

OVERHEARD IN THE DISPENSARY.

EXPERIENCES OF MEDICAL WORK IN HONAN,

BY OUR MISSIONARY, DR. WILLIAM MALCOLM.

Patient No. 1:—Please, doctor, examine my little son.

Doctor:—What does your child complain of?

P. He has a "piece" in his abdomen, he is also very feverish, has a poor appetite, and has bleeding at the nose.

Dr. Your son has enlarged spleen, and will require to take medicine for a long time before he can get well; buy a bottle to hold some medicine, and we will give you some.

Patient No. 2. Where is the old boss of this shop? I want some "foreign devil" medicine to cure malaria.

Dr. Allow me to tell you that I am not a devil, moreover we are not obliged to give you medicine, you had better go home, and when you can come and ask respectfully for medicine we will listen to you.

P. No. 3. Treat me next!

Dr. Just take a seat please; you must wait your turn like the rest.

P. No. 4. Slapping his stomach, but saying nothing.

Dr. What ails you?

P. Heart disease, (Chronic Dyspepsia.)

Dr. How long have you had it?

P. Over twenty years.

Dr. What symptoms have you?

P. My mouth constantly runs sour water. I have a dull pain between my shoulders, and my legs have a heavy, tired feeling.

Dr. Have you any other symptoms?

P. No, none.

Dr. Have you any pain after eating?

P. I have "a piece" in my stomach about three inches long, just there, feel it.

Dr. In English,—"I cannot feel anything abnormal. Have you ever before been treated for this disease?"

P. Yes, last year, I staid two whole days in the hospital, but was no better when I left.

Dr. Do you expect we can cure your disease of over twenty years' standing in two days?

P. Well, of course, I did not know what you could do.

Dr. Have you a bottle?

P. No.

Dr. We have native bottles for sale here; we will give you a bottle and a small wine cup for fourteen cash (Cost price, and much lower than market price.)

P. But I have not any cash with me; do

you not give away bottles, too, as well as medicine?

Dr. No.

P. Well give me a bottle to-day, and I will bring money the next time I come.

Dr. No, you had better get the money first, you might forget it next time you come.

P. Well, give me one dose of medicine now, and I will bring cash for a bottle to-morrow.

P. (Going out, but returning after a minute or two, having had time to take a few cash from a string at his belt.)

Here are fourteen cash that I have just borrowed; I will take the medicine to-day.

Dr. (Counting the cash). Why, there are only thirteen cash here, and one of them is a small cash.

P. Well, I have no more; give me the bottle and medicine, and I will bring two more cash when I come back.

Dr. Where did you say that lump is again?

P. (Enthusiastically taking off his shirt.)

Why just here, did you not feel it before.

Dr. Why, is this not a string of cash hanging at your belt behind?

P. (Being found out only laughs and looks silly.)

Dr. Elderbrother, you are foolish to try to cheat us in this way, for you see we could very easily cheat you in the medicine. Moreover, when you can cheat and tell such lies, it shows that you do not believe the true doctrine, and that you are not on the way to heaven. If there were not so many patients waiting I could teach you the way. I would advise you to pay more attention to what the pastor has just been telling you in the chapel; he will give you a book now if you go and ask him by which you can learn about the only true God and doctrine, or he will be glad to explain it to you himself.

P. No. 5. I want some cough pills.

Dr. For yourself?

P. No, for my mother, who cannot come.

Dr. We do not prescribe without first seeing the patient; tell her to come herself to-morrow.

What are all those scabs and sores on your baby's face and body?

P. Oh, that is small-pox; he is almost well now; I do not want medicine for him, but he would like if you would give him an empty milk tin.

P. No. 6. Doctor, when I took the medicine you gave me yesterday it made me very sick, it has given me diarrhoea and a severe pain in the stomach; my fingers and toes also feel very numb. Will you not give me some good medicine?

Dr. Let me see your bottle. Why, you have already almost finished the eight days' medicine (arsenic) that I gave you yester-