

6. A small building containing lamp and oil room, bath room and closets.

There then is our hospital as now erected. There is still ample space for further buildings, which would easily extend the accommodation to seventy five or eighty beds. We have enough room for the present, but doubtless the work will demand more accommodation for patients in the near future. Our building operations are finished for the present, and we are not sorry. It is no play, but real genuine work, to erect buildings in China.

Medical work was opened March 29th of this year. At the major operations Dr. Smith, although busy at the language, kindly gives chloroform; and Mrs. Kilborn, although busy with her medical work in the Woman's Missionary Society Hospital, assists me in operating.

Now, how are we using the medical work to preach Christ? We are using it with that one great important purpose constantly in mind. Every patient, as he comes to the hospital for the first time, is presented with a Christian tract. For half an hour before the work of seeing patients begins, the Gospel is preached to the patients as they are gathered in the waiting room—Monday by a Christian Chinese; Wednesday by Mr. Hartwell; Friday by myself. The patients are also constantly invited to attend the Sunday services at the church.

Then, as to the in-patients: Our regular morning prayers in Chinese is held in the largest ward. All the patients, at least in that ward, can see and hear all that goes on. A Christian nurse, a man of nearly sixty years, teaches the catechism or some portion of the Gospel to the in-patients daily. This man is one of the eight baptized last April. The wards are hung with the Lord's prayer, hymns and selections from Scripture, so that patients can read and learn while lying in bed. The waiting room and "Ting," mentioned above, are well pasted over with tracts and Scripture selections. Our aim is that no patient can come into the hospital and remain many days without taking away with him some knowledge of the Gospel. We believe that in this way the medical work will prove to be a direct feeder of the Church, a very powerful agency in the evangelizing of this people. OMAR L. KILBORN.

Medical Work Among the Indians in British Columbia.

By A. E. BOLTON, M.D.

WITHIN the limits of the Simpson District, British Columbia Conference, there are about eight thousand Indians, the remains of a much larger population which, until within a few decades, dwelt there in wild, free savagery. A race singularly strong, well developed physically, brave and energetic, but with the peculiar traits of Indian character—revengeful, proud and improvident.

The general state of health was good. Epidemics were unknown, their out-door life, freely ventilated lodges, and frequent change of residence, promoted health. Such diseases as they were subject to resulted chiefly from exposure endured in quest of food, or more violent causes, as inter-tribal wars were constant, and slaves lived by the mercy of the master or died at his whim.

For such ills as they endured they had no rational remedies. Sickness was generally attributed to some malicious influence exerted by a supposed enemy, and the

TREATMENT CONSISTED IN TORTURING

the suspected witch or wizard, and opposing other methods of jugglery applied to the person of the patient, such as rattles and charms. The nearest approach to medical science being a steam bath, followed by a cold plunge, or the prolonged use of drastic purgatives, which they had discovered in native plants.

Contact with whites brought the introduction of infectious diseases, smallpox making great havoc on different occasions; and other diseases, as tuberculosis, more slowly but not less surely, decimating the tribes.

The "fire-water," too, has done its deadly work. Civilization at first brought little to counterbalance or

CURE ITS OWN ILLS,

excepting that the strong hand of the law restrained to some degree the former bloody quarrels. A few medicines found on the traders' shelves could accomplish little good, coupled with Indian ignorance—a favorite dose being a whole bottle of pain-killer or two of castor oil. Change in mode of living brought little relief, for when an Indian builds a house in imitation of the white man he fails to ventilate it, and suffers accordingly.

As long as any tribe remains in heathenism, witchcraft and jugglery continue. I have heard the medicine-man's rattle clash over a fevered subject of la grippe, and have seen an old hag blowing and sucking with unearthly sounds while pressing her lips to the skin over different parts of the body in a case of pulmonary hæmorrhage.

For some years Christian missionaries have been at work among these tribes, teaching Gospel truths by precept and by practice, and so essentially trying to relieve bodily suffering. By the application of a little medical knowledge hastily acquired, and the use of

SOME SIMPLE REMEDIES

supplied by the Government, by advice generally well taken, and by nursing and food usually supplied by the missionaries' wives, much has been accomplished under divine blessing for the alleviation of sickness, often leading to more ready acceptance of the Gospel.

Yet they had to witness a great deal of suffering that they were powerless to relieve, and had to face the fact that the people they labored to save physically and spiritually were being diminished by the ravages of disease which scientific treatment might stay.

It is little wonder, then, that the workers on the Methodist missions there should have asked that a medical missionary be added to their force. The Indians at Port Simpson, the oldest and largest mission, promised that if a doctor came to reside among them they would do something

TOWARD HIS SUPPORT

(a promise they have kept, contributing on an average \$200 a year.)

In response to these appeals and desiring to consecrate a medical education to the best advantage in furthering the Master's kingdom, the writer came to the field in November, 1889. It seems strange that so recently that step was looked upon as an experiment, and a doubtful one, by many Christians and some officials of our Church. However, the faith of those most immediately concerned was soon rewarded by seeing the results of the work, and a constant unfolding of greater opportunities with a corresponding development of resources.