

Suggested Programme for December Meeting.

I. Opening exercises :

"They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick." Matt. ix. 12.

II. Regular Business.

III. Hymn.

IV. Subjects for Prayer for the month :

Medical mission and dispensary work, that through the healing of the body the soul may be touched. Our work in China, and the work of Dr. Bolton on the Pacific coast. Heb. x. 36.

To be Read.—"What does sickness mean to millions of our fellow-creatures in heathen lands? Throughout the East sickness is believed to be the work of demons. The sick person at once becomes an object of loathing and terror, is put out of the house, is taken to an outhouse, is poorly fed and rarely visited, or the astrologers, or priests, or medicine-men, or wizards assemble, beating big drums and gongs, blowing horns and making the most fearful noises. They light gigantic fires, and dance around them with their unholy incantations. They beat the sick person with clubs to drive out the demon. They lay him before a roasting fire, till his skin is blistered, and then throw him into cold water. They stuff the nostrils of the dying with aromatic mixtures or mud, and in some regions they carry the chronic sufferer to a mountain-top, placing barley-balls and water beside him, and leave him to die alone.

"The woe and sickness in the unchristianized world are beyond telling, and I would ask my sisters here to remember that these woes press most heavily upon women, who in the seclusion of their homes are exposed to nameless barbarities in the hour of 'the great pain and peril of child-birth,' and often perish miserably from barbarous maltreatment."—*The Missionary Outlook*.