

Truly, the Bergen sufferers I saw, exemplified this truth, seeming, as they did, to belong to a very low order of development and intelligence. And, I hear, the poor creatures are markedly deficient in moral perception.

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ONE of the medical staff, a charming, kindly old gentleman, has been attached to the Hospital, and has occupied a pretty, rose-covered house in the grounds for upwards of fifty years, working hard and devotedly among the lepers, without thought or care as to the danger he ran of contagion. Judging from his genial, healthy appearance, he had not been in any way affected by the dreadful influences of such constant associations. None of the doctors have been known to take the disease, but, of course, there is always the risk of such an occurrence, and one of the "medicos" told us quite shyly of the fears and nervous tremors of his three months' bride lest he might fall a victim to this loathsome malady.

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ONE is struck by the apathy and hopelessness of the lepers. For the most part they show a blank, melancholy, and despondency which are terribly eloquent. Once admitted into the Hospital, they are not allowed to leave, and a leper's life in a leper home is all their future. It is only recently that this system of rigid isolation has been adopted, but the absolute need for it has already been shown in a very marked decrease in the number of new cases of leprosy. The Bergen Hospitals draw their cases from a considerable area of surrounding country, the disease being more prevalent in rural districts, where misery and starvation are pushed to an extreme. Leprosy attacks the eyes in so many forms that large numbers of the lepers we saw were absolutely blind, and this, with the terrible deformity and loss of feature makes the disease a most appalling fact. The face, hands, and feet are the parts soonest and most seriously affected, and the distorted, mutilated members are pitiful beyond description. Some few of the lepers appeared comparatively cheerful, notably an old woman who had been in the Hospital forty-five years, and who sat at her spinning wheel and smiled as though life were yet worth living. Hers was a mild and slow case, ten years being the maximum term of leper existence if the disease be at all active.

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WE had some slight difficulty in finding the Hospital, our knowledge of Norwegian being decidedly limited, until a telegraph boy, doubtless on his way with some urgent or thrillingly interesting "wire," turned back and volunteered to conduct us thither.

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I confess to having felt some scruples as to the probable urgency of the message he had in his leather bag, but, finding it perfectly impossible to translate these scruples into intelligible Norsk, we accepted his escort, and the electric missive reached its destination by a somewhat devious route, its bearer, the richer by some thirty-five "ore," the "ore" being a small—very small—portion of Norwegian currency. Reaching the Asylum, where the chronic cases live, he and we following, turned in at the gate to make enquiries. At a lodge stood a poor attenuated fellow, prematurely old, half blind and weak, and with him we stayed to parley. The parley was conducted in Norwegian, so we knew not its purport, but it ended in our guide retracing his steps and leading us further on to the Hospital proper. Later, when Dr. LOORT, the very courteous and kind young visiting doctor, had shown us his patients in the more acute stages, we returned with him to this same asylum and saw here the same poor fellow who had stood at the gate. With a most pathetic pride he informed the doctor that he had seen us before, and that we had talked to him without a notion that he was a leper!

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MY companion was a qualified medical woman, well-known in London, and as being the first of the species to visit the Bergen Hospital, she created much interest among the lepers, who could hardly be made to understand that a doctor and a woman could be combined in the same person. Dr. LOORT was very careful to explain our professional status to his patients, lest they might think our interest was prompted by curiosity, and he thoroughly enjoyed and triumphantly translated to us the answer to a question he put in several cases as to whether they would prefer to be attended by a lady or by himself. They all said "he was very good and kind, but they would rather have the pretty lady for their doctor!"

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THE two Hospitals stand close together in very beautiful grounds, kept in perfect condition by the lepers. One building contains sixty and the other one hundred and twenty beds, the numbers being made up of men, women, and children; for alas! there are many children fated to spend their lives in these Asylums. They have a schoolmaster, and receive a very fair education, followed up in after years by the learning of a trade—shoemaking, carpentering, needlework, etc. Many of the women we saw were at work at the most primitive and picturesque spinning wheels, while others were busy

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[previous page](#)

[next page](#)