

The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society has for many years been a most helpful ally to the Mission enterprises of all the Churches. Its Training Institution has sent forth Medical Missionaries of many nationalities—Scotch, English, Irish, French, German, Swedish, and even Chinese—to labour in connection with different Churches and Missionary Societies in all parts of the world. Its *Quarterly Paper* is an interesting record of the progress and success of Medical Missions in many different Mission-fields. At present, however, our object is to call attention to a volume recently published by its Secretary and Superintendent, the Rev. John Lowe, F.R.C.S.E., on *Medical Missions, their Place and Power* (London: T. Fisher Unwin). Mr. Lowe is qualified by successful labour in India and long experience as the head of the Edinburgh Training Institution to treat of the subject. And he treats of it with a perfect mastery alike of principles and details. His first chapter on "The Divine Method" is an admirable exposition of the healing Ministry of our Blessed Lord. A more complete vindication of the principle of Medical Missions it would be impossible to conceive, and the illustrations of the value of such missions as a pioneer agency are very telling. We heartily agree with Mr. Lowe in magnifying the office of the Medical Missionary. It may be determined by the circumstances of the case whether the Medical Missionary is to be ordained or not; but it is essential that his medical training should be thorough and complete, and that his zeal and earnestness and evangelistic gifts should be fully proved. The volume contains an interesting account of the home work of the Edinburgh Medical Mission and a sketch of the history and progress of Medical Missions. It closes with an appeal to young men, to students, and to the friends of Missions. We heartily commend this suggestive volume to all interested in the progress of Missions.

The specialising of missionary effort is characteristic of the growing missionary organisation of the Christian Church. The Mission to Lepers in India has lately issued its Eleventh Annual Report. During the past twelve months the Society has assisted eight asylums by providing for the support of 124 lepers, making grants for the payment of teachers, erection of buildings, and other expenses. Of these asylums four are in connection with the Church Missionary Society, two with the American Presbyterian Mission, one with the London Missionary Society, and one with Gossner's Evangelical Mission. The

leprosy which was so specially provided for in the book of Leviticus, and which called forth the healing power of Christ, is far more prevalent not only in the East but even in Europe than we have any idea. It is estimated that there are 135,000 lepers in India. There are many proofs in this interesting little Report that labour among the lepers has not been in vain.

#### DR. CAIRD ON HOME MISSIONS.

ON the occasion of the recent opening of a new church for what will soon be the Parish of Langside, Principal Caird made reference to the present position of the Church of Scotland. This is, as far as we know, his only public utterance on the subject, and it is well worthy of permanent record. He said at the close of his sermon:

"We do not, or ought not, to entertain any jealousy of the progress and prosperity of other Christian denominations, but it is natural that we should feel a special attachment to that Church which has been to us from childhood our spiritual home, which is endeared to us as individuals and families by the most sacred associations, and which the historic traditions of centuries have rendered venerable in our eyes. The present, as we know, is for our Church a time of trial and danger. It would be wrong in me to disturb the feelings proper to this time and place by any reference to our wretched ecclesiastical strifes and conflicts; but I do not think it is out of keeping with the character of the occasion to say that, if the days of the Church of Scotland are numbered, what is taking place here to-day is only one amongst a thousand proofs that it will not be because her spiritual life is extinct or waning, or because she has begun to slumber at her post of duty. I give all credit for conscientiousness to those who think otherwise, but I have never heard any argument to convince me that amidst the ever-growing spiritual needs of the country—needs with which it taxes the resources of all our ecclesiastical organisations to keep pace—it would be other than folly to fling away or divert to secular uses the means which the piety of bygone generations has bequeathed to us for the religious instruction and edification of the community. But, on the other hand, it would be no sign of spiritual health if we, the custodians of this sacred bequest, should cease to act in the spirit of it. Inherited wealth, if it arrests activity, is no boon to either individuals or institutions. An endowed church ought, beyond all others, to be, in the best sense of the phrase, a voluntary church, self-extending, ready to occupy new fields of labour, foremost in reclaiming the waste places of the land,