

Norway.

Letter from Dr. W. W. Piffie to Mr. H. W. Bridge -
dated July 19th 1901.

..... We are just back from a holiday in Norway where we went to recruit, not having had a holiday of more than a week since we were married six years ago. So we boldly took a month, and have come back renovated in body and mind. Moreover, just before starting, I was appointed Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Sussex County Hospital, and it seemed a good opportunity to take a holiday before settling down to hospital work and routine. We crossed from Hull to Bergen: the passage was rough, and we spent the thirty hours it takes in our berths. Stavanger was the first port touched at, and from thence to Bergen our course lay amongst the innumerable islands with which Norway is girt. Bergen is a quaint and picturesque old town of 80,000 inhabitants - backed by high hills with low islands in front. One part of the town

consists of the houses occupied in the 14th and 15th centuries by the Hanseatic League, many of these are well preserved and contain various relics of that time. Bergen is said to be the wettest place in Norway, and certainly there were showers the two days we spent in it. From Bergen we journeyed along the only line of railway in Western Norway, and it is only seventy miles long, to the terminus - Voss, and thence posted in a "stool-car" (so called from the small seat behind on which the boy who drives you sits - the reins passing between the two people sitting in front) to Mathem, 1200 feet up in the mountains, and the next day to Gudvangen where we took the steamer on the Fjord. Here the mountains rise sheer out of the water for from two to three thousand feet, and down their sides fine waterfalls descend in many places, being fed by the melting snow. The echoes on blowing a horn or firing a cannon are very fine. The fjord steamers touch at various spots and we spent a few days at Ketholm and Fjaerland - near