

Mission Notes.

MISSIONS.

The *Moravian Periodical Accounts*, etc., gives an insight into one form of missionary labour in the following touching story of four leper girls. It is by the Rev. J. La Trobe. He says :

"In the spring of 1874, three girls were admitted into the Leper Home at Jerusalem, founded by the Baroness Keffenbrinck Ascheraden, but under the care of Br. Tappe and his devoted wife, missionaries of the Church of the United Brethren.

"Hassne, then only ten years old, came from the Kaiserswerth Orphanage, called 'Talitha Cumi.' Fatme, who was fourteen years old, had been an inmate of the House at Bethlehem. Lative, also fourteen, was sent by the Russian authorities from Bathshalei, and was a nominal Christian of the Greek Church. All three were in the early stages of leprosy, but as yet their mental powers were not much impaired. The two former, who were Mohammedans, knew Arabic well, and had been taught to read and write in German, and under their instruction Lative learned to read the Bible and Arabic tracts. The story of their early days in the Home, as told by the good house-father Tappe, is very touching. 'As their fingers have not yet become stiff, they willingly help in housework, and as their voices are not yet hoarse, they go about singing hymns which they have learned in the before mentioned excellent institutions, or from St. Johanna, our Arab maid, and Sultana. Really it teaches one contentment to see them so cheerful, remembering that they must look forward to a life of suffering, in which each year must be worse than its predecessor. Poor girls! Their sisters would think twice before they offered them a hand; nay, their own mothers could scarcely bring themselves to kiss them, and they are denied all those caresses which are amongst the blessed memories of our childhood homes. We rejoice in the hope that our endeavours to bring these afflicted little ones to the Saviour have not been in vain.'

"In June, 1875, Smikna, a modest, lively girl, about Hassne's age, and of Greek parentage, came from Ramallah, a leper-stricken village, from which we had already received three other patients. The little group of four happy leper girls became close friends, helped each other in Scripture lessons, and ministered to their fellow sufferers in the women's ward. In the latter end of 1878, a poor woman, named Chesne (far advanced in leprosy), came to the Home. In her sore trial she yielded to the teachings of God's Holy Spirit, and attained to a knowledge of herself as a sinner, and Christ as her Saviour. During her last illness she was reduced to a pitiable state, and the effluvia from her sores became almost unbearable. Lative

however, insisted on sharing her room, and, though herself a great sufferer, waited on her with loving self-sacrifice. And she had her reward; for, just before Chesne died, she said to Lative, who was trying to moisten her parched lips: 'Oh! let me alone now; I am no longer here, I am in a more beautiful place, where everything is beautiful, so beautiful!'

"Did this scene recur to the girl-nurse, when, five years afterwards, her own hour of trial came? Surely *then*, in her ear the compassionate Saviour whispered: 'Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of My sisters; ye did it unto Me.' In 1883 both Lative and Fatme were admitted into the home where no inhabitant shall say, 'I am sick'. It was sad to watch the change which year by year made, as leprosy cramped their limbs, choked their voices, and corrupted their bodies. But it was comforting to see how they were being purified in the fire, and made ready as vessels for the Master's use; for though no human skill could remove their leprosy, the blood of Jesus Christ, applied by His Spirit, could not only cleanse them from all sin, but claim for them admission into that holy city where there shall in nowise enter anything that defileth.

"Fatme was first called. Her last sufferings were intense; from her crippled feet portions of bone came away, and one leg was an open sore from knee to ankle. But her Saviour was always with her; and when she was reminded how He suffered for her, tears rained from her eyes, and she summoned courage to hold fast the beginning of her confidence steadfast to the end.

"Lative did not long survive her friend and companion of nine years. She was leprous all over, but was most affected in her eyes, and a fall down stairs resulted in a festering wound that could not be healed. But the Lord, who loved His sorely-tried child, used these chastenings to draw her closer to Himself. Happily she understood His design, and acquiesced in it, and so, casting herself on Him, and Him alone, she departed in peace.

"Thus two of these dear girls have been taken to the Home above, and two left a little longer to the tender ministrations of the beloved physician, the self-denying house-parents, the attentive sisters, and the diligent evangelist of the Leper Home at Jerusalem.

"If there were no other fruit of this labour of love among the lepers of the Holy Land than the happy deaths and cheerful lives of these young women, the reward would be ample. But these are only a few of the lepers who have returned to embrace the feet of their Deliverer, and to glorify God in songs of deliverance.

And when these cleansed lepers stand,
All pure and bright at God's right hand,
The King's own word to us will be:
"Your love to them was love to Me;
For were not they the least of these?"

N. Y. Independent.