

CRESCENT CHAPEL

Juvenile Missionary Society,

IN AID OF THE

MEDICAL MISSION TO CHINA

PER DR. LOCKHART,

AND OF HOME MISSIONS.

The Committee have great pleasure in presenting the Friends of the Society with the following information relating to Dr. LOCKHART'S operations at the recently established Station at Shanghai.

I.

Extract from a Letter from Dr. Lockhart to the Directors of the London Missionary Society, dated Shanghai, November, 1843, and which appeared in the Missionary Magazine for July, 1844.

He is speaking of his first visit to Shanghai, and says, "Shanghai is a place of large and important trade, and it is said that about 4000 junks resort hither every year, from the northern and southern provinces, Manilla, Siam, and Singapore. The population may be, perhaps, 300,000, for the city and suburbs." And, referring to his own anticipations, he writes, "I have been endeavouring to obtain a suitable house in the city; and though, in consequence of affairs not being wholly settled, I have not yet obtained one, I expect that one will be engaged for me in a few days, and then I hope to remain here, and commence my work in the place where I have often wished to be situated, and by God's blessing to continue it permanently. We know not what is before us in this land, and among this people, or whether we shall dwell for a long or for a short time at this place; but we must strive to employ the present faithfully, in the service of our blessed Saviour, and engage in our work praying for direction that we may do all things for the glory of God and the spread of the gospel among the heathen around us."

II.

Extract from Dr. Lockhart's Statement in the last Report of the Medical Missionary Society, recently received.

"In the middle of January, 1844, an opportunity presenting of removal to Shanghae, the hospital at Chusan was closed, and the operations of the Society commenced there about the middle of February.

"As soon as the hospital was opened, and it was known that medical relief would be afforded, crowds of people came daily to the house, urgently, often boisterously, requesting to be attended to. As may be seen by the list of cases, a large number of people have passed under treatment, from the middle of February to the end of April inclusive. (The number is 3764.) The persons who applied were not only the residents of Shanghae, but many cases from Súcchau, Sung-kiáng, and other cities in the vicinity, and also from the island of Tsungming. The confidence displayed by the people towards the foreign surgeon has been very pleasing.

"At the conclusion of this report, the hope may be expressed, that the endeavour to benefit this people may be productive of a mutual good feeling between the natives and the strangers who have now commenced a residence in their city; and that the former may not only be relieved from their bodily maladies, but led to Him who went about healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people, and to whom every knee shall bow, whether of Jew or Gentile, professing christian or heathen. May the Lord hasten it in his time."

III.

Extract from a Letter to the Directors of the London Missionary Society, dated Shanghae, June 3rd, 1844, in the Missionary Magazine for January, 1845.

"At this station we trust, by the divine blessing, long to live and labour for the spiritual welfare of the people. Our lives are in the hand of God, and whatever shall await us, whether health or sickness, may we always be resigned to his most holy will. Often have we prayed that we might have an entrance into this land, and not be confined as of old time to one little spot. And now the door is opened wide, and will be opened still wider. Trouble may come, but China can no longer remain shut. May grace be given rightly to improve all opportunities that are afforded us.

"We go very much among the people, and mix with them continually. There is a Chinese service at Mr. Medhurst's, (Dr. Lockhart's coadjutor,) and also at my house, on the Sabbath; but the best preaching places are the temples, where the people gather in large numbers while Mr. M. is speaking, and hitherto we have never been disturbed by the priests or officials. There is one temple to which we go regularly, and

the people bring us benches to sit on. While we stay with them we distribute tracts, which are cheerfully received, and requests frequently made for more. A few days ago, a man called upon me, among my patients, requesting a remedy for deafness, and giving me a paper, in which he spoke of having seen some of our tracts, and wishing for a further supply. Mr. Medhurst had a long conversation with him. It appeared he met with the tract at Nanking, where it was most probably carried by one of my patients, and from which he had gained much instruction. He seemed very anxious for information.

"I have had abundant occupation since I came to Shanghae. Great numbers have daily visited the house, and many respectable persons have come from Foo-Chou and other large cities in the neighbourhood. I have had upwards of thirty operations for cataract since I came here, and I am happy to say that, in many cases, the result is restoration to sight. I am glad to see respectable men and women, even in large numbers, repairing to Shanghae from the country, for medical advice, as it shows that a favourable opinion is produced by our efforts to benefit this great people."

IV.

Extract from a Letter from Dr. Lockhart to the Secretaries of the Crescent Chapel Juvenile Missionary Society, dated Shanghae, January 20th, 1845.

Having referred to the Report from which the last extract is taken, he writes:—"Since that time I have continued my attention to the medical department of the mission as formerly. I have now had my Hospital open for eleven months, and during that time upwards of TEN THOUSAND different persons have applied to me for relief. These have come both from my immediate neighbourhood and from all the surrounding districts. Thus I am able to extend my influence far and wide, and we trust that the persons who have the gospel declared to them by Mr. Medhurst, will not be unimpressed thereby; but that the spoken word, and the distribution of Christian books, will be blessed by God to the conversion of many in this land. May the Lord bless our labours, and cause his Holy Spirit to descend upon us, leading us to adopt those plans which shall tend most to his honour and glory, and the good of the souls of men. He hath opened this land in a way that we looked not for, and surpassed our highest expectations. Would that we were better prepared to fulfil all our work, and the better to improve the advantages we possess."

August, 1845.