

One of my visits to Awaji this year was very interesting. We were invited to go to a new village by a Christian who had come back on a visit after twelve years' absence, and in his uncle's house (he was the headman of the village) we had a very large and interested congregation, who seemed to understand and appreciate much of what they heard. I hope we may be able to go there regularly.—*Mission Field.*

THE DEAN OF CHRIST CHURCH ON MEDICAL MISSIONS.

THE Dean, speaking at the opening of the "Palestine Exhibition" in support of the work of Medical Missions said: He supposed it was, obvious to all of them at once that it was an immense commendation to Christianity to those who were not yet Christians that it should go among them linked with the incalculable beneficence of medical science, medical aid, and the Hospital. It must make the explanation of Christianity much easier, and the appeal all the more ready, and the way for it better prepared, that there had been going on among the people the work of a Hospital undertaken in the name of and for the sake of Christ our Lord. So great was the advantage to the work of evangelization that was thus gained that perhaps they might almost ask themselves with some anxiety whether their cause had the right to it. Was it quite fair—this sort of question would well arise in the minds of the English people, he thought—that they should go to help these people with a view to commending their faith to them? Was it quite fair that they should let these people, as it were, be carried away from calmness of judgment by their gratitude for kindness, as they went among them and preached Christianity to them? Let him just say very briefly why he thought it was not a casual or accidental commendation to Christianity that the work of the Hospital might exercise among those who are not Christians. What they wanted to feel sure of in this work, what they wanted to show, was that the beneficence of the Medical Missions, the beneficence of the Hospital, was not simply linked with Christianity but sprang naturally out of the heart of it—that it was most characteristically and properly a Christian work, a work the motive and impulse and guidance of which sprang out of the very heart of the Christian creed. And surely they might claim something like that with regard to the work of Hospitals. For first he took it that broadly it was true that the development and advance of hospital work had gone with Christianity. Whatever exceptions here and there there might be, broadly he took it as true in history that hospital work had

been substantially in its highest, fullest forms, the outcome of Christian teaching, the outcome of the spirit that Christianity gives. Then, further, they might say this, that of all phases, the work of hospitals was the plainest obedience to the principles that were quite inseparable from Christianity. They were the plainest, directest carrying out of that love of one's brethren, that love of one's neighbor, which Christianity had fastened inseparably into the hearts of men. And so they might claim that there could be, to put it in that way, no clearer, fitter, more characteristic representation of what Christianity taught a man to be to his neighbor than the representation which was to be seen in the work of a hospital. And, then, there was one more point, they could feel quite sure of this, that the work of a hospital was the simplest following out of that which must ever be before all Christian people—the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. It had struck him sometimes that, perhaps, of all the scenes of modern life that might approach the scenes in His life, nothing came much nearer than the scene they might see on admission day at a hospital, either in the out-patient department or in the wards of a great hospital. It had been noticed, when our Lord came to a village or town, how strange it must have been to see all the people hurrying round Him with all those that were sick and suffering, so that the first element in the life of the place that came out as He drew near was its sickness, its weakness, its fear, its suffering; but that as soon as His approach became known, before He could get into the place, even as He was just outside the gate, there came streaming to Him all that aspect, that element of its life, not its splendor, not its great achievements, not its brilliancy, if there were any in any form, nothing that towns liked to show off on great occasions—not that, but that which was poor; all the suffering and trouble and pain and sickness, and misery and fear that the town could produce. All *that* was poured out around Him for Him to deal with. And, surely, across the immense differences they could trace, there was something not so very unlike that in the way that they might see the suffering, and anxiety, and trouble, and fear that was in the world, gathering around the doors or into the out-patient department, or into the wards of a great hospital in our day. And so, perhaps, they might feel that hardly anywhere, in its external setting, did modern life come nearer to the scenes of our Lord's life than in the great and splendid efforts that were made for the alleviation of sickness and pain. There was just one word more he should like to say to them, although he could not speak of it adequately, and that was to suggest that it was surely true that not only the charity, the tenderness, and