

by Congress, and that the schools of the country be formally aligned with the rising demand for arbitration as the method of settling international disputes.



#### THE MAHARAJA OF BARODA

Last week the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda terminated his American visit. The appellation Gaekwar is the specific title for the Maharaja of Baroda. The Maharaja is one of the three most influential native rulers of India, the others being the Nizam of Hyderabad and the Maharaja of Mysore. Compared with Hyderabad or Mysore, Baroda is a small State. But politically, educationally, and industrially it is the most advanced of any of the Indian Native States, and its ruler is more alive to cosmopolitan influences than is the Nizam of Hyderabad or the Maharaja of Mysore. Baroda, with a population of over a hundred thousand, is the capital of the State of Baroda. Though a British Political Agent resides in the city, the Maharaja is independent of him, save in matters of foreign relations. In his own dominions this ruler exercises the power of life and death. He is an excellent administrator and has added greatly to the prestige and wealth of the State. He has skillfully gathered about him as his ministers clever men, regardless of their caste. But the Maharaja's greatest power has been felt in education. So advanced has Baroda become that attendance at the primary schools is compulsory up to fourteen years of age; last year nearly two thousand families were fined for neglecting to send their children to school. The ruler has also established manual training schools, and Baroda College is affiliated with the University of Bombay. Since the present Maharaja took the reins of government in 1881 he has abolished some two hundred unnecessarily burdensome taxes, lessened others, established an income tax, revised the revenue system, provided for a scientific land survey, started the first cotton mills, built hospitals, and improved the military service. The Maharaja is accompanied on his world tour by his wife, the Maharani, and by his daughter Princess Indira. His son Prince Jaisingh met him here. The Prince has just finished his sophomore

year at Harvard, his younger brother being a student at Oxford. Princess Indira is about to enter the University of Bombay, and will be the first Indian princess ever to appear in public at university lectures. Her mother, the Maharani, is as interesting a personage as is the Maharaja. Throughout Baroda her influence has been felt, specially in two ways: First, in education. Believing that the denial of education to woman deprives the nation of half its potential force, she has brought about that greater measure of freedom and progress now enjoyed by the Baroda women. Second, her influence is apparent in the movement to advance the minimum age of marriage to fourteen years, which she hopes ultimately to make eighteen. The Maharani and her daughter always wear native dress; the Maharaja and his sons, however, appeared here in European costume. Their visit to America has served to bring us closer to the ancient civilizations of the East, now acquiring a slightly changed complexion from the newer civilizations of the West.



#### AN OUTDOOR SCHOOL

No phase of relief work for tubercular patients is more heartening than the success of the Boston Outdoor School in Franklin Park. During last winter more than one hundred little people from four years old up to sixteen, all definitely convicted of tubercular trouble, were transferred from the public schools to the institution on the roof of the Refectory Building, under the shadow of the Blue Hills. Here through all extremes of weather they have spent their days in the open, taking on flesh and color and good spirits in the healing cold. The place is primarily a hospital, or day camp, under the eye of nurse and doctors; but it is necessarily also a school. The child consumptive cannot be cared for at ordinary sanatoria. He is not sufficiently amenable to regulations. To enforce a proper regimen there must be a semblance of the authority he recognizes, namely, the authority of the school. Moreover, the mental stimulus and interest of lessons have their high therapeutic value, to say nothing of the advantage of keeping the little patients from falling hopelessly be-

hind the work of the regular schools. First of all, however, the school is a life-saving institution. Open class-rooms with desks occupy the covered colonnade which runs round three sides of the great roof, and in these, done up in sleeping-bags, ulsters, caps, and mittens, the children do such mental work as their condition permits. In case of a driving storm the class-rooms are protected by canvas drops. Though fresh air constitutes the prime factor in the treatment, food, rest, exercise, and cleanliness are all counted on to complete the cure. School work is frequently broken (in zero weather as often as every fifteen minutes) by breathing exercises, singing, or games to keep the blood stirring. For two solid hours after the noon dinner the entire school, stretched out in blanketed reclining chairs in the great uncovered area of the roof, rests and, if possible, sleeps. Three times a day the children, in their character of out-patients of the Boston Consumptives' Hospital, are fed simple food high in fuel value. Three times a day, before each meal, the whole school is ceremonially cleansed. A trained nurse takes the temperatures all round every day, and once a week weighs the patients. Every fortnight she takes each child to the hospital for examination. Dental treatment is arranged for, glasses are procured for defective eyes, and baths bespoken in settlement houses and public baths for patients lacking facilities at home. A social worker undertakes the education of parents in matters of fundamental hygiene, and keeps her eye upon patients after discharge to guard against relapse. Although this year many cases in the third stage have been accepted, a vast proportion of the children have shown swift improvement, some of them changing almost beyond recognition within a month of entrance. Temperatures go down, the characteristic nervousness of the consumptive relaxes, weight increases, color comes. There is a steady flow of arrested cases going back to the regular schools. In view of the modern belief that infection with tuberculosis is nearly always acquired during school life, the importance of such success as has attended the work of the Boston and Providence Outdoor Schools can hardly be overstated. Al-

though the emphasis of the work is laid upon life-saving, the educational results have been enormously suggestive. The most marked first effect of open-air life seems to be mental quickening. Almost without exception these tubercular children come from the regular schools with a reputation for dullness; and yet with all the drawbacks of the ungraded hospital school—meager equipment, distractions in the line of clouds and birds and squirrels, the necessary breaks for exercise and sleep, the limitations of disease—the children uniformly go back to their classes in better mental form, and are usually able to keep step. So striking has been the demonstration of the mental tonic of fresh air that outdoor class-rooms are being set apart in the regular schools of Boston, in order that anæmic children from all grades may be set to work with windows wide open in all weathers.



#### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

The National Vacation Bible School Association was formed in 1901. Its appeal in 1910 affords an opportunity to review its history. It was formed because three opportunities for community service had been neglected. In the first place, there were idle children. In the second place, there were idle church buildings. In the third place, there were idle students. The children were crowded in the streets close by the silent church buildings. The students were enjoying their summer vacations, yet many students would have been willing to do some service for society and religion. By establishing a daily Vacation Bible School, the Rev. Robert G. Boville gave them the chance. By the summer of 1909 he had established, or caused to be established, no less than ninety such schools. This meant that he had opened ninety formerly closed churches surrounded by dense populations. Last year about twenty-seven thousand boys and girls, gathered from the crowded districts of eleven cities, attended the schools. The cities were New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Boston, Providence, Albany, Baltimore, Washington, Newark, Pittsburgh, and Kansas City. This meant that more than three hundred college men and women from sixty insti-