

I was so stiff that one of the men had to lift me out of the saddle, lay me down on the ground, and stretch my limbs before I could move again. After some days my heels and knees became raw where I had clung to the horse for dear life when we went through holes and bogs and places where the animal stumbled every moment.

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One ride is particularly vivid in my mind. We always rode at night to avoid the heat. Just as we set out a terrible thunderstorm began. It was pitch dark, except when the forked lightning in front blinded us momentarily with its fierce light. We rode in single file, each being guided by the rider just in front. But I could scarcely see anything and the order "*pryama*," "*pravoy*," "*lievoy*," (straight, right, left) of the leader meant nothing to me, since I knew only a few words of Russian. All I was guided by in that dreadful night was the white tip of the tail of a collie dog that ran on before me. Sometimes this tip suddenly disappeared, and then I knew the dog had fallen into a hole; then it turned to the right or the left, and I knew where the track lay. After a while we got into a bog, which the heavy rain had filled several feet deep with water. And when we got to the end of our ride there was, of course, not the slightest thought of changing or taking off one's clothes. It was then that I saw the full advantage of the outfit of sanitary woollen clothing which I was wearing. Were it not for Dr. Jaeger I should have been dead long ago, and I owe my life over and over again to the man who advised me to wear all-wool garments on my tour.

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The mosquitoes and other insects were one of the great tortures on our road. Not an inch of my whole body was unprotected against them. I had a mosquito net over my face, and my gloves were sewn round my wrists; but it was no good, they stung through the thick veil and through the gloves, and often and often when we got to a hut by the way where we rested, I was quite blinded by their stings, and could see and do nothing. Yes, the privations were manifold, but we did not suffer actual starvation, for we had always tea and bread.

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"And what account have you to give of your escort?" "They were splendid, to a man. So far from complaining, they were only too glad to share the hardships of the road, and not one of them would accept payment for coming with me. I made them each a present when we got back, but that was all. I had said, when I started from the town of Yakoutsk, that I was going only in the name of Christ, and to Christ's lepers; and that name worked wonders wherever I went. My twenty-nine men went with me because they meant to help in doing Christ's work. Whenever we started, after camping in some hut, or in our tents, we offered one short prayer for the Empress of Russia. I had a Russian interpreter, for the Yakouts have a language of their own. He spoke to me in French. Well, the men said their prayers in their own language, the interpreter said it in Russian, and I in English; and, though we did not understand each other, the few words were a bond." "And what, Miss Marsden, is the result of your first tour?" "It is this. I have collected over £4,000 in Russia; several trained Russian Nurses have volunteered to go and nurse the Siberian lepers, and all over Russia a practical, lively, almost enthusiastic interest in the poor outcasts has been awakened. In the province of Yakoutsk colonies will be built where the lepers may live human lives; when I get back to Yakoutsk, which I hope to do by next autumn, the building of the first of these colonies will be commenced, and soon, I am confident, more such colonies will be called into existence."

Notes by the Wayside.

BY OUR PERIPATETIC CORRESPONDENT.

THE short sketch I recently gave of two leper Hospitals which I visited in Bergen, would not be complete to Nurses were I to omit a few details of the working of the wards. Of Nursing, as we understand the term, there is none. In the smaller Hospital, where the patients are under more active treatment, the Nursing staff consists of two country girls, both lepers, who wait on the patients ill enough to be confined to their beds, and give a little assistance to those who are up and about, but helpless through the mutilation and paralysis of their hands. The doctors are most kind and devoted, but the help and care that strong, helpful trained women could give, is wholly absent. It is all so cheerless and desolate. There is no warmth, no welcome, no touch of a sympathetic hand to invest these bare, dreary wards with some semblance of a home for these unfortunates, who must for ever be homeless and alone. A colony of lepers with no hopes, no aims, no ambitions!

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How we longed to take some of the beautiful flowers from the gardens and arrange in these blank, prison-like wards. A few coloured prints or pictures on the walls, some illustrated books and a few simple games, or better still, a musical box, would diffuse a little brightness into these weary hearts. But the sightless eyes of the greater number could not be gladdened by the decoration of their prison-house. Hopeless, listless, and apathetic, these sit for hours unoccupied and uncheered. In the summer their lot is better, for they spend much of their time in the sunny and beautiful grounds attached to the Hospitals, but in Norway the summer is short, the winters long and dreary, and the days must drag slowly on. Those who retain the use of their eyes, are not in so piteous a plight; they can follow their trades, for there are adjoining workshops where carpentry, shoemaking and other industries are both taught and followed. We saw some of the men busily occupied in the manufacture of children's toys. It seemed rather an irony to think of these poor maimed hands, using up their little strength, and with such difficulty to provide amusing playthings for strong little baby hands to destroy.

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THE Hospital beds are of the poorest kind; hard, narrow mattresses with coarse unclean linen, the bare ward floors disordered and untidy with heaps of clothing and odds and ends shown under and around the beds. Ventilation seems a thing unknown, although there are plenty of windows which

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