

STUDIES IN TEXTS.

Suggestions for Sermons from Current Literature.

BY THE REV. HARRINGTON C. LEES, M.A.

VII. MEDICINE AND FAITH.

Text.—"The sick who were cured honoured us with many honours; and they put on board such things as we needed" (Acts xxviii. 9, 10).

[Book of the Month: VOCABULARY OF THE GREEK TEST.¹ = M.

Other reff. Ramsay's LUKE THE PHYSICIAN = LP. ST. PAUL THE TRAVELLER = PT. PICTURES OF THE APOSTOLIC CHURCH = PAC. EXPOS. GREEK TEST. = EGT. Elliott's N.T. COMMENTARY = EC. A. Maclaren's COLOSSIANS = C. Report of the Edinburgh Missionary Conference = EMC. Moffatt's NEW TEST. = MNT.]

"The most effective point which Harnack ("Luke the Physician" p. 15f) has gleaned after Hobart is his proof that Luke practised in Melita (Acts xxviii. 10, 'honoured us')." M. 289.

"Paul 'healed' Publius (Gk.), but Luke is not said to have 'healed' the invalids who came afterwards. They 'received medical treatment' (Gk.). In the strict sense the medical term means this, and the context and the whole situation demand this translation (though Luke uses the word elsewhere sometimes in the sense of 'cure')." LP. 17.

"Paul's healing power by prayer and faith not always exercised. Such power efficacious only in suitable circumstances; exercised on all and sundry begins to fail; when invalids came in numbers, medical advice employed, physician Luke became prominent. Hence the people honoured not 'Paul' but 'us' (LP. 16)."

(a) "An interesting example of meaning 'medical treatment' (B.C. 114) M. illustrates from several papyri; the writer states that he had been staying in the great temple of Isis for 'medical treatment' (M. 288)."

(b) A medical receipt of early i. A.D. "lay the man on his back and medically treat him" (M. 288).

(c) A petitioner asking immunity from some form of public service in ii. iii. A.D. on the ground "I am a doctor by profession,

¹ Pt. III by Prof. George Milligan, published by Hodder & Stoughton, 7s. 6d. A mine of wealth. No Greek Testament student can afford to neglect it.

and I have treated these very persons who have assigned me a public burden " to which the prefect replies " perhaps your treatment was wrong " (M. 288).

I. A POWERFUL ALLY FOR THE GOSPEL.

The preacher and the physician made an effective partnership. " Luke the physician took part in the treatment of these invalids, and shared in the honours that were bestowed on Paul " (PAC. 312). " It is possible that as we have here a verb which properly denotes medical treatment, medical skill was freely added by St. Luke and enhanced the debt which the sick owed " (Knowling in EGT. 542). We see the Maltese appreciativeness in their estimate of the two men. " It lies in the nature of the case that the honours took the form of gifts ; the very word was, indeed, specially applied, both in Greek and Latin, to the honorarium or fee paid to the physician " (EC. Acts 425). " The rest of the sick folk in the island came and got cured ; they made us rich presents, and furnished us when we set sail with all we needed " (Acts xxviii. 9, 10, MNT.).

II. A PROTECTIVE INFLUENCE FOR THE APOSTLE.

Col. iv. 14 may be rendered " Luke, my dear doctor." " Luke's first appearance in the Acts nearly coincides with an attack of Paul's constitutional malady, which gives probability to the suggestion that one reason for Luke's close attendance on the Apostle was the state of his health. Thus form and warmth of reference here explained " (C. 398). St. Paul follows the counsel of the son of Sirach :—" *Honour* a physician with the *honour* due unto him *for the uses* which ye may have of him " (Ecclus. xxxviii. 1). Probably a reminiscence of this passage in Acts xxviii. 9, 10. Five words italicised same Greek in both. Devotion of Luke touching. " Luke and Aristarchus must have gone as his slaves, actually passing as slaves " (PT. 316). Only condition they would be allowed on board.

III. A POSITIVE EXAMPLE FOR THE CHURCH TO-DAY.

Dr. Phillips Brooks has a striking sermon on Col. iv. 14 in which he sees the relation which should exist between Theology and Medicine, between work for the soul and work for the body, between Revelation and Science. This relation is intensified when medicine accompanies religious teaching. Ps. ciii. 3. " Medical Missions break down barriers ; attract reluctant and suspicious populations ; capture entire tribes ; give a practical demonstration of the Spirit of Christianity " (EMC. I. 313).