

operation for cataract one said, "This year all men have heard that the doctor has put an eye in a blind man, and if all foreigners did like the doctor-teacher we would believe what they say." All ranks, from the king to the poorest man and woman, receive medical care with gratitude.

NOTE.—Korea is distant from Japan by steamer about two days, and only about twenty-four hours from the nearest Chinese port. Seoul, the capital, is the centre of all the missionary work carried on throughout the country.

Japan.

Japan has been called "the playground of modern mission-fields." Whether this phrase can properly be applied to the Japan of to-day may be a point on which opinions will differ, but it certainly would be most inappropriate to its past history.

As is well-known, Roman Catholic missionaries, led by the distinguished Francis Xavier, began missionary work in Japan as early as 1549. They met with great opposition, but persevered for well-nigh a hundred years, when the Christian converts numbered almost two millions. It would appear that their missionary labours were largely mingled with trade and political intrigues. At all events they were successful in exciting the bitter hatred and jealousy of the rulers of the country, which culminated at length in their forcible expulsion from the kingdom, amid the most cruel and relentless persecutions. Many hundreds of the native converts were put to death, while thousands fled to China and Formosa. So rigid did the inquisition and persecution become that at the opening of the eighteenth century the "Jesus religion" had no representative apparently left alive, except possibly an aged prisoner here and there. From that time until the opening of Japan to foreign trade in 1858, no Christian missions existed. Protestant missionary societies in the United