

nd permanently endow, the proposed two Leper Colonies. But there is more than this, because it now appears that Miss MARSDEN was warned, three years ago, that she must exercise the greatest caution for her health, for all her family have succumbed to consumption. In braving only the severity of a Russian winter, therefore, Miss MARSDEN was fully aware that she was running a very serious risk, and she seems to have faced this as quietly as she gave up all her worldly goods for the cause she had at heart.

The more one learns of the indomitable determination, combined with the calm, unselfish heroism which this Englishwoman has displayed—the more one realises that there is existent amongst us to-day, the very characteristics upon which the fabric of the British Empire has been built up, and which has made the English name traditionally respected throughout the world—the more our admiration for Miss MARSDEN must increase and deepen. We cannot but feel regret that she has been advised to appeal to our American cousins for the money which she requires for her work, for we feel that were the facts but known in this country, the requisite funds would speedily be procured. We would fain hope that it is not yet too late to make an appeal to the public for the amount, and are glad to learn that an important Committee is being formed to carry on Miss MARSDEN'S work, and assist her in the financial management of her scheme. Our readers will be glad to learn that we have made arrangements for her to act as a Special Correspondent of this Journal, so that we shall be able, from time to time, to give them the earliest and only authentic information as to her travels, and as to the progress of her Leper Colonies. And, in another column, they will find a full report of a paper read by Miss MARSDEN before one of the leading Medical Societies of Moscow—information not only important, but unique.

It is impossible not to consider the ceremony of last week in its relation also to the

Royal British Nurses' Association. The large and enthusiastic gathering, which sanctioned and then applauded the gracious bestowal, by the President, of the Special Badge of the Association, must have included many who looked beyond the scene being enacted before their eyes, and saw that it had deeper and wider meanings than appeared upon the surface. To such, the simple but impressive ceremony would typify a most important new departure—the formal recognition of superlative merit on the part of a Nurse, which, until now, wherever it occurred, would, in all probability, have passed perforce without professional notice, and the quiet assumption on the part of the Association, of its right to represent the views of Trained Nurses in every part of the British Empire. In both aspects, there is much room for congratulation and encouragement. It can tend to nothing but good, that Nurses shall realise that they have a professional body of their own, whose praise or blame will represent the opinion held by their profession generally; that there is now not only a controlling but an elevating influence at work within their ranks, which will, as time goes on, make itself more and more strongly felt. And from the public point of view, there is equal reason that satisfaction should be experienced, because the history of all other callings proves that it is for the common weal that those who follow a skilled vocation shall be under discipline and control. As we have recently pointed out, the influence of professional opinion is an important factor in shaping the conduct and the work of members of the older professions, but, until now, there has been not only no means of forming, but even no means of expressing, such judgment in the case of Nurses. The Association will be universally recognised as eminently qualified to formulate and announce the verdict of the Nursing profession on whatever subjects may require such decision, and the graceful act of last week marks, to our mind, its formal assumption of this position.

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