

which a devoted physician can wield over the hearts of the people, as illustrated in the life of Dr. Heron, one of the pioneer missionaries, who has since laid down his life in the service and among the people he loved so well.

Although at the start the work was confined almost entirely to Seoul, two new mission stations with resident physicians have since been started, and two more will be opened as soon as the medical men can be found, for their presence is deemed so essential that most of the missionaries in Korea hold the opinion, and the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions has decided, that no new station should be started without the aid of a pioneer medical missionary.

Medical science in Korea is extremely crude, if indeed it can be called a science. The native physicians know absolutely nothing about anatomy, physiology, therapeutics; they have a materia medica, such as it is, of their own; and they know the results which follow the administration of certain drugs; but their whole system of medicine seems to be nothing more than a somewhat skilled use of certain herbs, to which they frequently add the flesh of some of the lower animals. Everything is, however, of the crudest and often the most loathsome, and those parts of animals considered unfit for use by civilized people form not uncommonly the bulk of a remedy prescribed by a native physician, for with this tolerably accurate knowledge of the action of certain herbs upon the system is mingled an immense amount of superstition and ignorance. Of surgery they have no knowledge, and a Korean surgical case will contain nothing but a few sharp pointed lancets or needles and dull irons for puncturing and cauterizing. It will at once be seen that under these circumstances the advantages to be derived from medical missions are manifold, and that the conditions of the country are such that in every respect to which we have referred, by which the physician can be of service in

heathen countries, he can be of service in Korea. With a system of medicine and surgery so crude and inefficient, in a country where diseases are so prevalent, and where sanitary rules and regulations are so poor that pests of every description run riot, the amount of physical suffering that these poor Koreans are forced to endure cannot be estimated.

Then, too, the women of Korea are more secluded than those of either China or Japan; in fact, among certain classes the Korean anpang becomes as much a living tomb as are the zenanas of India. In times of sickness and trouble scarcely one of these but would be at once opened to the woman physician, and thus an entrance for the Gospel, which could be gained in no other way, would be effected into the very heart of Korean home life. The truth of this last statement has been most conclusively shown in the reception accorded to the women physicians who up to this time have labored in Korea. They have been cordially welcomed in the homes of the people from the highest to the lowest. A most royal welcome has been accorded two of them by their majesties, who have continued to load them with favors. No door has seemed closed, and the extent of their work has been limited only by the time and ability of the few on the field.

In relation to the fourth point that was made, as to the advantages to be derived from medical missions, we find that in Korea the conditions are such that this benefit also will accrue to the cause of Christ in this country through medical work. True, it cannot be for one moment claimed that Korea is a hostile country, or that it is any longer closed to the Gospel; but we must not forget that this land has been but recently opened; and while the physician and minister of the Gospel can with perfect right take up their abode in Seoul or any one of the other open ports; while the natives in these parts and wherever foreigners have gone seem kindly disposed, it must also be