

into a ravine, from being engulfed in a morass, or from wild beasts; more often than not soaked to the skin. Such was the life which, according to the official Russian accounts, Miss KATE MARSDEN lived, while she rode more than 2,000 miles over a country which no woman, European or native, is believed ever to have traversed before. All this too without a word of complaint, and with an imperturbable cheerfulness which, we observe from the records, her escort seem to have justly regarded as marvellous, and which we can ourselves believe, seeing that, in conversation with us, Miss MARSDEN makes light of all the dangers, and lays most stress upon the fact that, for more than two months, she never had her clothes off.

The expedition discovered thirteen leper colonies, in each one of which lepers were undergoing a living martyrdom—destitute and forsaken—herded together like cattle—their surroundings indescribably filthy and revolting—their limbs rotting off, one by one, while they waited and longed for death. Many of the official facts proved to be inaccurate, and many lepers were found whose existence was unknown. Miss MARSDEN, with the instincts of a Nurse, made notes of every case, and had each account signed by the interpreter. She brought back with her pieces of the lepers' skin, samples of their food, of the earth in their vicinity, and of the bark of the trees, all of which, according to different theories, are involved in the causation of the disease; and all these specimens are now being most carefully examined by celebrated microscopists. And, finally, after thoroughly exploring the whole district, and learning news of other unknown colonies in Kamschatka, Miss MARSDEN, and everyone of her escort, arrived safely back in Yakutsk. Small wonder that throughout Russia her work has been received with acclamation, that the leading Medical Society of Moscow held a special meeting to receive her Report, and, through its President and Vice-President, conveyed to her the thanks of Russian medical men for the great work which she has done. The Government thanked her for her labours in the cause of humanity, and have authorised a national subscription in aid of the colony which Miss MARSDEN proposes to found;

where, in sanitary buildings under medical treatment, and with nursing care, the lepers may be tended. Already, a noble band of Sisters of Mercy are on their way to Yakutsk to make a beginning, and the work will now, with Government aid, doubtless be speedily crowned with success.

It takes a great deal to arouse the British public to enthusiasm, but the day will certainly come when Englishmen, who claim the indomitable courage and burning zeal for humanity, displayed by Miss KATE MARSDEN, as characteristics of the Anglo-Saxon race, will claim this Nursing Heroine as a countrywoman of whom the whole nation may well feel proud.

#### VOLUNTEER NURSES FOR CHOLERA.

WE are glad to learn that progress is being steadily made with the organization of this most useful scheme. A large number of Nurses have enrolled their names, and arrangements for their services, in case of need, are being elaborated by an influential Committee consisting of Her Royal Highness PRINCESS CHRISTIAN as Chairwoman, Dr. BEZLY THORNE as Hon. Secretary, and the following Members of the Royal British Nurses' Association: Sir JOSEPH FAYRER, K.C.S.I., Sir DYCE DUCKWORTH, Dr. and Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK, Dr. GAGE-BROWN, C.M.G., Dr. HERON, Mr. LANKESTER, and the following Matrons—Miss STEWART of St. Bartholomew's, Miss THOROLD of the Middlesex, and Sister CECILIA of the University College, Hospitals, Miss DE PLEDGE of the Chelsea, and Miss HUGHES of the Kensington, Infirmary. Under such management there can be little doubt of the success of the scheme, and that all the best class Nurses who are unattached to Institutions will hasten to place their names on this honourable Roll of Volunteers.

#### SOFTENING SOAP.

THE proprietors of "Vinolia" soap have given an absolutely unique proof of the emollient properties of their well-known preparation. It seems not only to soften the skin, but it has actually been the means, we learn, of softening the lives, of a large number of poor little City waifs and strays. It has not only produced clean hands, but it has brought happiness into little hearts which have found the world a very rough and hard place to live—and wash—in. We hear, on good authority, that Messrs. Blondeau et Cie., have a very lofty idea, not only of their duty to their work people, but also of philanthropy. At their own expense they have sent more than one hundred poor children for two weeks into the country, to the great majority of whom green fields and rustic lanes were an absolute novelty—and next year they hope to be able to send at least a thousand City arabs. Every employé in their soap factory at Maiden Crescent, London, and at their warehouse and offices at Ryland Road, London, is given a vacation of not less than two weeks. They employ a large number of young girls as piece-workers, all of whom have two weeks' vacation and wages. The firm provide a library containing works of fiction, &c., and contemplate establishing a reading-room and gymnasium, and there is a sick-club composed of all the employés, so that in case of illness each one may be provided for.

**A WARM BATH in TEN MINUTES.** The New Patent "Calda" (cost of gas, 1d.) Price from 60s. Patent "Eclipse" Oil Bath Heater, Price from £2 18s. 6d.—G. SHREWSBURY, 36, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C. Of all Gasfitters, &c.

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)