

Editorial and Contributed.

MEDICAL MISSIONS.

NOTE.—The following article was written by the Editor of the OUTLOOK for a new paper, *The Medical Missionary*, just started in this city by the students of Toronto and Trinity Medical Schools. It is reprinted here because of its bearing on our new China Mission.—ED.

THE growing interest of the Churches in Medical Missions is an encouraging sign of the times. The experience of years is bearing fruit, and there is more common-sense in the adaptation of means to ends than could be claimed fifty or even thirty years ago. That well-conducted Medical Missions should be potent aids to spiritual work, need excite no surprise; it is quite in the line of New Testament teaching, for both Christ and His apostles recognized the healing of bodily infirmities as having a close relation to spiritual healing, and as constituting a most important branch of practical Christianity. Whether the healing is accomplished by miraculous interposition, or by God's blessing on medical skill, need not cause us any concern: in either case the healing is divine, and it becomes a powerful agency in removing prejudice, and in disposing men to listen to the gospel message.

Among the lapsed classes in Christian lands, it is found that the Christianity that goes after the lost with food in one hand and medicine in the other is listened to and understood; while that which consists solely in appeals to the spiritual nature falls upon deaf ears. All this is perfectly natural. Hunger and sickness are real ills which men feel and know, and no arguments are needed to convince them that they exist. To the lapsed and degraded spiritual ills are shadowy and unreal, and it is difficult to convince them of the need of help. But only let Christianity bring help for ills which are felt and seen, and the recipients will lend a willing ear to teachings concerning unseen realities. And if such is the case among those who dwell hard by fanes of Christian prayer and, therefore, may have some faint conceptions of God, and sin, and salvation, how much more among the heathen, where a "conscience of sins" has to be created, so to speak, out of raw material. Let all such as are capable of receiving the higher truths of revelation be taught along that line, by all means; but along with this, let it be manifest that Christianity has still a mission to "heal the sick," as well as to instruct the ignorant, or to pray men, in Christ's stead, to be reconciled to God.

The value of Medical Missions depends, of course, upon a variety of considerations. Something depends upon the circumstances of the people; much upon completeness of equipment, and still more upon the

character of the men employed. In some lands—Japan for example—medical science is making good progress, and in time the native physician will supersede the foreign medical missionary; but in China, Africa, and many parts of India, there is, properly speaking, no medical science at all, and in such lands the medical missionary has a most inviting field. But to do his work effectively he should be furnished with a good outfit—the best drugs and instruments, and funds enough to erect a hospital and dispensaries for in- and out-door patients.

But most important of all is the man employed to fill the responsible post. It goes without saying that he must be first, and above all, a man of devoted piety, with a passion for souls, and great tact in dealing with men. Then he must be thoroughly trained in his profession, or otherwise he will do more harm than good. Moreover, he must be a man of such temper that he will work in harmony with the evangelistic forces with which he is associated. Given the qualifications here referred to, and the medical missionary will be an indispensable factor in the mission work of the future.

ACCIDENT TO THE "GLAD TIDINGS."

THE following letter from the Rev. Thos. Crosby, under date of February 13th, gives some details of an accident which befell the *Glad Tidings* during a heavy gale in November last. The severity of the gale may be inferred from the fact that steam up and two anchors out were powerless against it. It is to be hoped that help will be promptly forthcoming, so that the *Glad Tidings* may at once resume her missionary trips. Mr. Crosby writes:—

The *Glad Tidings* has come to us again from Hartly Bay, where she was detained all winter by a serious accident she met with last November. She was ready to start for Queen Charlotte Island, with a load of lumber and a teacher for Clue, and while at anchor a gale came up and blew so strong, that although two anchors were down and steam up, she was drifted ashore. One anchor was lost and the other dragged, and she struck a rock and broke a hole in her side. Just then the wind calmed down, so Mr. Oliver steamed out again, although she was filling with water, and ran her ashore on a beach. The same night the wind came up again as bad as ever, and there she lay on the shore battered and bruised by the high sea, amidst pebbles and boulders. If she had not been well built, she must have gone to pieces. As it is, her keel is chafed and bruised, and one side of her planking very much injured. She is full of water, hence the cement covering is all off the boiler; bunkers went down; lockers burst out; doors broken; skylight broken; clock, weather glass, compass injured or gone; lamps, dishes destroyed; charts no good. I think it will take from \$500 to \$700 to fix her up in good shape again. I have spent a week at Georgetown mills,