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News and Notes

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A New Concern

In South India.

WE referred in our December issue to a recent enterprise in South India arising out of a new concern among a group of missionaries in the Mysore district to evangelise Muslims. Particulars of this "Mission" are given elsewhere on another page. We were mistaken in thinking that the Rev. N. F. Silsbee is the Secretary. Rather he is the Treasurer; the Secretary being one of our members of longstanding, Miss E. M. Potter of Bangalore.

In seeking support both by prayer and funds from Christian people the Treasurer has recently issued a leaflet showing the great need there exists in South India for a forward movement in this neglected portion of the field. As our friends there are anxious that the facts should be widely known we reproduce for the information of others most of this interesting memorandum.

'A recent carefully compiled Survey made on behalf of the National Christian Council, India, entitled "The Muslims of India, Burma, and Ceylon, and the extent of the Christian Missionary Enterprise among them," reveals the fact that out of 6,027 missionaries in this area only about 35 have had specialized training for work among Muslims, and most of these would be in Central and North India. There are in addition to this number a few missionaries and Indian workers (especially Bible-women) here and there who have acquired a practical knowledge of Urdu and have done some reading on the subject of Islam, and are carrying on a certain amount of evangelistic and medical work among Muslims.

'In South India there is Canon Sell of Madras, a veteran missionary of 89, and one of the leading authorities on Islam to-day. He is busily engaged in a considerable enlargement of a former book,

the new edition of which will bear the title *Studies in Islam*, which will be a most useful supplement to his best known and valued work, *The Faith of Islam*. Canon Goldsmith, also of Madras, has been closely in touch with evangelistic and educational work among Muslims for nearly 50 years. The only other man (missionary) giving his full time to Muslim work in South India is Dr. A. Brux of Vaniyambadi (half way between Bangalore and Madras), where there are a large number of Lubbais or low caste Hindu converts to Islam. This means that there are only three men missionaries (and two of them elderly) for over three and a half millions of Muslims in South India, which includes Madras Presidency, Mysore State, and the smaller states of Travancore, Cochin, and Coorg. It is only fair, however, to mention that the ladies of the C. E. Zenana Mission and other societies in Madras, Coimbatore, Madura, Vellore, Ootacamund, Bangalore, Mysore, Kolar, and other places are doing work among Mohammedan women and girls, and that they occasionally have opportunities for influencing some individual Mohammedan man, but they cannot carry on any preaching or discussions among them. The C. E. Z. Missionaries especially have been definitely praying for more than a quarter of a century that God would raise up some man or men to reach the men and especially the husbands and relatives of the women they visit, many of whom have been and are profoundly influenced by the Gospel, and not a few have become secret believers. This need has of course been largely met in the case of Madras city by the two referred to above. During the past few years through the faithful labours of two successive senior catechists in connection with the C. E. Z. Mission work in Bangalore, several converts, both women and men, have publicly confessed their faith in Christ by baptism.

‘Shortly after receiving a copy of the above “Survey” I happened to mention the subject of this special need of South India to a veteran missionary of the Telugu field. At first he seemed to feel that it could hardly be called either unoccupied or neglected as far as the common folks among the Muslims were concerned as they come out in large numbers to our open-air preaching and hear the Gospel in that way, through the vernaculars of the district in which they live (Telugu, Tamil, or Kanarese). But after a few moments’ consideration and discussion he decided that the statement was on the whole true, as (1) a Mohammedan may freely use some other language than his own Urdu, but if so it is almost entirely for ordinary purposes, such as trading, etc., and not at all for religious purposes; and even when he understands the religious terms of the Dravidian languages they convey a different meaning than his own. (2) The type of preaching given to the Hindu and animistic out-caste, both of which are predominant in the groups of listeners, and among which more than 98% of missionary effort in South India is concentrated, is not the line of approach for Muslims at all—does not appeal to them, and is not designed to be effective for them. In fact many of us have had experiences in which

Muslims will cordially agree with all we say, and take our side against the idol-worshipping and pantheistic Hindus. Even when talking with Mohammedans individually they will often tell us that they worship the one great and true God as we do, and to go and preach to the heathen! Of course one may say that we should simply preach Christ anyway, regardless of our audience, but here again the Muslim has his own special point of view, his objection to Christ, the authority of the Bible (especially the New Testament), the historicity of the crucifixion, the meaning of the atonement, and other matters which have to be adequately treated in dealing with him.

'The importance of India for mission work among Muslims has been thus summarized by Dr. Zwemer in one of his series of 15 lectures which he has given in practically every important centre in India during a special tour lasting from October to February :

(1) It is the largest Muslim country in the world.

(2) It is the most active in the press, there being 222 periodicals published in India, 160 of them in Urdu, and some of the English ones of world-wide influence.

(3) It is a great polyglot country, there being 17 Muslim-spoken languages in India. Arabic is the religious language, while Urdu and Bengali are the most widely spoken. There is a special Muslim-Telugu, Muslim-Tamil, etc., using Dravidian characters but mixed with many Arabic and Persian words.

(4) It has a 'diaspora' (dispersion), being the only country which has sent out Muslim missionaries, there being converts in England, France, America, Brazil, Australia, Africa, and elsewhere. One Society alone in Lahore gave over 12 lakhs of Rupees in one year for missionary work (nearly £ 100,000 or \$490,000).

(5) It allows a wonderful liberty to preach the Gospel, owing to British rule. Muslims can publicly confess Christ in India as nowhere else. When they do truly confess Him they often become pillars of the Church.

'Another point worthy of consideration is that the 50 millions of people in South India are very largely affected by animism, with its primitive pagan practices. Popular Islam, *i.e.*, Islam as it works, and not simply as read about in books, has been profoundly affected by animism, with its superstition, magic, belief in capricious malevolent evil spirits or demons, etc., (the latter to be distinguished from the demons whose existence is revealed in the New Testament). This whole subject has been fully treated by Dr. Zwemer in his lectures at Hartford and Princeton on "The Influence of Animism on Islam."

"Facts are the fingers of God" said Dr. Arthur T. Pierson, that great-hearted champion of world-wide missionary evangelization. In view, therefore, of the above facts in connection with Muslim South India and its pressing need of more adequate missionary occupation, that more of the "land may be possessed" for Him whom even the Quran calls the Virgin-born, the Messiah, the Word of God, the Spirit

of God, Honourable in this world (*i.e.*, the sinless Prophet) and in the world to come (*i.e.*, the Intercessor), and whom Tradition names as the Righteous Judge (to come)—will you not pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He would send out labourers to His harvest? "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields; they are already white unto harvest." Islam is on the move. According to *The Moslem World To-day*, a recent volume consisting of a series of papers by the greatest authorities covering every phase of Islam—religious, social, political and the outlook of Christian missions—old things are passing away, and the iron-clad system is breaking up. Many are feeling that God's hour has struck. *Pray ye therefore.*

N. F. SILSBEE.

In Mesopotamia To-day

(Dr. Moerdyk in, 'Neglected Arabia')

MOHAMMEDANISM here has changed during these recent years; but this does not mean that its spirit of antagonism to Christianity has disappeared. I think there are many more men, at least, who do not practice their religion: they do not observe the prayers, nor do they fast during the month of fasting. The young men like to boast that they belong to this new age. They like to argue, but their stock in thought and talk really amounts to: "I think. I believe in God, but I do not care for the details of religion and belief. I want something that appeals to my reason." And this very often means that they imagine they think along the line of evolution and along the line of Renan's arguments and of other writers of that kind. It is pretty difficult to bring them Truth because they have so little and still attempt to defend the old for reasons of national pride. Many of the older men too have lost the practice of religion but have remained very fanatical and seem to have taken it upon themselves to uphold the cause of Mohammedanism in spite of everything. They are the ones who stir up trouble and threaten all who come to listen to the Gospel or seem to be interested. They have recently brought some of their pious teachers to harangue the throng and to spread falsehoods concerning our work. These teachers have nothing new but try to hide the truth under glaring assertions; and they have no "gospel" to give the people. Only Christ and His Gospel will save this people and create a new environment. The youth need Christ and His ideals to make them strong moral men. The officials need Christ and His uprightness in order to become leaders among the people. Many Chaldeans and Assyrians and Nestorians and some Protestant Christians have come to Mesopotamia as refugees; but I do not think that the number of helpful and missionary Christians has increased. The old fact remains that many are a hindrance to the spread of the Gospel, while almost all are satisfied to pass by the Mohammedans rather than bring them their Christ. It is true that changes have taken place in the country—better facilities to get from place to place among the people, changes in attitude on the part of many, and more readers and minds equipped to grasp the Message when they hear it—and it costs more money now to carry on missionary work. But it has become more apparent than ever that only by consecrated Christians from America and England will the Christ be brought to this people.

Bangalore United Hindustani Mission

OBJECTS.—The two-fold object of the mission shall be:

- (1) To carry on work among the Moslems of Bangalore and Mysore State (especially men and students) by methods enumerated below, on the strict principle of co-operating as much as possible with existing missionary organizations.
- (2) To promote among local Christian bodies and others elsewhere more prayer and practical interest in the evangelization of the Moslems of South India in general and the Mysore State in particular.

METHODS OF WORK.—Object (1) shall be carried out by the employment of one or more colporteurs, evangelists, or other Christian workers; the maintenance of a Reading Hall; the sale and distribution of Christian literature; the conducting of preaching and discussion meetings; shop and house visitation; and any other suitable methods of appeal appropriate to the peculiar needs and difficulties of Moslems.

The methods of carrying out Object (2) shall in general consist of the issuing of a Quarterly Letter containing Notes regarding the work and its development, items for Praise and Prayer, etc.; and the issuing of other relevant matter from time to time likely to stimulate interest.

The production, translation and publication of suitable literature for Moslems shall be a prominent feature of the work. An effort shall also be made to keep in touch with the Moslem press of South India, especially in Urdu and Tamil-Arabic.

FINANCE.—The work of the Mission shall be supported by the voluntary offerings of all Christians and Christian bodies who are interested.

REV. N. F. SILSBEE, *Hon. Treasurer*,
"Glen Bethel," Richards Town,
BANGALORE, S. INDIA

MISS E. M. POTTER,
Hon. Secretary.

School of Islamics, in Bengali, at Dacca.

The School will open on Tuesday, 1st May, and continue for four weeks, terminating with an examination. Subjects for course:—

1. Outlines of Islam.
2. Hadith; Namaz; Tawiz; Tariqa.
3. History of Progress and Present Activities of Islam, in India.
4. Answers to Moslem Objections.
5. Moslem needs and how to meet them.
6. Instruction in Mussalmani—Bengali, the Arabic Alphabet, certain texts in the Quran.
7. Bazar-Preaching.

Applications for admission to the Course should be made to Rev. Bevan Jones, Dacca, who will supply any further information required.

Zachcha Dost

("The Best Friend" in Mussalmani-Bengali.)

THE long-felt want of workers among the Muhammadans for a simple Life of Christ for Moslem readers, has now been met and we cannot but thank the Rev. Bevan Jones for bringing out "The Best Friend" in English which is very simple and attractive. This has already been translated into Urdu (Haqiqi Dost) and will be put into Oriya, Tamil, Sindhi, Hindi, and Gujerati in the near future.

We in Bengal are proud to have amongst us Mr. D. A. Chowdhury, himself a convert from Islam, and one of those who long to see the Moslems accepting Christ as their Saviour. Mr. Chowdhury has taken great pains in putting "The Best Friend" into Mussalmani-Bengali. I have gone through it and can say that my brother Chowdhury has done it wonderfully well.

I feel that we workers among the Moslems should make an effort to broadcast this book. I trust that need will be found for many more editions of the book, and that it will be used in bringing hundreds, yea thousands of Moslems to the feet of Jesus.

D. K. BADSHAH.

[100 pp. 12 pictures. Price, One anna. Apply Calcutta Tract Society, 41, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta. The Tract Society's new catalogue contains an up-to-date list of Literature for Moslems with explanatory notes on each item.]

Notes

Report of Visit to India.—Indefatigable Dr. Zwemer had a programme that kept him busy right up to within four days of sailing from Colombo yet he somehow managed to assemble together all the records and resolutions made at his Conferences and get them printed and published in a 33 page Report before he left for Egypt. Such energy makes us gasp!

We confess that we have not been able to keep our readers posted up with the doings of each of these Conferences, we are therefore all the more grateful for the issue of this permanent record. Copies may be obtained on application to the N. C. C. Office, 1, Staveley Rd., Poona.

Outstanding Impressions in India.—In a concluding note to the Report, Dr. Zwemer has given a rough summary of the outstanding impressions made upon him during this visit to India. He has been struck with the great diversity of Islam in this country—the dearth of trained leaders among both missionaries and Indian Christians with a knowledge of Islam and of Arabic—the urgent need for suitable literature for Moslems in several language areas—the great need of a united Indian Church where Moslem and Hindu converts will manifest Christian unity in the midst of the present communal tension—the activity and present tendency of the Moslem press of India with its more than two hundred periodicals—the astonishing prevalence and organisation of the Dervish orders, from Peshawar to Colombo—the great encouragement to be found in the ever increasing numbers of converts from Islam in India.

N. C. C. Survey on The Muslims of India.—Reference is made to this Survey by Mr. Silsbee in the article quoted on our front page. We believe copies were available at most of the recent Conferences held by Dr. Zwemer in India, but should any reader desire a copy, application should be made to the N. C. C. Office, 1, Staveley Rd., Poona. It costs *twelve annas*, postage extra, and runs to about 100 pages. The N. C. C. are anxious that copies should get into the hands of all Field Secretaries and Home Board Secretaries.

Jerusalem Meeting, 28th March—8th April.—At the time this paper issues from the press our thoughts will be with those assembled in Jerusalem for what may well prove to be a momentous gathering of the International Missionary Council. Among the pamphlets already issued which have been prepared by experts on various subjects to be discussed at the Conference, we would call special attention to that by Canon Gairdner on "Christianity and Islam." It is well worth the charge made; one shilling. This and other and pamphlets can be obtained from the N. C. C. Office, Poona.

N. C. C. Committee on Work among Moslems.—This Committee has been summoned to meet at Lahore on 20th April. Additional representatives of other missions have been invited to attend so as to take part in an important discussion on the proposal to start a Christian School of Islamics at Lahore. You are requested to give a special place in your prayers to the work of this Committee.

The Educational Situation in Persia.—A situation of extreme difficulty has arisen in connection with mission schools in Persia through an edict of the Government whereby such schools are to be compelled to teach the Moslem *shariat* and the Quran to all Moslem pupils, and to excuse such from Bible Classes and Chapel Services. In the case of one school which attempted to solve the difficulty by excluding Moslem pupils altogether, the school was ordered to close down! So that in some places educational work is at a stand-still. Our correspondent concludes: 'We need your prayers at this time. The Persian Government needs your prayers. The Boys and Girls of our country need your prayers.'

Opening of the Newman School of Missions in Jerusalem.—Preparations are well-advanced for the opening of a Language School in Jerusalem under the auspices of the local United Missionary Council. The Methodist Episcopal Church property is being loaned for the purpose. The prospects are very encouraging as already some sixty people are receiving help in the study of Arabic and Hebrew. Most of these are missionaries, but the number includes nine Government people. It is being planned to open the school officially immediately after the I. M. C. meeting in April.

For Sale. Arabic-English Lexicon by E. W. Lane.—Complete in two volumes, published by Williams and Norgate. In excellent condition. Present value in England about £10. Price Rs. 130, or near offer considered. Proceeds to be devoted to missionary work. Apply to G. W. MAW, Esq. Friends' Mission, Itarsi, C. P.

Intercession.

LET US THANK GOD for Dr. Zwemer's work in India, for the new interest he has aroused, and for the people who are giving themselves more fully to this work.

- LET US PRAY for God's rich blessing to rest upon the activities of the Bangalore United Hindustani Mission.
- LET US PRAY that a good beginning may be made at the Dacca School of Islamics in May.
- LET US PRAY for guidance in the establishment of a Christian School of Islamic Studies in Lahore, that all plans and decisions may be made in accordance with God's will.
- LET US PRAY that God will pour out His Spirit in great fulness upon all assembled at Jerusalem.
- LET US PRAY that success may attend the efforts now being made in connection with the Newman School of Missions, Jerusalem.
- LET US PRAY for our brethren in Persia, that their influence on the children may be maintained, and that the Government may adopt a more liberal policy.

NEW MEMBERS.

Rev. C. C. Hermann, Miss Sullivan	M. E. M.	Aligarh, U. P. Ootacamund.
Mr. A. Mc.D. Redwood	C.M.M.L.	Bangalore.
Mr. W. J. Mc.D. Redwood	"	Bangalore.
Miss H. Wilde Gose,		Ootacamund.
Miss E. Mc.Nerney,	C.E.Z.M.	Bangalore.
Miss S. R. Taylor,	C.M.M.L.	Narsapur, Godavary.
Miss M. C. Few,	L.M.S.	Anantapur.
Miss J. Haworth,	W.M.M.S.	Tumkur, Mysore.
Mr. P. C. England,		Bangalore.
Mr. Mohideen Kavirayer,	U.T. Coll.	Bangalore.
Rev. J. Barnabas,	S.P.G.	Bangalore.
Rev. G. Keable,	Bishop's Coll.	Calcutta.

The annual subscription to the League is only Rs. 2-0-0 (English 3s.) 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,
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