

**REMINISCENCES OF
MEDICAL
MISSIONARY WORK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649152735

Reminiscences of medical missionary work by W. Burns Thomson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

W. BURNS THOMSON

**REMINISCENCES OF
MEDICAL
MISSIONARY WORK**

W. BURNS THOMSON, F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E.
MEDICAL MISSIONARY



affectionately yours
W. B. New Thomson

W. BURNS THOMSON

F.R.C.S.E., F.R.S.E.

REMINISCENCES
OF MEDICAL MISSIONARY WORK

WITH BIOGRAPHICAL CHAPTERS BY J. C. D.

AND PREFACE BY

JAMES L. MAXWELL, M.A., M.D.

London

HODDER AND STOUGHTON

27, PATERNOSTER ROW

MDCCCXCV

BUTLER & TANNER,
THE SPAINISH PRINTING WORKS,
FRANK AND LONDON.

45205176 ✓

P R E F A C E

THIS volume has a double purpose. It is intended to keep in memory a remarkable man whose life and labours contributed to a fuller and truer view of what is implied in the words "preaching the Gospel." It is intended, further, to make good the hiatus which would otherwise exist in the story of the development of Medical Missions.

Burns Thomson was a Medical Missionary. He counted it his highest earthly honour to be able in all public documents to put the words "Medical Missionary" after his name. To him the title was full of holy meaning. It was nothing less than the modern expression of the missionary method of our Lord and His Apostles. And his glorying in the name was the glorying of a man who had proved in his own experience that the Lord approves to-day the method according to which He Himself, while on earth, delighted to present the message of Eternal Life.

It is difficult to many among us to appreciate such an exalted view of the Medical Missionary calling. Where, as in this country, Christianity affects all the outward conditions of life, and the medical profession as well as all other professions, the missionary aspect which should attach to all true medical life and work is largely hidden. Both doctor and patients are nominally Christian, and this nominal Christian standing excludes the missionary idea. This will not, of course, blind the true and loyal Christian doctor to his duty and privilege; and there are many, thank God, in this country who in their daily rounds are ever remembering that the end of physical healing is the beginning of Gospel opportunity. But it is only in work among the very poor that to the Christian community the Medical Missionary idea reaches some degree of visibility. And the amazing coldness with which the Church still regards such work among the poor is proof enough how much, even in this country, the conception of "preaching the Gospel" requires to be widened.

Out in heathendom, and among Mohammedans, and largely also among the Jews, there is no difficulty in realizing why our Lord chose to link the healing of body and soul so closely together. Not

only are the physical sorrows of the heathen an awful entity on which the Church looks too much with the eye of the priest and Levite who passed by on the other side, but they are the lower field on which God still loves to demonstrate by His servants the power and the love which are to illuminate and enforce the spiritual message. That Medical Missions are increasing, and are bound to increase, is one of the accepted truths of all who are alive to the condition of the unevangelised world.

Among the men of this era of missionary revival, God chose Burns Thomson as the instrument by whom He would communicate to the Church the Medical Missionary impulse. Aready the way had been in measure prepared. Asahel Grant and Parker and Hobson and Lockhart had in various quarters of the globe illustrated the power of the Medical Missionary. The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society had been formed, and men like Drs. Coldstream and Handyside had, in the midst of busy professional careers, urged with voice and pen the cause of Medical Missions. The growth in the Church of missionary zeal and enterprise was also steadily forcing forward the more earnest consideration of the methods most suitable to the accomplishment of the world-wide purpose of the