

# Unclean ! Unclean !

## Telling of the Great Physician Among the Outcasts of Leprosy

**T**HERE are few words that convey to our minds a more intense feeling of loathing than the awful term "leprosy." All that is hideous and disgusting we are accustomed to associate with its three syllables. We class those who are victims to that for which it stands as being outside the pale of civilization, if not, indeed, of humanity itself. From our Bible reading we have grown to link leprosy with sin, and in fact we are not far astray, for it is a peculiarly characteristic disease of every heathen land. It seems invariably to be a product of the evil

without children, men and women who have 'no more a portion in anything that is done under the sun,' and condemned to watch the repulsive steps by which each of their doomed fellows passes to a loathsome death, knowing that by the same they too must pass"?

In this article we want to give some pictures of the dire need of these hopeless people, and the blessed transformation wrought in their lives by the story of Jesus and a resurrection that will forever leave behind them the suffering, leprous frame that burdens all their days.



A GROUP OF LEPERS AT HANKOW, CHINA.

practices of pagan peoples. But if sin and leprosy be so closely allied, then the claim of the lepers upon the help of the Christian world is made doubly strong; for it was for sinners that Christ died, and the mission of His followers is to sinners and sin's sufferers. It is on record in the Gospel story how the Master spent His power for their healing, and found in the thankfulness of one an example of gratitude to all the world throughout the centuries. Walking in the footsteps of the Master, can there be a more Christly work than the carrying of the glad tidings to a people whom Archdeacon Wright describes as "doomed beings socially dead, whose only duty it is to perish: wifeless husbands and husbandless wives, children without parents and parents

India has always been the home of many lepers, but for only some thirty years out of its centuries of unspeakable woe has a ray of Gospel light reached this sorest spot in its vast population of morally and physically diseased human beings. Mr. Willisby C. Bailey, who is now the devoted secretary of the Mission to Lepers in India and the East, thus relates the incident that first touched his heart into active sympathy for this work:

"It was at Ambala, in the Punjab, December, 1869, that I had my first introduction to the lepers. I had just joined the American Presbyterian Mission, and the senior missionary at the station was the well-known Dr. J. H. Morrison. One morning he asked me to accompany him to