

The Coogate Doctors



A HISTORY OF
THE EDINBURGH MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY
1841 - 1991

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1841 to 1991

by

JOHN WILKINSON

B.D., M.D., F.R.C.P.

THE EDINBURGH MEDICAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY

EDINBURGH

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DEDICATED
TO
FORMER STUDENTS
OF THE SOCIETY



THE AUTHOR

John Wilkinson was a student of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society from 1936 to 1941. After graduating in medicine he began the divinity course at New College, Edinburgh, which was interrupted by war service with the Royal Army Medical Corps. After demobilisation he resumed his divinity studies and then was accepted by the Church of Scotland Foreign Mission Committee for service in Kenya. He was ordained to the ministry before sailing for Kenya in 1946. He spent almost thirty years as a medical missionary in Kenya. He then returned to Scotland where he was a community medicine specialist with the National Health Service in Edinburgh until his retirement in 1988. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Society since 1976.

He is married to Jean and they have two daughters and a son.

THE MEDICAL MISSIONARY MANDATE

*As you go, preach this message:
'The kingdom of heaven is near'.*

Heal the sick.

Matthew 10. 7-8

*Heal the sick and tell them,
'The kingdom of God is near you'.*

Luke 10. 9

*As the Father has sent me,
I am sending you.*

John 20. 21

*You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
and in all Judaea and Samaria,
and to the ends of the earth.*

Acts 1. 8

Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

Mark 16. 15

Go and make disciples of all nations.

Matthew 28. 19

PREFACE

The story of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society which is recorded in this volume is a fascinating one. Beginning with no accommodation of its own and an income of little over a hundred pounds a year, the Society grew into an organisation which has trained several hundred medical missionaries. During their service with various Churches and Missionary Societies these dedicated men and women have initiated and staffed Church-related health care services in many parts of the world.

In some cases the Society itself bore the initial cost of establishing these services, although its policy was to hand over responsibility to other agencies where possible. The only instance in which this did not occur was that of the Nazareth Hospital in the State of Israel, for which the Society is probably best known today. However, the record of its history contained in this volume will serve to remind us of the many other services which the Society has provided over the one hundred and fifty years of its existence. It is a record of which the Society may be justly proud.

John Wilkinson writes from a unique personal perspective of the Society, firstly having been one of the medical missionary students trained under its auspices, secondly as a medical missionary in Kenya, and latterly on his return to Edinburgh, as a member of the Board of Directors. Knowing this, and his expertise in medical writing, the Society is most grateful to him for the time he has spent in researching and putting together this authoritative account of the origins and development of the organisation which began life as The Edinburgh Association for sending Medical Aid to Foreign Countries, but which we know today as The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society.

David J. Ewing
President

The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society

Chapter One

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Our story begins on a summer evening in the year 1841 in the drawing room of No. 19 York Place, Edinburgh. Our host is Dr John Abercrombie who is the leading consulting physician of Edinburgh at this time. Dr Abercrombie has invited several of his medical and ministerial friends to his home to meet an American doctor who has come to stay with him. This doctor works in Canton on the coast of South China and he has an interesting story to tell.

In 1841 China is still a closed country to foreign nationals. Indeed, at that time China is engaged in the First Opium War with Britain, a war which was to end in the following year with the Treaty of Nanking which opened five Chinese coastal ports to foreign trade and ceded Hong Kong Island to Britain. In view of this situation, any firsthand news of China will be of great interest to a group of professional men such as those who had responded to Dr Abercrombie's invitation on that summer evening.

The Man From China

However, the group is not primarily interested in any political or commercial news which their visitor might bring them, but in the work that he is doing in Canton. He is an unusual person who is described as 'a man of striking ability and inexhaustible energy'. His name is Dr Peter Parker and he is one of the early medical missionaries to work in China. He had been trained in medicine and theology at Yale College and was sent to Canton in 1834 by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, an interdenominational body which was formed in 1810 as the first American foreign missionary society. Dr Parker had worked in Canton until the outbreak of the First Opium War made his work impossible, and so in 1840 he decided to return to America to seek support for the Medical Missionary Society in China. This Society had been formed in 1838 by Dr Parker and Dr Thomas Colledge, an Aberdeen medical graduate on the staff of the British East India Company who had founded an eye hospital at Macao in 1827 and a dispensary at Canton in the following year.

Dr Parker is now visiting Britain and has already spoken in a number of

cities in England before coming north to Scotland to be the guest of Dr Abercrombie in Edinburgh. He is a vigorous and persuasive speaker and tells of the present situation in China and how foreign nationals are confined to the ports of Canton and Macao. There are Christian missionaries in both these cities, but the great need is for Christian doctors to work with these missionaries, and he appeals for support for the Medical Missionary Society that he and others have recently founded in Canton.

An Enthusiastic Response

His hearers were deeply interested in Dr Parker's address and decided to call a more formal meeting to allow others to hear what he had to say. This meeting was held in the Waterloo Hotel in Edinburgh on 26th July 1841. Dr Parker addressed the meeting at some length and spoke of his work and of the Medical Missionary Society in China which he represented.

There was an enthusiastic response to Dr Parker's address from his audience who decided there and then to elect a committee for the promotion of Medical Missions and in particular to co-operate with the Medical Missionary Society in China. Dr Abercrombie was elected chairman of the committee whose membership included the President of the Royal College of Physicians, Dr Thomas Graham, and the President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dr Richard Huie, together with other leading representatives of the medical profession and prominent citizens of Edinburgh.



Dr John Abercrombie

John Abercrombie

The Inaugural Meeting

As a result of the work of this committee a public meeting was held at 2 p.m. on the 30th of November of the same year (1841) in the Royal Hotel in Princes Street. The Lord Provost (Sir James Forrest, Bart.) took the chair and after due consideration, the following resolutions were passed unanimously by the meeting which was described by *The Witness* next day as 'large and respectable':

I. That this meeting being deeply sensible of the beneficial results which may be expected to arise from the labours of Christian medical men, co-operating with missionaries in various parts of the world, thus giving intelligible proofs of the nature and practical operation of the spirit of love, which, as the fruit of our holy religion, we desire to see diffused amongst all nations, resolve to promote this object to the utmost of their power, and to follow the leadings of Divine Providence, by encouraging in every possible way the settlement of Christian medical men in foreign countries.

II. That considering the advantages which Edinburgh enjoys in being the seat of a Medical School of the first excellence, and resorted to by a large number of students from all parts of the kingdom, it is especially incumbent on its Christian Public in general, and on the Medical Profession in particular, to keep this good object in view, and to promote it by every means in their power; and that for this purpose, a Society be now formed, under the name of the Edinburgh Association for Sending Medical Aid to Foreign Countries.

The objects of this newly-formed Association were then set out in another resolution in the following terms:

To circulate information on the subject.

To aid other institutions engaged in the same work.

To render assistance at Missionary stations to as many professional agents as the funds placed at its disposal shall admit of.

The meeting went on to elect the Officers and Directors of the new Association. Dr Abercrombie was unanimously elected President. Two Vice-Presidents were elected. These were the Revd Dr Thomas Chalmers of the chair of Divinity at the University and Professor William P. Alison of the chair of the Practice of Physic (Medicine). A Board of Directors of twenty-four members was then elected and in addition, two Treasurers (both prominent bankers) and three Joint Secretaries (all medical men). The membership of the Board included representatives of the Church, the legal profession and the medical profession. Amongst them may be noted the names of James Syme of the chair of Surgery and Joseph Bell, a surgeon who was the prototype of the fictional detective Sherlock Holmes.

It was agreed that an Annual Meeting of the Association should be held in the course of the third week of November each year and that at this meeting the Office-bearers and Directors for the ensuing year should be elected. Membership of the Association would be open to all persons who contributed not less than five shillings annually to its funds.

Two Years Later

In spite of the decision just referred to, it was two years before the second Annual Meeting of the Association was held, although in the meantime the Board of Directors had met on a number of occasions. This second meeting was held on the 28th of November 1843 in the Mainzerian Hall in St David Street. The President was in the chair and the Treasurer reported that the total income of the Association for the first year of its existence had amounted to £114, of which some forty pounds was still in hand. Also at this time some dissatisfaction was expressed with the name originally chosen for the Association. As a result the meeting resolved that the Association would henceforth assume the name of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society.

This remains the name of the Society to the present day.

Chapter Two

WHAT WENT BEFORE

It was over a hundred years before the Churches of the Reformation responded to the missionary commission they had inherited. There were two main reasons for this. One was the lack of contact of the Protestant Churches with non-Christian peoples before the age of discovery, with the consequent lack of adequate knowledge by those Churches of the world outside Christendom, which was the world which would become the field of Christian missionary activity in later centuries. The other was the need for those Churches to struggle for their existence against hostile religious and secular forces in Europe and to consolidate their own position so that they could evangelise Europe. It was only when this need had been fulfilled that the Churches felt able to initiate and sustain effective missionary endeavour beyond their own borders.

The earliest missionary efforts came from those maritime nations whose trading activities brought them into contact with the non-Christian world. These nations included the Dutch, the Danish and the English. The German contribution to these efforts was at first made through the Danish-Halle Mission which was Danish in origin, but whose missionaries were German by nationality. The mainstream Protestant Churches showed little enthusiasm for missionary activity initially. This activity was left to the missionary societies which were formed by people from the evangelical tradition in those Churches.

The Churches' View

The official view of the Churches was that Christians had no missionary obligation to the rest of the world, or, if they had, it was conditional on those to whom they might preach the Gospel being sufficiently educated and cultured to be able to understand Christian truth. This latter view was being put forward at the 1796 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland during a debate on a proposal to hold a collection for Foreign Missions. It was argued that the Apostle Paul never preached to the barbarous and uneducated, but confined his attention to the centres of civilisation where the people would be polished and refined. In reply to this argument, the Revd Dr John Erskine of

Greyfriars Church in Edinburgh turned to the Moderator and said, 'Moderator, rax me that Bible!'. He then read the account in Acts chapter twenty-eight of Paul's stay on Malta where the people are described, not as educated or cultured, but as 'barbarous people'. But his argument failed to convince the Assembly and the proposal in favour of a collection for Foreign Missions was defeated.

Some sixty years later, a Church of England spokesman in the House of Lords deprecated any attempt to interfere with the religious laws or local customs of the people of India and went on to assure his noble audience that Christians were under no obligation to attempt the evangelisation of India. The official view was that the missionary commission which Jesus gave to his twelve disciples had lapsed with their death.

The Missionary Societies

However, what the official Church bodies refused to take up, the missionary societies recognised as a Christian obligation. In Britain the great age of the missionary societies began with the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society in 1792 under the inspiration of William Carey. This was followed by the founding of the London Missionary Society in September 1795. In February of the following year the Scottish Missionary Society was founded in Edinburgh and the Glasgow Missionary Society in the west of Scotland as the first societies north of the Border. Dr John Erskine was elected President of the former Society.

Amongst those sent overseas by the early missionary agencies in Europe and America were several doctors. These doctors were not usually accredited as missionaries, but as physicians to care for the health of the missionaries. Even as late as 1840, Dr John Ilott who was being sent to West Africa by the Anglican Church Missionary Society, was told that he was not, strictly speaking, a missionary. His proper place was not to preach the Gospel, but to prevent the ravages of disease amongst the missionaries whose mortality rate was distressingly high in the part of the world to which he was being sent. Two years later the C.M.S. informed a doctor of their willingness to employ him as a catechist on the clear understanding that medicine 'was only to be an occasional occupation'. However, it is obvious that mission doctors who were appointed on this basis could not long remain indifferent to the needs of the sick amongst the people with whom their missionary colleagues worked, and soon they were caring for them as well as for their own colleagues.

Medical Missionaries

It will be clear by now that at the time of the foundation of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society in 1841, the concept of the medical missionary was quite new. No missionary society had a medical missionary policy, and even the term *medical missionary* was not in common use. Indeed its first public appearance seems to have been in the name of the body formed by Dr Peter Parker, namely, The Medical Missionary Society in China. It is probable that the eventual adoption of the name The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society by the Directors was in conscious imitation of the name of the China Society.

One of the aims of the new Edinburgh Society was to promote the acceptance of the role of the Christian doctor in the missionary strategy of the Churches. It was the first Medical Missionary Society in the western hemisphere, and it is often said with some justification that its history is the history of Medical Missions. This is certainly true of the English-speaking world.

Chapter Three

THE FIRST TEN YEARS

The Officers and Directors of the newly-formed Society now set to work to fulfil the objectives which had been agreed upon at the meeting held in November 1841.

1. To circulate information on the subject of Medical Missions.

In December 1842 an Address to Students of Medicine was prepared and sent out to medical students in Scotland informing them of the setting up of the new Society, and of the need for well-educated Christian medical men to settle in foreign countries as agents of missionary institutions. The Address went on to hope that some of its student readers might feel disposed to devote themselves to this important work.

The Directors published a small booklet in 1847 containing an address by Dr Daniel MacGowan, a Baptist medical missionary of Ningpo in China, on 'The Claims of the Missionary Enterprise on the Medical Profession'. A thousand copies of this booklet were printed and distributed to doctors and medical students.

A series of six lectures on Medical Missions was organised on a weekly basis for students of the University of Edinburgh. These lectures were given by Directors of the Society in February and March of 1849 and were published in book form in April of that year with the title, 'Lectures on Medical Missions'.

The Directors agreed in 1849 to offer a prize of twenty pounds for the best essay on the subject, 'On the advantages likely to accrue from the employment of Medical agency in connection with Missionary efforts, and on the Scripture warrant for such a combination'. This competition was open to all medical students and to doctors qualified for not more than seven years. Six essays were submitted and the successful one was that written by a Mr Richard Marley, a medical student of London.

Mr George Forbes, a friend of the Society, then offered a sum of twenty-five pounds to be used as the prize for another essay competition. In July 1852 this competition was announced together with the proposed subject for the essay. This was to be, 'The Employment of Medical Agency in Connection

with Christian Missions to the Heathen'. Essays were to be submitted within eighteen months. Four essays were submitted and the one judged to be the best was that by Mr David H. Paterson, a student of the Society, of whom we shall hear more on subsequent pages.

The Society also began to collect information about the names and locations of the medical missionaries of different missionary societies. By 1849 they had a list of forty-five, of whom fourteen were in the Chinese Treaty Ports and nine were in the Near East. News of the activities of medical missionaries was included as a regular feature in its Annual Reports. In June 1851 it was recorded that the Society hoped to establish a Medical Missionary magazine to be published monthly to promote and foster an interest in Medical Missions. The first number of such a publication appeared in January 1854 under the title of an *Occasional Paper*.

2. To aid other institutions engaged in the same work.

Two such institutions are mentioned in the early reports of the Society as receiving aid. The first one was the Medical Missionary Society in China which Dr Parker had represented during his visit to Edinburgh. A sum of fifty pounds was sent to that Society in April 1843 and again in November of the same year. The initial grant was delayed until it was clear that the Chinese Society had resumed its work after the suspension due to the First Opium War.

The second institution was the Syrian Medical Aid Association which had been formed in London in September 1841 and whose Secretary had been present at the inaugural meeting of the Society in Edinburgh in November 1841. This Association was formed for the purpose of sending out to Syria a surgeon or physician with an assistant and a store of drugs in order to care for the indigent sick of that country. A sum of twenty-five pounds was sent to this Association in March 1842. In May of that year The Revd Dr Kerns sailed from London to open a dispensary in Beirut as the agent of the Syrian Association.

3. To render assistance at Missionary stations.

This object proved to be more difficult to fulfil initially than the other two because it depended on a knowledge of where assistance was needed.

One area of which the Society had early knowledge was, of course, China and assistance was given to Dr Parker and his colleagues in the earliest years of the Society. In 1843 a scheme was proposed under which the Medical Missionary Society in China would recruit some Chinese young men for medical training in Britain or America so that they could return to work under the Chinese Society. The Royal College of Surgeons of England expressed

interest in the scheme and offered to provide 'gratuitous surgical education' for up to six students. This scheme appears not to have been taken advantage of as it is not mentioned in subsequent Annual Reports although, as we shall see, one student did come from China in this early period.

In January 1846 the Society undertook to find a suitable person to send as a medical missionary to China, but no suitable person was found. However, in June 1847 an urgent request for a doctor came from The Revd Dr Carlile of the Irish Presbyterian Church. He had established a Mission at Birr or Parsonstown, near Shannon in South-west Ireland and needed the services of a medical missionary to attend to the sick poor of that area. The Society was able to appoint Dr Alexander William Wallace as their agent in this case and he took up his duties in the following year. Dr Wallace thus became the first medical missionary to be appointed and financially supported by the Society outside Edinburgh. He was appointed for one year, but in fact he served in the Birr Mission for six years.

Having been unsuccessful in finding a suitable person to send to China, the Society now turned its attention to India. Once the Society announced its proposal to appoint an agent to India, it received numerous requests for a doctor from mission stations and agencies in that country. This proposal was more successful than in the case of China for as we shall see later the Society was able to appoint its first overseas medical missionary to India in 1852.

The lack of success which the Society had experienced in seeking to recruit qualified doctors as medical missionaries raised the question of whether it would be possible instead to assist suitable students to train as doctors with a view to becoming medical missionaries.

The Decade Summarised

Some ten years and more have now passed since the Society was founded in the Royal Hotel on the 30th of November 1841. *What has been accomplished so far?*

1. Financial aid has been sent to medical missionary agencies in China and Syria.
2. A beginning has been made with the appointment and support of medical missionaries, namely in Ireland and in India.
3. Numerous pamphlets, lectures and appeals have been produced for the information of its supporters and others. These have brought the subject of Medical Missions prominently before the public. Also, information on Medical Mission activities has begun to be collected and

circulated. (In these first ten years the annual income of the Society never exceeded three hundred pounds and this income was mainly expended on 'diffusing medical missionary information' as the Annual Reports put it.)

4. Finally, and most significantly, the Society has begun to consider a scheme to aid suitable students preparing for medical missionary work. (It was this scheme which became the most important contribution of the Society to the cause of Medical Missions.)

Chapter Four

THE 'COOGATE DOCTORS'

The Directors of the Society produced a memorandum on 'Aid to Students' in June 1851, and passed a minute to say that they

resolved to devote part of the funds at their disposal to the supplying of one or more students with the means of prosecuting their professional education, in order to enable them to prepare for entering upon Medical Missionary service.

At the Annual Meeting of the Society on the 21st of March 1852 it was agreed that this scheme for aiding suitable students with their medical education should be adopted. It was also revealed at this meeting that the Society was already aiding two students at the University of Edinburgh on the principles set out in the memorandum. The accounts for 1852 indicate that the total cost of the assistance given to these students was thirty-seven pounds.

The First Students

The first student of the Society was Mr David H. Paterson who was later to be appointed by the Society as a medical missionary to Madras in association with the Free Church of Scotland. We have already met him as the successful essayist in the 1852 essay competition on Medical Missions.



The second student was Mr Wong Fun from China. He had been trained as one of his Chinese assistants by Dr Peter Parker who was so impressed by him that he arranged for him to come to Edinburgh for further training. When he graduated in medicine from the University of Edinburgh in August 1855 the graduation address was given by Professor James Y. Simpson of the chair of Midwifery and one of the Directors of the Society. Professor Simpson is best known for his discovery of the anaesthetic properties of chloroform in 1847. In his address to the

graduates he made special mention of Dr Wong Fun whom he described as 'a most meritorious and modest student' who had carried off 'high prizes and honours' during his medical course. He went on to say that he believed that Dr Wong was the first Chinese to graduate from a European University and that he would now be returning to his own country as a Christian medical missionary. Dr Wong addressed the Annual Meeting of the Society on 4th February 1856 and created great interest. At a special farewell social gathering in June he was presented with a full set of eye instruments. He sailed for China in August of that year as a fully accredited agent of the London Missionary Society. He reached Hong Kong in January 1857 after an adventurous journey in which his ship lost its mainmast in a gale in the Formosa Channel. It was impossible for him to begin work in Canton because of the Second Opium War between China and Great Britain which had begun in 1856. He was, therefore, asked to stay in Hong Kong to open a Medical Mission dispensary there. In 1857 the British and French forces occupied Canton and Dr Wong was able to move there in February 1858. Dr Wong resigned from the London Missionary Society in 1861 and set up an independent Medical Mission in Peking.

As Dr Wong and Dr Paterson finished their medical course, three other students were accepted as missionary students. Four or five more had indicated their interest in missionary work and the Directors of the Society were very much encouraged by these first-fruits of their new student training scheme.

The Cowgate Dispensary

At first the assistance afforded to students under the new scheme was mainly financial. However, on the 25th of November 1853 Dr Peter D. Handyside, one of the founder Directors of the Society, opened a Medical Mission Dispensary in a dingy garret-room at the head of the West Port in Edinburgh. The Dispensary was usually called The Main Point Medical Mission Dispensary, but was officially named The Missionary Dispensary and Hospital for the Irish Poor. The significance of this name is that the original request to Dr Handyside for medical help for the sick poor of the Irish community in the Grassmarket area came from The Revd P. McMenemy,

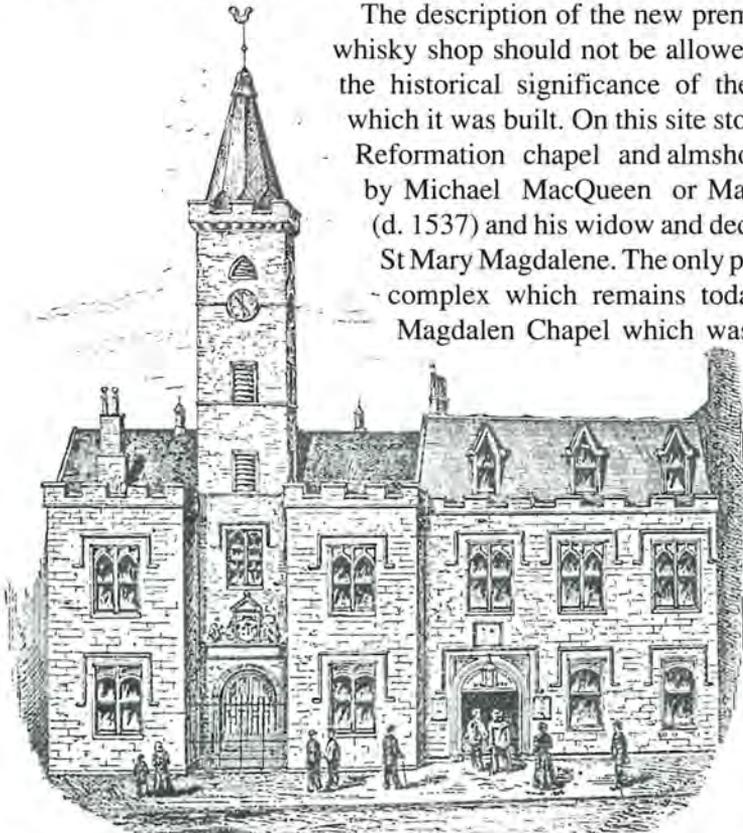


Dr Peter Handyside

Missionary to the Irish in Edinburgh. This Medical Mission Dispensary was the first one of its kind to be established in Great Britain and was the origin of the Society's Training Institution. A number of medical students assisted Dr Handyside with the work of this dispensary, some of whom were medical missionary students.

However, by 1858 the work at West Port had quite outgrown its facilities and had to be temporarily closed down in March of that year until Dr Handyside could find more commodious premises. These he found in a whisky shop at No. 39 Cowgate, a thoroughfare known locally as 'The Coogate'. The current tenant of the shop was unable to continue his lease of the shop because of ill-health and he readily accepted Dr Handyside's offer to take over the unexpired portion of the lease. After satisfactory terms had been agreed, the premises were opened at Whitsunday 1858 as The Edinburgh Medical Mission Dispensary and Training Institution.

The description of the new premises as a whisky shop should not be allowed to hide the historical significance of the site on which it was built. On this site stood a pre-Reformation chapel and almshouse built by Michael MacQueen or MacQuhane (d. 1537) and his widow and dedicated to St Mary Magdalene. The only part of this complex which remains today is the Magdalen Chapel which was built in



The Livingstone Memorial Missionary Training Institute and the Magdalen Chapel.

the mid-sixteenth century. Soon after it was built the patronage passed to the Incorporation of the Hammermen (Metalworkers), of which Michael MacQueen was a prominent member. It witnessed some of the important events of Scottish history and was eventually sold by the Hammermen in 1857 to the Protestant Institute of Scotland along with the land on which the Medical Mission Dispensary and Training Institution now stood. The Institute agreed to allow the Society and the students the use of the chapel for meetings and services.

The first Assistant Doctor to be appointed to the new Dispensary was Dr John M. Hunter who was greatly beloved by the students for he did not spare himself in helping them with their studies and their practice in the Dispensary. However, after about a year he resigned in the spring of 1859 to become a naval surgeon.

After Dr Hunter resigned, Dr William Burns Thomson was appointed Superintendent of the Dispensary and Training Institution and became responsible for the training and supervision of the students in their dispensary practice. Dr Thomson and his wife were able to take up residence in No. 39 Cowgate in the summer of 1866 when the premises had been refurbished and expanded to accommodate them. They moved there just in time to cope with an outbreak of cholera in the district. Dr Thomson had a great interest in medical missionary work and had received the second prize in the Society's second essay competition held in 1852. He proved to be an energetic Superintendent. In October 1865 Dr Thomson began to publish a monthly *Medical Missionary Journal* giving news of medical missionary activities in various parts of the world.

The Dispensary Adopted

The Dispensary and the Training Institution were, of course, independent of the Society, being still the responsibility of Dr Handyside. However in 1858, one of the medical missionary students in training named John Lowe, of whom we shall hear more later, drew up a petition on behalf of the students in which he proposed that the Society should adopt the Dispensary and Training Institution. This petition, which had the full support of Dr Handyside, was presented to the Board of Directors at a breakfast meeting in the rooms of the Bible Society in York Place. The Directors, however, felt that they could not agree to the proposal until the funds of the Society increased, but they did agree to give an annual grant of twenty pounds to the Dispensary.

The Annual Meeting of the Society which was held on the 18th of

November 1861 took this matter further, and accepted a motion proposed by Professor James Miller that the Society should take over full responsibility for the Dispensary. It thus became part of the provision of the Society for the training of medical missionary students in both medical and evangelistic work. One result was that the Superintendent of the Dispensary, Dr Burns Thomson, now became an employee of the Society. This arrangement worked well until in 1868 Dr Thomson felt that his authority as Superintendent was being undermined by the Directors and this led to a long exchange of letters between them. Eventually in May 1870 Dr Thomson resigned from his position as Superintendent, but he agreed to stay on until the arrival in October of Dr David Paterson from Madras as his successor. After he left the service of the Society Dr Thomson continued to publish his valuable *Medical Missionary Journal* and established a Medical Mission Dispensary for the training of missionary nurses in the Canongate of Edinburgh, which he ran for eight years. After this he moved to Mildmay in London and then to Bournemouth where he died in April, 1893.

The Miller Memorial

Professor James Miller had been appointed to the chair of Surgery in the University in 1842. He was elected a Director of the Society in 1847 and in 1860 he became a Vice-President. He gave regular lectures on Medical Missions to the students and acted as a consultant at the Dispensary. In 1864 he died at the age of fifty-two, and soon after his death his many friends and admirers resolved to associate



No. 56 George Square
and Professor James Miller

his name with the Medical Missionary Training Institution he loved so well. They did this by raising a fund in his memory to purchase a house which might be used to accommodate the Superintendent of the Institution and the medical missionary students who were in the earlier years of their training and not yet able to take part in the clinical work of the Dispensary at No. 39 Cowgate.

After many disappointments, a suitable house was found at the end of 1868 in No. 56 George Square and was duly purchased for the sum of £2,100. It was at first called The Miller Memorial Medical Missionary Training Institution, a name later shortened to Mission House or the Miller Residence, and eventually (and unofficially by the students) to 'The Square'. In 1877 a beautiful white marble bust of Professor Miller was given to the Institution sculpted by Sir John Steel R.S.A. This was installed first in the dining room and later in the hall of the new house. On the occasion of student rags this bust has been frequently found to have been improved by the addition of a hat and scarf and even additional facial whiskers!

The Dispensary Expands

Meantime the Cowgate premises in their turn had become inadequate as the patient attendances increased fivefold in the first five years of the operation of the new Dispensary. The Society in 1865 therefore decided to lease the dwelling house and workshop which were situated behind and adjacent to the former whisky shop. The dwelling house was refurbished to accommodate the Superintendent, his wife and the nine students then accepted for training by the Society, as well as domestic staff. The old Dispensary which had been the whisky shop was turned into a laboratory, and the waiting room became the accommodation for the nursing staff. The new Dispensary was formed out of the workshop and since this stood back from the noisy street, it was said to be 'perfectly quiet for all the purposes of auscultation'.

The New Superintendent

In March 1871 the Directors appointed The Revd Dr John Lowe as Superintendent of the Cowgate Dispensary and Medical Training Institution after the sudden death of Dr David Paterson who had held the post for less than six months. Dr Lowe was a former student of the Society and was a medical missionary with the London Missionary Society at Neyoor in Travancore (now Kerala) in South-west India. Owing to the ill-health of his wife he had to resign from the London Missionary Society. Dr Lowe was a very gifted and able Superintendent from whose time many of the important developments in the history of the Society can be dated. He was so capable that when Mr Benjamin Bell, the Secretary of the Society died in 1883, Dr Lowe was invited to assume the duties of Secretary of the Society in addition to those of Superintendent, duties that he carried out with great acceptance and efficiency until his death in the service of the Society in 1892.



The Revd Dr John Lowe

At the social gathering held to welcome him to his new post, Dr Lowe thanked the Directors for appointing him as Superintendent and went on to express his faith in the Society in the following words:

This Society has a great work to do. I cannot but believe that it is destined to occupy a much more prominent position in the Christian world than its warmest friends venture to expect.

In that faith he began his work. Almost his earliest task was to see through the press the first number of the Society's *Quarterly Paper* for which he was to be responsible for the next twenty-one years. His considerable literary ability is obvious in the pages of this publication and also in his other publications, which included *Medical Missions: Their Place and Power* published in 1886, and the *Jubilee Memorial* volume published in 1891 on the completion of the first fifty years of the existence of the Society.

The Pattern Emerges

With the enlargement of the premises in the Cowgate, the purchase of No. 56 George Square as the Miller Memorial, and now the appointment of Dr Lowe as the new Superintendent, the pattern of student training which was to be followed in the years to come began to emerge. Students were required to be in good health and to be committed evangelical Protestant Christians who intended to be medical missionaries. They had first of all to be accepted for the medical course at the University or at the Extra-Mural School of Medicine of the Royal Colleges in Edinburgh. When they began their course they were normally expected to become residents in the Mission House at No. 56 George

Square under the supervision of the Superintendent. Then as senior students they moved down to the residence attached to the Cowgate Dispensary in order to share in the clinical practice there under the guidance of the Resident Physician. At all stages of their course, the students shared in the evangelistic work of the Medical Mission Dispensary. During their medical course they were given lectures on various aspects of Medical Mission work. The Society undertook to pay all the educational expenses of each student admitted to the Training Institution such as class and examination fees, and the cost of books and instruments. The cost of the board of each student was expected to be provided by the student himself or his friends.

The Livingstone Memorial

Although this pattern was now well on the way to being established through the facilities which by now existed, it was soon realised that the premises occupied by the Society in the Cowgate were not ideal. One visitor wrote that the Society's activities were being carried on 'in a dingy building, which, being imperfectly lighted and ill-drained, is only prevented from lapsing into actual decay by constant surveillance'. The decision was, therefore, taken in May 1874 to replace the existing premises with new and more adequate ones.

It was further decided to associate these new premises with the name of David Livingstone who had sailed for Africa in the same year as the Society was founded and who had died at Chitambo's village in Africa almost exactly a year before the decision to build the new premises in the Cowgate was reached. Dr Livingstone, it was recalled, had himself been a medical missionary and a corresponding member of the Society. He had also spoken at a public breakfast meeting held in The Royal Hotel, Edinburgh under the auspices of the Society on the 23rd of September 1857 when about two hundred people came to hear him.

The Society was initially informed that the cost of the new building would be £10,000, but was later relieved to find that it could be built for £8,000. The Directors then set about appealing to the Christian public for the necessary funds. In London a series of drawing-room meetings was held at which The Revd Dr Robert Moffat, Dr Livingstone's father-in-law, was present to show his approval of the Society's proposal and appeal for funds. The total sum required was eventually obtained in December 1877, having taken some three and a half years to raise. The final contribution of over three thousand pounds came from the Livingstone Memorial Bazaar held that month in the Music

Hall in Edinburgh under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Louise, and opened by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh (Sir Thomas Boyd).

Meantime the Directors began the task of finding a suitable site for the new Livingstone Institution. The owners of the site of No. 39 Cowgate were the Directors of the Protestant Institute and they were unwilling to sell that site to the Society. In February 1875 the Directors reported that they had found a site in Chambers Street beside the Watt Institution (later the Heriot-Watt University) and instructed their architect to begin digging the foundations. However, the City Improvement Trust insisted on a more elaborate and ornamental style of architecture than the Directors felt they could afford and so that site had to be given up.

A further approach to the Directors of the Protestant Institute was more successful, and in May 1876 it was reported that they had agreed to sell the site on which No. 39 Cowgate stood to the Society but that they wished to retain the Magdalen Chapel. Temporary premises for the Dispensary were obtained on the other side of the street, and the building of the new Institution was ready to begin. The plans had been drawn by Mr Robert R. Raeburn, a well-known Edinburgh architect. The laying of the memorial stone of the new Livingstone Memorial was performed by The Revd Robert Moffat, D.D., on the afternoon of the 9th of June 1877 in the presence of a large gathering. In the cavity was placed a hermetically-sealed bottle with photographs of Dr Livingstone and Dr Moffat, copies of the Edinburgh newspapers of that day and of the current Quarterly Paper of the Society. On the front of the stone was the following inscription:

Livingstone Medical Missionary Memorial.

The Rev. Robert Moffat, D.D., laid this stone, 9th June, 1877.

The new Institution was duly inaugurated by a dedication service held in the new waiting room on Friday 25th January 1878. The Superintendent, The Revd Dr John Lowe, in the course of a short address, said that the Dispensary was now ready and equipped and the staff would begin work there the following week. The completion of that part of the building providing residential accommodation would take a little longer to complete.

Chapter Five

THE IDEA SPREADS

The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society was the first western missionary society which confined its interest to Medical Missions. Once it had been founded and its existence and purpose became known, other similar societies were established throughout Great Britain either as independent societies or as affiliated auxiliaries of the Edinburgh Society. An example of an independent society is the Association for the Aid of Medical Missions in China which was formed in Glasgow in 1844. The formation of auxiliary Societies in Aberdeen, Perth, Kirkcaldy and Dumfries was announced in the Society's Annual Report for 1848. The Aberdeen Society was founded at the initiative of students interested in Medical Missions. In 1856 an auxiliary Society was formed in Belfast and in Liverpool in 1863.

Also, in 1856 the Society accepted the offer of Dr Edward Blackmore, formerly of Bath, to travel as their deputy throughout England. He would endeavour to diffuse a knowledge of the objects and operations of the Society and to augment the resources of the Society. This offer was accepted and this gentleman spent six months on deputation work in England during the course of which he visited London, York, Bath, Bristol, Torquay, Plymouth, Southampton, Leeds, Cheltenham, Manchester and Liverpool. In each place he saw many of the leading medical men and other influential citizens.

The Society itself assisted in spreading the idea of Medical Missions by publishing the *Occasional Papers* to which we have already referred. These papers included news from missionaries in the field and valuable hints and facts bearing on the subject of Medical Missions which had come to the notice of the Officers or Directors of the Society.

It is interesting to find indications about this time that the idea of doctors being missionaries was still regarded as a new one. Thus a writer in *The Witness* for the 7th of February 1857 comments as follows:

Medical Missions are the sign of a new influence leavening the missionary mind of the Church - the diagnosis of a hidden, healthful stream of thought that has set in, and is destined to affect the entire missionary enterprise. That this more comprehensive conception of missions should have awaited the discovery of experience, whilst it might have been drawn from the fount of missions, is remarkable.

There is no doubt that the formation of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society and its vigorous activity since its foundation played a major part in stimulating interest in Medical Missions amongst the Christian public in general and amongst the missionary societies in particular.

Home Medical Missions

The idea of Medical Missions was not confined to lands overseas but included the establishment of Home Medical Mission Dispensaries in the cities of Great Britain. We have already seen how this came about in the Edinburgh Cowgate. A second Dispensary was opened in Grange Court, Causewayside in Edinburgh in 1874 by Dr Brodie of Liberton. Similar Dispensaries were opened in Liverpool (1866), Glasgow (1868), Aberdeen (1869), Manchester (1870), London (1872), Bristol (1872), Monkwearmouth (1873) and Birmingham (1875). In the establishment of all these Dispensaries we can trace the influence of the Edinburgh Society. These institutions combined medical practice and evangelism and were often the only source of medical help for the sick poor in these towns. They had their own staff, but also they were able to call on the specialist services of Christian consultants in their city.

The Dispensary method of the provision of medical care for the sick poor had been begun in Edinburgh in the second half of the eighteenth century. The early voluntary hospitals did not wish to assume the financial burden of an outpatient department and so welcomed the setting up of charities which established Dispensaries for outpatient treatment. The first Dispensary of this kind to open was the Royal Public Dispensary in 1776. This was followed in 1815 by the New Town Dispensary. When The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society was formed in 1841, its Directors soon realised that a Dispensary in the Old Town of Edinburgh would not only provide an outpatient medical service for the sick poor, but also an avenue for evangelism and the training of medical students, especially those who might become medical missionaries overseas. The Society therefore sought to encourage the establishment of Medical Missions both at home and abroad.

The London Association

On the 2nd of March 1878 a group of seven Christian men, six of whom were doctors, founded the Medical Missionary Association in London with Dr James L. Maxwell, formerly of Formosa, as its Secretary. In the minutes of

their first meeting held on the 2nd of March in that year they specifically acknowledged the influence of the example set by the Edinburgh Society. They followed the pattern of this Society closely. They provided grants for the medical education of medical missionary students and in 1885 opened a hostel in north London for their accommodation. In 1890 they established the Islington Medical Mission to provide dispensary practice for their students. The Association supported medical missionary work overseas by donations and gifts, and produced a magazine which was at first called *Medical Missions at Home and Abroad*, then *Conquest by Healing* and is still published under the title of *Saving Health*.

The American Societies

In 1880 Dr John Lowe recorded his pleasure at receiving a copy of the first Annual Report of the first Home Medical Mission to be set up in America on the pattern of the Cowgate Dispensary in Edinburgh. This was opened in April 1879 in Philadelphia by Dr Kirkpatrick who had had advice from friends with experience of the Medical Mission founded in Liverpool in 1866.

In the following years two Medical Missionary Societies were formed in America. The New York Medical Missionary Society (later called the International Medical Missionary Society) was founded in April 1881 with Dr George D. Dowkontt as its Superintendent and Secretary. It opened its first Dispensary in New York City in June 1882 and later was able to open at least two other ones. The American Medical Missionary Society was founded in Chicago in 1885 by Dr Martyn Scudder who had been a medical missionary in India. This Society established a Medical Mission in connection with Mr D.L. Moody's Church in that city.

The New York Society also began to assist medical missionary students financially and in 1884 was able to report the graduation of the first of its medical missionary students. This Society also established a Training Institution similar to the one in Edinburgh with a residence which initially accommodated nine students.

The German Institute

The influence of the Society was not confined to Great Britain or America. One direct illustration of this is the foundation of the German Institute for Medical Missions (Deutsches Institut für Ärztliche Mission) in Tübingen in South Germany.

The Medical Missionary Society of Stuttgart was founded in 1898 as an auxiliary of the Basel Missionary Society. The moving spirits behind the new Society were Paul Lechler, a wealthy Stuttgart entrepreneur and Dr E. Liebendorfer, a medical missionary recently returned from India on grounds of ill-health. In 1902 Dr Liebendorfer died and was succeeded as Secretary of the Stuttgart Society by Immanuel Kammerer, a local schoolmaster who in 1906 came to Britain to attend an English course at Cambridge University. At Paul Lechler's suggestion, he took the opportunity to see the work of the Edinburgh Society and the London Association at first hand. After this visit, a meeting of German and Swiss missionary societies was held in Frankfurt-on-the-Main in November 1906. At this meeting it was decided to establish a German Institute for Medical Missions.

It was agreed to locate the Institute at Tübingen in South Germany and a substantial three-storey building was erected, towards the cost of which Paul Lechler made a generous contribution. On the 20th of October 1909 the new building was dedicated in the presence of the King and Queen of Württemberg.

The Institute comprised four departments and was more comprehensive in its facilities than the British Societies. The training of medical missionaries in conjunction with their attendance on the medical course at the University of Tübingen was the same as that carried on in Edinburgh. In addition, nurses and midwives were to be trained for missionary service, and a short course of elementary medical training was offered to missionaries who were proceeding overseas. Finally, the Institute included a Hospital for Tropical Diseases designed to cater for missionaries (and others) returning from overseas.

The Institute carried on its work of training students and promoting Medical Missions in Germany until the rise of the Nazi regime which broke its links with the University Medical School, and then the Second World War and its aftermath virtually abolished German Medical Missions. The Tropical Diseases Hospital, however, continued and its support absorbed almost all the finance and staff of the Institute, which had to sell the building in which its work had begun in 1909.

Since 1950 the Institute has been able to resume its work of the promotion of Medical Missions. It provides an important source of information and advice for Churches, Missionary Societies and Aid agencies. It is able to give a limited amount of financial aid and to supply essential drugs to medical missionary staff and institutions overseas. It acted as host to the two important consultations on the Christian ministry of healing in 1964 and 1967 respectively, and continues to be an important centre for study, research and reflection on

Medical Missions and the Christian ministry of healing. In addition, the Institute is still responsible for the Hospital it originally established in Tübingen. This Hospital is now the referral Hospital for Tropical Diseases for the south of Germany.

Chapter Six

TO LANDS OVERSEAS

Once the Society was established and its existence and objects became known, it was obvious that many calls for assistance would come from individuals and missionary societies. Indeed, this was the desire of the Directors for it was only in this way that they could learn of situations in which they could be of help.

The first areas in which they became aware of the need for medical help were in China and Syria. As we have already seen, this arose out of the part which Dr Peter Parker of Canton had played in the formation of the Society and the appeal from the Syrian Medical Aid Association which had reached them about the time the Society was established.

China

We have already described how grants were made to the Medical Missionary Society in China and how Dr Wong Fun became a student of the Society and was trained in Edinburgh. After his training he returned to China and worked as a medical missionary to his own people until his death, twenty-one years later, in 1878.

The annual Abstract of the Treasurer's Account does not show the continuation of grants to the Chinese Society beyond the initial two of fifty pounds each in 1843. The Annual Reports of the Edinburgh Society do, however, indicate a continuing interest in the medical missionary work in China which was being carried on by the London Missionary Society and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

In 1844 the Society resolved to send a medical missionary to China and welcomed the desire of the newly-formed Glasgow Association in Aid of Medical Missions in China to co-operate in this venture. After taking advice the Directors decided that the location of their missionary should be at Foochow which was one of the ports open to foreign nationals under the Treaty of Nanking (1842). Work had just been begun there by American missionaries. However, seven years later the Directors had to report that no one suitable had been found to send.

That the Directors did not lose interest in China following their failure to find a medical missionary to send there is illustrated by the episode of the Opium Petition. The cultivation of the opium poppy and the preparation of the opium drug in British India was a state monopoly. The Indian government and British traders derived a handsome profit from smuggling the drug into China, where its importation was forbidden by the authorities because of the harmful effect that opium addiction had on its people. This illegal traffic in opium led to the two Opium Wars of 1839 and 1856 respectively. In 1855 a committee was formed in London under the chairmanship of the Earl of Shaftesbury to organise a campaign for the suppression of this traffic. In support of this campaign the Society drew up a petition to be presented to both Houses of Parliament, and this was adopted by the Annual Meeting of the Society held on the 29th of January 1857. This petition was presented on behalf of the Society to the House of Lords by the Earl of Shaftesbury and to the House of Commons by Charles Cowan, Esq., M.P.

Syria

A grant was also made to the Syrian Medical Aid Association in 1843, and in 1845 a sum of ten pounds was sent to the Christian Education Society For Syria for the support of Syrian medical students studying in London.

The Revd Dr Kerns was the first medical missionary employed by the Syrian Association in Beirut. He was appointed in 1842, but then became interested in work amongst the Jews and in 1843 resigned from the Syrian Association and went to work in Jerusalem under the auspices of the Society for the Promotion of Christianity amongst the Jews. The Syrian Association then transferred its medical work to Damascus and appointed Dr James B. Thomson as its medical missionary to work there. This was the first contact of the Edinburgh Society with Damascus where some forty years later it was to establish a Dispensary and a Hospital to which we devote a chapter later in this history.

India

Having failed to recruit a medical missionary for China, the Society now had its attention drawn to the needs of India by Mr Kenneth Macqueen, one of its own Directors. After due consideration the Directors in 1849 formed an India Sub-committee and gave it powers to consider this proposal, to raise funds for the purpose and to recruit a suitable person. One problem was where

such a person should be located. One attempt to solve this problem by the India Sub-committee was to suggest that any Local Association in Britain or India which raised £150 or more should be allowed to recommend where the medical missionary should be posted. In the event, this sum was not raised by any Local Association.

Enough money was raised, however, and in 1852 Dr John Owen Evans, a graduate of London University, was appointed to work in *Mirzapore* near Benares where the London Missionary Society had established a mission station. Dr Evans was thus the first overseas medical missionary to be appointed by the Society and he was jointly supported financially by the Society and the London Missionary Society. He sailed for India in September 1853 and reached Mirzapore in the following February. He arrived seriously ill, having begun to have bouts of sickness on the way from Calcutta. However, he recovered but was not able to begin work until April 1854. He saw patients first on the mission compound but moved to a more central location in the bazaar in August. He recorded that his greatest inconvenience was from the language because the Muslims spoke Urdu, the Hindus Hindi and the village people their own vernacular.

Dr Evans came on leave in the summer of 1856 in order to get married. Whilst he was in Britain it was agreed with him that on his return the Medical Mission would be moved to *Benares* as a more promising field than Mirzapore. At this time the London Missionary Society found it was unable to continue its support of Dr Evans and the cost of establishing the new Medical Mission at Benares was borne entirely by the Society. Dr Evans returned to India in the autumn of 1857, to a land still disturbed by the recent events of the Sepoy mutiny. After landing at Calcutta he and his wife proceeded to Benares. However, the health of his wife and also of himself soon gave concern and Dr Evans felt that he had to resign and return to Britain. In the Society's Annual Report for 1858 it was announced that his connection with the Society had now ceased after six years in its service as its first overseas medical missionary.

In the Society's *Occasional Paper* for April 1855 appeared a letter from The Revd John Braidwood drawing attention to the opportunities for a medical missionary in *Madras*. This was followed in the July number by an advertisement for a doctor who would go as a medical missionary to Madras. The Annual Report for 1855 records the appointment of Dr David H. Paterson as a medical missionary to Madras to be jointly supported by the Society and the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland.

We have already met Dr Paterson as one of the two original students of the

Society along with Dr Wong Fun and as the successful essayist of the Society in 1854. Dr Paterson sailed from Southampton for Calcutta in June 1856 and was met by The Revd Dr Alexander Duff who arranged for him to visit most of the missionary institutions and government hospitals and dispensaries in that area. He then sailed to Madras where he arrived on the 13th of September. Within six weeks of his arrival he was laid low with a severe attack of malaria. He soon began negotiations for the establishment of a Dispensary in the Madras district of Black Town (later called Georgetown) and this was formally opened on the evening of the 3rd of March 1857. A local Madras Medical Mission Committee was formed to support Dr Paterson in his work. Later, the American Mission which had been working in the city decided to move south from Madras and concentrate their work at Madura(now Madurai). This meant that their premises at Royapuram in Madras city became available and these were purchased from them by the Medical Mission. These premises included a school house which was turned into a Dispensary, and a chapel which became the Hospital. There was also a large house which was used to accommodate Dr Paterson and his family together with the new Training Institution for Indian medical evangelists. This Institution was opened in 1866 when fifteen students began a four-year course of training.

In May of 1870 Dr Paterson became seriously ill and in June he was invalided home by sea. Before he and his wife reached Suez, she was delivered of their youngest child whom they named Simla which was the name of the ship on which he had been born. Dr Paterson recovered his health sufficiently to be appointed Superintendent of the Society's Medical Missionary Training Institution in the Cowgate at the end of October 1870, but he died in February 1871 at the early age of thirty-eight.

After Dr Paterson's death the Directors established a fund in order to support Mrs Paterson and her three young sons, which was generously subscribed in both Scotland and Madras. Dr Paterson's eldest son followed in his father's footsteps and qualified in medicine at Edinburgh in 1885, though not as a student of the Society. In 1886 he was the Resident Physician at the Cowgate Dispensary and then went to Aden with the Keith Falconer Mission of the Free Church of Scotland. However, most of his missionary career was spent in Hebron where he served from 1893 to 1922, at first under the Mildmay Medical Mission and from 1901 under the United Free Church of Scotland. He is therefore known in medical missionary history as Paterson of Hebron.

Dr Paterson was replaced by Dr William Elder as the medical missionary at Madras on the 11th of November 1871. He was employed on the same terms as Dr Paterson had been. Dr Elder was a former student of the Society and had

been chosen by Dr Paterson as his successor. He had sailed for Madras in October 1871 and was able to travel through the Suez Canal which had been opened two years earlier.

In 1874 the Training Institution was closed because of the difficulty of providing boarding accommodation for students from other Missions. Instead two Indian Christian youths were employed at each of the Dispensaries to be given practical training. In 1878 the Society handed over its share of the responsibility for the Madras Medical Mission to the Foreign Mission Committee of the Free Church of Scotland.

The Society had been anxious for some time to establish a Medical Mission in *Bombay* and had collected money for this purpose. After serving in the Cowgate as Resident Assistant Physician for a year, Dr David Young was appointed as an agent of the Society in 1866. He set sail with his wife for India in the same year and first visited Dr Paterson in Madras. He then proceeded to Poona where he opened a temporary dispensary. He finally reached Bombay and began work there in 1867. He was supported locally by an enthusiastic committee, who after three years took over responsibility for the Medical Mission from the Society. Dr Young had to return home in 1871 because of serious illness and was not able to return to Bombay. He was succeeded by Dr Macdonald, an Edinburgh medical graduate.

Another student of the Society, Dr Colin S. Valentine, who graduated in 1861, was immediately accepted by the Mission Board of the United Presbyterian Church and sent first to Beawar and then to Jaipur in Rajputana (now Rajasthan). Very soon after his arrival he realised the desirability of training suitable Indian Christian young men as medical missionaries to their own people. He prepared a scheme by which this might be done and enlisted the support of the main missionary societies working in northern India, who formed a committee to support him.

In 1881 Valentine and his committee bought a house in *Agra* in the United Provinces and established the Agra Medical Missionary Training Institution. This Institution was run on the same lines as the Edinburgh one, but without a Dispensary. The students took the medical course at the Agra Government Medical College and were accommodated and given missionary training in the Institution. The Society was so interested in this work that in 1885 the Directors agreed to its adoption by the Society which became responsible for Dr Valentine's salary and the bursaries provided for the students. Dr Valentine had to resign on health grounds in 1901 when he was succeeded by The Revd Dr William Huntly from the United Free Church Mission in Rajputana. In 1913 Dr Huntly died from pneumonia and the Institution was closed.

The Society then sought the advice of the Indian Medical Missionary Association about its future and it was agreed that it should not continue as an Institution. The training of men as medical missionaries would be transferred to Miraj and that of women to Ludhiana, and the allocation of bursaries would be made by a committee of the Association. The bursaries were still to be funded by the Society, and the Society still holds endowment funds for this purpose and grants bursaries to students on the recommendation of the Christian Medical Association of India. Dr Valentine's work in Agra was recognised by the University of Edinburgh in 1876 when it conferred on him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. He is the only former student of the Society to be honoured in this way.

Japan

Although it was not until the introduction of the New Constitution in 1889 that Japan officially allowed freedom of religious belief to its people, Christian missionary work began to be tolerated from 1872. In September of that year a Missionary Convention held in Yokohama issued a call for medical missionaries.

As a result, in 1873 the Society resolved to establish a Medical Mission in Japan. They agreed to send out as their first missionary Dr Theobald Palm, one of their students who had just graduated in medicine at Edinburgh University. Dr Palm and his newly-wed wife sailed on the 10th of March 1874 and arrived safely in Yokohama in May and then proceeded to Yeddo, which is the former name for Tokyo. Here they rented part of a bungalow from an American merchant. Dr Palm wrote subsequently from Yeddo to say that they were visiting various places in order to decide where the Medical Mission should be located. They finally decided on Niigata which lay on the west coast of the central area of Honshu which is the largest of the main islands of Japan. Niigata was the only Japanese Treaty port without a Protestant missionary.

However, on the 19th of January 1875, Mrs Palm died at Yeddo three days after giving birth to a daughter who also died twelve days later. In spite of this setback, Dr Palm carried on with their plan and in April 1875 he moved to Niigata and rented a house to use as a dispensary. In 1879 he was able to open a small hospital of twelve beds. At midnight on the 6th of August 1880 a fire broke out in Niigata which destroyed three-quarters of the wooden buildings of which the city was composed. Dr Palm's house, dispensary and hospital were among the buildings which were destroyed that night.

He rebuilt these buildings and was able to hand them over to the care of two missionaries of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions when he proceeded on home leave in 1883. Whilst he was on leave, circumstances arose which prevented his return to Japan and he had to resign in 1884. The Society then handed over responsibility for the Medical Mission established by Dr Palm to the American Board.

France

Miss de Breon, a Dutch lady, had established a Mission in the populous industrial district of Belleville in the east of Paris and in August 1873 she appealed to the Society for help with the addition of the services of a doctor to those of the Mission. The services of Dr Robert Laidlaw were obtained in April 1874 and the Society agreed to support him as their agent for two years. A small local committee was formed to provide advice and support for his work. However, within a year, Dr Laidlaw resigned to become the Superintendent of the Glasgow Medical Mission.

The Dispensary he had established continued to operate for another year but without a doctor. After two years the Directors felt that they had discharged their obligation to this work in Paris and their connection with it came to an end. The Medical Mission did, however, continue and in 1877 one of the Directors of the Society who paid it a visit reported that the doctor working there was a son of Dr John Coldstream who had been a Secretary of the Society from 1841 to his death in 1863.

The First Fifty Years

We may now pause to consider how the purposes for which the Society was founded in 1841 have developed over the first five decades of its existence. These purposes may be summarised in the following way:

1. To encourage acceptance of the principle of Medical Missions, namely that qualified Christian medical men and women have an important role to fulfil in Christian missionary work.
2. To provide bursaries for medical missionary students and to supplement their medical studies with training in theology and evangelistic methods, together with practical clinical experience in a Home Medical Mission.
3. To provide medical, social and spiritual care for the sick poor of the Cowgate area of Edinburgh on an outpatient and domiciliary basis.

4. To collect and circulate information and news of medical missionary work at home and abroad.
5. To assist medical missionaries at work overseas by providing financial assistance and grants of drugs and equipment needed for their work.
6. To initiate the establishment of Medical Missions at home and overseas, and to transfer these to local management as this becomes possible and appropriate.

The last three chapters have shown how these purposes were fulfilled by the Society in the first fifty years or so of its existence. By its work it established the Medical Mission principle in theory and practice, and has continued to do so up to the present time amid changing circumstances and in the face of new challenges.

The desire of the Society to avoid long-term involvement in the establishment of local Medical Missions has been illustrated above in the case of India, China, Japan and France. However, this desire was not fulfilled in the case of the two Medical Missions which were established in what was then the Turkish province of Syria. These two Medical Missions were those established in Nazareth and Damascus. It is appropriate, therefore, to devote a chapter to each of these in view of their long connection with the Society.

However, before we do so, we must see what has been happening in the Cowgate where the Livingstone Medical Missionary Memorial Training Institution was dedicated in January 1877.

Chapter Seven

THE 'COOGATE DOCTORS' AGAIN

We left the work in the Cowgate at the point where the new Institution was about to be occupied. In May 1878 Dr Lowe reported that the building had now been occupied and was proving to be most suitable and convenient for the various activities of the Society in the Cowgate.

The 'Coogate Doctors' were, of course, the medical missionary students of the Society. They were in the Cowgate for two purposes: for the medical, social and spiritual benefit of the people of the Cowgate, and for their own training in preparation for medical missionary work at home or overseas. In the event, most of them went overseas after their training and experience in Britain. During their time with the Society they were full-time medical students but, it may be asked, what did they do in the Cowgate ?

Medical Work

The weekly programme of medical work in the Dispensary in which the medical missionary students took part may be summarised as follows:

1. Daily evening surgeries at 6 p.m. each weekday for consultations, surgical dressings and minor surgical operations.
2. Medical clinics at 3 p.m. three times weekly.
3. Specialist paediatric and gynaecological clinics at 3 p.m. held twice weekly by visiting specialists from the Royal Infirmary and elsewhere.
4. Antenatal clinics at 3 p.m. twice weekly followed by subsequent domiciliary delivery by senior students under supervision.
5. Dental clinic at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays.
6. Domiciliary visits to patients as requested and required.
7. Daily dispensing of medicines at times of clinics and surgeries.
8. Attention to urgent cases at any time in Dispensary or home.
9. Classes for clinical instruction of students as indicated.

The Mission students shared in the medical work of the Dispensary according to a recognised schedule which became established over the years. First year students attended the evening surgeries to carry out surgical

dressings and other routine treatments. Second year students were instructed in dentistry on Tuesday and Friday evenings by Mr Lindsay Westwater, an Edinburgh dentist, who gave his services free to the Cowgate Dispensary for the thirty years from 1921 to 1951. In their third year, students worked in the pharmacy under the eagle eye of Miss Mary Wright, the pharmacist for twenty-eight years in the Cowgate, who retired in 1945. For these first three years, the students lived in No. 56 George Square. In their fourth year they moved down to the Residence attached to the Dispensary and took part in the routine and on-call medical and midwifery practice of the Dispensary. After their fourth year they were expected to study for their final examinations and no specific responsibilities were expected of them, although they might continue to stay in the Dispensary Residence if there was room and so gain further medical and midwifery experience.

The statistics of the above activities are given in the Annual Reports and the following figures for the year 1894-1895 will give some idea of the amount of work involved in these activities at that time.

Patients seen at surgery hours	3,537
Surgical dressings or minor operations	2,955
Patients visited in own home	3,395
Gynaecological clinic attendances	128
Paediatric clinic attendances	251
Domiciliary midwifery cases attended	352
Smallpox vaccination clinic attendances	105
Total first attendances	10,723



Evening Surgery

being held. This incident attracted a small crowd of onlookers and they came into the meeting too.



Open-air Meeting

From time to time evangelistic campaigns were held by the students, usually under the leadership of medical missionaries on leave, who had been former students of the Society. These provided invaluable training and experience for the students.

Social and Philanthropic Activities

In addition to the medical and social activities just mentioned, there were numerous other activities of a social and philanthropic nature which were carried on by the Society in the Cowgate.

1. A Saturday evening musical and literary entertainment was held every fortnight. This was to provide an alternative to the public house for the inhabitants of the Cowgate. Latterly this became a weekly evangelistic service at which musical items were provided by the choir which was trained and conducted by Dr Keppie Paterson.
2. A Young Women's Association formed an important part of the work of the Dispensary. This Association operated numerous evening classes for the teaching of sewing, reading, writing and arithmetic, and provided a savings' bank, an employment registry, and a lending library. One to two hundred young women were usually enrolled as members of this Association.

3. A Young Men's Association provided classes for reading and writing and facilities for reading and recreation which were open daily. This Association also operated its own savings bank. In some years there were more members of this Association than of that for the young women.

4. A Boys' Club was formed in 1908 by Dr Maxwell Williamson, the Medical Officer of Health for Edinburgh and met weekly up to the time of the Second World War. Amongst its most popular activities was a tented camp held for a week each summer.

5. A Toddlers' Play Group was begun in 1922 and was carried on until the Dispensary closed in 1952.

6. A Scout troop and a Cub pack were formed. The Scout troop was called The Livingstone Troop and met on Wednesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

As well as these regular specific activities many other individual and informal activities carried on by the students, nurses, lady visitors and volunteer workers of the Institution and the Dispensary. Many different items of food, clothing, linen and medicine were handed into the Dispensary for distribution to those in need and were distributed by the staff of the Dispensary. Even leeches were handed in for use by the medical staff.

All these activities provided an excellent training ground for the medical missionary students. In addition, the Vacation Courses in theological and missionary topics should be mentioned. The courses were held annually during the week before the beginning of the academic year in October. They were conducted by theological professors, parish ministers and missionaries and formed a very valuable part of medical missionary preparation. Just to ensure that the students had been listening, the lecturers were asked to prepare questions for an examination at the end of the Course.

Staff

The staff who were responsible for the above activities of the Dispensary may be divided into several different categories.

The permanent medical staff of the Dispensary was made up of the Superintendent, the Resident Physician (usually a recently-qualified former student of the Society), five visiting honorary consultants and five general practitioners. The names of many famous Edinburgh physicians and surgeons are to be found amongst those who served as honorary consultants to the Dispensary over the years.

The medical missionary students of the Society varied in number each year. From the year 1886 to the year 1949, the numbers averaged from twenty to forty with peak years in 1894 when there were forty-two students in training and in 1934 when the number reached forty-seven. The students came from almost every Christian denomination within the British Isles.

In addition to the medical missionary students, a number of other medical students usually in their senior years shared in the work of the Dispensary. As many as seventy or more are mentioned in the Annual Reports as sharing in the work of the Dispensary in any particular year.

In addition to the above there were several nurses and lady visitors and a great number of voluntary helpers of various kinds.

Accommodation

Even with the opening of the new Livingstone Memorial Institution, the Society's premises in the Cowgate were inadequate for all its activities there. Although nothing more could be done at that time, the Directors gave much thought to the problem of accommodation and its possible solution. Money was set aside for the acquisition of new premises and this was augmented from the Jubilee Fund set up for the Jubilee of the Society in 1891. The result was that in 1900 the Directors were able to purchase from the Edinburgh Corporation the strip of land situated to the west of the Institution. This purchase gave them



No. 39 Cowgate in the year 1903.
Magdalen Chapel (left) Livingstone Memorial Institution (centre) The Rock (right).

additional frontage on to the Cowgate and also a narrow frontage on to the lower part of Candlemaker Row.

A Building Committee was set up under the Convenership of Dr Keppie Paterson, and Mr Thomas P. Marwick was engaged as architect. Plans were drawn up for the new extension and for the reconstruction of the interior of the existing premises. These were put into effect and the extended building was opened on the 3rd of December 1903 by the Marquis of Aberdeen. The new west block was named The Rock.

The new premises included a large hall, more clinic rooms, additional student accommodation, a caretaker's flat and three shops. The large hall, which could hold three hundred people, was named The John Lowe Hall in memory of the former Secretary of the Society who had died in 1892. The extended premises gave more space for the social work activities of the Society for, in addition to the above, they included a reading room and clubrooms for boys and young men, and the shops soon housed a Temperance Restaurant. With all these changes the buildings now assumed the form in which they still exist.

The Temperance Restaurant did not prove viable and had to be closed down after about two years. The space released by this closure was used to provide more accommodation for the Boys' Club and the Young Men's Association.

Hawthornbrae

For some years convalescent patients from the Cowgate had been allowed to use the facilities of a Convalescent Home at Gilmerton, but the accommodation there had not been adequate to house all those who needed convalescent or holiday facilities. The Directors, therefore, welcomed the bequest of Mrs Margaret Sanson who in 1892 bequeathed the Society the villa and grounds of Hawthornbrae in Duddingston Village together with an endowment for its upkeep. The terms of the bequest were that the house was to be used as a convalescent home for poor people in the city of Edinburgh and the parish of Duddingston. Hawthornbrae was officially opened on the 26th of May 1894 and over the years it provided much needed rest facilities for several hundred women and children annually. In the First World War it became a camp for units of the Territorial Army, and in the Second World War it became an auxiliary hospital and was used by the Polish Relief Society. It is now rented to the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility for use as a residential home.

The Cowgate Closes

In the Annual Report for 1948 concern was expressed about the financial state of the Society on account of the rapid increase in the cost of all its activities at home and abroad. Over the next three years each of these activities was examined and evaluated in terms of the original aims of the Society.

The result was that in 1951 the Directors decided that the Cowgate Dispensary and its associated Livingstone Medical Missionary Memorial Institution were no longer viable. There were a number of reasons why they came to this decision.

The *first* one was the decreased number of students coming forward for medical missionary training. This in turn was due to a number of factors. Substantial educational grants for students taking the medical course became available from the State after the Second World War and so they did not need to apply to the Society for financial assistance as they had done in the past. Also, medicine had become a very popular course and there were many applicants for the few places available. Only a third of those who applied to the Society were accepted by the University. In addition, the medical course was now making increased demands on medical students who had less time to spend on extra-curricular activities such as those of the Cowgate.

The *second* one was the introduction of the National Health Service in Britain in 1948. Since everyone was now entitled to the free services of a general practitioner of their choice, there was no need for the type of Dispensary service for the sick poor such as the Cowgate Dispensary had provided. In fact, the Dispensary did become a new type general medical practice for about three years in order to see whether it could fit into the N.H.S. structure.

The *third* reason we have already mentioned, namely, the serious financial state of the Society represented in the steady increase of expenditure over income during and after the Second World War.

The solution to the problem came from the University. The Medical Faculty was anxious to preserve something of the Edinburgh tradition of undergraduate training in family practice which the Dispensaries had provided. It was decided, therefore, to set up a University General Practice Unit which would continue this tradition. The Directors were approached to see if they would agree to the purchase of the Cowgate premises by the University, and after some consideration they agreed to this. So in the year 1952 the long and honourable association of the Society with health care services in the Cowgate and its neighbourhood came to an end.

Chapter Eight

THE NAZARETH HOSPITAL

The massacre by the Turkish authorities of some eleven thousand Maronite and Syrian Christians in Lebanon and Damascus in 1860 led to the formation of the London Society for Sending Aid to the Protestants of Syria. In 1861 this London Society appointed as their medical agent Dr Kaloost Vartan, an Armenian doctor who had recently qualified in Edinburgh after being a student of the Edinburgh Society at the same time as Dr Colin Valentine and Dr John Lowe. Dr Vartan was given one hundred pounds and an outfit allowance from the funds of the Syrian Asylum Committee and sent to Beirut. Later in 1861 he was invited to go to Nazareth to open a Dispensary there. A year or so later a box of surgical instruments, medicines and books was sent to him from Edinburgh to aid him in his work.



Dr P. K. Vartan

The Syrian Asylum Committee was dissolved in 1864 and its financial support of Dr Vartan ceased. For the next two years he was supported privately through Dr Burns Thomson, the Superintendent of the Cowgate Dispensary. When the Edinburgh Directors heard of his situation, they decided in 1865 to adopt him as their agent in Nazareth at an annual salary of one hundred pounds for two years as from the 1st of January 1866. They believed that the support of a medical missionary in Nazareth, the town where Jesus had grown up, would be welcomed by members of the Society.

The Intrepid Pioneer

In July 1866 Dr Vartan was invited to Edinburgh by the Directors and whilst there engaged in postgraduate study and discussions about the future of his work in Nazareth. At the end of his visit he married Miss Mary Anna Stewart, a Scottish nurse who was a cousin of Dr James Stewart of Lovedale.

It is recorded that Dr and Mrs Vartan were married at 1.30 p.m. on the 2nd of June 1867 and left for Nazareth at 4.15 p.m. the same day!

Now that the work in Nazareth had been firmly adopted as a Medical Mission of the Society, the question arose of its adequate accommodation. Dr Vartan's own rented house became the first Hospital as one of its upper rooms was furnished with eight beds. He then moved to two adjoining houses which he rented, one as a Hospital and the other as his own house with the Dispensary on the ground floor. The Hospital was opened in April 1871 and eventually accommodated beds for eighteen inpatients.

After some years this rented accommodation began to prove inadequate and unsuitable and so in 1879 a plot of land thirty-five acres in extent was purchased overlooking Nazareth town.

The price paid for it was just over two hundred pounds. Dr Vartan prepared plans for the new Hospital and a doctor's house, and in 1882 began to build, having been assured that the necessary building permit or *firman* would be forthcoming without any difficulty. But he had been misled. In 1883 when his own house was built and occupied, and the Hospital more than half-built, the Turkish authorities ordered him to stop building on the grounds that the ownership of the site on which he was building was in doubt. Eventually the legal authorities in Constantinople decided that the site was public or Crown land and must be handed over with all its buildings to the local authorities. When this was done, the local authorities paid Dr Vartan the sum of one thousand pounds as compensation.

Nothing more happened in regard to Hospital premises until 1895 when the Directors agreed that Dr Vartan should again try to secure a new site in Nazareth. However because of his leave and serious illness in Scotland, it was only in 1903 that Dr Vartan was able to begin to search for a new site. In this search he was assisted by Dr Frederick J. Scrimgeour who was sent from Damascus, and who in the following year became his colleague at Nazareth. As a result of this search, a suitable house in the heart of the town was rented as a temporary Hospital in 1905. Finally in 1906 a suitable and available site on the hillside to the west of the town was found and purchased. This time, the title-deeds were obtained from the Turkish government without much difficulty. However, before much progress had been made towards the erection of buildings on the new site, Dr Vartan and his wife had died; she on the 8th of December 1906, and he on the 3rd of December 1908. Both Christians and Moslems were the pallbearers at Dr Vartan's funeral.

Dr Scrimgeour Takes Over

Following the death of Dr Vartan, Dr Scrimgeour became the Society's agent or medical missionary in Nazareth. By now he had the assistance of two nurses, Miss Edith Johncock had arrived at the end of May 1905 and Miss Jessie Croft in February 1908. Since, for lack of finance, the building of the new Hospital was not immediately possible, it was agreed that Dr and Mrs Scrimgeour and Miss Johncock would proceed on home leave in 1909 and Miss Croft would stay with other missionaries to study Arabic until the others returned from leave in March 1910. The medical work at the Dispensary in Nazareth was taken care of by Dr Farah of the Medical Faculty of the Syrian Protestant College in Beirut (now The American University of Beirut).



Dr F. J. Scrimgeour

About this time an event occurred which was to have a significant effect on missionary work in the Ottoman Empire in general, and in Syria and Palestine in particular. The Young Turk Revolution in the year 1908 forced the Turkish Sultan Abdul Hamid II to restore the First Ottoman Constitution of 1876. Under this Constitution the people were guaranteed religious liberty, and this made Christian missionary work easier. For instance, Christian literature could now be sent through the Imperial Ottoman Postal Service without being confiscated and destroyed. In this connection it is interesting to note that Dr Vartan became a naturalised British citizen in 1880, which made his relationships with the Turkish authorities easier. As an Armenian he was a Turkish citizen and thus subject to the restrictions imposed on Armenians by the Ottoman empire.

The arduous and faithful work of Dr Vartan and his colleagues had established the reputation of the Dispensary and Hospital. This, together with the increased political and social freedom under the new Ottoman Constitution, meant that the Hospital and the Dispensary were becoming less and less equal to the demands placed upon them. The building of a new and modern Hospital was imperative. They now had the site. All they lacked was the money.

The Directors began to appeal for funds to build the new Nazareth Hospital in 1906. However, in 1907 the financial situation of the Society caused some concern and the special appeal was held in abeyance until 1909. Meantime plans for the new Hospital were drawn up by Mr R. Gibson, an architect of Dundee. In 1910 the underground water storage tanks were excavated and in

1912 the doctor's house was completed. The funds for the Hospital building were greatly augmented by the proceeds of a great Nazareth Bazaar held from the 4th to the 6th of December 1913 in the Music Hall in Edinburgh.



At work in the old Operating Theatre.

The First World War

The money now being in hand, the Hospital began to be built using the local limestone which becomes hard and white on exposure. It was nearing completion when the First World War broke out and on the 12th of November 1914 Turkey declared war on the Allies. Dr Scrimgeour and his family had left in October for a holiday in Egypt and were unable to return. He was commissioned in the R.A.M.C. and given command of a large prisoner-of-war camp in Cairo. The Hospital was closed and Miss Johncock and Miss Croft moved into the doctor's house. The nurses were taken under American protection and so were not interned. Their services were commandeered by the Turkish military authorities and the Hospital turned into a Turkish Military Hospital. Miss Croft died suddenly on the 1st of June 1916 and was buried at Nazareth with full Turkish military honours. The end of the Palestinian campaign found Miss Johncock in Damascus nursing under the British military administration. Dr (Major) Scrimgeour became the Principal Medical Officer for Northern Palestine based in Nazareth, but was not able to return fulltime to his medical missionary work until April 1920. Sister Johncock returned from Damascus to Nazareth in September the same year.

The new Hospital which they had left nearly completed they found to be little more than 'a shattered shell'. Walls had been pulled down; the roof had been stripped of its tiles; the iron beams had been taken out and used to make ovens in Turkish Army camps miles away from Nazareth, and nearly all the trees around the Hospital had been cut down. The main rooms had been used as stables for Turkish Army horses. However, the Mission staff were able to resume occupation of the old Hospital in the town, and to make arrangements for the completion of the new building. This was achieved in 1923 and the facilities of the new building were said to compare favourably with the best in Palestine at that time. The official opening of the New Hospital was performed by the British Governor of Northern Palestine on the 25th of April 1924. From its commanding position it became known as The Hospital on the Hill.



The Hospital on the Hill in 1924.

After his arduous work and wartime experiences, it is not surprising that Dr Scrimgeour (now an O.B.E.) felt that the time had come for him to retire. He had given nineteen years of service when he retired in April 1921. His colleague for many of those years, Sister Edith Johncock (now the recipient of the Royal Red Cross) fell a victim to influenza and died on the 5th of December 1920, to the great sorrow of all who knew her. As their successors, the Directors appointed Dr William D. Bathgate, M.C., and Sister Mary Parkinson. With this new leadership and a new Hospital shortly to be opened, a new chapter in the history of Nazareth Hospital was about to begin.

Dr Bathgate Arrives

Dr Bathgate came from a Scottish family who had settled in New Zealand in 1864. In 1910 he was accepted as a student of the Society and qualified in medicine in 1915. He then became Regimental Medical Officer of the 18th Welsh Regiment and was decorated for gallantry at Ypres. He was appointed by the Directors to Nazareth in 1920 and he and his wife, with Irene their daughter, arrived in Nazareth at the end of January 1921. After a week, Dr Scrimgeour left for Britain and Dr Bathgate was in charge without, as yet, having had the opportunity of wrestling with 'the intricacies of vernacular Arabic'. However, within a short time he was able to spend three months at the Arabic Language School near Beirut. So began thirty-five years of the dedicated service of Bathgate of Nazareth, known to the local people as the *Hakeem Englisi* (The English Doctor).



Dr W. D. Bathgate

These thirty-five years saw developments similar to those in medical missionary work elsewhere in the world. As the already-established good reputation of the Hospital continued to spread, the confidence of the people was illustrated by an increasing workload in both outpatient and inpatient departments. This led to a need for an increase in staff and an extension of the accommodation for patients. An east wing housing a new Abercrombie Ward for men and several other rooms was added to the Hospital in 1933. There was more involvement of the local people by an extension of the training of Palestinian Arab nurses. Improvements in equipment were made in all departments. When electricity reached Nazareth in 1933, it became possible to install an x-ray machine and this was done in 1935. The involvement of the Hospital staff in community health care continued and increased with regular visits to the villages and Bedouin camps around Nazareth and the extension of maternity and child welfare services to the townspeople of Nazareth and the inhabitants of the surrounding area.

These years are described in the Annual Reports of the Society as 'years of strenuous work', which they certainly were. But it was work carried on against an uncertain and changing background. There were the Arab-Jewish hostilities of the nineteen-thirties, the events of the Second World War, the ending of the British mandate in the May 1948 and the establishment of the State of Israel thereafter with its impact on the Arab population which the Nazareth Hospital mainly served. Throughout all these anxious years, the

Hospital became and remained an oasis of calm friendship and loving concern for all, which were the expression of the Christian faith and love of the beloved *Hakeem* and his staff.

Dr Tester Succeeds Dr Bathgate

In 1948 Dr Bathgate became an O.B.E. in recognition of his work in Nazareth. Then in January 1956 he handed over administrative charge of the Hospital to Dr John Tester and retired after completing thirty-five years of devoted service to the people of Nazareth. Dr Tester was a former student of the Medical Missionary Association in London and a graduate of London University who had first joined the staff in 1952.

In May 1956 Dr Tester welcomed Dr and Mrs Hans Bernath of Switzerland to the permanent staff of the Hospital. Dr Hans Bernath was a well-qualified and experienced surgeon who had worked with the International Red Cross in Palestine and had stayed at the Hospital in 1949 in the course of his duties with that organisation. He had also acted as locum whilst Dr Bathgate went on leave for three months in 1953.



Dr J. L. Tester

Under Dr Tester's able leadership plans were made for the systematic rehabilitation of the Hospital buildings and the improvement of its equipment, and over the years most of these plans were carried out. The Hospital thus acquired a modern laundry (1957), a new outpatient department (1959), a new nurses' home and chapel (1964), and more adequate staff accommodation. The communion table in the chapel was unique for it consisted of a carpenter's bench as a reminder that Jesus was a carpenter in Nazareth. The nurses' home and chapel were built with funds donated by the Protestant Christians of West Germany. The Ground-breaking Ceremony which preceded the laying

down of the foundations of the building was carried out by the President of the West German Parliament, Dr Eugen Gerstenmaier.

Early in the year 1959, Dr Doris Wilson and a colleague resigned from the staff of the Hospital to go to live in Kafra Yasif, an Arab village about thirty miles from Nazareth under the auspices of the Jerusalem and the East Mission. Dr Wilson (now an O.B.E.) had been on the staff since 1931 when she had

come to join Dr Bathgate who was her uncle, and had taken over the responsibility for the work amongst women and children. After her resignation she maintained her connection with the Society and when she later retired to Scotland she served as President of the Society, the only woman to do so.

The centenary of Dr Vartan's arrival in Nazareth to begin medical missionary work there was celebrated in April 1961. In connection with these celebrations, the Nazareth staff invited the Society to send out a Commission to represent the Directors at that time and to review all aspects of the Hospital and its work. Following the Centenary Service in Christ Church in Nazareth, a plaque was unveiled in the new dining room of the Hospital to commemorate Dr Bathgate's long years of service. On their return from Nazareth, the members of this Commission reported that they had found a busy and efficient modern Christian Hospital of which the Society could be proud.

Dr Bernath Becomes Superintendent

Dr Tester was made an O.B.E. in January 1969 and in August of that year he left Nazareth to become the Secretary of the Society in Edinburgh. Dr Bernath then succeeded him as Medical Superintendent. The upgrading of the Hospital continued with the completion of the new maternity wing in November 1971. This provided better facilities for the maternity cases which at this period numbered well over three thousand each year. In 1972 the medical staff was strengthened by the arrival of Dr Robert W. Martin and his wife Nancy from the Mennonite Board of Missions in the United States.



Dr Hans Bernath

A new extension was built in 1976. Its unusual octagonal shape got it the name of The Tower Block. It contained a new Intensive Care Unit together with an extension of the Hospital kitchen and some staff accommodation. These improvements to the Hospital facilities reflected the great interest and expertise of Dr Bernath in building and building maintenance of which the Hospital has been the great beneficiary. The services provided within the buildings also expanded, most notably with the opening of a unit for renal dialysis in



Dr Nakhle Bishara

October 1981. The first computer was installed in 1982, which made the staff feel that the Hospital had really arrived in the modern electronic age.

But the most significant development reported for 1982 was the increase in medical staff with many of the new members of staff coming from the local Arab community. In particular, Dr Nakhle Bishara had joined the staff in June 1981 as head of the medical department and later he was to become the Medical Director of the Hospital.

As these developments were taking place inside the Hospital, other events were occurring outside. The continuing Arab-Israeli confrontation provided a background to the work of the Hospital which could not be ignored, to say nothing of the continually changing rate of inflation in the country. On the 20th of September 1981 the Israeli government introduced a new national health plan which included the regionalisation of hospital services throughout the country. Under this plan the Hospital became a District Hospital for the Nazareth area, jointly with the other two hospitals in Nazareth Town which belonged to the French and Italian Roman Catholic Missions. This change in status produced an increase in the number of patients attending the Hospital. Also, at the end of the year the Hospital was informed of new regulations which required all heads of hospital departments to be Israeli citizens or permanent residents of Israel. In 1983 the doctors in Israel went on strike and the strike lasted for 114 days. The medical staff of the Hospital did not strike and so they were overwhelmed with patients, some of whom were Jewish. After the strike, the patient numbers did not return to the pre-strike level, with the result that the Hospital facilities once again became inadequate, especially those of the outpatient department.

Dr Bernath Hands Over



Dr R. W. Martin

In January 1988, Dr Bernath became an O.B.E. and on the 18th of March 1988 he was presented with the insignia of an Officer of the Order by the British Ambassador to Israel at a special ceremony at the Hospital. On the 1st of April 1988 after thirty-two years of devoted service to the Nazareth Hospital and the people of Galilee, he was succeeded as General Director of the Hospital (as the Medical Superintendent was now called) by Dr Robert Martin, who had rejoined the staff of the Hospital in 1987 after some time in the United States. Dr Martin's wife Nancy became Director of Nursing Education and took charge of the Hospital's School of Nursing.



Mrs Nancy Martin

The Nazareth Project

The increase in the workload of the Hospital combined with the need to satisfy the requirements of the Israeli Ministry of Health for a District Hospital, resulted in the visit to Nazareth of a delegation of the Directors from Edinburgh. Their review of the needs and facilities of the Hospital was the basis of the decision by the Board of Directors in 1984 to prepare a master plan for the development of the Hospital. This plan included as its first phase the construction of a new outpatient department, so that accommodation for outpatients could be separated from that for the reception and treatment of accidents and emergencies. This department was built almost entirely with funds from Switzerland. It opened its doors to receive patients on the 1st of October 1986, which was celebrated as the 125th anniversary of the arrival of Dr Vartan in Nazareth.



Mr F. M. Aitken

The second phase of the plan was much more ambitious for in 1986 it was decided to include all the needs of the Hospital in one project. Thus the NAZARETH PROJECT was born. Mr Fred M. Aitken was appointed Director of the Project and in June 1987, he began work in the Headquarters of the Society in Mayfield Terrace in Edinburgh. He had a daunting task for the Project included the following elements:

1. A new five-storey ward block to accommodate a new medical and a new surgical ward, and other specialist services and teaching facilities.
2. Extensive upgrading and remodelling of the existing hospital buildings.
3. Development of higher grade nursing training.
4. New and improved living accommodation for nursing and medical staff, both local and expatriate.

And the cost of this second phase? A mere three-and-a-half million pounds sterling ! However, the new Project Director set to work and soon over half this total sum had been raised or promised from sources in Australia, Britain, Canada, Germany, Holland, Israel, Japan, Switzerland and the United States. By the end of 1990, the shell of the new ward block was complete and the upgrading and remodelling was expected to be carried out over the subsequent two years.

The project did not aim at increasing the number of beds in the Hospital, which will remain at 124 as before, but it will improve the accommodation and the standard of the facilities. It will make the Hospital an even more worthy expression of the Christian ministry of healing as it seeks to serve and witness mainly to the Arab population of Nazareth and Galilee.

The Bridge Courses

From its early years the Society emphasised the importance of the training of local people as part of medical missionary policy. For many years, therefore, the Hospital has trained local young people as Licensed Practical Nurses and still continues to do so. In 1986 the Israeli Ministry of Health agreed that the School of Nursing of the Hospital could hold courses for the upgrading of suitable Practical Nurses to the higher grade of Registered Nurse. These courses were called 'Bridge Courses'.

The first Bridge Course was held from October 1987 and lasted two years, at the end of which twenty-two students qualified, which represented a 92% pass rate. The second one began in October 1989 with twenty-five students and also ran for two years. A third course is planned. These courses are run in conjunction with the Yellin School of Nursing at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa, though most of the teaching is done in Nazareth.

In November 1986 the Hospital was informed by the Israeli Ministry of Health that Practical Nurses were no longer to be eligible for training as midwives. In future only Registered Nurses could take the course in midwifery. This meant that the training of Practical Nurses in midwifery which the

Hospital's Midwifery Training School had carried on for twenty-two years had now to be discontinued. Since the course began in 1964 forty Licensed Practical Midwives had been trained. Under the new regulations, these midwives would be allowed to continue to practice, but only under the supervision of a Registered Midwife.

The Gulf War

With the outbreak of the Gulf War in January 1991 Israel came under attack by SCUD missiles fired from Iraq, and several of these were neutralised by American Patriot anti-missiles in the sky within sight of Nazareth. These attacks led to civil defence alerts which interrupted the work of the Hospital staff. When an alarm was sounded the staff and patients had to don gas masks and proceed to shelter in rooms which had been sealed to prevent the possible entry of poison gas. Fortunately no missile fell on Nazareth and Iraq did not use poison gas.

Finance

Finally, a word about the financial support of Nazareth Hospital. It will have become clear during this chapter that such an institution is expensive to manage and maintain. In general terms, the capital cost of the Hospital is mainly met from overseas sources in Europe including the United Kingdom and Switzerland, North America and Australia. The recurrent cost on the other hand is mainly met from local sources, especially the Israeli health care insurance schemes. In the year 1990, the financial turn-over of the Hospital was in the region of three-and-a-half million pounds sterling.

Medical Superintendents Of The Nazareth Hospital

Dr Kaloost Vartan	1866-1908
Dr Frederick J. Scrimgeour	1908-1921
Dr William D. Bathgate	1921-1956
Dr John L. Tester	1956-1969
Dr Hans Bernath	1969-1988
Dr Robert W. Martin	1988-

Chapter Nine

THE DAMASCUS HOSPITAL

'A pearl set in emeralds' is the old Arab description of Damascus. In more prosaic terms, it is a white city set in the midst of a vast oasis and surrounded by trees and greenery which owe their greenness to the two rivers Barada and Awaj, called Abana and Pharpar in the Old Testament. It was the first Christian city to be taken by Islam. Muhammad refused to enter it saying that a man can only enter paradise once and if he entered Damascus it might endanger his entry to the celestial paradise.

Given the history of Damascus and its important place in Biblical and Islamic history, it is not surprising that the Society should have been approached to establish a Medical Mission there. This approach provides a good example of how the Medical Mission principle for which the Society stood had become increasingly accepted in missionary circles. Also, of course, now that Nazareth on the other side of Mount Hermon had had a Medical Mission for almost twenty years, why not Damascus too?

The Request Arrives

Accordingly, in October 1881, a letter arrived on the desk of Dr John Lowe in his office in No. 56 George Square. It was written by Mr H.E. MacKintosh who had been for long a missionary with the British Syrian Mission in Damascus. His letter was short and simply stated that the missionaries at work in Damascus would welcome the establishment of a Medical Mission by the Society in that city. He repeated his request in February the following year and explained that he had approached the Society because it was nondenominational and any Medical Mission it established would readily gain the co-operation of the various Christian missionary societies at work in Damascus.

The Directors of the Society accepted the request and the necessary funds were raised. Dr A.F. Mackenzie, a former student of the Society, was appointed and sailed for Syria in December 1882. He went first to Nazareth to study Arabic and local medical practice, but he got no further than Nazareth for after two months his health broke down and Dr Vartan had to send him back to Scotland in March 1883.

Mackinnon of Damascus

The Society then appointed Dr Frank Irvine Mackinnon to fill the vacancy. Dr Mackinnon was a man of outstanding ability who had lived and worked on the continent of Europe and served in the M'All Mission in Paris before he became a student of the Society. He arrived in Damascus on the 2nd of May



Dr F. I. Mackinnon (seated centre)

1884 and in the following year he opened a Medical Mission Dispensary in a hired house in the Old City. He returned to Scotland in 1886 to get married. On his return to Damascus he took over the premises of the former Girls' School of the Irish Presbyterian Mission and fitted them out as a Dispensary with accommodation for a few inpatients. He then had to go to Constantinople to sit the examination for the Turkish diploma in medicine without which no doctor could legally practise medicine in Syria. Whilst he was in the Turkish capital he applied for official permission to work in Damascus unmolested by the authorities and to build a Hospital in which to work. This permission was granted in 1889 mainly through the good offices of the British Ambassador in Constantinople.

In 1887 Dr Mackinnon asked the Society to appoint a second doctor but it was not until 1893 that Dr Scott Smith was appointed, and he was succeeded in 1898 by Dr Percy Brigstocke. In 1902 Dr Brigstocke left Damascus having been appointed to Baghdad by the Church Missionary Society, and after this he was posted to the C.M.S Hospital in Gaza. In February 1907 he returned to Damascus from Gaza to marry Miss Ellen Graham, the Matron of the

Hospital in Damascus. As we shall see, he returned again in 1921 to become Medical Superintendent of this Hospital.

The Society began to raise funds in 1891 for the building of a Hospital at Damascus and in 1893 was able to report that sufficient of these were now in hand to allow building to begin. A suitable site was found in an orchard which was about four acres in extent. This was situated outside the northern wall of the Old City, half a mile from the *Bab Tuma* or Gate of St Thomas across the River Barada (formerly the Abana) on the Aleppo Road. The negotiations for the purchase of the site were expedited when Dr Mackinnon was able to save the life of the son of the Chief Cadi who presided over the court in which the request for the purchase was being considered. The boy was dying from opium poisoning and by maintaining artificial respiration for a full two hours, Dr Mackinnon was able to resuscitate him. Eventually, the site was purchased, and the foundations of the doctor's house and of the Hospital were laid in October 1895.

The Victoria Hospital

The doctor's house was completed in the summer of 1897, while the building of the Hospital continued. That year was the Diamond Jubilee year of Queen Victoria's reign. The local British residents in Damascus agreed to equip a ward in the new Hospital as a Diamond Jubilee Ward to commemorate this. Dr Mackinnon, however, aimed higher and wrote to the President of the



Victoria Hospital, Damascus

Society to ask him to approach Her Majesty for permission to name the Hospital after the Queen herself. The President at that time was Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart who was Physician to the Queen in Scotland and so he approached her with Dr Mackinnon's request. As a result she graciously consented to the request, and signified by Royal command that henceforth the Hospital should be called 'The Victoria Hospital' and she sent a signed portrait of herself to be hung in the Hospital. The Hospital itself with its forty-eight beds was formally opened on the 2nd of April 1898 by the Turkish Wali or Governor-General of Syria (His Excellency Nazim Pasha). At this time it was the only civilian hospital in Damascus.

About the same time, Dr Vartan of Nazareth expressed a desire to have a medical colleague and so the Directors appointed Dr Frederick Scrimgeour of Dundee to proceed to Damascus, where he would spend two years assisting Dr Mackinnon before going on to Nazareth. Dr Scrimgeour went to Damascus in the autumn of 1902 and during his time there studied Arabic and acquired a knowledge of the local diseases. Thereafter he obtained his Turkish diploma in medicine at Constantinople and in 1904 moved to Nazareth.

The building of a separate outpatient department was begun in June 1903, and completed in April of the following year. It was connected to the main building by a short covered way and provided much needed extra accommodation for the examination and treatment of outpatients.

The First World War

In May 1914 the Turkish authorities ordered general mobilisation and imposed martial law on the country. Life became increasingly difficult for the staff of the Victoria Hospital. On the 3rd of November 1914 the Turkish authorities seized the Hospital and placed Dr and Mrs Mackinnon, Miss Mann and a colleague under house arrest in the doctor's house which Dr Mackinnon had previously placed under American consular protection. The Hospital was stripped of its equipment and stores which were taken to a Military Hospital outside Damascus and the building was used to house refugees from Beirut. The expatriate party was allowed to travel to Beirut and stay with American missionaries there. From there Miss Mann was able to return to Britain under the guise of the personal maid to an American lady. Dr and Mrs Mackinnon eventually reached Cairo where he was commissioned in the British Mediterranean Expeditionary Force as a medical officer.

After Damascus was liberated on the 30th of September 1918, the Hospital was used by the American Red Cross and then by the British Relief Unit under

Major Banks, R.A.M.C. Dr Mackinnon returned on the 7th of November 1918, but to everyone's regret he became a victim of the great pandemic of



Dr P.W. Brigstocke

influenza which occurred in that year. He died in Damascus on the 3rd of December and was buried among the people he had loved and served for over thirty years. With the recall of the British Relief Unit at the end of October 1919, Miss Mann (now the holder of the Royal Red Cross) took over the Hospital on behalf of the Society and carried on with the help of Dr Banks (now demobilised). Dr Brigstocke was appointed Superintendent in 1921 and had the difficult task of rehabilitating a hospital which had been stripped of its equipment and facilities during the World War. In 1925 the Directors decided to appoint a lady doctor and in January 1927 Dr Margaret Tait, a former student of the Society, arrived to assist Dr Brigstocke. Miss

Mann left in 1926 after twenty-four years' service.

Following the death of Dr Mackinnon, a fund had been set up in his memory and in 1925 an x-ray machine was purchased and a bed endowed in the Hospital as a memorial to him.

Dr Emrys Thomas was appointed to Nazareth Hospital in January 1931 and in August of that year married Dr Margaret Tait of Damascus. Then in April 1933 Dr and Mrs Thomas were transferred to Damascus. In 1936 Dr Brigstocke (now O.B.E.) retired and Dr Thomas took over charge of the Hospital. He remained Superintendent until the closure of the Hospital in 1957.



Dr E. C. Thomas (seated left)

The Second World War

The work at Damascus was greatly affected by the Second World War. With the entry of Italy into the War on the side of Germany and the collapse of France (the mandatory power) in June 1940 conditions became very difficult in Syria and the Hospital had to be closed. In July the expatriate nursing staff were evacuated to Nazareth, and the doctors followed in August. The doctors had a somewhat adventurous journey and at one point had to change into Arab clothes to escape detection. After the medical staff had left, loyal Syrian friends removed the movable equipment of the Hospital and hid it in the villages around Damascus. The heavy equipment was concealed within the Hospital building. At this time too, these same friends provided an armed guard for the Hospital and were able to prevent two attempts at burglary.

The medical and nursing staff helped with the work in other Mission Hospitals in Palestine and Transjordan until they were able to return to Damascus in September 1941. By the end of December the building was back in their hands and the equipment was restored, so that the Hospital was able to open its sixty-seven beds to receive patients. Village clinics were begun again and Dr Thomas spent a great deal of time co-operating with the American Red Cross in distributing food and blankets to the outlying villages around Damascus.

In the years following the end of the Second World War, the work continued in the face of staff shortages and a changing political background. In 1941 Syria was proclaimed an independent nation by the Free French but was not free of foreign troops until 1946. For the next twenty years the country experienced a number of changes of government. The result was constant uncertainty and increasing inflation which meant that the cost of running the Hospital became greater each year. By 1955 Dr Thomas felt that the work and witness of the Hospital were drawing to a close. The Hospital had been threatened with the withdrawal of its charitable status which would have meant the loss of its immunity to local taxation. Also, difficulty was being experienced in obtaining registration for new medical and nursing staff to allow them to practice in Syria.

The Hospital Closes

In view of all the difficulties being encountered, the Society sent a Commission to Damascus in March 1954 to assess the situation. The visit of the Commission coincided with the ceremony in which the British Ambassador handed over the signed portrait of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to be hung in

the reception room of the Victoria Hospital along with the other portraits of members of the Royal Family from the time of Queen Victoria.

Following the report of this Commission and in view of the continuing difficulties experienced by the Hospital, it was decided that the Victoria Hospital should be closed. This occurred in 1957. The Hospital and the land on which it stood were handed over to the Syrian government and the remainder of the Society's land and property was sold. The name Victoria was dropped and the Royal portraits were sent to Edinburgh to be hung in the Society's Headquarters. The Hospital was turned into an Eye Hospital by the Syrian medical authorities. Dr and Mrs Thomas stayed on for some time after the closure of the Hospital and then returned to Britain.

Dr Thomas Honoured

Dr Thomas was awarded the Medallion of Honour by the Syrian government for his services following the bombing of Damascus by French forces in 1945. On this occasion the Hospital had to cope with over four hundred casualties in a single night. In 1946 he became an M.B.E. in the British honours' list, and in 1953 became an O.B.E.

Before they left Damascus finally in 1959, both Dr and Mrs Thomas were elected honorary life members of the Syrian Medical Association and presented with a memorial plaque. This plaque was embossed in Arabic letters of silver with the words, 'The Fear of the Lord is the Beginning of Wisdom'.

A year later, Dr and Mrs Thomas were seconded to the service of the United Free Church of Scotland and appointed to Molepolole Hospital in Bechuanaland (now Botswana). They served there for ten years as colleagues of The Revd Dr Alfred M. Merriweather, a former student of the Society.

Medical Superintendents Of The Victoria Hospital

Dr Frank I. Mackinnon	1884-1918
Dr Percy W. Brigstocke	1921-1933
Dr Emrys C. Thomas	1933-1957

Chapter Ten

AT THE HOME BASE

The activities of the Society at its home base in Edinburgh have been so varied and extensive that it is quite impossible to do justice to them in a short history of the Society. Even listing the names of those who have been involved in the work of the Society since its foundation in 1841 could occupy much of the space of this history. We must, therefore, content ourselves with only a brief account of these activities and of those who were responsible for them.

Personalia

We begin with the Board of Directors. From the beginning of the Society the names of the Directors included many of the most illustrious and well-known Edinburgh citizens. Two of the best-known were Professor Sir James Y. Simpson, the famous Edinburgh obstetrician, and the Revd Dr Thomas Chalmers of the chair of Divinity first of all in the University and then in the New College of the Free Church of Scotland. Since their time, the lists of Directors in successive Annual Reports have included the names of the leaders of the medical, legal and clerical professions in Edinburgh as well as those of persons involved in banking, business and in the University.

There is one name which should be specially mentioned, and that is the name of Dr Keppie Paterson who served as a Director from 1890 to 1942, as Treasurer from 1908 to 1913, and was Vice-President of the Society from 1916 to his death in 1942 at the age of eighty-one. He took a great interest in the Cowgate and in both the Nazareth and Damascus Hospitals, and was very generous with both his time and money in his visits and support to all three institutions.

The Society has been fortunate in its succession of Secretaries, one of the most outstanding of whom was The Revd Dr John Lowe who was in office from 1871 until his death in 1892. A list of the successive Secretaries and Superintendents will be found in Appendix III.

As an example of the faithful service which many people have given to the Society since its foundation, it is appropriate to mention the service given to the Society by the MacKelvies both of whom were Edinburgh chartered

accountants. Mr Alexander MacKelvie was Assistant Treasurer for thirty-four years (1912-1946) and Treasurer for eight years (1947-1955). He was succeeded as Assistant Treasurer by his son Kenneth who held that post for fifteen years (1946-1961). Kenneth MacKelvie then became a Trustee of the Society for the next eighteen years (1961-1979), and in 1981 he was elected a Vice-President, a position he occupied for five years until his death in March 1986. This means that between them the MacKelvies gave continuous service to the Society for a period of eighty years, a truly remarkable record.

Accommodation

We have already seen how in 1868 the Society acquired No. 56 George Square as a residence for the Superintendent and the junior students of the Society. When the Superintendent also became the Secretary this house became the Headquarters of the Society. No. 57 George Square was the Manse of Bristo Street United Presbyterian Church and it became available in 1893 when the minister then residing there died. The Directors took the opportunity to purchase the house in order to form the residence and office of the Secretary, and so provide accommodation for additional students in No. 56. The accommodation for the other members of the office staff remained in the basement of No. 56.



Nos. 55-57 George Square

In due course No. 55 George Square became available and was purchased by the Society in 1942. The ground floor was used as the Society's offices and the other floors were used as a hostel for the women students of the Society. A doorway was made through into No. 56 and the women students came across to the dining room of No. 56 to have meals with their male colleagues.

The acquisition of No. 55 as a hostel for the Society's women students was the fulfilment of a long-felt desire on the part of the Directors to provide suitable accommodation for their women students. This desire is first mentioned in the Annual Report for 1878 when the first woman student was accepted for training. In 1879 there were four women students in training, but the University and the Extra-Mural Schools did not yet accept women students. These students, therefore, had to take the three-year nursing course at the Royal Infirmary supplemented by clinical instruction provided by the Society. However in 1886 the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Edinburgh resolved to admit women to the examinations for the joint qualification L.R.C.P. & S.E. and so in the the Annual Report of the Society for 1890 the names of two women appear on the list of regular medical missionary students for the first time. The first one to qualify was Miss Eleanor Agnes Montgomery of Belfast who obtained her qualification in 1895, and was appointed by the Irish Presbyterian Church to the Rajputana Mission of that Church.

In 1961 the Society was obliged to agree to the surrender of all the three houses it now occupied in George Square to the University, in order for them to be demolished and replaced by new purpose-built University accommodation. This was part of a plan by which George Square as a whole was to become a University precinct. In the event, the houses were not demolished and are still standing intact, although they are now occupied by various University departments.



The Society's former Headquarters & Student Residence
at Nos. 12 & 14 Mayfield Terrace

The result of the loss of the accommodation in George Square was that in August 1961 the Society's headquarters and student residence were moved to Nos. 12 and 14 Mayfield Terrace in the Newington area of south Edinburgh. After the death of Dr Malcolm Kerr in November 1964, the Directors decided that these new

premises should be called 'The Malcolm Kerr House' in memory of a much loved Superintendent and Secretary.

With the decrease in the number of medical missionary students supported by the Society and requiring accommodation in the Society's student residence, the facilities of this residence were made available to other students, both undergraduate and postgraduate. This continued for some years until more stringent fire regulations for such establishments were introduced. These regulations required various modifications to the houses, which the Society could not afford, and so the residence was closed at the end of the academic year in June 1989.

With the closure of the residence, the building became too large for the accommodation of the Society's offices. The result was that the Directors decided to sell the two houses in Mayfield Terrace and purchase office accommodation elsewhere in Edinburgh. Suitable premises were found at Washington Court in Washington Lane near the Haymarket Railway Station and the Headquarters of the Society were moved into these premises in the summer of 1991.



The Society's new Headquarters at Washington Court

Publicity

From the beginning, the Society was very publicity-conscious. It had a new message to proclaim. The need to include doctors in the missionary team was not generally recognised by missionary societies and the Society saw its

vocation as drawing attention to this need and seeking to train doctors to fulfil it.

There is no space to describe the activities of the people involved in the Society's publicity. The number of miles they travelled, the number of addresses they gave, the number of letters they wrote and the number of publications they sponsored are more than can be adequately recorded.

From the first year of its existence the Society published an *Annual Report* and this provides a vital historical resource for tracing the history and activities of the Society. However in 1853, the Directors felt that additional publicity was required because the Society was not known as it deserved to be. The result was that the first issue of an *Occasional Paper* was published in January 1854 and this continued to be issued at quarterly intervals until October 1961 when it was discontinued for financial reasons as it had been issued free.

In 1863 arrangements were made for a Medical Mission column to be included in the monthly journal *Christian Work* which was published in London. Two years later, as we have already mentioned, Dr Burns Thomson began to publish his *Medical Missionary Journal* which was devoted to medical missionary news.

Then in May 1871 the Society began to publish its *Quarterly Papers* for which the annual subscription was one shilling post free. These Papers became an important source of detailed information about Medical Missions in general and contain much valuable historical material concerning their work and development throughout the world. A special logo was designed for the first issue of the new publication consisting of a upright lighted torch with two representations of the rod and serpent of Aesculapius laid diagonally across it, and encircled by the name of the Society and the year of its foundation. This logo is still in use. In May 1966 the Annual Report and the Quarterly were combined into one publication with the title *The Healing Hand* under the editorship of Dr Edgar Farrow, the new Secretary of the Society. This journal is still published today.



Another avenue of publicity was the monthly prayer meeting which was held for many years in No. 57 George Square and in the homes of friends of the Society. At these meetings former students of the Society and others gave firsthand reports of medical missionary work in different parts of the world.

A film on the work of Nazareth Hospital was produced by Mr N. P. McGavin and was updated in 1966.

It was entitled *Healing Hands in Nazareth*. Since then the Hospital has featured in several programmes on British television.

In 1977 the Society arranged with the National Bible Society of Scotland for the publication of *A Physician's Story* for presentation to graduands of the Edinburgh Medical School as they registered at the Dean's Office for graduation. This book consisted of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles in the New English Bible translation with a preface by the Society commending its reading to the graduands. The book was handsomely case-bound and printed in a clear legible type. It was later made available for distribution through other Medical Schools, and the Christian Medical Fellowship was associated with a second edition which used the text of the New International Version.

The Auxiliaries

The Edinburgh Auxiliaries catered for the different groups of people who were interested in the work of the Society. The earliest one mentioned is The Ladies' Auxiliary which was formed in 1845 and was composed of ladies in Edinburgh who collected donations for the Society. The Junior Auxiliary was founded in 1880 to interest young people in Medical Missions and to raise funds for the Society. This Auxiliary had a special Sunday School Section. The Invalids' Auxiliary was formed in 1878 to cater for those of both sexes who were laid aside by chronic illness and to give them an interest in home and overseas Medical Missions.

The Country Auxiliaries stretched from Aberdeen to Bath. Many of them were founded in the early years of the Society's existence. They held public meetings about Medical Missions addressed by the staff or former students of the Society, collected donations towards the support of the Society, and often took an interest in some particular part of the Society's work.

Finance

The main sources of the income of the Society have been annual subscriptions, regular collections made in Edinburgh and elsewhere, donations and legacies. It will be obvious that much of the activity at the Home Base of the Society is concerned with the raising of funds to finance its various activities. Some idea of the success of this activity may be obtained by comparing the income of the Society at its inception with that of today. As we have already mentioned the income for 1842 was £114, whilst that for 1990

was £131,560. The corresponding expenditure was £74 for the year 1842 and £130,620 for the year 1990, leaving a credit balance of £40 and £940 respectively. However, there have been years in the history of the Society which ended in significant debit balances which caused the Directors some concern. On several occasions special appeals have had to be made to cover these debit balances.

Special mention should be made of the Lady Collectors who in the past raised a large proportion of the income of the Society. In Edinburgh they were organised into twelve districts each with its own Lady Supervisor. They visited the homes of people interested in the work of the Society and collected their annual contributions.

One interesting and specialised source of income was the Stamp Bureau for the collection and sale of postage stamps both British and foreign. The Bureau was initiated in 1911 by Miss J.N.Macgregor when she was Organising Secretary, then carried on by Mr and Mrs Gordon Smith of Hull for twenty-seven years, and latterly by Miss Joan Horton of Gillingham in Dorset, assisted by Miss Gwen Allen. When Miss Horton died in 1990 it was reckoned that the Bureau had raised almost forty-two thousand pounds for the Society since she became responsible for it in 1969. In 1990 alone it raised over three thousand pounds. The money raised in this way is used to send gifts of books to former students and to assist other activities of the Society.

One of the main items of expenditure at the Home Base of the Society through the years has been the provision of bursaries for medical missionary students. These rose in value as the cost of the medical course increased. They were originally in the region of eighteen pounds each year, then thirty-five pounds, then sixty-five pounds and finally one hundred and twenty-five pounds. These bursaries are still available for suitable medical missionary students who for some reason may not be eligible for the normal educational grants from government sources.

Hospital Supplies

Other activities based in Edinburgh were concerned with the supply of hospital linen and other supplies. Sewing Bees were held as early as 1910 to make up garments and hospital linen for the Hospitals at Nazareth and Damascus. In 1913 the Hospitals' Linen Guild was formed, each member of which agreed to contribute the cost of some particular item of hospital linen each year. Then in 1930 the All-Day Working Party was introduced. This met annually in some suitable accommodation and continued for many years.

gradually increasing in size and eventually occupying two days and a large hall. As the result of these activities, boxes of hospital linen, toys, dolls and other items were sent out to the Hospitals in Nazareth and Damascus.

The scheme called Medicines for Overseas was introduced in 1969. Under this scheme donations of medicines from pharmaceutical firms and medical samples passed on by doctors have been sorted and packaged. These packages have then been put into used steel oil drums together with other items of hospital equipment and sent out to Nazareth and to other Church-related hospitals in different parts of the world. Supplies have also been sent to Poland and Romania recently to help to provide for the needs of these countries following the collapse of their Communist governments.

The 3WMAC Scheme

With the decreased expenditure on the training of students which resulted from the increase in State educational grants, other avenues were explored to encourage medical missionary interest among students. One was the 3WMAC scheme, whose full name was The Third World Medical Attachment Centre. This scheme was introduced in 1973 at the initiative of Professor James Farquhar who was then the President of the Society. Under the scheme, grants are made to students who wish to spend the elective period of the later part of their medical course working in health care in a Third World country. A register was compiled of mission and Church-related hospitals which were willing to accept students for their elective period and this register was made available to students to enable them to choose a hospital to which they might apply. The scheme was administered by Mr W. Jamieson, one of the Directors of the Society, who has recently been succeeded by Dr David Harrison.

E.M.M.S. Israel Tours

Tours of Israel were first organised by the Society in 1970 and have continued on an annual basis since that year, and frequently more than one tour a year has been organised. They have been organised by Dr John Tester, a former Secretary of the Society, who usually accompanies the party as the tour manager. The tour is led by one or two ministers from a Church or Churches in Britain. The tours are very popular and they always include a visit to the E.M.M.S. Hospital at Nazareth which other tours usually pass by. This visit often leads to a continuing interest in the Hospital on the part of those who have been on one of these tours.

Chapter Eleven

WHAT HAS THE SOCIETY ACCOMPLISHED ?

Now that the Society has reached its one hundred and fiftieth anniversary, it is appropriate to ask the question, *What has it accomplished?* The answer to this question may be summarised as follows:

1. *It has made the medical missionary principle acceptable.*

When the Society was established in the year 1841, the idea that doctors could also be missionaries was a new one. One of the aims of the new Society was to promote the acceptance of the role of the Christian doctor as part of the missionary strategy of the Church. In this it was successful.

One of the important illustrations of its success occurred in the year 1910. In June of that year the World Missionary Conference was held in Edinburgh, which marked the beginning of the modern ecumenical movement. In connection with this Conference, the opportunity was taken to hold a separate Medical Missionary Conference which met in the Synod Hall in Castle Terrace for three sessions, two of which were chaired by Directors of the Society, in one case the President (Dr John W. Ballantyne), and in the other Professor Sir Alexander Simpson. There were 130 members of this Conference, of whom 57 were delegates to the larger Conference, 46 were medical missionaries but not delegates and 27 other medical practitioners. The report of this Medical Missionary Conference left no doubt that Medical Missions were now to be regarded as 'an integral and essential part of the Missionary Work of the Christian Church'.

This acceptance of the role of the medical missionary in the missionary policy of the Church has also influenced thought about the wider ministry of the Church. The provision of medical and health care services by Church-related agencies in the mission field has helped the Church to understand that it has a ministry of healing in which Christian doctors and other health care professionals share, both at home and overseas. This has given rise to the modern concept of the healing ministry of the Church, a concept which includes all aspects of healing, both medical and non-medical, which are practised on a Christian basis. This concept found particular expression in the

Report of the Tübingen Consultation held in the German Institute for Medical Missions in 1964. This Consultation led to the creation of the Christian Medical Commission by the World Council of Churches in 1968.

2. It has established a pattern of medical missionary training.

The Edinburgh pattern of medical missionary training included the following elements:

- i. Completion of a qualifying course of medical training.
- ii. Accommodation in a medical missionary student hostel.
- iii. Practical training in a Home Medical Mission.
- iv. Provision of a course of theological and missionary study.

This pattern was followed in other centres in Europe, notably in London and Tübingen, and in the United States. It was also followed by former students of the Society when they went to work overseas. We have already seen examples of this in the work of Dr Valentine in Agra, Dr Paterson in Madras and Dr Palm in Niigata, Japan. From the implementation of this pattern have emerged a number of important hospitals and colleges of medical education, e.g. Mukden Medical College in northern China founded by Dr Dugald Christie, a former student of the Society. This College is now part of Shenyang Medical University which still has contacts with the Church of Scotland.

Even though today the responsibility for the medical and health care services established by medical missionaries from overseas has in most cases passed to the local Christian Churches founded by the overseas Churches or missionary societies, the pattern of training outlined above is still found to be sound and viable. This pattern is now followed by some of these local Churches in training medical evangelists for their own national needs.

3. It has trained many medical missionaries on this pattern.

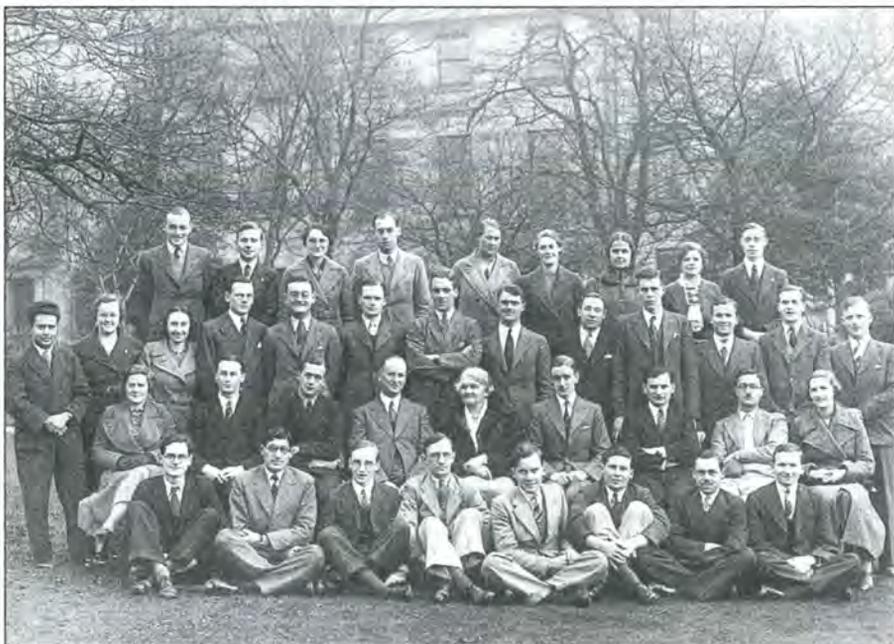
Over four hundred medical missionary students have been trained in Edinburgh under the auspices of the Society since its foundation. In most cases the Society has helped them with grants towards the cost of their medical education and provided them with residential accommodation for most of their course.

Dr John Lechler, a former Secretary of the Society, was fond of saying that the essential characteristics of a medical missionary were 'grace, grit and gumption'. To these we might add 'grounding'. It was this grounding in medical and evangelistic practice which was the important contribution of the Society to the preparation of medical missionaries for their life-work.

Medical missionary work was not without its cost in the health and life of those involved in it. In the Annual Report of the Society for 1909 is a table giving the names of the 158 medical missionaries who had been trained under the auspices of the Society in the previous half-century. The table is divided into three parts:

Those still working overseas	91
Those who had retired from ill-health etc.	26
Those who had died	41

These figures tell their own tale and show that medical missionary work was no sinecure or sheltered life.



E.M.M.S. Students of 1937

G.D. Roworth, J. Wilkinson, C. McCallum, J.W. Edmondson, L.S. Cooke B.A., R.G. Dabb, M.H. Peill, D. Cunningham, K.S. Seal, A.S. Affara, D.M. Walker, M.A. Ashton, H.J. Powell, C.W. Fleischmann, T.N.M. Robertson, J.O.F. Macrae, A.P. Littlewood M.A., S.A. Sinclair, E.J. Noble, W.J. Toop, D.J. Harman, J.D. Swan.

J.B. Mole, B.C. Walker, S.P. Cornell, Dr F.O. Lasbrey, Mrs Lasbrey, R.B. Smith M.B., CH.B., J. McAllister, J. Cohen, F.A.M. Aldridge, J.B. Stafford, R.G. Bourbour, A.M. Merriweather, J.M. Paterson M.A., R.C.F. Todman, J.R. Lauckner, W.J.J. Bryden, J.K. Toop.

4. It has supported medical missionaries in their work overseas

The Society has provided grants of money, hospital equipment, instruments, medicines and books to its own former students and to other medical missionaries who required them.

5. *It has been a source of information and advice on Medical Missions.*

Through its publications and the public speaking engagements of its officers and former students, the Society has kept the issue and needs of Medical Missions before the Christian public. Its officers have given addresses illustrated by slides and films on numerous occasions. In regard to its own work in the Holy Land, the Society built up a very valuable and comprehensive collection of slides and photographs covering all aspects of the work of the Hospitals, the life of the people and the topography of the country.

6. *It cared for the physical, social and spiritual health of the people in the Cowgate of Edinburgh for over 94 years.*

The establishment of the Cowgate Dispensary provided a health care service for the people of the Cowgate area and a training ground for medical missionary students. The Dispensary may justly be regarded as a pioneer project in what today is called community health care.

7. *It was responsible for initiating health care services in countries overseas.*

As we have already seen, several of these services in India and Japan were handed over to other agencies once they had been established by the Society, but there were two notable exceptions. These exceptions were the Hospitals at Nazareth and Damascus which the Society retained. The Hospital at Damascus was finally handed over to the Syrian government after seventy-two years, during which the Society was responsible for the health care of all those who sought its services in Syria. The Hospital at Nazareth is still the Society's responsibility and its staff there continue to provide much appreciated health care for the people of Nazareth and Galilee, who are predominantly Arab.

In addition to the health care services and institutions which were established at the direct initiative of the Society, there were innumerable similar services and institutions which were established by the medical missionaries trained by the Society. Many of these services still exist today all over the continents of Africa and Asia and elsewhere.

8. *It has promoted co-operation and understanding between the different Christian denominations and traditions.*

From the beginning of its work the Society obtained the co-operation of different denominations in Great Britain. It remained nondenominational so that it was able to bring together the various denominations in support of its aims.

Also, from the fact that the students of the Society lived together in its student residences and shared in the medical work in the Cowgate, they were able to understand and respect the views and traditions of others from whom they differed in background. This was good preparation for working overseas with colleagues of different views and in institutions of different traditions.

This meant that the Society made a significant contribution to the closer co-operation between Christian denominations which has become so marked a feature of modern Church life, especially in lands overseas.

ENVOI

Our story of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society is now ended. We have traced its unfolding from the beginning in 1841 to the celebration of the Society's one hundred and fiftieth anniversary in 1991. Its beginning was in Edinburgh, but its influence reached to the ends of the earth.

The original resolution by which the Society was founded spoke of 'the beneficial results' which might be expected to arise when Christian doctors co-operated with missionaries in various parts of the world. We have seen how this expectation has been fulfilled. These Christian doctors themselves became missionaries and the Society became deeply involved in their training and in their work, and so came to play a major role in the development of Medical Missions. Through the work and witness of these medical missionaries, countless numbers of people throughout the world, who had never heard the name of the Society, shared in 'the beneficial results' of its activities.

That same resolution spoke of the desire of its proposers to follow 'the leadings of Divine Providence'. The story of the Society bears witness to the faithful way in which such Divine guidance has been sought and followed by its founders and supporters since its beginning.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF SIGNIFICANT DATES

- 1841 Formation of the Edinburgh Association for Sending Medical Aid to Foreign Countries, on 30th November.
- 1842 Address to Medical Students sent out in December.
- 1843 New name of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society adopted at second meeting of the Association on 28th November.
- 1852 The Directors of the Society approve Student Aid scheme at meeting of 21st March.
David Paterson and Wong Fun accepted as first students.
Dr Peter Handyside opens Medical Mission Dispensary in West Port, Edinburgh.
Dr John Evans appointed as the Society's first overseas missionary to India.
- 1855 Dr David Paterson appointed to Madras.
- 1858 Dr Handyside moves Dispensary to No. 39 Cowgate.
- 1861 Dr Vartan arrives in Nazareth on 1st October.
The Society adopts Cowgate Dispensary on 18th November.
- 1866 Dr Vartan employed by the Society as from 1st January.
- 1868 Purchase of No. 56 George Square by the Society.
- 1871 Appointment of the Revd Dr John Lowe as Superintendent.
First issue of Society's Quarterly Paper published in May.

- 1878 Dedication of the Livingstone Medical Missionary Dispensary and Training Institution on 25th January.
Formation of the Medical Missionary Association of London on 2nd March.
- 1884 Dr Frank Mackinnon arrives in Damascus on 2nd May.
- 1891 Jubilee of the Society with Thanksgiving Service in the Synod Hall in Castle Terrace on Sunday 13th March.
- 1892 Hawthornbrae in Duddingston bequeathed to the Society.
- 1893 Purchase of No. 57 George Square by the Society.
- 1898 Victoria Hospital in Damascus opened on 2nd April.
- 1903 Opening of extension to No. 39 Cowgate on 3rd December.
- 1908 Death of Dr Vartan in Nazareth on 3rd December.
- 1909 German Institute for Medical Missions opened in Tübingen on 20th October.
- 1910 World Missionary Conference held in Assembly Hall, Edinburgh, in June with concurrent World Medical Missionary Conference in the Synod Hall.
- 1921 Dr Bathgate arrives in Nazareth at the end of January.
- 1924 The new Nazareth Hospital opened on 25th April.
- 1933 Extension to Nazareth Hospital opened.
- 1941 Centenary of the Society with Thanksgiving Service in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh on Sunday 4th May.
- 1942 Purchase of No. 55 George Square by the Society.
- 1952 Cowgate Dispensary closed.

- 1957 Victoria Hospital in Damascus closed.
- 1961 The Society moves Headquarters to Mayfield Terrace,
- 1966 First issue of *The Healing Hand* published in May.
- 1969 Medicines for Overseas scheme introduced.
- 1970 First E.M.M.S. Israel tour organised.
- 1973 3WMAC scheme begun.
- 1976 Further extension to Nazareth Hospital built.
- 1987 The Nazareth Project set up.
- 1989 Student residence in Mayfield Terrace closed.
- 1991 The Society moves Headquarters to Washington Lane on 28th June.
Celebrations held to mark the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of
the Society with special Thanksgiving Service in the Church of
Greyfriars, Edinburgh on Sunday 24th November at 3 p.m.

APPENDIX II

PRESIDENTS OF THE SOCIETY

Dr John Abercrombie	1841-1844
Dr William Beilby	1844-1848
Mr William Brown, F.R.C.S.	1848-1887
Dr John Moir	1887
Professor Sir Alexander Russell Simpson	1887-1893
Professor Sir Thomas Grainger Stewart	1893-1900
Dr James Ritchie	1900-1907
Dr John W. Ballantyne	1907-1912
Professor Alexander Crum Brown	1912-1917
Mr Charles W. Cathcart, F.R.C.S.	1917-1923
Dr Robert A. Fleming	1923-1938
Mr William J. Stuart, F.R.C.S.	1938-1951
Dr Thomas R. R. Todd	1951-1968
Sir James Cameron	1968-1969
Dr Doris Wilson	1969-1971
Professor James W. Farquhar	1972-1979
Dr Hector M. Cameron	1979-1985
Dr Donald S. McLaren	1985-1988
Dr Hector M. Cameron	1988-1990
Dr David J. Ewing	1990-

APPENDIX III
SECRETARIES AND SUPERINTENDENTS
OF THE SOCIETY

Secretaries

Dr Robert Omond	1841-1843
Dr Charles Rainsford	1841-1848
Dr John Coldstream	1841-1863
Mr Benjamin Bell, F.R.C.S.	1842-1883

Superintendents

Dr William Burns Thomson	1859-1871
The Revd Dr John Lowe	1871-1883

Superintendents & Secretaries

The Revd Dr John Lowe	1883-1892
Dr Edwin Sargood Fry	1892-1920
Dr Herbert F. Lechmere Taylor	1920-1929
Dr Frederick O. Lasbrey	1929-1938
Dr John H. Lechler	1938-1946
Dr Malcolm Kerr	1946-1964
Dr Edgar L. Farrow	1965-1968

Secretaries

Revd John Smith	1968-1969
Dr John L. Tester	1969-1985
Mr John R. Barclay	1985-1991
Mr Fred M. Aitken	1991-

APPENDIX IV
TREASURERS OF THE SOCIETY

Mr John Thomson	1841-1842
Mr Archibald Bonar	1841-1845
Dr Robert Omond	1843-1881
Dr John Pringle	1881-1893
Dr Peter A. Young	1893-1901
Dr Harry Rainy	1901-1908
Dr George Keppie Paterson	1908-1913
Dr Robert A. Fleming	1913-1922
Dr Kenneth M. Douglas	1923-1930
Dr Archibald G. M'Kendrick	1931-1934
Dr Graham Ritchie	1934-1945
Dr Kenneth M. Douglas	1945-1947
Mr Alexander MacKelvie	1947-1955
Dr Alistair G. Cruikshank	1955-1972
Mr James M. Denholm	1972-1981
Mr John S. Russell	1981
Mr Alexander C. Robertson	1982-1991
Mr Iain D. Gill	1991-

APPENDIX V

SERVICE OF FORMER STUDENTS

CHURCH OR SOCIETY	NUMBER OF FORMER STUDENTS
Church of Scotland	76
London Missionary Society	58
Church Missionary Society	44
Baptist Missionary Societies	25
Methodist Missionary Societies	22
Presbyterian Church of Scotland	19
Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society	16
Presbyterian Church of Ireland	10
Free Church of Scotland	9
China Inland Mission	8
Sudan United Mission	8
Church of South India	5
Ludhiana Christian Medical College	5
Christian Brethren Missions	4
John G. Paton Mission	4
Presbyterian Church of New Zealand	4
Salvation Army	4
Dutch Reformed Church	3

Other British missionary societies in which former students served include The Egypt General Mission, The Friends' Foreign Mission, The Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, The North Africa Mission, The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, The South American Missionary Society and the Zenana Bible & Medical Mission.

Other former students served with missionary societies based on the continent of Europe, in Denmark, France, Germany and Norway.

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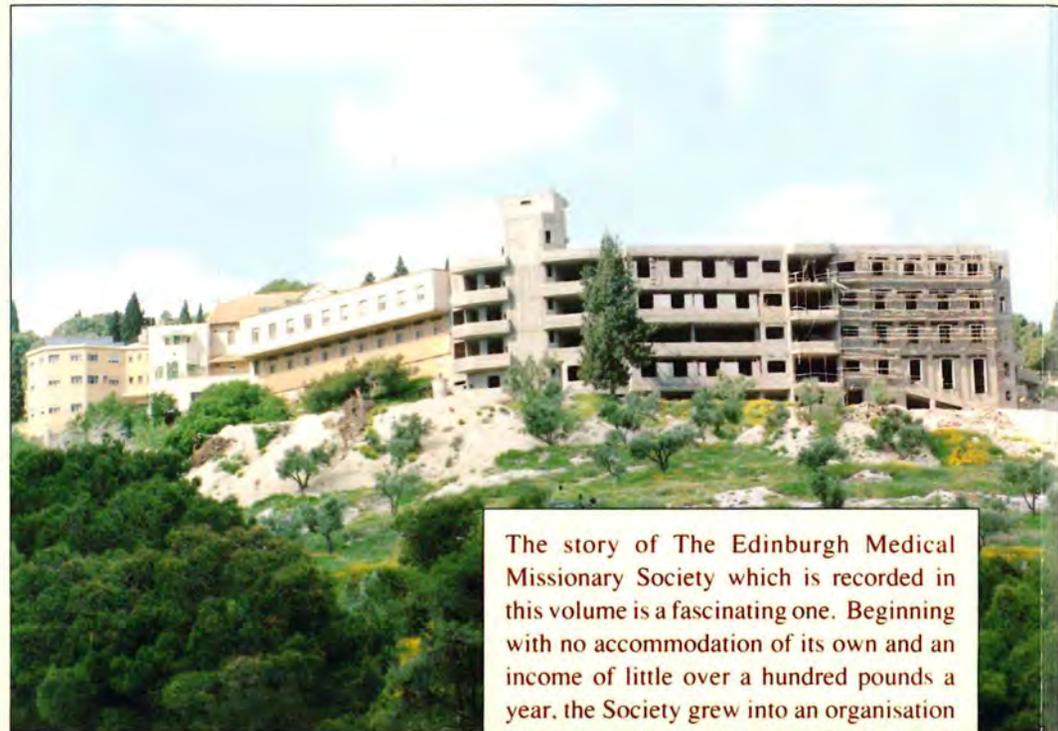
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The Nazareth Hospital, Israel

The story of The Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society which is recorded in this volume is a fascinating one. Beginning with no accommodation of its own and an income of little over a hundred pounds a year, the Society grew into an organisation which has trained several hundred medical missionaries. During their service with various Churches and Missionary Societies these dedicated men and women have initiated and staffed Church-related health care services in many parts of the world.



In some cases the Society itself bore the initial cost of establishing these services, although its policy was to hand over responsibility to other agencies where possible. The only instance in which this did not occur was that of the Nazareth Hospital in the State of Israel, for which the Society is probably best known today. However, the record of its history contained in this volume will serve to remind us of the many other services which the Society has provided over the one hundred and fifty years of its existence. It is a record of which the Society may be justly proud.