongst the oaks, and are undoubtedly rare in the immediate neighbourhood of Naini Tal. The hare which occurs in the hills has been identified for the present with the plains species (*Lepus ruficandata*), though experts consider that it will probably be found to belong to a different race. Hares, though somewhat scarce, are to be found in all the forests round Naini Tal, even up to the very top of Cheena.

The last order of mammals to be considered is the Ungulata or hoofed quadrupeds. In this group we have to consider the serow, goral, barking deer, sambhar and wild boar. The serow and goral belong to genera, which are intermediate between goats and antelopes. The horns are not shed, and have a bony core with horny sheath. These do not differ in size to any marked degree in the two sexes, and they are short and closely ringed. The serow (*Nemorhaedus bubalinus*) is not a common animal, but he keeps so much to dense undergrowth and so seldom ventures into the open that he appears to be less common than is actually the case. A few live amongst the rocky forest-clad ground on Handi Bandi and the north face of Ayarpata, and are not infrequently seen by the residents of Mount Pleasant and Hill Crest bungalows. The goral (*Cemas goral*) lives on the steep ground facing the Government House golf links and occasionally one may be seen on the face of Cheena, since both these localities are within the municipal area where all shooting is prohibited. Outside this sanctuary it is necessary to go some miles before they can be seen in any numbers. The barking deer and sambhar are the

only two representatives of the family of true deer or *cervidae*. In this family, the horns take the form of solid antlers without core or horny sheath, and are shed periodically. The barking deer (*cervulus mountjac*) is fairly common in all the oak forests round Naini Tal and one may often be heard calling from the upper slopes of Ayarpata which face the lake. The sambhar (*cervus unicolor*) is also not uncommon in these same oak forests, but keeps very much to the denser and less frequented portions, and thus is seldom seen. Sambhar in the hills carry, as a rule, a very much finer head than they do in the plains. A very good head was picked up close to Kilberry bungalow, and is now in the Naini Tal Club. The right horn measures  $42\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the horns have a spread of  $51\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

This brief review of the larger mammals is fitly brought to a close with the Indian wild boar (*sus cristatus*) whose feats of valour are well known to sportsmen. Pig are not really common anywhere in the hills and yet they are found all over Kumaun, even as far as the main Himalayan range, and up to an elevation of at least 12,000 feet.

## CHAPTER IV

### BIRDS OF NAINI TAL

**T**HE bird life of a Himalayan station is no more a fixed quantity than is that of any part of England; in fact it is probably less so, since the migrations of Indian birds are undoubtedly more intricate and varied than is the case at home. Be this as it may, it is impossible to become intimately acquainted with birds in India unless frequent study is made of the problems of migration. For this reason the birds to be commonly seen in and around Naini Tal will here be primarily classified according to whether they are resident or migratory. If this classification were too rigidly applied, we should find ourselves surrounded by many difficulties, as most resident species move up and down with the seasons to some extent, and it would be difficult to decide when this local movement became a migration. Moreover such migrations have been very little studied. The following classification must, therefore, be given a very broad interpretation.

In some ways the migrations of birds in Naini Tal might be compared to the migration of the human population in this station. The members of the Eastern Command, for instance, might be regarded as permanent residents, whilst the Secretariat are distinctly migratory.

It must, however, be confessed that according to reliable information the members of the Secretariat do not, as a rule, restrict their nesting operations to their summer residence in the hills. For this and other obvious reasons the analogy must not be pressed too far.

The resident species will be considered first. This group includes such well-known birds as crows, tits, jays, laughing-thrushes, nut-hatches, tree-creepers, black-birds, woodpeckers, owls and pheasants. It will be only possible to give here the briefest account of some of the more conspicuous or interesting resident species. We will begin with one which, by reason of its numbers, impudence and rascality, is continually forced upon our notice. This is the common jungle crow (*corvus coronoides*) the scavenger round our kitchens and in the bazars. Some years ago a reward was offered for every bird shot as it was considered that they were becoming a public nuisance! That they destroy many small nests and devour eggs and nestlings is of course well known. It is to be noted that the Indian house crow (*corvus splendens*) so abundant in towns, in the plains, and easily distinguished from the jungle crow by its pale ashy mantle, is not found in Naini Tal. Closely allied to the crows is the red-billed blue magpie (*urocissa melanocephala*). This beautiful but noisy bird is almost invariably seen in small parties, and the flight down hill is a characteristic glide in which the long tail forms a conspicuous object. From beak to tip of tail it measures about two feet. The bill and legs are bright red, whilst



the prevailing colour of the body and tail is blue, though the head is black and many feathers are partly white. It breeds locally in the oak forests and is by no means rare.

The ubiquitous house sparrow is, of course, found here as everywhere else within the British Empire. Of more pleasing and striking appearance is its near relation the cinnamon tree sparrow (*passer rutilans*) which also nests at times in our bungalows and outhouses. It is easily recognized by the upper plumage which is a bright cinnamon-red in the male, and somewhat similar but duller in the female. A bird which always attracts attention by reason of its bright plumage is the short-billed minivet (*pericrocotus brevirostris*). Except when breeding, these birds go about in small but cheerful parties, keeping rather to the tops of trees. They are about the size of a wagtail, and in the male the head, upper back and parts of the wings and tail are black, the rest of the plumage being crimson. In the female the red of the male is replaced by yellow and the black portions are mostly grey. This minivet is probably migratory to some extent.

The common myna (*acridotheres tristis*) and the common pariah kite (*milvus migrans*) are both very common in Naini Tal; but as they are common in the plains and so well known, we will dismiss them without further comment, and will pass on to consider the laughing-thrushes. These are thrushlike birds which frequently go about in small parties. The red-headed

laughing-thrush (*trochalopteron erithroa phalum*) may be distinguished by a chestnut crown and blackish throat, the rest of the plumage being mainly shades of olive-brown. It is common on the wooded slopes of Cheena, but does not frequent the station itself. On the other hand the Himalayan streaked laughing-thrush (*trochalopteron lineatum*) is common all over the station, and being very tame and confiding by nature may even be observed hunting for insects among the verandah flower-pots. Though it is tame, its habit of creeping about in dense vegetation causes it to be frequently overlooked. The nest and eggs are not unlike a large edition of the English hedge sparrow. The two laughing-thrushes just mentioned are not noticeably sociable; but the white-throated laughing-thrush (*garrulax albigularis*) is almost invariably seen in large or small parties, which, if disturbed, as by the presence of a dog, express their resentment by loud and vehement hissing. The plumage is mainly olive-brown, except for the cheeks, throat and tips of the outer tail feathers which are white. They are fairly common in the forest round Naini Tal, and breed in April and May, laying three beautiful glossy deep-blue eggs in a nest placed at no great height from the ground. These three laughing-thrushes are the only common representatives of this extensive family to be found in the immediate vicinity of Naini Tal, though the striated laughing-thrush (*grammatoptila striata*), a much larger bird than any of those described, is occasionally seen singly or in pairs in dense forest away from habitations.

We now pass on to the family of blackbirds and thrushes. Of these the most conspicuous member is the Himalayan whistling-thrush (*myiophoneus Horsfieldi*) better known as the whistling schoolboy. A rather large English blackbird with a blue sheen on the plumage and a conspicuously yellow bill can be no other than the whistling schoolboy. He is generally seen in the vicinity of water; and the song is a varied and melodious whistle which is often heard when the first rays of morning light are creeping up the eastern sky. A rather similar bird is the grey winged blackbird (*turdus bouboul*), but it is fully two inches shorter than the whistling schoolboy, lacks the blue sheen on the body, and has a grey patch on the wing. Moreover the hen bird is brown, whereas both sexes of the whistling schoolboy are similarly attired. The grey-winged blackbird may be seen in any of the oak forests round the station, but as it is by nature rather shy its song, which compares favourably with that of any other blackbird for variety and richness of tone, is not, as a rule, heard in the immediate vicinity of bungalows. There is only one other resident species belonging to this family. This is the white-collared ouzel (*turdus albicincta*), the male of which is black except for a white collar all round the neck. The hen bird is brown. It is not uncommon in the oak forests at the back of Cheena above 7,500 feet, where it breeds during May and June. When going to roost, and again at dawn, it utters a note closely resembling that made by the English blackbird under

similar circumstances; but the actual song, which is distinctly fine, is more like that of the English thrush.

The next bird to be considered is one which though somewhat quiet and unobtrusive in its habits is nevertheless well known to most residents of Naini Tal on account of its monotonous and loud call, somewhat resembling "piaw", which is uttered with great persistence from May to July. This is the great Himalayan barbet (*megalaema virens*), the only representative of the barbets to be found in Naini Tal. Like other barbets it is a fruit-eater, and has a strong bill which is all the more conspicuous for its yellow colour. The plumage is also bright; the head and neck are purplish-black; the back is shades of olive, yellow and green; and there is a bright blue patch in the middle of the breast and abdomen, and a scarlet patch under the tail. The bird is over a foot long. Brief mention must be made of the common Indian kingfisher (*alcedo atthis*) which has made the Naini Tal lake its home. This bright little kingfisher is nearly the same as the English bird and, therefore, requires no description. There are no swallows or martins in Naini Tal, or at least none that are resident; but the common Indian swift (*micropus affinis*) a bird not unlike our English swift, but smaller and with a white throat and a conspicuous white band across the rump, is found in many bungalows all over the station.

No mention has yet been made of the game birds, of which there is considerable variety. There are three species of pheasant. Perhaps the finest of these, and the

only one with a long tail like the English bird, is the cheer pheasant (*catreus Wallichi*). The tail is fourteen or fifteen inches long, compared with only eight inches in the other two pheasants. The general colouration of these birds is produced by a blending of greys and buffs which tones in most wonderfully with their natural surroundings, namely, steep grassy slopes, except for about three months when the grass is green. Both the cock and the hen have a crest, but it is much longer in the cock bird, and there is a bright red naked patch round the eye on each side of the head. They are not very abundant in the vicinity of Naini Tal, though there are usually a few on the bare hill-side above the Government House golf links, and others are to be found scattered about the grassy slopes of Cheena and the other larger hills. There is generally, at least one pair living on the steep south face of Cheena, and these may be heard calling in the very early morning or at dusk, from most of the bungalows situated at this end of the station. Then there is the koklas pheasant (*pucrasia macrolopha*) in which both sexes are again crested; but whereas the crest is quite short in the hen bird, in the cock it is long and consists of a pale central portion flanked by two longer lateral tufts which, like the rest of the head, are black with a green gloss. Furthermore, the cock has a white patch on each side of the neck, whilst the back is mostly grey and the under parts largely rufous or chestnut. The plumage of the hen bird is somewhat similar but duller. This fine pheasant is rather scarce, but is found throughout the oak forests on Cheena

and the surrounding hills, often descending in winter to the zone of the chir pine. It is essentially a bird of the forest and, when flushed, usually flies straight down hill, thus offering a very sporting shot to a gun posted below. Lastly there is the white-crested kalij pheasant (*gennaeus Hamiltonii*), the best known of all the local pheasants by reason of its wide distribution and comparative abundance. In the kalij, the head of both sexes is crested, but the crest is only conspicuous in the male, as in this case the feathers are white. There is a bare crimson patch on each side of the head round the eye just as in the cheer pheasant. In the cock bird, the upper plumage is mainly black, glossed with blue or green with a certain amount of white on the edges of the feathers, whilst the breast is whitish. The hen bird is mainly brown. Kalij are found in every type of forests and at all elevations in the hills round Naini Tal, and, owing to the municipal area being a sanctuary, they are not uncommon on the outskirts of the station itself. They are difficult enough to shoot when flying downhill through a maze of stems and branches, but unfortunately they cannot always be induced to fly unless driven by men, as when flushed by dogs they have a habit of flying up into trees, a habit most annoying to the sportsman.

We will now consider the partridges. First of all there is the common hill partridge (*arboricola torqueola*). This is a bird about two-thirds the size of the common grey partridge of the plains. The crown of the head, which is bright chestnut in the male, is olive-brown with black spots in the female. The upper parts in both

sexes are mainly olive-brown, barred and spotted with black. The peura, as this bird is locally called, inhabits the densest portions of the forest and, though never very common, is found in all the evergreen forests round Naini Tal. When pursued by dogs it usually runs for some distance and then either flies up hill or into the branch of a tree. In the former case when flushed a second time it nearly always flies straight downhill. Owing to the dense jungle surroundings in which they are found, the sportsman will often fail to get a single shot, though several birds may have been flushed during the day. The call of the peura is either a long-drawn low whistle or a combination of three whistling notes repeated several times in an ascending scale. The next partridge to be considered is the chakor (*lectoris graeca*). This bird is generally well known, and it need only be mentioned that it much resembles both in size and colouring the partridge known in England as the French partridge. The chakor is not found in any numbers close to Naini Tal, though there are usually a few in the vicinity of such places as Pangot, Khurpa Tal, Jeolikot and Bhim Tal. The only other partridge is the northern Indian black partridge (*francolinus francolinus*), also too well known to require description. Moreover this bird is seldom seen, and unless the sportsman goes far afield, he is unlikely to meet one.

Before leaving the resident species, mention may be made of two owls. Owls are seldom seen, but are frequently heard and may be easily recognized by their

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calls. The spotted Himalayan scops owl (*otus spilocephalus*) is common, and has a call of two bell-like whistling notes—"who-who". It is a small owl, about eight inches long. Equally common is the collared pigmy owlet (*glaucidium brodeii*), but this little owlet, which is slightly smaller than the last, has a call of four (not two) clear whistling notes—"who-who who-who"—which are pitched somewhat lower than those of the scops owl. It is also somewhat diurnal, whereas the scops is entirely nocturnal. Both these owls are chiefly heard during the cold weather and early spring months.

We have now described the commoner resident species and will consider those which are migratory. It will be simplest to divide the migratory species into two groups. In one group will be placed those birds which breed in and around Naini Tal during the summer months, whilst in the other group will be placed those which do not stay to breed, but pass on northwards to that fascinating country nestling under the snowy peaks of the main Himalayan range, or to the equally fascinating plains beyond. Once again it should be remembered that this grouping is entirely arbitrary and no hard-and-fast distinction exists between the two groups. A liberal interpretation must, therefore, be placed on the classification adopted, and it must be realized that some birds, as for instance the Indian rufous turtle-dove or the dark-grey bush-chat, might, with almost equal claim, be placed in either group, since they breed in the outer as well as the inner ranges of the Himalaya.

The first group of migrants have wintered at low levels in the hills or in the plains, and begin to return to their breeding haunts in the vicinity of Naini Tal towards the end of March. To this group belongs the dark-grey bush-chat (*oreicola ferrea*), a species which breeds all over the station during the summer months. The cock is easily recognized by his general ashy-grey appearance and pale eye strip with pure white breast; the hen, by her general rufous colouration. In striking contrast to the sombre plumage of the bush-chat is the bright verditer-blue of the verditer flycatcher (*stoparola melanops*) in which both sexes are similarly attired though the female is not quite so bright as the male. The uniform blue of these birds is only relieved by a black spot in front of the eye. The cock bird has quite a fine song and differs in this respect from nearly all flycatchers. They breed in holes in banks, or under the eaves of bungalows. Another brightly-coloured bird of this class is the blue-headed rock-thrush (*petrophila cinclorhyncha*), the male of which has the head mostly a brilliant cobalt blue; the wings, blue and black with a central white patch; and the rump and lower plumage, a rich chestnut. This bird has a pretty song, and breeds in holes in banks, frequently in cuttings at the side of the road; but unlike the verditer flycatcher, it is shy and retiring in its habits.

There are two small flycatchers which deserve mention. One is the grey-headed flycatcher (*culicicapa ceylonensis*), which is about the size of an English willow wren. The head is ashy-grey; the back, greenish; and the

under parts yellow; whilst the bird's sprightly attitude and cheerful song of only four notes make it a general favourite. It may be seen all over Naini Tal during the summer months, and if the birds be watched during April and May they will be seen constructing a cup-shaped nest of moss which is bound by cobwebs to the rough trunk of a tree. The other flycatcher is the white-browed blue flycatcher (*cyornis superciliaris*). It is about half an inch shorter than the last species, and the male can be recognized by the very prominent white eyebrow, the dull blue upper plumage, and the dull blue collar half across the breast. Unlike the last species it is shy and retiring, and is seldom seen close to human habitations. It prefers the well-wooded slopes at the back of Cheena where it breeds in holes in trees.

Before leaving this group of migrants we must consider the warblers. Of all the vast number which pass up from the plains during the early summer months the only one to stay and breed with us in Naini Tal is Hodgson's grey-headed flycatcher-warbler (*cryptolpha xanthoschista*) which, however, makes up to some extent in numbers what is lacking in variety. This little warbler builds a domeshaped nest on the ground, like its relative the willow wren at home, and may be generally recognized by its small size, pale grey upper plumage, the white stripe above the eye and the yellow under plumage.

Only the cuckoos now remain. There are four, which may be heard in or around the station, and three of these almost certainly breed here. The fourth, the Asiatic

cuckoo, which has a note exactly like that of the common cuckoo of England, does not seem to breed near Naini Tal and will be mentioned with the second group of migrants. The plumage of these birds is somewhat similar, and as they are seldom observed at sufficiently close quarters for the plumage to be seen in detail, it will be sufficient to remark on their calls which are usually first heard in April. All the cuckoos have a distinctive and somewhat monotonous call which, at least in the species we are now considering, is also loud. Firstly, there is the Himalayan cuckoo (*cuculus optatus*). The deep bell-like "hoo—hoo—hoo" of this cuckoo is repeated four or five times; the first note, which is pitched somewhat higher, being audible only when the bird is close. The call is not infrequently mistaken for that of the hoopoe, which it certainly much resembles. This cuckoo apparently breeds in the oak forests close round, and it is said commonly to parasitise *trochalopterum lineatum*, a bird which has already been mentioned.

Next comes a cuckoo which, from its call and because it is first heard when the *kaphal* (*myrica*) fruit is ripening, is commonly known as the kaphal pakka. This is the Indian cuckoo (*cuculus micropterus*). The call consists of four notes, the first and third of which are higher than the second and fourth. This bird probably breeds at lower elevations than Naini Tal, though it is also not infrequently heard in the station itself. Thirdly, we have the large hawk cuckoo (*hierococcyx sparveroides*), which is chiefly heard calling in the more extensive

oak forests, especially those at the back of Cheena where it parasitises the nests of *trochalopteryx erythrocephalum*. The call is very similar to that of the brain-fever bird of the plains, and to a casual observer the difference would scarcely be noticeable. For the benefit of those who do not already know the call of the brain-fever bird far too well, it may be described as "Pi-pée-ya" repeated many times in an ascending scale.

We will now pass on to the other group of migrants, namely, those which breed in the higher ranges of the Himalaya but winter in the plains or outer hill ranges. These birds pass northwards through Naini Tal chiefly during May and early June, and their numbers are so considerable as to make a very noticeable increase in the local bird population. These migrant hordes are largely composed of small and somewhat inconspicuous willow-warblers belonging to the general *phylloscopus* and *acanthopneuste*. One of these, which is probably more numerous than any of the others, has a note by which the bird can be easily recognized. This is the orange-barred willow-warbler (*phylloscopus pulcher*) and the song, which is a very perfect imitation of that uttered by the woodwren in England, is composed of rapidly vibrated notes forming a high-pitched trill in a slightly descending cadence. On their return journey, the migrants are less noticeable than on their journey north, because the breeding season has passed and they are consequently more silent. About the first to arrive is the grey wagtail (*motacilla cinerea*), a bird which is also found in Britain. This graceful wagtail is usually to

be seen on the Flats during the last week of August or first week of September.

It has already been mentioned that the Asiatic cuckoo (*cuculus canorus*) belongs probably to this group of migrants. It certainly breeds on the inner ranges of the Himalaya as it remains calling in these parts till late in the season; but it is doubtful whether it remains to breed on the outer ranges, though it is commonly heard here in April on its first arrival.

We will conclude this group with that silent and mysterious bird the woodcock (*scolopax rusticola*). No description of this bird is necessary. Its owl-like flight and crepuscular habits are well known. It probably begins to arrive in the Naini Tal hills late in November, but much depends on the amount of snow which has fallen in the higher ranges. At any time the number of birds to be found is not great, and most sportsmen will be satisfied if the results of a day's pheasant shooting includes even a single woodcock.

This completes the description of the three groups we set out to review. There is, however, one bird which may be mentioned on account of its great beauty, though it is only a rare and occasional visitor during the rains. This is the long-tailed broadbill (*psarisomus Dalhousiae*). Its total length is about ten inches, half of which is made up of the greatly graduated tail. The sexes are alike, and the general colouration is bright green, but there is a good deal of black on the head, contrasting strongly with the chin, and a patch behind the eye which are

bright yellow and pass into an orange collar. The wings are partly black and partly bright blue with a patch of white. They are normally seen at low elevations in the outer hills and in the Bhabar, and have been recorded to breed near Jeolikot, but they are distinctly rare birds, and will always attract attention by reason of their bright plumage.



## CHAPTER V

### GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND GROUNDS, NAINI TAL

#### FORMER GOVERNMENT HOUSES

**T**HE first house in Naini Tal occupied by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Provinces stood where the Ramsay Hospital now stands, and was called Stoneleigh. In 1865, the then Lieutenant-Governor (Hon. E. Drummond) built a house upon the Maldon estate on Sher-ka-danda Hill, and sold it at the end of his tenure of office. From that date onwards until 1879, this house was rented by his successors in office, Sir William Muir, Sir John Strachey and Sir George Couper. It came in time to be felt, however, that the Maldon House was not wholly suitable for the Head of the province, and Sir George Couper decided to build a new Government House on the Sher-ka-danda Hill near St. Loo Gorge. This had fortunately just been completed when the great landslip of 1880 occurred. The landslip damaged the Maldon House and made it unsafe. Sir George Couper moved into the new house and the Maldon House was dismantled.

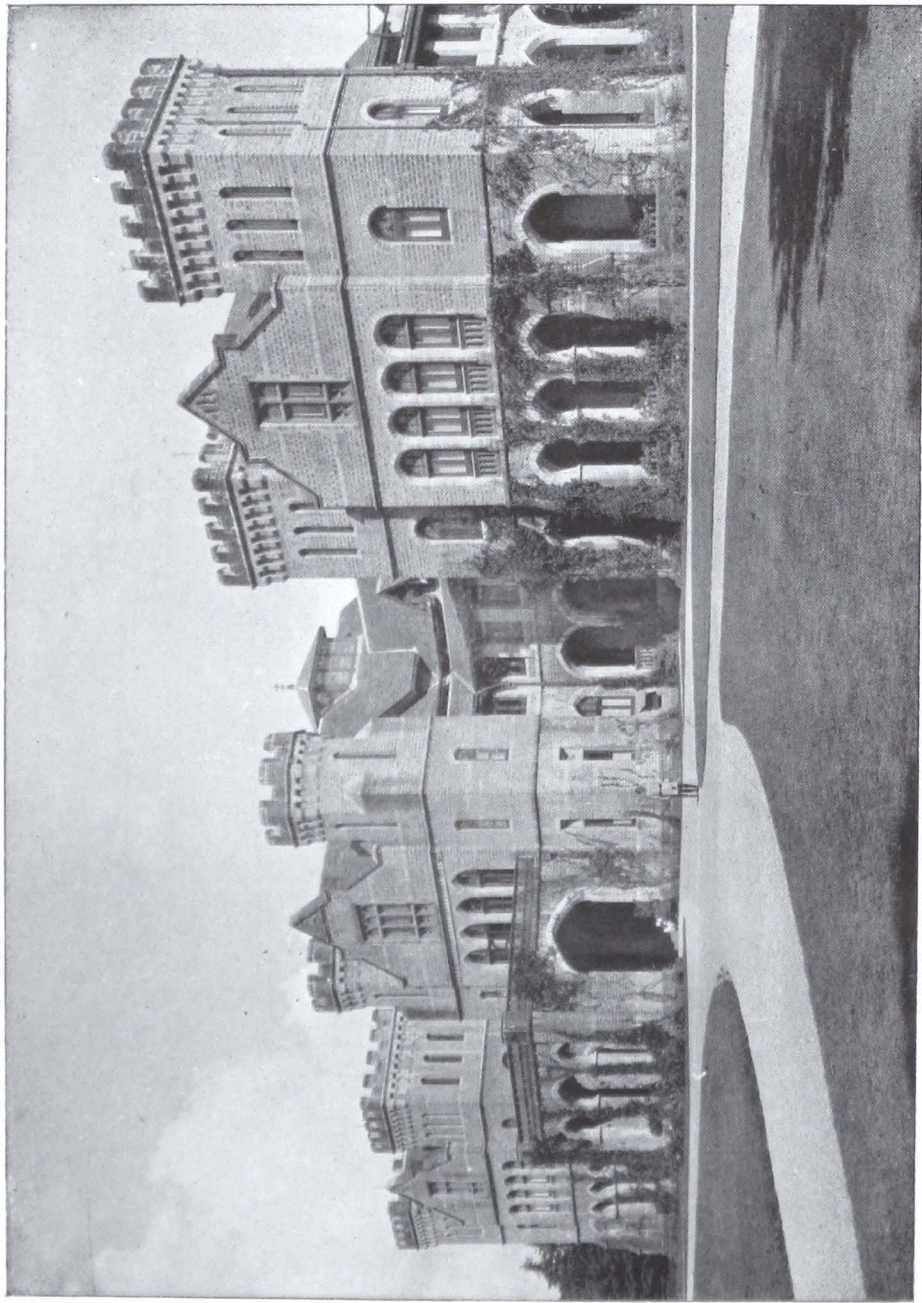
The St. Loo house was a gabled building in the Elizabethan style, standing in a commanding position on the skyline of Sher-ka-danda, with splendid views of the lake, the plains and snows. It was successively

occupied by Sir Alfred Lyall, Sir Auckland Colvin and Sir Charles Crosthwaite. Unluckily, soon after it was built, cracks appeared in the walls, and as the hill-sides were as yet unsecured by masonry drains, these gradually increased in such an alarming way that when Sir Antony MacDonnell came to the province as Lieutenant-Governor in 1895 he resolved to abandon the house and to build a new one. The Government of India's approval was obtained, and eventually after some difficulties an excellent site was found near Sherwood, to the south-east of Ayarpata Hill, which lies on the south-west of the lake. Sherwood House, which at the time was occupied by the Boys' Diocesan School, was taken over as a temporary residence for the Lieutenant-Governor, while the present house was being built, and certain additions and alterations to it were effected at a cost of about Rs. 22,000.

The foundation stone of the new Government House was laid on April 27, 1897, and the building was finished in March 1900. It was occupied by Sir Antony MacDonnell in that year, and has been inhabited after him by Sir James La Touche, Sir John Hewett, Sir James (now Lord) Meston, Sir Harcourt Butler and Sir William Marris.

The estate comprises 220 acres, chiefly of hill and forest. Much of it was already Government land managed by the municipality; but the Sherwood estate was acquired from the diocesan authorities, and two other properties, Ardmore and Gwalikhet, were acquired





Government House.

from private owners. Small pieces of land were also purchased from the adjoining properties of the Church of St. Nicholas and St. Mary and of St. Joseph's seminary.

The grounds have remarkable charm. To the south and west they are bounded by rough cliffs with a sharp descent of about 2,000 feet. On the north they ascend the slopes of Ayarpata Hill, and rise to a height of 7,300 feet above sea-level. On a clear day the view of the plains from various points of vantage in the grounds is of wide extent and unusual beauty. Most of the estate is under forest. There are varieties of oak, rhododendron, holly, deodar, besides various other trees imported from Europe. There are khakar, hare and pheasant in the woods: and goral may be seen at times on an inaccessible peak jutting out over the plains. Leopards frequently invade the grounds from Ayarpata and are a constant menace to dogs. The grounds have been laid out with well-graded paths leading through the woods. In the centre of the estate lies a level stretch of turf which was once the school cricket-ground: and at a lower level is a natural grassy valley, formerly a morass during the wet months which is now drained by a concealed tunnel. These open spaces have been connected up by glades ingeniously opened up through the forest, until from small beginnings there has, over a period of years, been constructed a complete golf course of eighteen holes. The course is remarkable, not merely for the beauty of its setting, but for the adventurousness of the game which the natural hazards provide. The holes are

mostly short. The bogey for the course is 62. The record score up to date (1927) is 58 which was done by Mr. H. A. Lane in 1927. He also holds the record of 24 for the last nine holes. Every hole in the course has been done in two strokes, and, in 1926, thirteen holes including No. 3, the longest hole (267 yards), were done in one stroke. It has been the practice for some years past for the course to be opened to members of the Club on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays throughout the season.

The cost of building Government House with its subsidiary buildings and of laying out the grounds was about seven and a half lakhs; but this included an outlay of something over a lakh upon the new Diocesan School on Ayarpata. The cost of electric lighting and water-supply came to nearly another half a lakh.

The design was prepared originally by Mr. Stevens, a Bombay architect and by Mr. F. O. Oertel, Executive Engineer; but Mr. H. S. Wildeblood, who supervised its construction, designed many of the details. Sir Antony MacDonnell himself took the keenest interest in the building, as is apparent from the completion report. The Executive Engineer mentioned that he had received very numerous written and oral instructions from the Lieutenant-Governor during the progress of the work. Sir Antony caused a footnote to be appended saying that "in the opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor these instructions have added very greatly to the amenities of the house."

The architecture has been professionally described as of "the early domestic Gothic style". The material is grey stone, though some Agra red sandstone was used for the ornamentation of the facade and railings. The front aspect is dominated by six castellated turrets which have recently benefited by the removal of the steep pinnacles which formerly crowned them. The general effect is one of solidity and dignity without exuberance. But architecturally the house suffers from two defects. The designers were unduly influenced by the idea of affording protection from the sun. Living rooms and bedrooms alike are needlessly cut off from the outer air by heavy masonry verandahs or glazed corridors. Moreover the designers admitted a multitude and a variety of pointed arches which lack purpose and fail in effect. The back view of the house, which most nearly suggests an English country-house, is, perhaps, its most successful aspect.

The house stands upon a plateau at an altitude of 6,785 feet above sea-level with rising ground behind it, screening it from precipitous cliff edge, and with a sunken lawn fringed with deodar trees in front. It is approached from the entrance lodge near St. Nicholas Church by a drive curving round the sunken lawn. The house fronts north-west towards Ayarpata Hill. It is shaped like the letter E with the upright stroke to the front. It is well-planned for working purposes. There are two stories throughout except in the eastern wing,

where, however, there is a basement with cellars, strong-room and pantry. The front aspect suggests a third story but this consists only of lumber rooms.

The ground-floor comprises the main reception rooms. The entrance porch leads through an outer hall into a central hall, now covered by a domed roof though the original intention was to crown it with a central tower. On the west are the offices of the A.D.Cs, the Private Secretary and the Governor: and on the east the card-room, the small drawing-room, the large drawing-room and a conservatory. A passage about a hundred yards long traverses the ground-floor; and behind it lie to the east the large dining-room with the billiard-room behind it, and a conservatory with a fountain; in the centre the main staircase with the ball-room behind it: and to the west a clerks' room and two dressing-rooms. The west wing on the ground-floor contains three spare bedrooms. Upstairs the two main bedrooms are in front at the end of either wing, and between each of them and the main stairway are two sets of smaller bedrooms. In front and over the outer hall is a pleasant well-lighted sitting-room and library. The upper west wing contains three more sets of bedrooms, and two small single rooms.

The ball-room measures sixty feet by thirty and provides dancing space for roughly 250 people. The dining-room was originally forty-eight feet by twenty-four but has been extended to a length of seventy-two feet. It is the largest room in the house. The large drawing-room measures fifty feet by twenty-four.



In the main a local stone, a dark-grey marl, mixed in the interior cross-walls with local dolomite limestone, was used to build the house. White Naloina freestone was used freely on the exterior: and a limited use was also made of Agra red sandstone, but, except as railings to steps and balconies, this has since been replaced by the grey freestone. Mirzapur stone was chiefly used for the steps and verandahs; and the house was roofed with Rewari slate. Teak was used freely for the main stairway, the panelling of the dining-room, all the doors and windows and some of the principal floors. Elsewhere shisham, satinwood, cyprus and sal were used to some extent: and the local pine wood was employed for trusses, joints and the less important floors. The glass, tiles, brass fittings and iron pipes came from England. Agra masons did the ashlar stone-work and Punjabi carpenters the woodwork: the ordinary masonry work and the painting and papering were done by local labour. Lucknow, Agra and Fatehgarh jails supplied the original carpets, some of which are still in use: Messrs. Lazarus & Co. of Calcutta and Messrs. Maple & Co. of London did most of the furnishing.

The outer hall, the dining-room and the ball-room are generally regarded as the best features of the house. The former has an ornamental teak ceiling and an effective black and white marble floor, which is now showing signs of wear. It contains a handsome and comfortable ingle-nook in the Renaissance style which was made originally for the St. Loo Government House.

A fine pair of elephant tusks, which were picked up in the Kumaun forests, have been built into the opposite wall. The central hall is disappointing by reason of the heavy corner piers (intended to carry a central tower which was never built), the multitude of openings, and the discrepancy between the arches of the ground and upper stories. The floor is of marble mosaic tiles. The ball-room, approached by passages on either side of the main stair, has an effective simplicity. The floor is ingeniously designed, and rests on railway rails. The chief ornament is in the ceiling mouldings, picked out in white and gold.

The dining-room has a teak floor and ceiling. The massive teak mouldings which run longitudinally along the ceiling are noticeable. The two fire-places are of Tudor pattern with freestone fronts bearing the provincial arms. A free use has been made of teak panels, and though the room presents some architectural lapses it does not lack dignity and comfort. There is room for 66 people to dine.

The main feature of the billiard-room is a good window, with stone mullions designed by Mr. Stevens.

The drawing-rooms and boudoir (or card-room) have bow-windows, the effect of which is impaired by the heavy outside verandahs. The ceilings in the two drawing-rooms are of lincrusta and in the boudoir of Kashmir woodwork. The doors are good. The large drawing-room has a Sienna marble mantelpiece with a design (chosen by Sir Antony MacDonnell) blending the rose, thistle and shamrock.

The Western rooms tend to be gloomy in the mornings but are pleasant in the afternoons. The chief feature of the Governor's room is a large fire-place of dark serpentine.

The house, outhouses and grounds have their own electric installation. The power-house stands on a hill at the back of the house.

Water for the house is obtained from the municipal mains. Four storage tanks are situated on the hill behind the house, from which three-inch pipes lead to the house. A few years ago a new system of protection against fire was added. This involved the construction of a large masonry tank, situated on the hill where the flagstaff stands, which serves also as a swimming bath. Water for the garden is obtained by direct pumping from the lake.

The stables are airy and spacious. They stand on a higher level behind the house not far from the power-house. The servants' houses and dhobi-ghat lie further to the east, well screened off. Between them and the house is a squash-racket court: and nearer still to the house is a separate cottage built originally for a dairy but recently serving as quarters for a house-keeper.

From the front the house looks on to the south-west slopes of Ayarpata Hill. To the left front there is a view of a precipitous descent to the plains, which also are just visible in clear weather. Further to the left the grounds are bordered by the flagstaff hill which has been skilfully planted with a variety of trees, and is one

of the prettiest features of the grounds. From the top of the flagstaff hill and again from many other points westward along the cliff edge the view is magnificent. A herbaceous border fringes the upper lawn to the front and right of the house: beyond this the ground falls sharply to a lower lawn which divides the garden of the present house from that of old Sherwood. The combined effect of the vividly green lawn, grey stone steps and well-grown deodar trees is dignified and peaceful, and strongly reminiscent of an old English property.

Sherwood is still maintained for miscellaneous purposes, though not as a residence. Some rooms are used by the Private Secretary's office: and in 1926 and 1927 what was formerly the big schoolroom (and at a later date the drawing-room of the temporary Government House) has been used as a Council Chamber for the June and July sessions of the Provincial Council. It was found to be unexpectedly comfortable and suitable: and the practice of using it in this way seems likely to continue. Sherwood witnessed the passing of an important piece of legislation in the Agra Tenancy Act of 1926. There are three tennis courts in the grounds of Sherwood and lying between two of them a delightful small piece of garden, remarkable for fine deodar trees and blue hydrangeas, from which there is a fine view of the sharp peak known as Goral Hill, and the plains beyond.

From the level of the lower lawn well-graded paths traverse the outlying portion of the grounds where the golf course lies. To the lowest point of the grounds is

a descent of about 300 feet: but from a point about 100 feet down on the road below old Sherwood the path climbs in zig-zags up the slopes of Ayarpata, offering many fine views both of the grounds themselves and of the mountain scarp, until it emerges from the grounds on to the MacDonnell Circular Road at a height of some 600 feet above Government House.

It has been, for some years, the practice of successive Governors to open the grounds on Sundays, and during the fine weather many visitors are attracted to them.