

DR. MARION OLIVER

letters Dr. Oliver says: "During the two months I have been in India, I have often wondered if all new-comers had to pass through my experience of feeling themselves to be much more of an annoyance than a help to the older missionaries, because of the many questions one must constantly ask. I began the regular study of the Hindi language with the first Monday of the New Year and have made some little progress. I'm sure my attempts to find out what diseases my patients are suffering from must often be a source of amusement to them, but a native woman is much too polite and respectful to ever show that she is laughing at you. I am trying to pick up fresh words every day, have seen many sick women and children and the sight of them makes me wish for the gift of tongues."

Dr. Oliver's medical colleague, Dr. Elizabeth Beatty, having become subject to severe attacks of fever, it was deemed imperative to take her away to Kashmir for a complete change of air, and early in the year 1887, a considerable party from the Mission made the long journey to that beautiful health-giving country of which the poet Moore has sung so charmingly in his Lalla Rookh.

While in Kashmir she continued the study of the language, and returned several months in advance of the other lady members of the party and carried on as best she could, the medical work at Indore. Arrived at Indore, she writes under date July 25th, 1887:—"My Kashmir trip was more than enjoyable. I shall never forget the deep sense of the Omnipotence of God which the first real entrance among the Himalaya Mountains gave me. Nowhere could a woman physician be more needed than in Kashmir, where the higher caste women are far more restricted than in most parts of India proper. The missionary's wife in Srinagar told me that though she had been more than four years in the country she had never yet been able to gain admittance into a Zenana. Being a doctor, I was more fortunate and was called in to treat the wife—or rather, wives—of the Prime Minister. . . . My work here brings me some fresh interest nearly every day. Yesterday we had a crowd of women, the friends and relatives of a patient