

upon her own sickly symptoms, produced a sudden and decided change in his favour. With tears, she declared these were the first kind words she had heard for many a day. He was allowed to return with medicine for her, and, with a pennyworth of that famous domestic balm, castor oil, he began his life's work as a medical missionary. Around him rallied a band of sympathising helpers; and in 1841 was formally inaugurated the "Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society," with its Dispensary for the poor, and Training Institute for its students, in the Cowgate, of which Dr. Thompson has till recently been the devoted and self-sacrificing superintendent. The writer has long felt a deep interest in the operations of this Society, especially since visiting the scene of its home operations, in company with a swarthy fez-crowned student, from the slopes of Lebanon. From near the "Cross," in the High Street, we descended by one of the narrow old stone stairways, arched overhead, to the bottom of the Cowgate. Turning along this narrow, crowded thoroughfare, we pick our steps through the abounding moral and material pollution of that famous locality, to one of the oldest of its houses, antique in style, and of pre-reformation date. Our visit was timed to take part in the regular afternoon service. Till three o'clock, all comers are received. Then the door is closed, and a short gospel service begun. The waiting-room had once been a chapel, where the noble of the realm, it would seem, had gathered, for in the stained glass windows could still be traced the arms of Mary of Guise. What a contrast to the pageantry of the past was the wretched company of to-day,—“a multitude of impotent folk, blind, halt, withered, waiting” for the help of man, and while so waiting, privileged to hear of the Great Physician, who alone can say, “Wilt thou be made whole?” It was a most touching sight. More touching still was it to hear the tale of their sufferings in the consulting-room, into which they were passed in succession. Generally some kind-hearted lady, or other visitor, assisted the nurses or students to speak individually to the waiting sufferers; while in the consulting-room a student's assistant registered the name, address, symptoms, etc., of each patient, as dictated by the good man, who dealt with them as tenderly and sympathetically as if relations of his own, yet so cheerfully, that each seemed already relieved as he or she received the prescription, which was to be ready for them on their return at a later hour. It was truly a Bethesda, and gave me a new idea of Christianity, or rather a fresh realization of it, as set forth by the life and teaching of our Lord and his disciples. A double purpose is thus served by this noble institution, that of a valuable local charity, and an efficient training school for home and foreign workers. About sixty medical missionaries have been prepared and sent forth by it, and their services have been readily engaged and highly prized by the various mission boards and societies of Britain and America. Their influence has been powerful for good to hundreds of thousands in India, China, Japan, Madagascar, Africa, Asia Minor, Palestine, and various places in Europe. Their scientific knowledge and skill, acquired in the best schools of medicine in Britain, in contrast with the charms and mummeries, and bungling attempts at surgery of native practitioners, at once give them a position of high respect, and sometimes commanding influence, in the abodes of barbarism and heathenism. These, according to solemn pledge given ere their departure, are never used for their own enrichment, but for the furtherance of the cause of Christ. In Madagascar, Dr. Davidson was made physician to the Queen, and his influence was scarcely second to that of the prime