



IN THE GRIP OF THE ICE.

eries were conducted. At each season's commencement the fishermen go to a merchant who is called a supplier. They get from him an outfit to enable them to go to the fishery. The time for settling is at the end of the season, when the merchants meet and decide what they can give for fish per hundredweight. At that time, also, each man is told what he owes, and in case the fishery has been bad, prices of goods run high, and the necessary food for the coming months of forced inaction (called a winter's diet) is of necessity cut to the lowest.

The Mission began its work by a report to the leading men in Newfoundland. They forwarded the movement with an offer of two small buildings to be used as Mission Hospitals, and a promise of their earnest help to the society, if it would commence work on the Labrador coast for the benefit of the fishermen. At selected spots on islands two hundred miles apart, these hospitals were built, and a small steam launch was added

to the ship, that it might run to and fro and so visit from the hospital ship many places otherwise outside her reach.

With the idea of teaching the difference in the cost of the necessities of life when purchased for cash instead of taking them up on credit, a small, co-operative store to deal only in cash, or dry fish, which is Labrador cash, was started, though not without considerable opposition from traders. This has been running now seven years, entirely under "fishermen management."

Though it has had to teach every most elementary lesson, and has been delayed in expansion proportionally, it has been an unqualified success. And now five others, at various distances along the shore, have risen in its wake. The fishermen themselves are taught to put any few dollars they have into capital, to take an intelligent interest in the little business, and the result has been that thrift, economy, independence and self-reliance have been