

pause. The following is a case in point :—Some time ago I was attending the worst case of erysipelas I ever saw either in hospital or private practice. A midwife who is reputed to do the most extensive practice of any woman in the town was a neighbour of my patient. At my second or third visit I found this midwife in the sick-room. As soon as I heard who she was I told her that the case before her was of a very infectious nature, especially as regards puerperal patients, and that if any of her patients became infected by her the result would more than likely be fatal. This produced no effect. She was very pressing to be allowed to hold the patient's limb while I dressed it, and it was only my declaration that I would at once leave the house if she laid her hands on the bed that kept her off. Notwithstanding this, she came on several subsequent occasions into the room, even when I was there. That she would have been utterly incompetent to deal with, or even to recognise, any effects of septic infection which her patients might have exhibited was proved by a more recent experience. I was called to see a patient whom she had attended in her confinement when the child was a week old. The patient had herself felt ill for some days, but the midwife declared that she was going on satisfactorily. When I saw her her temperature was 101° F. There was an obvious mass of exquisitely tender pelvic cellulitis reaching from the uterus to the brim of the true pelvis on one side, and the patient experienced almost agonising pain when faecal matters passed through the rectum, showing that the cellulitis extended far, both deeply and backwards. The midwife was unable even to realise the necessity for obtaining more skilled assistance. If the order for decorating with diplomas the midwives in practice at the present time had gone forth, this woman would certainly be as much entitled as anyone to be registered, and—as unfit.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
October 17th, 1892. A SURGEON.

A LARGE and influential Meeting was held, last Thursday afternoon, at Lady JEUNE's house in Harley Street, in order to hear Miss KATE MARSDEN give an account of her work, the journey she had undertaken in search of the lepers in Siberia, and what she proposed to do, in future, for these poor outcasts. H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF TECK and the PRINCESS MAY, who have taken the greatest interest in Miss MARSDEN's work were present, and the audience included many ladies well-known in the fashionable world, and gentlemen eminent in science, art and literature.

MISS MARSDEN, who spoke for an hour in a remarkably interesting manner described the various discomforts, and quite slurred over the real dangers to which she had been exposed. For example, she made much of the *contretemps* of sledge travelling—mixing up the contents of her insect powder and sardine tins together—pathetically describing the plague of beetles in the river boats, but not narrating the bodily dangers connected with modes of conveyance which pounded tins into shapeless masses, or which were always on the verge of sinking in the rapid stream. Or she graphically described the sight of the blazing forests and the disagreeable effects of the smoke upon the eyes, while saying nothing of the fact that she and her party, in order to escape worse dangers, had to ride straight through the fiery woods.

SHE made many of the audience laugh by advising them if they ever went to Siberia, to leave the bears and wolves quite alone, but forgot to state that these wild beasts by no means left her party in peace during her travels, and as she remarked "one or two well-fed bears in the Zoological Gardens are very interesting, but when you have hundreds and thousands of these animals, all excessively hungry and wandering about on their own account, they are not nearly so pleasant to look at."

AT the conclusion of the Lecture, the DUCHESS OF TECK and others amongst the audience asked questions upon further points upon which Miss MARSDEN had not touched, and to these she gave detailed replies. She stated that the great anxiety she had at present was to secure sufficient funds to pay for the printing and publication of the American edition of her forthcoming book, the proceeds of which are to be expended in carrying on her work for the Siberian Lepers.

THE RECORD PRESS, it appears, will issue the English edition, and she spoke in grateful terms of the generous treatment which she had received from this Company. Miss MARSDEN has almost entered into arrangements to deliver lectures throughout the United States during the next nine months, by which time she hopes to have collected sufficient to build and endow the two Colonies which she proposes to found in Asiatic Russia. It is noticeable that a powerful Committee is being formed in London to undertake the management of a KATE MARSDEN LEPPER FUND—to receive donations and subscriptions, and all the money derived from Miss MARSDEN's book and lectures, after her personal expenses are paid—and to invest everything in English securities, using only the interest as an endowment for the maintenance of these Colonies.

I AM not surprised to learn that the greatest interest is being expressed upon all hands in Miss MARSDEN's grand work, and I hope she will speedily obtain all the money she requires for its complete consummation. Miss MARSDEN is just about to leave for the States, and she will carry with her the earnest wishes of all trained Nurses for her welfare and success.

I AM asked to mention that the Mary Wardell Convalescent Home for Scarlet Fever cases, at Stanmore, having been disinfected, repainted and whitewashed, and every article thoroughly cleansed, was re-opened for the admission of patients on Monday last, the 31st ult.

S. G.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)