

ague nearly one half of the year. The Samoan teachers, and the mission families first on the island, as well as other residents, had suffered very much. On this account we came provided with every thing we could procure, considered necessary to preserve health. During these nineteen years, however, the mission families on Aneityum have enjoyed a fair measure of health, and it has always been the *sanatorium*, to which they have fled from the other islands.

#### SOUND CONSTITUTIONS REQUIRED.

None, however, should be sent to this mission but persons in good health, of a sound constitution, and who are able to "rough it." Experience has led the London Missionary Society and others to adopt a rule—that both missionaries and their wives shall be subjected to a medical examination as to their health, before being sent out. On the islands much can be done to preserve health, by the careful selection of a locality to live in, the proper construction of houses, attention to food, clothing, exercise, medicines, and the laws of health in general. These are important every where, but they are especially so here. As regards our own lives, the sixth commandment may apparently be trifled with elsewhere with impunity; but not so here, for the penalty here follows fast upon the transgression.

#### MEANS OF HEALTH.

Among other means essential for preserving health permanently in these islands is a change to the colonies or elsewhere now and again, for a longer or shorter period. This instead of being a loss to the mission would prove a great gain in the end. The London Missionary Society has recently passed and published some resolutions on this subject, applicable to their missionaries in these seas, which are considered very judicious, but I have not yet seen a copy of them. However, none of the group which they occupy are so unhealthy as the New Hebrides. But with the Dayspring at our command, and our close and friendly relations with the Australasian presbyterian churches, this arrangement will be no longer a serious difficulty.

#### LESSONS OF EXPERIENCE.

But nothing is more difficult than to make new comers realize their danger. Accustomed to living chiefly by sense, in relation to health and sickness, they cannot understand with it is to live by faith in this matter. There is nothing more difficult for us than to realize the invisible; and the *malaria* which can be detected, neither by the senses, nor by the most carefully conducted chemical experiments, is something they cannot embody in their minds as an ex-

istence; it seems to be only the phantom of our exaggerated fears. Accustomed in northern climates to trace almost every disease up to a cold, when our young friends come here and find no symptoms of cold, nothing but a climate the most agreeable, whose existence itself is enjoyment, when, in these circumstances we warn them against a danger they cannot perceive, they look up into our faces with a wondering incredulity, to see if we are really serious, or if serious, to examine if we are really sane. They feel no cold; nothing can be so delightful as this evening air, so balmy, so refreshing, and as for this unseen, imperceptible *miasmata*, which they hear compared to the Evil One, at once for the certainty of its existence, and again for the mysterious character of its influences, it seems to them like the ghosts and hobgoblins of other days, and they feel inclined to laugh at our superstitious fears. They cannot deny but that others have suffered; but then there was something different in former cases that cannot apply to them, and thus on the well known principle that—

"All men think all men mortal but themselves."

they continue to act much as they would do at home, till one day, when they least think of it, they feel a strange cold, and a peculiar languor coming over them, and they are in a fever and ague, which, according to the description of those best acquainted with it, "comes galloping but goes away creeping," and then follows the exclamation—"what a strange climate this is!"

#### PARENTAL INFLUENCE AND MISSIONS.

In appealing to parents for their children for this work, one, almost invariable answer we receive is this: "they would willingly give them up, but they do not show any inclination for the work themselves, and they do not like to influence them." But why not influence them? This, as it appears to us, is the very point where parental duty fails. Every parent is expected to influence his child to give his heart to God, and make a profession of his faith in Christ. Why not then influence them in the same way to become ministers or missionaries, if they evince sufficient capacity? They are not to force them against their will. But surely it is their duty to influence them as far as possible by their prayers, their example, and their conversation; by putting suitable books into their hands—by bringing them within the range of such other influences as might operate favourably upon them, and by keeping them, as far as possible, out of all contrary influences. Many of our best missionaries have been led to devote themselves to this work from