

main on the mountain permanently. But, wishing this, he did not fully understand his duty. There was a world to be redeemed, and how could it be accomplished if Jesus were held back on the mountain from the cross? There was even at that very moment, a poor demoniac in the valley waiting their descent in order that he might be cured. The disciples themselves having been refreshed and strengthened spiritually by this period of devotion, were now to go in the strength of this spiritual uplift and power to perform service for others.

POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Appoint one member to describe Mount Hermon, the scene of the transfiguration. Then select two other members, one to deal with the objects, the other with the lessons, of the transfiguration. Ample help will be found in the foregoing. This is one of the most wonderful events in the world's history. May you and your League see the glory of Christ as you have never seen it before, and having seen it, render better service in the future than ever you have rendered before.

JULY 31.—"OUR MISSION IN WEST CHINA: MEDICAL WORK."

From the first, says the writer of "The Heart of Sz-Chuan," medical missions have been of the utmost value in China. In the days when evangelists took their lives in their hands, the medical missionary could travel anywhere in comparative safety. He was about from place to place healing the sick that came to him, he told of the Great Physician, who could heal the more terrible disease of sin. As time passed and missionaries settled in all parts of the country, they found their work greatly aided by the kindness of those who at some previous time had been healed by itinerant physicians.

HEALING DISEASE.

Were the medical men to deal with men's bodies only, his would be a grand work in China as well as in every other land. Nowhere else is there more disease and suffering, or more solid patient endurance of pain than in the "Flowery Kingdom." Chinese doctors rely more on spells and incantations than on medicines; their surgery is crude and often brutally cruel. The foreign doctor, with his skilful treatment and kind manner, comes as a messenger of hope and blessing to millions of suffering people. The Chinese look upon the foreigner with suspicion and contempt; he is to them a spy and a barbarian. The medical man destroys both instincts. He proves by his skill that he has knowledge of the art of healing, and he soon wins the respect and sometimes the affection of those he treats. By his unselfishness he shows the purity of his motives and demonstrates what is almost beyond their comprehension, that he has come to China solely from a desire to help the Chinese. It is hard to make a Chinese comprehend an idea so totally foreign to him. When he understands the law of love, as shown in a man, it is not difficult to lead him on to the idea of a Supreme Being who is all love.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

The medical missionary is one of the most effective evangelistic agents. In his tours through the country he ever keeps before him the prime need of the people—Christianity, and he leads he talks, hoping to say some word that may touch the heart. Every well-appointed mission also has its hospital, which yields most encouraging spiritual results. When the West China Mission was started, two of the four men sent out

were medical men, and since that time others have gone. At present out of a total force of nine men on the field or on furlough five are graduates in medicine, though they by no means confine themselves to medical work. A large proportion of the work done is surgical work. Incurable diseases, or those given up as such by Chinese doctors, form a large share of the cases that the doctor meets daily. Often the foreign physician is a last resort. Each cure helps to create a better feeling on the part of the people, but a failure is sometimes a dangerous thing. Should a patient die under treatment various ugly rumors are at once set in circulation. The missionary is once more accused of diabolical practices, and often even the fear of the officials cannot prevent bloodshed.

THE DISEASES OF CHINA.

"The Chinese know nothing of surgery, anatomy, physiology, or a medical diploma. But they give pint doses of herbal, beetle, and tiger-claw mixtures. The skins of serpents, frogs caught at high noon on the fifth day of the fifth moon, are dried, powdered, and administered alone or in combination with other solutions. The superstitious social sins and diseases of China can be better treated, bodily and spiritually, by the medical missionary.

THE WORK IN HOSPITALS.

The work in the hospitals is similar to that in Canada. The nurses are Chinese, except in the W. M. S. hospital, where there are two Canadian nurses. The patients come both from the city and from the country districts. They are visited by the physicians in charge at least once a day. Almost all receive a good idea of Christian truths before they leave the hospital. On the walls of the wards the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments are hung, and also colored pictures of Scripture incidents with explanation in Chinese attached. Each hospital has an evangelist connected with it, whose duty it is to look after the spiritual side of the work. Every morning a service is held in the large ward, consisting of singing, prayer, and reading, and explanation of Scripture. In addition, each patient is required to memorize the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, and a few texts. The hospital is close to the chapel, and all who are able are expected to attend the service on Sunday. On Sunday afternoon a catechism class is held in the wards, and often the regular church class-meeting is held here, in order that the patients may hear the testimonies of the Christians. On leaving, the patient is given a Gospel.

That this work bears fruit is evidenced by the fact that in 1899 one-half of the patients who left the hospital expressed a desire to become Christians. We must not forget, however, that only a small proportion of those who express this desire ever do become full Christians. While in the atmosphere of the hospital it is comparatively easy to express belief in Christ, but only those who are most earnest can withstand the influences of their fellow-Chinese when they return home. Some of these patients no doubt, do become sincere Christians.

THE DISPENSARY.

Of almost equal importance with the hospital is the dispensary. This is usually open daily. It consists of consultation, drug-rooms, and store-rooms, dark room for examination of eye and throat, instrument room, operating room, and minor surgery rooms.

The patients gather on the proper day in the dispensary waiting-room. At the

regular hour the physician enters and conducts a short service, at which he explains some Christian truth. Then he distributes tracts to all present, after which he retires to his consultation room and receives the patient one at a time.

GOOD RESULTS.

Thus our medical missionaries in China are obeying the Master's injunction, "Heal the sick." Through encouragement and discouragement they labor on, trusting that in due season they shall reap if they faint not. Nor is their work unrecognized and unrewarded. The increasing confidence and affection which the Chinese are growing to feel towards the medical missionary must in itself be ample reward for any toil he may undergo. At home, too, the heroism and devotion of these men draw forth the admiration of their fellow-countrymen. It means much when a medical journal, such as *The Lancet*, publishes the following statement: "We can imagine no career more lofty or honorable than that of a well-informed, capable, and courageous medical missionary. A few hundreds of such men in the next century would powerfully affect the history of China, India, and Africa. If men of commerce could give as good an account of their work in these lands as men of medicine, the evangelization of the world would be hastened."

POINTS FOR THE PRESIDENT.

The story of the work of our medical missionaries in China reads like a romance. You could not do better than to have read aloud before the League, by one who can read well, Chapter VI, of "The Heart of Sz-Chuan." If you can't borrow it, go to the Book Room for it. It costs thirty-five cents. If you do not arrange for this, read the foregoing exposition in full. It gives a good account of our medical work in China. Arrange for the reading of appropriate Scripture and the singing of stirring missionary hymns. Make clear the effective work our medical men are doing in China and how we should rejoice that our money is being used of God for such blessed results.

AUGUST 7.—"THE ESSENTIAL BROTHERHOOD OF THE CHURCH."

MAT. 18.

Members of the Epworth League should never forget that the church of which their organization forms a part is the greatest institution on earth. This is a correct statement, without any modification. We would naturally expect to find such an institution bearing remarkable features. And so it does. The church does not consist of walls and pews and pulpit and organ. This is the edifice and its appointments. But the church really consists of living members animated by the life of Christ, and enjoying fellowship with him and with one another. The flower possesses the life of its seed; the church possesses the life of its Divine Head. And that life is manifested within in Christian fellowship, and without in vivifying force for the quickening of the world. Thus we have the essential brotherhood of the church.

FATHERHOOD.

Brotherhood implies fatherhood; and so Christian brotherhood has divine fatherhood at its foundation. The source of spiritual life, the supreme object of love, the central authority in the great family of saints, is God the Father. The family home is that of the Father; for