

up their ranks, if each one worked for a responsible membership, if each thus emphasized a permanent relationship to itself? There is, of course, in C.M.S., a "guinea membership," and in some districts a secretary who enrolls members' names, but there has never been a widespread, concrete, all-embracing scheme. If it be desirable in one Society it would be so in another. We only suggest that the subject has a side which is not pure gain for the wider issues which lie before us. Without doubt the societies have a place, and a growing place, in the life of the Church, but it is a question whether their highest function is not to make Church membership missionary, rather than to institute an organized membership of their own.

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We must reserve for next month comment upon other matters arising out of the May periodicals, and in particular our appreciative study of the special Anniversary number of *The Herald* of the Baptist Missionary Society. G.



The Soul's Recovery.

"Ipse valere opto et tetrum hunc deponere morbum."—CATULLUS.

AS one in Italy—whom dire disease
 Arrests, unheeding the approach of night
 'Neath some pestiferous garden's fair moonlight—
 Repairs at last the vital powers, and flees
 Those enervating climes—behind him sees
 Fading from view the line of Alpine height,
 And past the plains of France hails with delight
 The salt sea scent, th' invigorating breeze ;
 So fares it with the soul that recklessly
 Haunted the perilous pleasaunces of sin.
 Stricken and scarred, the path so blithely trod
 By valorous effort left, she soars on high,
 Resolved at any price her home to win,
 To breathe her native air, and rest in God.

FRANCIS ST. JOHN THACKERAY.