

## **2nd report : Florence Medical Mission : third year 1883 / [Th. A. Roberts].**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Report.

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FLORENCE MEDICAL MISSION

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Third Year 1883.

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*6<sup>bis</sup>, Piazza Cavour, sotto i Loggiati.*

FLORENCE MEDICAL MISSION

FLORENCE, 1883. -- Printed by G. BARBERA.

Third Year 1883

## Florence Medical Mission

1882-1883.

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The Florence Medical Mission has for its object (like the Medical Missions in London, Paris, &c.) to bring the sick of the poorest classes under the influence of the Gospel, whilst their bodily ailments are relieved by the medical advice and the remedies which they receive gratuitously at the Mission.

Our endeavour is to lead the sick (who perhaps till then have only thought of their physical ailments) to realize that there is a disease more terrible in its nature and results than any from which their bodies may be suffering, and that this disease of their *souls* can only be cured by one remedy which a Loving Saviour has provided, and now offers to all who will seek and accept it from Him.

The patients are of two sorts, those who personally attend, and others for whom only prescriptions are brought — because the patients themselves are unable to leave the house.

The Communal (Parish) Doctors visit the sick poor of their districts, in their own homes, but do not provide any medicines, the need for which is great, and it is to meet this want that we allow the *prescriptions* to be brought (by the relatives or friends of the patient) to the Medical Mission, where, (after examination by our Medical Man, D<sup>r</sup> Carli) they are stamped with the stamp which authorizes their being presented at the Pharmacy whence all the medicines are supplied, free of charge to the patients.

A man is specially employed to visit and report on the condition and means of livelihood of the patients, and if, after such enquiries, some are found not to stand in *need* of the help — or if (as occasionally happens) the people are not found at the address registered, they are excluded from obtaining admittance to the Mission.

The Service commences at 11 o'clock (on Tuesdays and Fridays) and lasts about 25 to 30 minutes. It consists of prayer, reading of the Scriptures and a short address in familiar language.

Both the patients and those who bring the prescription papers must be present at the Service. At its close, the singing of simple Evangelical hymns is carried on for about half an hour, during which the patients, by turn, adjourn to the consultation room. Just here I would like to express my thanks very heartily to the friend who so faithfully played for the M.M. Service all through the Winter and Spring, and to the other friends who at different times have helped with the singing and giving out of tracts.

Earnestly do we desire that some, at least, of the many who come to our kind earthly doctor, would also seek the help of the Great Physician, and receive from Him Life Eternal. It is indeed a "sowing beside all waters" and we are able to judge but little of the results, but we know that the seed sown is the "incorruptible" one of the "Word of God, which liveth and abideth" and though we would greatly rejoice to *see* some fruit, yet we trust and believe that *above* it will be found, even "*after many days.*"

One case we have been permitted to know of, where a young man first heard the Gospel at the M.M. Services and there felt it was what he needed and would wish to follow. His illness (consumption) ended last autumn, but before he died he gave evidence of having found the Saviour, and his end was a peaceful one. He desired his wife to bring up his children in the faith he had learned.

There are children who regularly attend the M.M. Services who *do not*, or would not be *allowed* to go to any Sunday School.

A number of children, too, have come from the M.M. into our little Sunday School (commenced in Jan. 1879) and had we only a larger corps of teachers and helpers — who could look them up — we doubtless might have many more children.

But the need of workers is but too sadly felt. The *visitors* to our city are either here for too short a time, or else are not sufficiently acquainted with the language to be able to engage in actual work, and somehow, whilst Paris and other continental cities attract christian workers by their manifest need of helpers — hardly any one thinks of *coming to Florence in order to work*; and still the need here is *great*, and it is sad to realize how, on every hand, are open doors, and yet no one to enter them, for the band of workers is altogether too small.

On another page will be found a comparative table of the number of patients, who have come under the care of the M.M. since its commencement.

It has been found a very necessary precaution to have enquiries made regarding the patients' circumstances, although perchance it may have appeared, to some of our visitors, rather superfluous. Were this system not pursued, we should find ourselves frequently *wasting* our resources on underserving objects.

The majority of our regular patients are greatly in need of nourishing food, to supplement the medicines, — and to many of these meat tickets are weekly sent, but as the cost of these (as well as of *blankets*, &c.) is otherwise defrayed, it does not appear in the accounts.

Many parcels of cast-off clothing, and various articles of warm winter clothing have been sent or given by kind friends, and I would wish to express anew my thanks for all these, and especially to those who have knitted or made warm jackets, comforters, &c., for all of which we have abundant use.

In a mission of this kind where we come in contact with so much poverty and need, there is always opportunity for disposing of articles of clothing.

Old linen, boots and shoes, flannels, &c. are specially welcome.

The Bible-woman-nurse (of whom mention was made in last

year's report) has not yet been found although sought for in various directions.

The need for such a person is increasingly felt. Before closing, I would wish to express my thanks to all those who have in various ways shown their sympathy and interest in our work, and especially to the Rev. J. R. Mac Dougall who has been so kind and true a friend from the very commencement of the Mission, — and to Dr Alexander Coldstream for the cordial interest he has manifested towards it since his arrival in Florence and for his kindness in auditing this year's accounts. Although there have been times when the funds have become very low, still the need has always been supplied, and it is with gratitude to Him who "knowing what things we have need of" has "cared for" the means of carrying on the work, that I am able to close this year's accounts with a Balance in hand.

Perhaps it may be as well to mention that the expenses entered in the annexed accounts are *simply* those incurred in the actual carrying on of the Medical Work, the rent of mission rooms, salary of care-taker &c. all being otherwise provided for, in connection with the other uses for which the premises are employed.

At the end of this month, God willing, a little Convalescent Home will be opened in Viareggio, a sea-side resort specially noted for the curative power of its sand-baths, and the quality of the air.

During the past two years several M.M. children have been sent there, together with many others from the Sunday School connected with Dr Comandi's Home, but this year it has been found desirable to have *two* separate Homes, of which one will be "the Medical Mission Convalescent Home," and the house required for this having been provided (distinctly *sent* as it has seemed, and the owner's heart enclined to let it for the purpose, though at first opposed to it) there remained but to find a suitable person to take the direction of the establishment, and just this appeared to fail in every case enquired about, when at last the way has been opened, by a lady

Friend\* having been made willing to undertake the charge, the most desirable thing of all. There are 9 beds, and probably about 30 children will be able to go, during the two months it is proposed to keep open the house.

4, Via Agnolo Poliziano, 19 June, Florence.

TH. A. ROBERTS.

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**Total number of patients 832.**

Of whom 227 from last year.	Under regular treatment. . . . .	461
» 605 new.	Casuals. . . . .	340
—	Excluded . . . . .	31
832		<u>832</u>

**Consultations and Prescriptions 4167.**

Consultations at M. M. Rooms . . . . .	3544
Prescriptions passed for sick at home . .	623
	<u>4167</u>

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\* Miss O'C.



## STATISTICS.

	1880-1881 Dec. to 15 May.	1881-1882 4 Nov. to 2 June.	1882-1883 2 Nov. to 1 June.
Cases . . . . .	358. —	736. —	832. —
Consultations and Prescriptions passed . . . . .	1024. —	3124. —	4167. —
Highest total attendance for one week. . . . .	70. —	166. —	220. —
Total expenses for season. . . . .	1472. —	2979. 32	4403. 61

### Contributions received for Viareggio Home.

Miss A. C. Hassell (for maintenance children) . . . . .	100
The Misses Kemp (for 4 bedsteads & 1 easy chair) . . . . .	145
Comtesse C. de Stackelberg (for maintenance children) . . . . .	20
	265

Any contributions, however small, towards the funds either of the M. M. or the Viareggio Home, will be thankfully received either by Rev. J. R. Mac Dougall, Scotch Church *Lung' Arno Guicciardini*, or by Miss Th. A. Roberts, 4, *Via Agnolo Poliziano*.

**SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS.**

<b>Receipts.</b>		Frs.	Cent.	<b>Expenditure.</b>		Frs.	Cent.
June to 31 Dec. 1882.	Total received . . . . .	1668	60	Nov.	Farmacy medicine bills. . . . .	543.	34
Jan. and Feb. 1883.	» . . . . .	800	37	and Dec. 1882.	Dr Carli . . . . .	200.	—
March and April »	» . . . . .	1609	02	1882.	Registrar . . . . .	19.	—
May and June »	» . . . . .	456	88	January	Farmacy medicine bills. . . . .	1038.	37
	Frs. . . . .	4534	87	and Feb. 1883.	Dr Carli . . . . .	200.	—
				1883.	Registrar . . . . .	23.	—
				March	Farmacy medicine bills. . . . .	1249.	15
				and April 1883.	Dr Carli and substitutes . . . . .	220.	—
				1883.	Registrar . . . . .	20.	—
				May 1883.	Farmacy medicine bills. . . . .	632.	55
				1883.	Dr Carli . . . . .	100.	—
				Nov. 1882	Registrar . . . . .	12.	90
				to June 1883.	Surgical appliances . . . . .	16.	20
					Registers, prescription, books. . . . .	39.	60
					Extras . . . . .	7.	80
					For enquiries about patients. . . . .	77.	20
					Cheque, books, etc. . . . .	4	50
June 1882 to June 1883.	Interest at Wagnière's Bank . . . . .	15	05			4403	61
	Frs. . . . .	4549	92		Balance to new account . . . . .	146	31
						4549	92

I certify that I have examined the above accounts, and compared them with the vouchers and found them to be correctly stated.

ALEX. R. COLDSTREAM, M. D.

Florence, 16 June 1883.

## CONTRIBUTIONS.

1882		Frs.	Cent.
10 June.	Entered previous account . . . . .	50	—
19 Aug.	George Colman Esq. . . . . £ 5 — —	127	75
>	Placed to Credit . . . . .	255	50
8 Sep.	Countess of Gainsborough . . . . . £ 10 — —	255	—
14 >	A Friend in Tyrol . . . . . Flor. 20	43	40
>	<i>Edinburgh.</i>		
	William Ford Esq. . . . . £ 5 — —	}	
	Hugh Rose Esq. . . . . * 2 — —		
	Miss Rose . . . . . * 1 — —		
	— Rose Esq. . . . . * 1 — —		
	— Rose Esq. . . . . * 1 — —		
	£ 10 — —	253	50
4 Nov.	Misses Maxwell. . . . . %	6	30
>	Via Aretina SS. Collection, Florence. . . . .	5	04
13 >	" F." per Miss M. S. . . . .	50	65
>	Small change found . . . . .	1	46
27 >	Via Aretina SS. Collection . . . . .	3	68
>	Miss C. Guthrie, Edinburgh . . . . . £ 1.6.0.	32	90
>	The Misses Gordon . . . . .	20	25
22 Dec.	Miss A. C. Hassell. . . . .	20	—
24 >	Charles Shubrick Esq. . . . .	50	—
25 >	Collection Scotch Ch., per Rev. J. R. Mac Dougall.	75	70
>	Mrs Kemp . . . . .	100	—
28 >	" C." . . . . .	50	—
>	Via Aretina SS. Collection . . . . .	4	27
>	Miss A. E. Wheelwright	}	
	William Wheelwright Esq. { Philadelphia U. S. A. }		
	Mrs Sargeant { £ 10 — — }		
		260	20
		1668	60

1883		Frs. Cent.
2 Jan.	The Lady Maria Forester . . . . . £ 4 — —	101 40
8 >	Miss Ella Shubrick . . . . .	20 —
9 >	M <sup>rs</sup> Edward Moore. . . . .	10 —
10 >	D <sup>r</sup> Alexander Coldstream. . . . .	20 —
11 >	M <sup>rs</sup> Henderson . . . . .	10 —
5 Feb.	Collection Via Aretina SS. . . . .	3 97
6 >	M <sup>rs</sup> Fleetwood Wilson. . . . .	4 —
8 >	Friend in Me, U. S. A. . . . . £ 5 — —	126 50
22 >	Placed to credit . . . . .	252 50
2 March.	Idem . . . . .	252 —
		<hr/> 800 37 <hr/>
6 >	Collection Via Aretina SS. . . . .	3 97
>	Placed to credit . . . . .	252 30
23 >	The Misses Kemp . . . . .	150 —
26 >	M <sup>rs</sup> James Hassel . . . . .	50 —
30 >	Anon., Per M <sup>rs</sup> Jennings. . . . .	20 —
>	M <sup>rs</sup> Jenkins and . . . . . £ 2 — —	50 20
>	Niece. . . . . » — 2 —	2 50
2 April.	Placed to credit . . . . .	251 —
3 >	John Coldstream Esq. . . . . £ 1 — —	25 —
10 >	M <sup>rs</sup> Thomas . . . . .	5 —
>	Collection Via Aretina SS. . . . .	5 55
>	Miss A. C. Hassell. . . . .	25 —
>	Comtesse C. de Stackelberg . . . . .	20 —
13 >	D <sup>r</sup> George Saunders, C. B. . . . .	10 —
16 >	Placed to credit . . . . .	251 —
>	Miss Suche . . . . .	10 —
>	The Misses Robertson. . . . .	7 —
>	M <sup>lle</sup> Anna Fries. . . . .	10 —
24 >	M <sup>rs</sup> Kemp . . . . . £ 5 — —	125 50
27 >	M <sup>rs</sup> Charles Robinson. . . . .	10 —
>	Brenton Collins Esq., Tunbridge Wells. . . . .	125 —
29 >	Miss Nellie H. Foote . . . . .	5 —
30 >	D <sup>r</sup> and M <sup>rs</sup> Alexander Coldstream. . . . .	100 —
>	The Misses Kemp . . . . .	95 —
		<hr/> 1609 02 <hr/>

1883		Frs. Cent.
1 May.	Miss Newton . . . . .	5 —
»	M <sup>lle</sup> Rosalie Schaad . . . . .	1 —
»	Hon <sup>ble</sup> M <sup>rs</sup> Jocelyn . . . . .	25 —
3 »	Via Aretina SS. Collection. . . . .	7 52
5 »	" C." . . . .	50 —
6 »	Miss S. Saunders . . . . .	10 —
»	R. S. Gifford Esq. . . . .	9 55
7 »	Collection in Scotch Ch., per Rev. J. R. Mac Dougall. . . . .	67 —
9 »	E. C., per Miss Newton . . . . .	10 —
»	M <sup>rs</sup> T. Nelson, Edinburgh . . . . .	50 —
11 »	Sir J. Kingston James . . . . .	20 —
»	Miss Freeling. . . . .	10 —
13 »	" M. K.," per J. Coldstream Esq. <sup>5</sup> / <sub>100</sub> . . . . .	6 25
16 »	Miss Florence Power per <sup>5</sup> / <sub>100</sub> . . . . .	6 30
21 »	Miss Emma Roberts. . . . .	20 —
22 »	Miss Niel. . . . .	5 —
25 »	Anon., per Post . . . . .	10 —
26 »	Miss Etta Morgan, Rome. . . . .	25 —
29 »	M <sup>rs</sup> and Miss Campbell, U. S. A. . . . .	20 —
»	Via Aretina SS. Collection. . . . .	6 76
»	Miss Hill. . . . .	20 —
»	Placed to credit for printing Report &c. . . . .	50 —
11 June.	M <sup>rs</sup> Mac Beth, per Rev. J. R. Mac Dougall . . . . .	10 —
»	Miss Glen, per » » . . . . .	12 50
		456 88