

of ascendancy, which is implanted in most of us, and which may easily obtain the mastery over reason and justice. Those who have brought Nursing to its present position of influence, swayed by this sentiment, may not desire to see it escape from leading strings, and advance boldly in the path of influence for itself. Every one who has made any study of politics is quite familiar with such persons and their standpoint. But every person who has made any study of politics must know that the future is not with the self-satisfied, who are content to beat their breasts and say, "Look what we have done," but with the modest and humble and obscure, who do not rest where they are, but prepare to take other, long-considered, carefully-weighed, steps in the path of progress.

Borax—Its Properties and Use.

HERE are few chemical products more generally useful than Biborate of Sodium, commonly called Borax. It is valuable, not only for its properties as a remedial agent, but also for its utility in domestic economy and the arts.

The refined quality we are familiar with consists of large semi-transparent crystals with a saline

taste, fairly soluble in water, especially when hot.

Crude Borax, known as Tinkal, is found native on the shores of saline lakes in Thibet, also in California, and from thence imported to this country and purified. By far the largest quantities are now prepared from boric acid, the acidulous base of borax, which is found native in great abundance in certain volcanic districts. In some parts of Tuscany, especially near Castel-Nuovo, a large number of jets of steam and gas are constantly rising from the earth. They are called fumeroles or suffioni by the Italians, and, in condensing, form small lakes or lagoni in which the boric acid collects.

Artificial reservoirs are made round a number of these jets on the side of the volcanic slope and connected with one another by means of wooden tubes. A quantity of water is pumped into the highest reservoir, which is soon brought to the boiling point by the action of the steam, and becomes charged with the boric acid. It is then allowed to run through the whole series of reservoirs, one by one, taking up a quantity of the acid in each. This is allowed to settle, then evaporated and dried. For the production of borax the acid is again dissolved in water neutralised with sodium carbonate, and the product purified by re-crystallization. About 2,000 tons of boric acid are collected and imported every year from Tuscany.

THE BOOK OF THE SEASON.

ON SLEDGE AND HORSEBACK TO OUTCAST SIBERIAN LEPERS.

(With Illustrations from Photographs and Drawings.)

Dedicated by special permission to Her Most Gracious and Imperial Majesty The Queen,
BY

KATE MARSDEN,

Member (Special Badge) of the Royal British Nurses' Association, Member and Medallist of the Russian Imperial Red Cross Society, &c., &c.

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