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How shall the W. M. S. Treat its Returned Missionaries.

This subject is rather a difficult one, inasmuch as returned missionaries are very much like other people, *i. e.* - unlike each other. And all who return are not in the same degree of health, consequently what would be proper treatment for one, would be extremely improper for another, but I do say for both kinds, leave them alone, let them have a little of the rest that was denied our Saviour when he endeavored to have his disciples alone with Himself. How the people did run in those days! How they do demand in these days! The missionaries are home on furlough, which means they have leave of absence from service. Many of them went forth strong in nerve, with courage and faith doing and daring much for the kingdom of Christ. They engaged to stay five years before asking a rest. Some of them endured as good soldiers, often in pain, weakness and weariness, others, whose strength continued in a more generous proportion, worked on more comfortably to themselves, but when the term was up, all were more or less worn down, and now, instead of strong nerves and hopeful courage, they return to their homes with weakened powers, seeking rest and quiet.

Two of the ladies now at home, were in such a condition of weakness that the doctor said unless they left Japan early in May, there was great danger that the year's rest would not be sufficient to restore and fit them to re-enter the field at the beginning of the next term. One of them was so ill a year before she left, that she was strongly recommended to leave then, but by good attendance, a very strong desire to remain another year, and by an ever kind and over-ruling providence,

she was able to remain, and do faithful work though many times suffering much, and sometimes in addition to other pain, there was the very painful and peculiar sensation at the finger and toe tips as if the nails were torn down to the quick. We can scarcely understand how such a state of weakness could be brought about, yet this is a fact. Others are affected differently, but as was said before, all are more or less exhausted or weakened when they return home. The Missionaries who have sought a rest in our Provinces during the last twenty years, both men and women, have nearly all had a very tired, nervous look. Two of the women did not look poorly at all, but they were just the same; one from China and one from British Columbia, and such sleepless nights and weariness of body as they did have to endure, before they began to get a chance to rest, for out they had to go before large audiences everywhere to tell what they could. And in my ignorance I was as bad as any, that is as eager, to have them go and speak at public meetings and private ones too, that I might hear and know what they said. When we consider how much more of real work the old Missionaries can do than those newly sent, we should give them every chance to get not only rested, but thoroughly restored to health. They have already spent much valuable time in learning the language, and have gained a knowledge of the customs and habits of the people among whom they labour, and they are better qualified for service in many ways than strangers. Therefore it seems better for the cause of God, also for the interests of our society, to give them perfect freedom from work of any kind. I would also bespeak for them freedom from the demands of society, at least for a few months. Let friends call and just welcome them home, telling them