

*Karachi, India*

5-10-8-44 APO 883. Beggar lying prone. One of the common sites in KARACHI.

It is difficult to classify the beggars in the cities of this country, and exceedingly difficult to distinguish between the true fakirs and the more common humbugs of charity. The various beggars that I have met can readily be grouped into the following classification, excluding of course those religious fakirs who fall under an entirely different set of conditions.

[for photo 6-10-8-44 see page 155].

There are those individuals who range from five years to a age of late maturity and old age and who are structurally crippled and diseased with malformed bodies such as dwarfed legs and hands, scaby skins etc but who are still intelligent enough to cope with the world. They generally make their plea directly and forcibly expecting no sympathy. One fellow had neither feet or legs but was forced to propell himself upon a whelled contraption on the order of roller skates. Another one apparently did not have the power of leg movement and was negotiating the streets with knee pads and hand pads. His movements were very slow and deliberate but persistent with noticable end results. A common type is the indivual who pushed himself over the ground in a seated position as like a small child who has not yet mastered the art of walking, with the usual alms cup rattling on ahead. This one particular individual was received by four of his own race but ignored by the visiting races.

Blind beggars are common many of them structurally blind as evidenced by the eye itself, however there were others who I am sure were feigning their lack of power to see. A usual combination of such beggar is an escort who does the soliciting. Invariably it is a young and beautiful but dirty and raggedly clothed girl. One cannot but help give pitty to such an individual but of course it is thru the sympathy of the charming little girl in attendance. Frequently one will see a blind beggar wandering thru the streets and the more dangerous areas of traffic. The muscian beggar (blind) is common and generally found standing in one place and offering his music