

## HYMN.

"Is thy cruse of comfort wasting?  
Rise and share it with another,  
And through all the years of famine,  
It shall serve thee and thy brother.

Love divine will fill thy storehouse;  
Or thy handful still renew;  
Scanty fare for one will often  
Make a royal feast for two.

For the heart grows rich in giving;  
All its wealth is living grain,  
Seeds which mildew in the garner,  
Scattered, fill with gold the plain.

Art thou stricken in life's battle?  
Many, wounded, round thee moan,  
Lavish on their wounds thy balsam,  
And that balm shall heal thine own!

MRS. CHARLES.

## Field Study for December.

The importance of medical missions is being more and more clearly seen as the great needs of the heathen world press themselves upon our attention. About 50 years ago they were begun as a sort of aid to the preaching of the gospel, but the missionaries soon found that the practising physician was the most successful Christian worker. There is so much sickness and suffering, so much ignorance and superstition and cruelty, that the man or woman who can, like the Master, minister to the wants of both soul and body, is the one who can get nearest to the hearts of the people. Heathenism founds no hospitals or dispensaries, and the vast numbers of blind, crippled, deformed, insane, and otherwise unfortunate, who are to be met with on every side, show pitifully the need of help, and call loudly upon us for the benefits of our Christian civilization. The different missionary boards have done considerable in this direction, but oh, how much more remains to be done? There are now over 300 medical missionaries, male and female, on the various mission fields of the world, and we are glad that as a Woman's Missionary Society, we are able to help a little.

In Nov. 1889, Dr. Bolton, in a spirit of love to the Master and moved by a divine pity like to His, went from Ontario to Port Simpson to minister to the sick and suffering Indians on our Pacific Coast. The necessity for this work was shown by his report of that time in which he says: "My visits and prescriptions from Nov. to April, amounted to 2,925. I have performed five operations under chloroform, and I am sure much suffering has been relieved, and a few lives saved." On his

first arrival in British Columbia, Dr. Bolton realized that a hospital was absolutely necessary, and during a severe epidemic of the "grippe" he rented a house at Port Essington, to which the worst cases were removed. He writes under date of Aug. 15th, 1891. "When the last patients were convalescent and the people scattering to their homes, I returned to Port Simpson, having, in less than three months, numbered 3,400 attendances." There is now a hospital erected at Port Simpson which is not denominational, but the Parent Society makes an annual grant, and our Woman's Missionary Society has undertaken to support a trained nurse. Miss Spencer, of Kingston, has been appointed, and has already done noble work.

We have also sent out a thoroughly qualified lady physician, Dr. Retta Gifford, to Chen Tu, China, where woman's work is absolutely necessary, for women of the higher classes in all Eastern lands, will suffer and die rather than be treated by the foreign male physician. We need to pray earnestly for the success of these thoroughly Christian enterprises. Dr. Retta Gifford, writing from Shanghai, March 2nd, 1893, says: "There are many difficulties before us. We need the help and prayers of those in the home land."

## Questions for December.

- How long is it since medical missions were introduced?
- What proof have we that they are needed?
- How many medical missionaries are there now on the different fields?
- Can you tell us something of Dr. Bolton's work in British Columbia?
- Has our Woman's Missionary Society any medical workers?
- Where have we a trained nurse?
- What is her name?
- Where have we sent Dr. Retta Gifford?
- Why is woman's work absolutely necessary there?
- What does she write in regard to the needs of the work?
- What can we do to aid it?

—A missionary was urged to send a Christian teacher to an inland town in China. He asked how they had learned about Christ. They replied that a little boy from a mission school had come home and read the Bible to those who would listen. Night after night they came, and now a whole village was ready to serve God. How God blessed that little light?

"We lose what on ourselves we spend;  
We have, as treasure without end,  
Whatever, Lord to thee we lend,  
Who giveth all."

—Selected.