

IV.—THE MONTHLY CONCERT OF MISSIONS.

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Medical Missions in Japan and Korea.

From the very inauguration of the second dispensation by the head of the Church, the great Physician, the alleviation of suffering, the eradication of disease, as in a large measure typifying the work for and on the soul that was to be done by the Holy Spirit, has gone hand-in-hand with efforts toward the renewal of the spiritual man and the sanctification of the soul.

Our great Pattern in all His journeys, in all His attempts to win the people around Him to His cause, was ever ready to let His heart go out in pity to the suffering and the sick, and was ever spending all the power that had been given Him by His Father in lessening pain and relieving from disease.

"Great multitudes followed Him, and they brought unto Him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had palsy, and He healed them."

In like manner should the Church to-day go forward in her work of evangelizing the world, and, copying her Master, should use all the power that God through the knowledge of medicine has placed in her hands for the alleviation of suffering, and should see to it that the physician and evangelist, either combining the two in one or going hand-in-hand, should travel the world over, and carrying joy and happiness and dispelling pain should proclaim, "Peace and good-will to men."

The special advantages to be derived from medical missions, taking them inversely in regard to their importance, are as follows: First, and least of all we would mention the physical benefit conferred in alleviating suffering and the healing of diseases. This is by no means a small benefit, but if it stops

there, if it is not accompanied by something else, if it is not done with a view to the greater work of soul-healing and soul-saving, it cannot properly be called medical mission work. Only so far as the work of healing is accompanied by efforts toward and has for its ultimate object the winning of the soul to Christ can it properly be called the work of medical missions.

This leads naturally to the statement of the second advantage to be derived from medical missions, which is, in fields that are open to the heralds of the Gospel, and where women are easily reached, the winning of the individuals one by one through the benefit that they have derived from the earthly physician to look for greater and more abundant help to the great Physician. The winning of souls and the spread of the kingdom through the agency of medicine is the true aim of the medical missionary. Medicine is but the means to an end, and the evangelization of the world is that end. Medical missionaries, however, state that through the interest that they naturally feel in their profession, there is a danger of that which by rights should be only the means toward something higher becoming the end itself, and that where it has been attempted to combine the two professions in one, oftentimes either the physician has become lost in the evangelist or the evangelist in the physician. Here we see need of care to ward against this danger, and here we see the advantage of the physician and evangelist going hand-in-hand in this work.

A third and very great advantage to be derived from medical missions in countries already opened to the Gospel, but where women are secluded, is to be found in the power of the woman physician to open the doors (closed to others) of harems, zenanas, and apartments.