

justification of medical missions.—Encyclopedia of Missions.

All genuine missionary work must—in the highest sense be a healing work.—Alexander Mackay.

Medical missionary work is the golden key that is to-day unlock the many of the most strongly barred fortresses of Satan.—Irene H. Barnes.

There is certainly no such field for evangelistic work as the wards of a hospital in a land like China.—John Kenneth Mackenzie.

Our great message is one of life and healing for the whole man, through Jesus Christ our Lord.—O. L. Kilbourn.

I am a missionary, heart and soul. God had an only Son, and He was a missionary and a physician. A poor imitation of Him I am. In this service I hope to live, and in it I wish to die.—David Livingstone.

The work of medical missions must not be advocated simply as a life-saving agency. Without the Bible in one hand, the medicine-case is not wanted in the other. The objective point of the work must be soul-winning.—Dr. Anna W. Fearn, China.

The following is the testimony of a prominent Mohammedan to medical missions: "It is these medical missionaries who are winning the hearts and confidence of our people. If we do not do as they do, we will soon lose our hold upon our own people. We must build hospitals and care for the sick and dying if we wish to keep our religion alive."

It is in China that hospital work can be pursued to the best advantage as an aid to the mission cause, for a hospital in China is not troubled by any of the caste difficulties of India. In one village a successful church of a hundred or more members resulted from the restoration of sight to a mother and her two daughters.

(See article on "Medical Missions," on page 22.)

SEPT. 1.—"I CAN" AND "I CAN'T."

Isa. 35, 3, 4; 30, 15-18; Heb. 3, 14.

HOME READINGS.

Mon., Aug. 26.—Caleb's "We can." Num. 13, 26-30.

Tues., Aug. 27.—The Spies, "We can't." Num. 13, 31-33.

Wed., Aug. 28.—Saul's Army. 1 Sam. 17, 1-11.

Thur., Aug. 29.—David and Goliath. 1 Sam. 17, 25-32.

Fri., Aug. 30.—Paul's "I can." 2 Cor. 12, 7-10.

Sat., Aug. 31.—Jesus' Promise. John 14, 10-14.

FORWORD.

This is a fine subject for young people. Very frequently in life there will come opportunities of working out the ideas and principles which it suggests. Very often some good project is suggested, and those who are opposed to it can say nothing against it. They have, however, one refuge to which they invariably fly. They declare, "You can't do it." Many a man has been discouraged from undertaking a worthy enterprise by the pessimistic objections of those who will do nothing to help, but go around whining, "You can't do it." We need to learn that we can do anything that really ought to be done, and that we will to do. The spirit of determination with which we enter upon our tasks has more to do with success than anything else.

BIBLE HINTS.

"Strengthen ye the weak hands," etc., (Is. 35, 3). This is of course not to be taken with exact literalness, but it is not

all metaphor by any means. A stout body is a great help toward a stout heart.

"A fearful heart," (v. 4). The heart, in scripture, stands for the whole man, intellect, affection, will. When there is weak heart there is no strength for doing, no power of purpose.

"Behold your God" (v. 4). The remedy for a fearful heart is to stop looking at yourself and look to God. Think more of your God than of your causes of fearfulness. He is "your" God. "He will come," (v. 4). Ours is an active God. He is not inert passiveness having no hand in things.

"In quietness and in confidence," (Is. 30, 15). Soldiers who have confidence in their general, and in themselves, are much more likely to gain the victory, than those who are animated by mere daring or bravado.

"Hold fast your confidence," (Heb. 3, 14). Confidence is like the clue to the labyrinth in the old Greek fable; it must be held firmly to the end or it is useless.

SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

There are three kinds of people in the world, the "wills," the "wonts" and the "can'ts." The first accomplish everything; the second oppose everything; the third fail in everything.

It is natural for the world to believe in men who believe in themselves, who have confidence that they can accomplish things.

The chief difference between the successful and the failures lies in the single element of staying power.

The man who does things, who brings about results, never wants to see what the crowd is going to do.

A weak, discouraged, disheartened being is no more the man that God made, than is the harshest jargon, sweet music.

The thought that one is a victim of circumstances, that success or failure depend on chance, is absolutely destructive of all noble character building.

The world stands aside for the man who has a programme, a work to do, and who feels that he is able to do it.

Never allow yourself to admit that you are inferior to the emergency confronting you, for this is to invite defeat. Strongly affirm that you can do the thing. The moment you harbor a doubt of your ability that moment you capitulate to the enemy.

Fear of failure or lack of confidence in one's ability is one of the most potent causes of failure in all walks of life.

QUOTATIONS.

If asked what is the remedy for the deeper sorrows of the human heart, what a man should chiefly look to in his progress through life as the power that is to sustain him under trials, and enable him manfully to confront his afflictions, I must point him to something which, in a well-known hymn, is called "The old, old story," told of in an old, old book, which is the greatest and best gift ever given to mankind.—W. E. Gladstone.

When a boy begins to write he holds his pen in such a way that his fingers and hand are cramped, so that they have no freedom of motion; and he makes each particular letter in a mechanical way, and there is no ease about his writing; but we keep him at it and keep him at it, until he acquires both ease and facility, and we do not think it strange that he has to be trained thus in the rudiments of penmanship. Our spiritual natures must likewise be trained so that the higher faculties shall have ascendancy over the lower propensities.—Henry Ward Beecher.

To do anything worth doing in the world, we must not stand shivering on the brink, thinking of the cold and the danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can. It will not do to be perpetually calculating risks and adjusting nice chances.—Sidney Smith.

Of what use are the most splendid gifts if one lacks decision—if when the opportunity occurs, one fails to grasp it—if one hesitates, and ponders, and debates, and calculates chances till it has fled forever? —O. W. Marden.

It is the man with a positive nature, the man who believes that he is equal to the emergency, who believes he can do the thing he attempts, who wins the confidence of his fellow men, and succeeds.—Dr. Marden.

Nothing can keep a man down when he has grit and determination. Imprison him and he will produce a "Pilgrim's Progress," on the twisted paper used as a cork in a milk jug. Take away his eyesight and he will write "Paradise Lost," as Milton did, or the "Oregon Trail" as did Parkman. It is as impossible to imprison energies as it would be to bottle up steam.

A keen observer can pick out a successful man almost by the way he carries himself. If he is a leader every step, every movement, indicates it; there is assurance in his bearing, he walks as if he were master of himself, as if he believed in his ability to do things, to bring about results.

PROVERBS.

They can who think they can.

Either I will find a way or make one. Character is a perfectly educated will.

Set a stout heart against a stiff hill.

Any one can drift with circumstances. It takes pluck to stem an unfavorable current.

Every man is the architect of his own fortune.

Victories and defeats in life often turn on minutes.

The achievement of a man will never rise higher than his confidence.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

A boy of ten, replying to the question, "Who made you?" said, measuring the length of a baby, "God made me so long and I rowed the rest." The mistake of this little fellow in leaving out the God of his growth, suggests the fact that we are partly self-made men.

John Ashley Cooper, the first Earl of Shaftesbury, was born a cripple, and could not walk at any time without his crutch. "I was never," he once said, "without a dull, aching pain of that side." But he became Chancellor of England, and to him we owe that sheet anchor of our liberties, the Habeas Corpus. He was a man who said, "I can."

General Grant had a firm conviction that he could accomplish whatever he undertook. There was nothing negative in him. He did not stop in the midst of a great crisis to consider if failure were possible; he did not doubt, but constantly affirmed, and was always on the positive side. This was the secret of his success.

George Stephenson determined to make an engine run between Liverpool and Manchester at the rate of twelve miles an hour. The Quarterly Review ridiculed the idea, saying, "Corpus." As well trust one's self to be fired off on a Congreve rocket. He did it nevertheless.

"I can't it's impossible!" said an officer to Alexander in reporting his failure to take a strong fortress, "Begone," said the great Macedonian, "there is nothing impossible to him who will try."