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THE TRUE "FORWARD MOVEMENT;" OR, A HIGHER STANDARD OF CONSECRATION.

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

The most prominent watchword which has thus far been suggested for the new century of missions which is just opening, is the phrase, "Forward Movement." This motto is taken up with no little enthusiasm by the various missionary boards and societies, and has awakened a hearty response, especially in the great public gatherings incident to this centenary year. The forward movement contemplated has reference especially to the following particulars: First, a decided advance in gifts to missions and a permanent increase of donations and subscriptions to the treasury; secondly, a decided increase in the force of laborers at work in the field; and, thirdly, the furnishing of larger and ampler facilities for the prosecution of the educational, medical and other work so inseparably connected with missions.

We have thought a true forward movement will include much more than this. First of all the occupation of hitherto unoccupied fields in the regions beyond—nothing is more imperative than that there should be no part of the world-field absolutely lying in neglect; and, secondly, a true forward movement will include the rapid and world-wide proclamation of the tidings of redemption, evangelization in distinction from conversion, and the various machinery of an organized Church of Christ. The first need of the race is to hear the Gospel message, and when this has once reached every creature, then the way is open for a more thorough work of conversion, organization and education. And, thirdly, a true forward movement will include systematic and united prayer on the part of the constituency at home for definite results on the individual fields of missions.

But the object of this article is to call attention to what may be referred to as a much deeper need than even those of which we have spoken. It requires but a superficial knowledge of medical science to know that there are three great sources of disease: First, disorders of the nervous system; second, a defective chemistry—for instance, in the blood; and, third, a defective vitality of tissue. We are not to judge disease simply by ex-