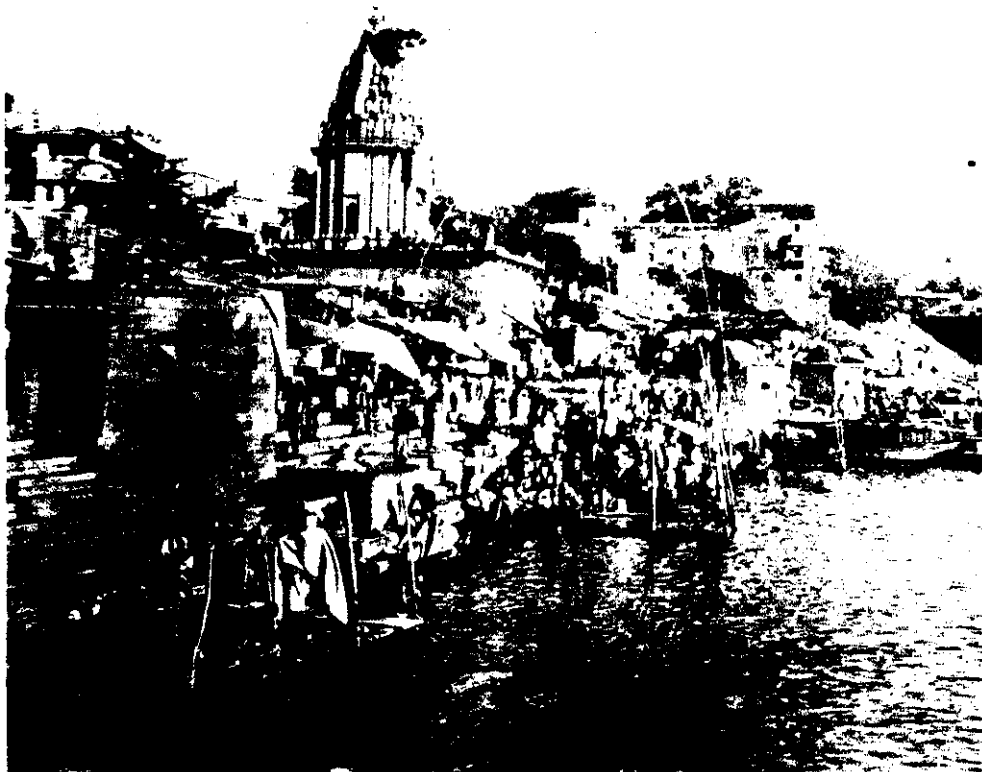


left when this ill-omened fowl has done its repulsive scavengering work. Almost at this point the huge pipe of the great waterworks on the bank immediately above enters the river. The Ganges is said to possess remarkable qualities of self-purification, and samples taken within a few inches of a disintegrating corpse at rest in a backwater are said to yield no traces of unhealthy contamination, but a morning on the river emphasises the warning that the traveller receives when entering India to eschew indulging in the water of the country as a beverage. The processes through which it is possible to put large quantities of water hardly seem adequate to the occasion, and yet the natives drink indiscriminately while they bathe on the margin, and apparently suffer no serious effects. Returning down stream, the journey is usually continued till almost opposite the tall and graceful minarets of the mosque. The most interesting of the ghats passed is Panchganga Ghat, situated on the mythical site of the junction of four rivers. It is an act of no mean efficacy to bathe at this spot. Here the flimsy jetties are more numerous and more crowded. Kneeling on the end of one is a devotee facing the river performing his devotions. The variety of his actions and their iteration attracts attention, and the fact that the strange figure is palpably oblivious of all surrounding objects rivets it. Usually the telling of beads and the people's devotions are less demonstrative if not less sincere. A return is made to the landing at Dasawamedh Ghat.

A walk down the three mile length of the ghats is equally interesting, but the closer view that it affords in a measure dissipates to a large extent the belief in the universal seriousness of the pilgrimage, which is not difficult to maintain when viewed from the river. I started in at Assi Ghat, close to the waterworks, and walked slowly the length of the ghats. A boat was just landing its gaily-dressed freight of pil-

For Conclusion see "Our Illustrations."



DASAWAMEDH GHAT.

One of the five special holy places on the river, and the central ghat of the city.



JALSAIN, OR BURNING GHAT.

In the foreground, on the right, two pyres are burning, while near them two have been built, and parts of the corpses can be seen.