

they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and HOW SHALL THEY PREACH EXCEPT THEY BE SENT?"

*Preparatory Training.*—In many fields, still, the comfort and health of the missionary will depend on his knowledge of house-building, house-keeping and even cooking. Not that he will need to attend to these things himself, but that he will be well to know how they should be done, and, if need be, teach others to do them. In fact, there is scarcely any kind of practical knowledge that may not be turned to good account in the foreign field, especially the knowledge of the principles of medicine and surgery, in which arts the heathen are especially deficient. It would be well worth every missionary's time to take special courses of instruction in these subjects in his last years in Theology, or even to delay going out for a year or so that he may go the more fully equipped. Even the knowledge necessary to give intelligent medical advice in ordinary cases, or the surgical skill to dress a wound, or set a broken bone, or even extract an aching tooth, may open a wide door to many hearts by which he may enter in with "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God." A very elementary knowledge, if on a sound basis, may serve to begin with, to be added to by daily experience of actual practice, and even an *empirical* knowledge is better than none: to know that quinine will relieve and cure malarial fever, and when and how to give it; to know how to prepare a good tonic, and in what doses to give it; to know what to use for simple inflammation of the eyes, and how to apply it; to know how to stop hemorrhage, to check a diarrhoea, etc., is to know vastly more than many of the doctors in Asia or Africa know. And even though there is a hospital and a medical missionary in the field to which you go, your knowledge of medicine will serve a very good purpose in itinerant work in relieving persons who cannot or will not go to the hospital, and in sending those there who cannot otherwise be treated with any hope of cure.

Besides, the missionary should get all the experience one can in dealing with home-heathen. Human nature is the same everywhere, and one may learn much of it here that will be invaluable anywhere. The refuges of lies into which the soul runs when pressed with the truth, and faced with its sins, are the same the world over. The more experience you have of personal dealing with souls to bring them to conviction and persuade them to repent-