

directions. After breakfast fresh cigarettes were lighted, and the atmosphere, already stuffy enough, became unendurable. Fortunately the Armenians thought so too, and opened the door on to the platform, where I should have sought fresh air occasionally if it had not been already crowded with men, boxes, and bags of bedclothes. The young mother, my neighbour, kindly offered me grapes, and I was soon good friends with her children and played with them as much as space permitted. Her youngest offspring screamed, and an india-rubber teat was put in its mouth to keep it quiet.

Another hour passes and the passengers doze off quietly. They have been standing all morning waiting for their tickets, they are crowded and uncomfortable, and the regular shaking lulls them to rest. With nose in air and wide-open mouth the stout matron snores in her corner. The young mother's head bobs to and fro over her sleeping child, as though it were ready to fall off; the children cease from their play and the bearded men sink down in their corners, resting against one another or with their heads on one another's knees. The old sick woman sits supporting her head on her hands; she wears a half Kirghiz head-covering, a white bandage round the crown, ears, and chin, whereas the other women wear a circular diadem of velvet, a white gauze veil and a black mantilla over all.

The railway to Nakichevan, which in two years was to be taken over by the state, was at this time a *vremenni* or temporary line, and was worked in the most scandalous style. The carriages were old, miserable boxes, long ago discarded from other branch lines. No daily cleaning was thought of, only occasionally the refuse was removed from the floors when it threatened to accumulate into regular kitchen middens. Moreover, it is shameful that the railway directors allow the public who avail themselves of this means of communication to be so imposed upon. Though only natives travel in this train, yet, having paid four roubles and sixteen kopecks for a second-class ticket, they are entitled to demand a seat. They grumbled loudly at the way they were treated, and could not understand, any more than myself, why a couple of carriages should not