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I HAVE been reading one of the most interesting books I have ever met with, much more strange than fiction because it is all true. Some perhaps will smile when I say that this interesting volume is called "Epidemics, Plagues, and Fevers," by the Hon. ROLLO RUSSELL, and that it is an epitome of existing knowledge concerning the nature and prevention of maladies spoken of as preventable." But the story is told in such classical English, and with such a wealth of illustration, that one is really sorry to come to the end of a chapter. I take, for example, the following paragraphs at haphazard:—

"AN instructive case of the transmission of diphtheria by clothes is related by Dr. UNDERHILL. The linen of a child which had died of the disease was boiled, but the dress which he had worn when first attacked was only washed in lukewarm water, and put away in a box. The dress was, nearly six months later, taken out of the box and put on the child's sister. In three days the girl was attacked with diphtheria. In a country house in Scotland a visitor suffered from the disease after occupying a room in which a case of diphtheria had occurred eleven months before."

THE author gives a number of examples to show how this disease is conveyed by milk—a fact which Nurses should remember.

THEN, with regard to scarlet fever, the following story is quoted: "A large picture-book had been used by a boy during his illness in 1846. The book was packed away in a trunk for twenty-six years. Finally it was brought to England, and given to a child of two years old. Fourteen days afterwards he was attacked with scarlet fever, and there was no other means of explaining the source of infection, except through this book." Sir THOMAS WATSON once told a somewhat analogous story: A piece of flannel used for a scarlet fever case was put away in a drawer for a year, when it was taken out by a housemaid and put round her throat. An old nurse at once snatched it away, but the girl was attacked by scarlet fever a few days afterwards. One might multiply extracts, but I advise my readers to get the book, if possible, and read it for themselves.

Every Nurse who makes her own Underclothing should send her address to the HOPWOOD MANUFACTURING CO., 1, Princess Mills, Hopwood, near Manchester, for Patterns of Pure Calicoes (bleached and unbleached), Twills, Longcloths, Sheetings, and Seamless Pillow-casings, which are forwarded Free and need not be returned. All goods carriage paid. Any length cut.

OUR always interesting contemporary, *The Daily Graphic*, published the following news from its Berlin correspondent on Monday:—

"I have had a most interesting conversation with Miss KATE MARSDEN, the English Red Cross Sister, who has just returned from a journey to further Siberia, which she undertook for the purpose of investigating the whole subject of Russian leprosy. Miss MARSDEN, who served as a Nurse in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877, first came across a case of leprosy in the military lazaretto at Rustchuk, and it made so deep an impression on her that she determined to devote her life to the amelioration of the lot of leprosy patients. At the conclusion of the war she returned to England; but it was some years before she could find an opportunity of putting her resolve into execution. Her intention was to proceed to the Leper Hospitals in India. In order, however, to familiarise herself with the various forms and treatment of the disease, Miss MARSDEN, in 1889, made a journey to Constantinople, Asiatic Turkey, Palestine, and the Caucasus, and visited the Leper Hospitals in these countries. When in the Caucasus she heard rumours of the existence of a plant which grew in further Siberia, in the Yakutsk district, and which was reputed to have the virtue of curing leprosy. The reports of its powers were so extraordinary that Miss MARSDEN determined to institute further inquiries. As the result of these, she resolved to make a journey to Yakutsk. After a long and fatiguing journey in sledges, in the depth of winter, Miss MARSDEN arrived in Yakutsk. From this point began her investigation of the leprosy of Siberian Russia.

"The state of affairs prevailing she found to be indescribably horrible. Leprosy exists as a disease in a district extending over several thousand versts. No provision whatever is made for the care of the sufferers. As soon as the disease declares itself, the unfortunate victim is driven into the forests and never allowed to again come into contact with his fellow creatures. A number of wretched huts, called 'yourtes,' have been half built, half excavated from the ground, and in these shelters the lepers must live, without any clothing except a few miserable old sheep-skins all through the rigours of the Siberian winter and the tropical heat of the summer. These 'yourtes' are always in the most distant parts of the forest, and are hundreds of versts apart, so that anything like superintendence on the part of the authorities is out of the question. The sole food of the lepers is the bark of trees, and small quantities of rotten fish which their relatives from time to time deposit for them at a short distance from the huts. The lepers live in a condition of indescribable filth and vice. No effort is ever made to convey to them any assistance. They lie in their filthy huts, with their limbs rotting off, till they die of cold, disease, or hunger. In some 'yourtes' as many as fourteen miserable wretches were huddled together; in other cases they lived alone or in couples. Many were blind, and some insane. They were of all ages and in all stages of disease; but in many instances their condition was such that they had lost all semblance of humanity. Incredible as it may appear, some of them have dragged out a loathsome existence in this state for twenty years!

"With regard to the plant which was the chief object of her journey, Miss MARSDEN could obtain but little informa-

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