

long and complete rest became necessary, during which he was being prepared in the fire of affliction for more extended and influential service for the Master.

Dr. Thomson's first effort on behalf of medical missions was the writing and publishing of a prize essay on the subject; and he had the cheering assurance that it was helpful in showing that "the medical mission is God's way of missions."

A feeble beginning of medical mission work in this country was made at West Port, Edinburgh, in 1853, by the opening of a mission dispensary. This was carried on in a very limited way for nearly five years, and then, after a brief interval, the Cowgate Medical Mission was commenced by the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society. Toward the end of 1859 Dr. Thomson was appointed its first superintendent. His own description of the field is as follows: "My pen can give no conception of the terrible depravity, the appalling ungodliness that prevailed round that district. Sometimes on Saturday night and on Sabbath evening it was almost overwhelming. What sights and sounds! The crowds; the din and bustle; the shouting, yelling, shrieking and cursing; the pushing, rioting, quarreling, and fighting! Truly, it seemed a place without God, tho not without hope. It was for such that Jesus died. He 'came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.' Publicans and sinners get into the kingdom when Pharisees are cast out."

From the first, Dr. Thomson set before himself a high ideal of what a medical missionary should be, both as to professional acquirements and spiritual qualifications. He gave the following answer to the question "What is a medical missionary?"

1. A legally qualified medical practitioner,
2. Called of God,
3. Wholly set apart,
4. To the twofold work of healing the sick and making known the Gospel.

A medical missionary, from his view, was one "called to special service on behalf of our Lord and Master; the work of winning souls to which healing is helpful as an adjunct." He was strongly opposed to medical missionaries being both doctors and ordained ministers. He believed that the medical missionary should be an evangelist and not a pastor.

After his retirement from active service his interest in the cause continued unabated, and toward the close of his life we find him writing to brethren in the field: "I can say truthfully to all medical missionaries at home and abroad, that I remember all of you daily in my prayers; and I watch with paternal interest the development in your hands of our blessed cause. Brethren and sisters, your soul-winning opportunities are simply marvelous, but your responsibilities are correspondingly great." It was to him a great joy to watch the steady increase of the work both at home