

him, 'This comes of forgetting the Law. Perhaps you may be given another life on earth, when you can do better.' Then comes the Christ, and He, saying nothing, goes down into the depths of the pit that forever He may help men to walk uprightly. For He is the Will of God made flesh for men to know, and here are the books that we call the New Testament, which will tell you of Him."

"I will take all your sacred classics," said Elder Lee, "but I will pay you for them, as I am no beggar. And I will read them carefully. Do you know that I continually asked my teachers, when a scholar, to tell me more of Shang-ti, and they could not. Since then I have gone to priests in the Buddhist and Taoist temples, and even to necromancers, but none of them could answer me."

"You will find it in the books," said the younger man. "They will show you as they did me the way to have a 'still heart.' Knowing Christ, we can safely let our boys, and even our girls, learn as the foreigners do, so that China will no longer be backward among the nations, for Christ will keep us and our children from ever going against the holy Law."

It took months for Lee to persuade his mother past her fears, but to-day little Chwen-mei goes to school—and also reads the New Testament.

### C.B.M. HOSPITAL, PITHAPURAM.

It is seven years since this hospital was built, and it may interest friends to know how the work has progressed in the meantime. Of course, it has been uphill work, as mostly all mission work is, and has required much patience and practical love to gain the confidence of the people, but Dr. Smith has accomplished this, and the fame of the Mission Hospital has spread far and wide. The General Hospital (Bethesda) is under Dr. Smith's charge, and has accommodation for 38 beds, and often patients have to be satisfied with a mat on the floor, as all beds are occupied, but this causes no comment, as it is the usual place to rest on. The working staff consists of two compounders and six assistants. Later on a Women's Hospital was built, and is under the charge of Dr. Jessie Allyn and staff of six nurses, with room for 20 beds, and, like the General Hospital, has often an overflowing capacity. The past year has been increasingly successful in every department, the in-patients total being 978, and treatments (of out-patients) 16,704. There are also two dispensaries in the

town, and one in a village further out. In all these the Gospel is preached daily.

Medical work is intensely interesting, giving many opportunities of proving Christianity in practical ways. Some weeks ago a young priest of Seva was brought in ill with typhoid fever. He was unconscious sixteen days. When he regained consciousness he asked why "that white woman looked after him so kindly. Did she receive a lot of money for doing so? Or did she gain merit thereby?" And when told she did it to prove the love of the Lord Jesus, he replied: "Our religion does not teach us to act like that." The old parents of the patient and several priests were around all the time, and one of the priests read gospels aloud to pass away the time. The Word of God is not devoid of power, so glad results may yet be seen in future days. Some patients are nice to attend to; others test our endurance; but God gives grace and grit if we look to Him. During past years all church services have had to be held in the office of the hospital, for lack of other building. This has proved so unsatisfactory on account of the oftentimes serious condition of patients that it has become necessary to remove to a small and most unsuitable room in the town. If this "House of God" could be moved into Walmer Road, what astonishment it would cause—so low in roof, one side knocked out to get more air, right on the dusty road; naked children fill up the doorway during service time, and blind beggars whine out their woes to add to the other numerous noises of an Indian street. No wonder that it is hard work to remember half the sermon under such circumstances. It is said that "when we ask God to direct our footsteps, we are to move our feet;" so on Christmas morning the Christians of Pithapuram gave a surprise gift of Rs. 39 (£13) toward the fund of the much-needed church. One has to rise early to get anything done without Dr. Smith's knowledge, and it gave all much pleasure to really surprise him for once. The purses of these Christians are not over-loaded, so it meant sacrifice to several, but the service of sacrifice must be pleasing to the heart of God. This little gift has raised hopes that it is but the beginning of larger donations for this much-needed church, to be a witness of Whom we worship in this Indian town.

L. de Carteret,  
Nursing Superintendent,  
Bethesda Hospital.

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