

three months I will baptize him, if he remains firm. Just now he will have much to bear; I pray he may have strength given him. Giving up ancestral worship seems to be the hardest trial, and it is this especially that brands a man as infamous.

"The next is an old man, a native doctor, resident about fourteen miles from I-chang. He is very earnest, and although he has not made any great advance in Christian knowledge, seems to have quite made up his mind as to the vanity of Chinese religions, and the truth of God the Creator. He is also convinced of the immortality of the soul, and in the Christian sense, man's sinfulness, and knows somewhat of the worship and service he owes to God. I cannot say that he understands the more purely Christian doctrines, but he is not opposed to them; and having such a foundation, we are encouraged to hope the super-structure will be raised.

"I may also specially mention two men from Sy-Chwen, father and son. Last Sunday they brought their wives and a little boy with them to our service. You already know about the man in Mr. Burnett's employment, who is a candidate for baptism. None of the others require special mention. You may ask what all this amounts to. We may, under God's grace, have a number of converts baptized in a few months; we may, as has been the case with all those who have already come about us, lose sight entirely of them for a time. Some of them may be entirely deceiving us with a view to the worldly advantages; but my faith would get a rude shock if that were the case with all. We shall reap, it may be, after many days. I acted as I thought for the best in not receiving some of them at once, although not in the way best calculated to make the Chinese Mission popular at home. It is worthy of remark that none of those influenced are natives of I-chang. All are strangers or country people. I have definite news that Lin, who is to be native preacher, will be here in a fortnight. He is urgently needed.

The second series of extracts are from a letter sent by Dr. McFarlane describing the work going on in the dispensary during the first eighteen days of April;

and we present them without comment:—

"Since the 1st of April, 505 patients (new) were attended to. The daily average of attendance, including old patients, was 43. You will see there is a considerable increase of attendance.

"Our dispensary is so constructed in the front hall, that it is impossible for us to keep the patients from looking in at the window during my consulting hours; and the result is, that the two windows are blocked up, not only by patients, but by passers-by, who, noticing the people out and in about the door come in to see what is going on. We do not object to them looking in, as we are desirous that they should know that our work is a work of love, and that whatsoever we do in the dispensary is for their benefit. It is very surprising to them that we should give the medicine for nothing; yet only one or two patients asked for the price of the medicine.

"Shortly after the dispensary was opened, a young man who was looking in at the window for some time, I suppose for curiosity's sake, thought he would come in and consult me about his disease. After prescribing for him, he asked my dispenser how much cash he wanted, and on hearing that he was getting the medicine gratis, he walked out of the dispensary with a smile of contempt on his face, saying, 'If you don't want cash your medicine is of no use.' They cannot understand why we don't make any charges, and the wonder is, that few of them feel thankful for what they get. We hope to be able to explain to them by degrees the end of our mission.

"In dealing personally with the patients, we are often amused at the statements they make. Two expressions in common use are 'heart hops, and leg soft'; 'all body pain.' They all, according to their knowledge, seem to know what the disease is before they come, and all they want is medicine to cure a certain malady. My coolie, who looks after the hall, is a curiosity oftentimes. When I tell a patient I am going to cut him for an abscess, the coolie puts himself into all prepossessing shapes and forms, and makes a long speech to the poor sufferer, telling him what is to