

*benevolent* ; we must ascertain that it is really *beneficent* too.' Listen to the strong counsel of Miss Octavia Hill, who for a long life has gone to and out of the homes of the most wretched of the London poor, like a ministering angel, setting an example of self-devotion and achieving a success which has led many of the rich and fashionable ladies of London to follow in her steps, till to-day, with broken health, she is recognized as the greatest living authority of loving work among the poor, and her name shines with grace and glory above every other name in England. Miss Hill has written out of the depths of her heart and the riches of her experience words so full of wisdom that they cannot be read too often : " I hope you will notice that I have dwelt on the need of restraining yourselves from almsgiving, on the sole ground that such restraint is the only true mercy to the poor themselves. I have no desire to protect the purses of the rich, no hard feeling to the poor. I am thinking continually and only of what is really kindest to them—kindest in the long run certainly, but still kindest. I think small doles unkind to them, though they bring a momentary smile to their faces. First of all, I think they make them really poorer. Then I