

ROYAL SYMPATHY.

WE are glad to learn that much practical interest is being shown by all classes in Miss MARSDEN'S great work for the Lepers. Her Committee has opened an account, called the "Kate Marsden Leper Fund," at Sir SAMUEL SCOTT & Co.'s, 1, Cavendish Square, London, into which donations and subscriptions are being paid. And it is an interesting fact, and further instance of the Royal sympathy with all good works, to which we have recently alluded, that the first cheque entered into this account was a donation from H. R. H. the Princess MAY OF TECK.

AN INTERNATIONAL NURSING CONGRESS.

WE are pleased, beyond measure, to learn that Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK has completely succeeded in one of the chief objects which she had in view in undertaking her recent journey to Chicago—her proposal that an International Nursing Congress should be held during the Exhibition time next year. The suggestion was most warmly received and unanimously adopted by the Boards of Managers; the leading Hospital Matrons throughout the United States have promised their cordial co-operation, and it is now an arranged fact that a Congress of Nurses from all parts of the world will be held in Chicago in the third week of May, 1893. Papers will be read by delegates from various countries, and discussions upon these will be held, and probably certain definite resolutions upon principles vital to the entire Profession of Nursing will be submitted for the consideration of the Congress, so that a general consensus of Nursing opinion may be obtained upon various essential matters. The importance of this Congress cannot be over-estimated, and we venture to congratulate Mrs. BEDFORD FENWICK most heartily upon this new service which she has rendered to the cause of Nursing, and our American sisters upon being privileged to hold the first International Nursing Congress in their own hospitable land.

QUITE SO!

OUR comic contemporary, *The Hospital*, continues, with marked success, to provide "amusement for all ages," especially for the two extremes of childhood. The editor, last week, proposed a riddle—Why is the *Hospital* the *Hospital*? and without waiting in the orthodox manner for his readers to "guess" what on earth he meant, immediately let the cat out of the bag, and announced that the "answer" was—"The *Hospital* is the *Hospital* because it is, and because it cannot be anything else. We can well imagine that this superb witticism must have convulsed with laughter the class of persons who indulge in this light literature. The first effect of the conundrum upon our mind was to impel us to discover the exact grammatical meaning of the joke, and we found that the Dictionary defines "*Hospital*" as "a receptacle for the sick poor"—a refuge for the destitute. Far be it from us to term our amusing contemporary a "receptacle" of anything however poor. Still, we are compelled to accept its editor's conundrum, and trust that our readers will note his statement in all seriousness, that "the *Hospital* is"—what it is—"because it is and because it cannot be anything else." And when one thinks about the scurrilous manner in which our contemporary has for years, and on every possible occasion, vilified and abused that body of eminent medical men and excellent nurses—the Royal British Nurses' Association—one is instinctively reminded that many a true word has been spoken in jest.

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Discussion upon Miss Marsden's Report concerning the Siberian Lepers.*

(Continued from page 871.)

ADDRESS by the honourable the President of the Society, A. T. POSPELOFF:—

GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.—We have just heard Miss MARSDEN'S interesting report. We are now, thanks to her, acquainted with the non-sanitary condition in which the greater majority of the Yakouts lepers live, and which undoubtedly, needs a medical reorganization, not only in the interest of the lepers themselves, but also in that of the healthy Yakouts surrounding them. According to the documents presented by Miss MARSDEN to our Society, we see that the local doctors and the administration of the Yakutsk province have for some time past been filled with an earnest desire to better the position of the lepers of that province, but unfortunately, all their wishes and appointments up to now, that is to say, during the space of 65 years, have only been made on paper.

Looking through these documents with three Members of our Society, the doctors, N. FAVESKY, N. S. SPERANSKY, and L. N. MOURZINE, we came to the conclusion that the question of the abnormal condition of the Yakutsk lepers, is far from being a new one, and was raised, as I have already mentioned, by Dr. OUKLOUSKY in 1827, but has remained in the same state up to the present time, that is, during the last 65 years, though leprosy has existed in the Yakutsk province, and is spreading among the Yakouts up to now, undoubtedly demanding that energetic and suitable sanitary measures should be taken, similar to those that have long existed in Norway, and which are now established in our own Baltic provinces.

These measures chiefly consist in the isolation of lepers, and according to the observations made in Bergen, Norway, it has been proved that it is only through the isolation of lepers in special sanitary colonies, that the degeneration of them can be effected, and consequently the total disappearance of leprosy. Thanks to Miss MARSDEN'S energy, self-denial, and tender-heartedness, the question of the care of the Yakutsk lepers has at present received an immense impetus towards its accomplishment. At present the Government has already granted the permission to organize a colony according to the latest demands of medical science, similar to the one built near Riga.

Miss MARSDEN has already collected over 25,000 roubles for this purpose, which she has remitted into due hands. We cannot but feel extremely grateful to

*Read before the Dermatological Society of Moscow, on April 22nd, 1892.

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