

Somewhere off the coast of Labrador this time of the year there is a steamship called the *Strathcona* cruising about among the fishermen. In command of this vessel there is a young Englishman, an Oxford man, bronzed, athletic, who is not only a surgeon, a friend and pupil of Sir Frederick Treves, famous as surgeon to the King, but also a certified master mariner, a founder of a system of co-operative stores, an explorer, an agent of Lloyd's, the great maritime insurance institution, an author, whose book, "Vikings of To-day," is full of stirring anecdote and human feeling. This surgeon-mariner and unconventional missionary is Dr. Wilfred T. Grenfell, Superintendent of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen.

The inhabitants of Labrador subsist on "fish," which is the legally recognized term there for cod. During the summer the population more than doubles, for then is the fishing season. But whether it be summer or winter, the people suffer hardships of peculiar severity. In the first place, storm and snow, merciless ice and rocks unite in bringing disaster to ships at sea and settlements on land. In the second place, the isolation of the fisher settlements on a barren soil renders the fisher folk absolutely dependent upon the traders for supplies of food, so that it has been usual for next year's catch of fish to be mortgaged in advance in payment for this year's food. In the third place, the fishing fleets have been accompanied by vessels selling grog and pandering to worse vices than drunkenness. To the need occasioned by accident and disease Dr. Grenfell brings an answer with medicines and bandages, surgical instruments, physicians, nurses, hospitals, and a hospital ship. To the pauperism and destitution brought about by the abominable "truck system" Dr. Grenfell has brought relief by establishing co-operative stores. To the challenge thrown down by the grog vessels Dr. Grenfell has replied by supplying games, wholesome amusements, and the tobacco the fishermen demand, in vessels that are veritable, though unconventional, "mission ships."

*From "Dr. Grenfell's Parish."*