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News and Notes

A Monthly Paper printed for the private use of the
Members of the Missionaries to Muslims League.

Series XIV

No. 3

March, 1926.

1st March = 15th Sha'ban (8th mo.), 1344, A.H.

Report of the League, 1925

THROUGHOUT another year the hand of God has been with us in blessing, and we desire humbly and gratefully to acknowledge His goodness and mercy. It must be a never-failing source of satisfaction to us all, and a reason for special thanksgiving, that He continues to use the League to further the cause of the evangelization of Muslims.

Evidence of this is to be seen in the steady addition to our ranks of new members (and that means new interest and new effort) in all parts of the Muslim world. During the past year as many as 52 have joined us, notably in China, Syria and Palestine, and Persia; but at the same time we have suffered losses, seven being by death.

Our little paper continues to prove, if we may judge by letters received from time to time, a real bond of fellowship between folk living far apart geographically, but united in facing the same big task, and in loyalty to the same Gracious Master.

In looking over the Index of the 'Notes' that have appeared in our pages, one is struck with the place taken by plans and preparations for a closer study of Islam, its religious language, and the life and customs of the people. This, of course, has its rightful place, but as Dr. Paul Harrison, of Kuwait (one of our members), points out in a searching statement on "Christ's Contribution to the Moslem" (in "The Moslem World of To-Day," reviewed in this issue), it is possible to give such study too great prominence.

We venture to quote a sentence or two of his on this point. "There never was, perhaps, a more unfortunate fad in missionary work than the present one which lays the major emphasis upon understanding the religious system of the people we work with. Ninety-nine out of every hundred missionaries would be far better advised to devote every hour sacrificed to an understanding of some non-Christian faith to a profounder study of their own message, and a deeper acquaintance with their own Christ."

The Financial Statement for the year will be found on another page. The slender cash balance in hand at the close of the year requires a word of explanation. With a fairly constant membership of at least 500 we should, of course, have received (and indeed are due to receive) another Rs. 150 in subscriptions. Add to this another Rs. 150 owing to us as arrears from members who have been moving to and fro on furlough and it will be seen that our assets amount to about as much as a year ago. But the cost of production leaves us no margin, and the present rate of exchange necessitates our asking friends abroad to remit to us at 3s. 3d. to meet the charge of Rs. 2/-.

Remember to send in notes on your work for our pages.

Yours in this Great Fellowship,
L. BEVAN JONES.

Islam in the West Present Position Reviewed

The Editor of *The Mussalman*, Calcutta, has received the following letter from Mr. Khaled Sheldrake, Director, Islamic News Service, London, under date Jan. 7 :—

Dear Sir and Brother in Islam,

As-salamu Alaikoum !

It is now the New Year in Western lands, and I venture to offer you my best wishes.

At this period, entering upon a New Year, it behoves us all to look around and see the position of Islam in the West. When, twenty-three years ago I embraced Islam, I did so standing practically alone. To-day what a difference there is. In England the Islamic community of Britishers is 3,000. Three journals circulate here—"The Islamic World," "The Islamic Review," and the "Review of Religions." All this has happened in a short space of time. In France, a country which I visit every month, there is the magnificent Mosque almost completed in Paris, with a strong Islamic population and many French people who have accepted "the Faith most excellent." The French Society (of which I am representative in Great Britain) is named the "Fraternite Musulmane," and is a very strong body and active. In Germany there is a Mosque in Berlin, with a number of Germans who are Muslims. In America there is a Mosque in Chicago, and I was recently honoured by being asked to visit the Chicago University to speak on "Islamic History." In the Argentine Republic there is a very influential Muslim population, with an Arabic journal "El Argentino." Brazil counts thousands of Muslims. In Holland and Belgium there are nationals of those countries who came to Islam. In Hungary there is a strong community with some illustrious names. Those who prophesied the decline of Islam have seen their predictions falsified, for Islam is gaining ground throughout the world. In

Australia there are to-day upwards of twenty Mosques. South Africa reckons numbers where sometime ago none existed. This is the present picture and, I venture to think, is a source of gratification to Muslims, when one considers that Christianity with its millions of pounds, thousands of missionaries, books without number, and free distribution of thousands of Bibles, can make but little headway abroad, whilst in countries nominally Christian, the bulk of the people never enter a church. We must not relax our efforts in any way, for it seems that a new missionary campaign is in the air, and Zwemer, that arch-enemy of Islam, is again to the fore. Muslims! it is our duty to present to the whole world the imperishable truth given to humanity in the glorious pages of that imperishable book, the Holy Qur-an. Islam offered to a world torn by dissension and false doctrines, the one Path of Peace. To-day, when a weary world seeks consolation, it is Islam and Islam alone that can guide a stricken humanity. Muslims! be up and doing, and bring to the Light those who are now groping in darkness.

51, Fenwick Road,
London, S. E. 15.

Yours most fraternally,
KHALED SHELDRAKE.

Book Reviews

The Moslem World of To-day. By various writers. Edited by Dr. John R. Mott. Hodder & Stoughton. Pp. 436, with full Index. Price 8s. 6d. net.

IT can be fairly claimed for this volume that it presents the most complete and at the same time the most authoritative statement, so far offered to the public, of the actual conditions now prevailing in the changing world of Islam.

The subject is one of vast importance to leaders of Christian thought and enterprise in every land, as is indicated by the fact that the Chairman of the International Missionary Council, while himself assuming the editorship, has gathered about him a rare group of contributors, of whom some are recognised experts on the subject in the West, and the rest experienced workers in Moslem lands.

The value of the statement, as a whole, is not impaired from India's point of view in that the reader's attention is largely drawn to present thought and action in the Near East, for, notwithstanding the rude shock sustained by Indian Moslems at the time of Kemal Pasha's abolition of the Caliphate, it still remains generally true that Moslem India looks to this same Near East for a lead, and is quickly sensitive to moods that stir the people of those lands.

In a 'Foreword' the Editor indicates the reasons for undertaking a survey along these lines at the present time. "The religious system of Islam, for centuries the most rigid, exclusive, resistant, and, as some would say, the most intolerant of all, has.....notably during the last decade, been undergoing stupendous and well-nigh unbelievable changes." The fact that of the 234 million adherents of this faith "possibly as many as seven out of every eight...are living under the flag of one or another Christian nation serves to accentuate their significance to all who bear the Christian name."

It thus becomes a matter of first importance for us to know what these people think of us, how they are affected by contact with us, and to determine what should be our attitude towards them.

A number of the more important aspects of the Moslem world of today and the causes underlying the dramatic changes now taking place are here dealt with by as many as 23 different writers. It is quite impossible to do justice to them all in this review.

Dr. James L. Barton discusses the "Impact and Influence of Western Civilization" on this world, and demonstrates that 'unchangeable' Islam is indeed changing under persistent pressure from the West. He considers the movement now going on to be "more general and more fundamental than any similar religious movement since the Reformation." Dr. Julius Richter, on the other hand, seeks a parallel in the Renaissance of the famous 15th century, and wonders whether there will take place in Islam a deep *religious* revival like to the humanitarian revival in Europe. Has missionary Protestantism today the necessary vital power and spiritual energy to bring about a spiritual revival in Islam? He believes it has.

Dr. Snouck Hurgronje deals with 'Islam and the Race Problem,' and shows that Islam has much to teach Christian society in this respect. "Islam has offered a chance to all races and all of them have availed themselves of it in the measure of their talents."

Two of the contributors hail from India. Rev. Murray Titus, of Moradabad, sums up the facts in regard to 'the reaction of Moslem India to Western Islam' and shows the present conflict between a strong conservatism and the party working for progress and reform; and Miss Ruth Robinson, of Bangalore, indicates how the spirit of the new age is affecting the better class of Moslem women, and creating a longing for emancipation from social bondage and the handicap of ignorance. Dr. Zwemer's contribution is on 'Journalism,' with an appendix to the volume giving a complete list of Moslem newspapers published in India, though his information is a little out of date. The activity of the Moslem press is shown to be enormous.

Among the contributors there are, at least, two literary artists; Miss Trotter of Algiers and Miss Padwick of Cairo. The former lifts the veil for us to see into the life of the women of North Africa. She does so with rare sympathy and makes us feel the presence there of a fear that paralyses, and of pain and pathos such as cannot fail to draw the love of Christ's people towards them. Miss Padwick takes us with her into a dusty shop in Amman, the Arab capital of Trans-Jordania, where she turns over the scanty stock of Arab literature and gains possession at last of a prayer-manual such as is prized by the common folk since it meets the need for something warmer and more personal than the official worship of Islam. She rightly asks if it is not time for the Christian Church to give these people some of her priceless treasures in Christ, in the literary form and language they love.

Since an efficient educational system and gross superstition cannot long exist side by side, the need for pressing in (while the door is still open) with up-to-date educational institutions is made abundantly clear in two important papers by Dr. Wm. Hall of Beirut and Prof. Paul Monroe of Columbia University.

Bishop McInnes of Jerusalem and Canon Gairdner of Cairo offer a timely *apologia* for the lethargy of the Ancient Oriental Churches whose centuries of suffering long ago, at the hands of a militant and ruthless Islam, are apt to be forgotten in our day when it is the fashion to blame them for their listlessness in the matter of evangelisation. As a matter of fact they

deserve, and should receive, all the support the Church in the West can give them, for they could be, and may yet be, an agency second to none in winning their Moslem neighbours for Christ.

Rev. Arthur Jeffery of the American University, Cairo, has given us the results of his study of the new trends in Moslem apologetic. The methods of the West are now being employed in the presentation and defence of the Quran and Islamic institutions, and are being directed also in a new attack upon Christian doctrine and practice. But the rationalistic method is a two-edged sword, as Moslems are likely to discover ere long.

Three papers bring us to the very heart of the problem raised by such a survey. Dr. John E. Merrill, of Aleppo, treats of the present attitude of Christendom towards Islam, and instances that of diplomacy and commerce, public opinion, and the missionary attitude of the Churches. There is much here to give one food for thought, and the paper is valuable for its candour. Dr. Paul Harrison, of Kuwait, who knows the interior of Arabia as well as the heart of the Arab, reminds us of the priceless contribution which Christ has to make to the Moslem and which the Moslem has a right to expect from us; while Dr. Speer reminds us of the ultimate issue between the two faiths.

Rightly read this volume constitutes a rousing appeal to the Christian Church in all lands to go to the help of these people *while we may*.

BEVAN JONES.

Worship in Islam. By Rev. E. E. Calverley, Ph.D., of Kuwait, Arabia. Christian Literature Society, Madras. Pp. 254, including Bibliography and Index. Price Rs. 2-8-0.

This scholarly piece of work was taken in hand to fulfil in part the requirements of the Kennedy School of Missions, Hartford, for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The book has two divisions, the chief of which, (Part II) is a translation of Al Ghazzali's Book of the *Ihya* on 'The Worship,' to which the author has appended copious annotations with a view to elucidating the allusions and technical terms in the text. Part I is his own Introduction to the whole, and a very valuable and interesting piece of work it is. This introduction alone will well repay the study of any missionary who desires to gain a closer knowledge of the daily worship of Muslims, and a truer appreciation of its value for them. It is essentially a book for the serious student of Islam.

Spiritual Seed for Spiritual Need. A Companion Volume to *What God Hath Used*. Edited by Miss B. Blaikie, Junior Secretary of the Nile Mission Press. With a Preface by Bishop Gwynne of Egypt and Sudan, 101 pp. Post free, 2s. 6d.

The Nile Mission Press is losing no time in acting upon the decision reached at the Jerusalem Conference in the spring of 1924, that we must see to it that good material for Muslim readers be released in suitable English manuscript form so that hard-pressed workers in other lands can make prompt use of it. Mr. Upson, within a year of that Conference, gave us *What God Hath Used* and we know the tracts therein collected are being translated in India and we hope elsewhere. Now his assistant, Miss Blaikie, has brought together 15 more MSS: six of these are Miss Trotter's Story Parables; 4 "Two-Colour Parables," as they are called; a tract by Mr. Upson himself, suitable for use in connection with the Alliance of Honour: a tract by Dr. Zwemer on Zem Zem water, and Dr. Rouse's tract 'Who will intercede for us?'; finally a tract for Juniors, 'Idrees the Diver.'

Bishop Gwynne warmly commends the volume. He says, 'Never has the soil of Moslem lands been more ready to receive the seeds of truth than it is to-day.' The soil is prepared—good seed is required—we have some of it here in this little bundle.

L. B. J.

The Divinity of Jesus Christ. By the Rt. Rev. E. H. M. Waller Bishop of Madras. The Christian Literature Society, Madras. 100 pages, Paper Covers—12 annas.

This little book is the first of a new series which will attempt to explain to Indian readers, in untechnical language, the great facts of the Christian religion. The author in his preface recognises that the growth of "modernism," as it is called, is greatly perturbing the minds of some people who in particular are affected by what seem to be wanton attacks on the Divinity of Christ.

He rightly feels that the remedy for such disturbance of thought is *the study of history*. And he proceeds to demonstrate the value of such study by giving a concise historical survey of the claims and counter-claims and doctrinal formulæ which have found a place in connection with the Church's belief in our Lord's Divinity.

It would be too much to say that the book meets all difficulties—but the author handles his subject bravely and helpfully and succeeds in putting the facts before the reader in simple language.

An Outline of the Religion of Islam. By the Rev. H. Weitbrecht Stanton, Ph.D., D.D. Published by the Missionary Equipment and Literature Supply, Church House, Westminster, S. W. 1. 50 pp. Paper Covers, One Shilling.

This booklet comprises the substance of lectures given for some years in connection with the James Long Lectureship of the C. M. S. It covers a lot of ground in very small compass, and is meant for those in the Home lands who are just beginning the study of Islam. Three chapters on "Religion and Society in Islam", "Modernism in Islam", "The Christian Church and Islam" bring out the needs of Moslems.

Our File

Writing from San Yuan, Shensi, China, on 'Xmas Eve, Rev. John Bell, a new member says:

THOUGHT to have acknowledged yours *re* the Muslim League much earlier, but we have been engaged a good deal with the Chinese anti-foreign and anti-Christian agitation, and are by no means out of the wood. Only today I have had a deputation of our church leaders asking me to hide over to-morrow and next day, as there is much opposition brewing. The scholars are out today haranguing in the villages, and we hear there is to be a mass meeting to-morrow. Of course it is always difficult to decide when to go into hiding and when not, but we all feel this is not one of the times when we should leave our people. The opposition is being directed more against them just now than against us, so I have said we shall not move, whatever may come, trusting in the Lord that He will protect us all.

We have no Mohammedans in this city or immediate district, but there is a big population of them in Sianfu, 30 English miles away. Few of

them can read Arabic, but we have scattered literature in the Chinese character, and made several attempts to get in touch with them.

* * * * *

The Home-Call to Dr. J. C. Young, Aden. Rev. Carl Rasmussen, writing on the 5th February, sends news which will be received with sorrow by all who knew Dr. Young.

"You will be sorry to learn that our mutual friend and fellow-member, the Reverend John Cameron Young M.A., M.D., has passed away after 33 years' service in the Keith Falconer Mission, Sheikh Othman.

Some days ago he left Aden for a short holiday with his good friends Dr. Mrs. Lumbie of the American Mission, Addis Abeba. He died up there on the 2nd instant.

The news was received over all Aden with much sorrow. He was loved and esteemed by all. In him we had a great loving and noble friend. He has now gone into the Eternal Glory—where he rests from his labour. Rev. 14. 13."

* * * * *

Our fellow-member, Mr. H. A. Bilkert, writing from Busrah, Iraq, says:—

"I am sending by this mail for copies of "The Best Friend." I was delighted to read about it and hope we may be able to use it in English among our school-boys here.

There is nothing remarkable to report concerning the work here. It is still a matter of keeping at it. Islam presents a pretty solid front here and its social pressure is still a great deterrent to some who might otherwise come. My deepest impression on return from furlough is that Islam is still Islam, in spite of the many changes in its outward environment. There is the same hatred of us and our message that there has always been, although there is plenty of apparent friendliness."

* * * * *

Rev. R. W. Cummings of Sialkot, Punjab, asks us to insert the following notice.

Khawajah Ghulam Ahmad, who recently published "Mowazina i Injil o Koran" which won unusually good comment from those who are competent to judge literature suitable for Moslems, has just completed a book on very much the same plan as the above-named one. This book he expects soon to publish. Its title is "Mohammad Arabi wa Visu Nasari." In this book the author has chosen selections from the Quran which reveal the character of Mohammad and in parallel columns has placed verses from the Bible which depict the character of Jesus Christ. Thus the reader is enabled to see at a glance the two characters as their own authentic respective books present them. Hitherto a great difficulty in presenting the character of Mohammad has been that most authors have drawn upon the traditions and then have found that the Moslem refuses to believe the tradition. But the advantage of this book is that it presents the character of the prophet of Arabia only as the Quran paints it. Those who would like to order this book may do so by addressing the Punjab Religious Book Society, Lahore, Punjab. It will be printed in Persian Urdu, and the cost will be approximately 12as. per copy.

* * * * *

We gladly draw the attention of members of the League, more especially those who are in charge of training departments for mission workers, to the following notice:—

'Will you very kindly bring to the notice of your readers that *Miftah-ul-Quran*, both parts, can be supplied to missionaries, or any other mission workers, for Rs. 12-0-0 plus Re. 1-0-0 for postage. The published price is Rs. 24-0-0 plus postage. But this concession is made for missionaries who care to take *unbound copies*. If ten copies are taken together the price will be Rs. 10-0-0 per copy and carriage free.'

This valuable work was undertaken by Mr. Ahmad Shah himself and and comprises a complete concordance of the Quran (266 pp.) and a complete Glossary of the Quran (110 pp.) orders should be sent direct to:

REV. AHMAD SHAH,
Christ Church,
Cawnpore, U. P.

* * * *

Writing to Dr. Zwemer, at the New Year, that veteran pioneer, Dr. St. Clair Tisdall said:—

'I am sorry that I cannot now help in any way with *The Moslem World*, and have not been able to do so for some years past. As a result of several strokes of paralysis, I have lost the sight of my right eye, and hence the doctor told me to be very careful of the remaining eye. Some time ago he told me to give up reading Oriental books, and so I have sold all my Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Amenian, Hebrew, etc., books. Though I have made a wonderful recovery and am able, thank God, to speak well, but not too long, to walk with a stick, and to preach, I cannot write much except my name, my right hand not being very strong. I am most thankful to notice that people are shewing so much interest in the work of evangelising the Muhammadan world. The whole Church of Christ seems to be waking up in this respect, in view of our Lord's Return. With best wishes and prayers for the progress of the work we all have so much at heart.'

(Our sympathy will surely go out to our friend in his weakness.)

* * * *

Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Zwemer have spent the winter in Cairo and expect early in May to leave overland for Persia. Arrangements have been made by the American Mission and the Church Missionary Society for them to visit nearly all of the stations in north and south Persia. The members of the League are asked to remember this visit in prayer. Their address while in Persia will be c/o the American Mission, Teheran. Prayer is also requested for the important visit of Dr. John R. Mott in Java and Sumatra.

NOTICE

GRANTS FOR LITERATURE.

All in India who are interested in the production of literature for Muslims in the various languages used by Indian Muslims are asked to bear in mind that certain funds are available for grants-in-aid towards the publication of such literature.

Applications for grants are to be made on the forms issued for this purpose. These forms may be had either from the N. C. C. office, III/A

Russa Rd., P.O. Elgin Rd., Calcutta, or from the Convener of the Committee on Literature for Muslims, India (who happens at present to be your secretary!), and when duly filled in should be sent to the aforesaid Convener.

M. M. League

Financial Statement, 1925.

| RECEIPTS | Rs. | A. | P. | EXPENDITURE | Rs. | A. | P. | |
|------------------------|-----|------|----|-----------------|-------|-------|----|---|
| Balance from 1924 | 412 | 1 | 6 | Printer's bills | 1,106 | 10 | 6 | |
| Members' subscriptions | 857 | 13 | 9 | Postages | 45 | 0 | 0 | |
| | | | | Office Sundries | 33 | 11 | 0 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Balance | 1,185 | 5 | 6 | |
| | | | | | 84 | 9 | 9 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | Rs. | 1269 | 15 | 3 | Rs. | 1,269 | 15 | 3 |

Audited and found correct
T. D. Williams
23-1-26.

New Members

| | | | |
|-----|----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 433 | Rev. J. C. Chowdhury | M. E. M. | Pakaur, Bihar. |
| 497 | Dr. H. F. Noyes | do. | Vikarabad, Deccan. |

The annual subscription to the League is only Rs. 2-0-0 (English 3s. 3d.). The Secretary will be glad to send spare copies of this issue to addresses mentioned by members, with a view to securing new subscribers. News and requests for prayer will always be welcome and should be sent early in the month to the Hon. Secretary :—

Rev. L. Bevan Jones.
Baptist Mission,
Dacca, Bengal, India.

Edited and published by Rev. L. Bevan Jones, Dacca, Bengal, and printed at the Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack, by Rev. R. J. Grundy, Superintendent.

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