

and thus to carry the Gospel to the most secluded, where its benign influences are in truth most needed. Many and many a woman has thus been brought under the influence of the Gospel ; many and many a mother's heart thus won to the Saviour ; many and many a home thus made bright that would otherwise be dark, dreary, and out of Christ ; and thus is medical mission work bearing a noble part in that steady winning of individuals one by one that will bring the world to Christ.

But a fourth and by far the pre-eminent advantage of medical missions is to be found in the ability of the physician, through his knowledge of medicine, to gain admittance to the homes and win the friendship and confidence of the people in hostile fields and lands otherwise closed to the Gospel. This has been and will be for years to come the pre-eminent advantage to be derived from medical missions. God has most wonderfully opened to the physician villages, towns, cities, and even nations that were otherwise closed. Villages that had been closed for years where the evangelist had apparently been trying in vain to gain a foothold have been opened by but one visit from the physician, and Christianity has been welcomed almost with open arms. Prejudices that seemed iron bound and hatred that seemed bred in the bone have been broken and cast out by the practical Christianity that has been exemplified by medical missions, and at this late date many and many is the city where the evangelist is excluded by legal restrictions, but where the physician would easily earn a ready welcome not only for himself, but for the ministers of the Gospel as well. But in these pages we are to consider medical missions in Japan and Korea ; let us then see how the statements made above apply in these two lands. First, then,

JAPAN.

Medical work in Japan has made itself felt in a very marked manner. A noble work has been done, and the

medical missionaries have had no small share in the successes that have attended the Gospel in that marvellous land. The first resident missionaries to both Japan and Korea were very rightly medical men, Dr. Hepburn reaching Yokohama in 1859 and Dr. Allen arriving in Seoul in 1864. That grand veteran missionary, Dr. Hepburn, together with his noble wife, as now in their ripe old age they look upon modern Japan and see what Christianity has done, can look upon a work in which they have had no small share, and can feel assured that God was in it when He sent the physician first. Western medical science has completely supplanted the old and almost useless medical superstitions of that country ; medical colleges of no mean standing are to-day graduating yearly scores of native doctors that rank well with the best graduates of our medical colleges at home. Some of the first men of that land, however, now tell us that medical missions in that country have had their day. On the last two counts they are most certainly no longer needed in modern Japan, and though on the first two there might still be a place and work for them, the native physicians are so many, so well qualified to do their work, and object so bitterly to the foreigners who injure their practice and take bread from their children's mouths by doing gratuitously what they must do for a living, that it is thought best by many of the missionaries to carry on their Christian work in other lines. This is the opinion of a large number of the missionaries now in Japan, and from our acquaintance with the field and knowledge of the facts (gained through several lengthened visits and a careful study of the problem) it seems to us well grounded. With reference to Japan, therefore, we conclude that medical missions have done a noble work in that land ; that to them belongs no small share of the results in this interesting country, but that here there is now no more need for mission work along these lines. There may be some