

Miss MARSDEN for such a beginning. In expressing this due tribute of gratitude to Miss MARSDEN for all she has gone through, on behalf of these lepers, her self-denial, her energy, &c., I must say a few words in conclusion about herself, who, as much as she is energetic, is modest in the valuation of the difficulties she had to sustain all through the journey. I want to say a few words about the difficulties and the risk she was exposed to during her journey in Siberia. It is not by any personal impression, not in consequence of any conversation with Miss MARSDEN about her journey, but again from the official documents already mentioned, that I have come to the conclusion that her journey was far from an easy one, and very risky as regards the possibility of contagion with leprosy.

Indeed, to travel 90 versts a day on horseback, for a woman, thus accomplishing about 3,000 versts is an immense feat, which has undoubtedly cost the traveller's health.

The Ispravnik of the Velluisk Circuit, ANTONOVITCH, who is well acquainted with all the local conditions, says in his report of July 31st, 1891, that in order to reach the lepers on horseback, he had very assiduously to set to work and clear the road in the dense forest, all along the Velluisk Circuit for about 1,500 versts, where otherwise the road is impassable, even in the summer time; but notwithstanding this clearing of the road, the Ispravnik (Captain of the Police), in the same report speaks of Miss MARSDEN's journey as most terrible and difficult.

How far this journey was indeed difficult in the dense forests, even on horseback, and often quite impossible, we can judge from the report presented to the Governor, by the Medical Inspector, Dr. SMIRNOFF, who, when visiting the village of Lutchin, only 30 versts distant from the Volost (official centre of the district), had to send for the lepers to be brought to him, as there was no possibility of reaching them even on horseback.

The tropical heat during the day, the cold at night, the torments from flies and mosquitoes, the dampness from the marshes, all this made the journey anything but an easy one. And this has been justly characterised by the Fieldsher PARAMONOFF, who accompanied Miss MARSDEN to the lepers. "Looking at you, a woman," says he, in his letter, "bearing the difficult journey, after which you could hardly keep on the saddle, and yet, for the sake of the work, accomplishing ninety versts a day, to us men acquainted and accustomed to the trials and privations, your energy and Christian self-denial were incredible." The fieldsher (doctor's assistant) PARAMONOFF further adds, that often when resting after the fatigue and labour of the journey they were obliged to share their scanty morsel amongst them, which clearly showed that in addition to the many other difficulties, they often lacked sufficient food.

Miss MARSDEN's journey to the Yakouts will bring indubitable help to the present question of caring for the lepers of the Yakutsk province, in the same way as the travels and labours in behalf of leprosy of our respected Professor MUNCH which aroused deep interest in the lepers in the South of Russia, Dr.

PETERSON in St. Petersburg, Professor WAHLBERGMAN and others in the Baltic Provinces. Miss MARSDEN's journey has undoubtedly brought practical help; therefore, gentlemen, allow me to thank Miss MARSDEN, in the name of our Society, for her interesting information and for the heavy labours she has gone through on behalf of the lepers, even running the risk of catching the disease herself.

Turning to Miss MARSDEN, the honoured President then spoke as follows—the speech being written out and formally signed:—

DEAR MADAM,—Having just heard your extremely interesting report of the sanitary condition of the lepers of the Sredni Viluisk of the Yakutsk Province the Moscow Venerological and Dermatological Society, beg of you to accept their most sincere gratitude for the information you have kindly given them, as well as for the official documents you have kindly left at the disposal of the Society for special study.

On the authority of these documents, as well as of the report just delivered, about the deplorable sanitary condition of the lepers, which you have yourself witnessed when visiting them, our Society fully agrees with you as to the pressing necessity of taking proper measures for the care of these unfortunate sufferers, deeming it necessary, not only out of feelings of philanthropy, but also for the protection of the healthy from the possibility of contagion, which can so easily take place, owing to the sanitary surroundings of these lepers reported by the local doctors and yourself.

Having undertaken this, anything but easy, journey to the lepers, especially so for a woman, setting aside the possibility of yourself getting the disease among the sufferers when you got acquainted with their position on the spot, you did not limit yourself to the collection of documents for a tourist's memorial, as is the general custom, but with the heartfelt solicitude of a Sister of Charity, you have roused a general feeling for these unfortunate sufferers, which has called forth a flow of contributions for the organisation of a sanitary colony for them which may well be envied by all the other lepers scattered in different corners of Russia.

In rendering you our due tribute of respect, for your great self-denial, and heart-felt solicitude on behalf of the lepers, our Society thanks you once again for the toil you have undergone to help the lepers, and sincerely wishes you further success in your heavy and anything but dangerless, yet extremely sympathetic and humane, task.

(Signed) A. POSPELOFF,
President of the Society,
N. FAVEISKY,
Secretary of the Society.

Address, delivered by Professor N. P. MANSOUROFF, Vice-President of the Moscow Dermatological and Venerological Society:—

MUCH HONOURED MADAM,—If a tourist undertakes a long journey, he generally does it to gratify his own love of knowledge; but when a feeble woman decides

*Being a Report read by invitation of the President before a special meeting of the Dermatological Society of Moscow. See further reference to this in the Echoes' Column this week.

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