

Confidential.

*Not to be reproduced without
permission of the Editor.*

News and Notes

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

Series XXVI.

October

1938.

October 1st = 6th Sahaba'n (8th mo.) 1357 A.H.

Editorial.

ON behalf of all our members we wish Rev. J. W. and Mrs. Sweetman a happy and profitable furlough in England, and express our appreciation and thanks to Mr. Sweetman for all he has done since he undertook the Secretaryship of the League in September 1934. Many of the articles in *News and Notes* have come from his pen.

We are grateful to him for making his appeal to you all to send in your contributions for publication in our monthly paper. We shall be glad to receive articles of interest, cuttings from the local press, and items of news. The temporary editor will be in office only a short time, but with your help we shall endeavour to make our little paper useful to all.

Especially we ask you to remember to send in subjects for praise and prayer. The object of our league when founded was "to fulfil the vows made at the Lucknow Conference 1911, to pray more and to work more for the evangelisation of the Muslim world." We cannot do the one without the other.

The first person to respond to Mr. Sweetman's appeal was Canon Goldsmith. We print his letter below, and send him a special greeting of sympathy and love.

Letter from Canon Goldsmith.

Royapet House, Royapettah,
Madras.

DEAR MISS GREENFIELD,

8-9-1938.

Mr. Sweetman asks us to write to you, which I gladly do, to say how much I appreciate the "*News and Notes*," and the last number has been as bright as any, but I have no particular item of news to report. I myself am laid aside by weakness, but my Indian colleagues carry on the Mission work as before.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM G. GOLDSMITH.

Henry Martyn School Staff.

Tour in South India.

We regret to report that owing to unforeseen circumstances the Committee in Hyderabad have been obliged to ask the Staff to postpone their tour.

International Missionary Conference.

Literature Exhibition.

In connection with the International Missionary Conference in Madras there is to be a World Exhibition of Christian Literature. There will be a special section for literature for Moslems. Dr. Titus, and Miss Padwick, Editorial Secretary of the Central Literature Committee for Moslems, Near East Christian Council, have already sent letters to some of our members appealing for co-operation and help in this matter. If there are any who have not yet been approached, and who could help by sending in copies of books published specially for Moslems, or photographs of bookrooms and activities connected with the distribution of literature, please communicate at once with

DR. TITUS,
Methodist Mission,
Budaun. U. P.

Dr. Titus asks all Language Area Literature correspondents to send him their applications for grants for publishing new literature by November 1st at the latest. The C.L.M.C. will meet in Delhi on December 7th to consider these requests.

NOTICE.

Proposed Conference of Missionaries to Muslims.

A suggestion has been made by the Near East delegation to the Tambaram Conference that advantage might be taken of the presence in India of delegates from different Muslim fields to hold a short Conference to review the present situation.

Recently a group in N. India considered the possibilities and have submitted the following proposals to the Near East delegation for their acceptance :—

That a two-day Conference be convened to meet in *Delhi* on Tuesday and Wednesday the 6th and 7th December. The general subject of the Conference to be, "The Christian Enterprise and its influence on Islam."

It has been thought that members of the League might like to be informed of this project, and to remember the negotiations now proceeding, in their prayers. It is of course still uncertain whether the Conference can be held.

L. B. J.

**"How the Battle Goes," in Kargil, near
Ladakh, R. C. Kashmir.**

Extracts From "Dawn in Central Asia," May-June, 1938.

ALTHOUGH certain learned Mullahs (who form part of the daily audience in the Kargil Dispensary) delight to display their knowledge, and often listen to the Message with a sardonic smile on their faces, when the Master's words, "Ye must be born again" sound in their ears, they are instantly subdued, and even ask for an explanation of these wonderful words.

Of many Scriptures given to various people, several copies were placed in the hands of Mullahs who thought they could read either Urdu or Persian. Much to their surprise, however, they found they could make nothing of the first chapter of St. John. Multitudes of Mullahs are like this. They learn to repeat the Quran in Arabic, and that is as far as they can get in the reading direction—blind leaders of the blind, in very truth! One or two friendly Mullahs who have been able to read to our satisfaction, now possess the Scriptures for themselves, and for them much prayer is asked that their eyes may be opened to see Him Who is the Subject of the Book.

"Bread" thus cast upon the waters, will surely be found "after many days" in answer to believing, expectant prayer.

The average Balti man or woman does not understand the real meaning of such words as "Faith", "Salvation", "Sin", even when they

are translated into the Balti tongue. Their Mohammedan minds have special conceptions which are not readily removed. To them, "faith" is just a word that indicates their belief in the fact that they are the slaves of Mohammed. They have a vague idea that "salvation", being in the hands of their priests, is a matter concerning which they have no personal concern whatsoever "We do not know anything", say they except what the priest says: he knows, but we do not: our life and salvation depend upon what he says." "Sin" is not recognized as such, but the follower of Islam believes that if he can get to Mecca or Karbala, he will be purified by the Imam's blessing.

The chief of Baru village is friendly, courteous, and delighted to listen to Bible stories. He is an "hadji" (i.e., one who has performed his pilgrimage to the Shiite shrine at Karbala), but he acknowledges himself a sinner, and accepts the Gospel message.

A neighbouring hamlet is occupied by the "muezzin" (i.e., a Moslem official whose business it is to summon to prayers): he is a queer young fellow, an "hadji", and proud to be so recognized. From his ancestors he has inherited the power of "blowing" Koranic verses upon patients for their recovery. A few seem to improve under this treatment, but the majority get steadily worse!

He practised this "blowing" upon his brother who fell from a tree and injured his knee, but the poplitic cavity became one solid lump of pus! At the end of three weeks he gave up his "blowing" and sought Mr. Berger's aid.

He now possesses a New Testament which he reads daily, and his household and neighbourhood have heard the Good News many times.

In yet another hamlet, men being conspicuous by their absence, several women listened very attentively to the Word of Life. As the Koranic teaching is said to be "for men only", the women hardly regard salvation as something to which they have as much right as the men; hence the importance and privilege of ministering to Moslem women everywhere in the Name of Him Who, in the days of His flesh was followed by "a great company . . . of women".

Press Cuttings.

Extract from a Letter from Egypt.

The Government has decided to open a department of El-Azhar University at Kena in Upper Egypt. But the interest of the country in Islam is not confined to the boundaries of Egypt itself. A committee has been formed for the collection of subscriptions towards the cost of erecting a mosque at Juba in the Southern Sudan and the Ministry of Waqfs has made contributions towards the establishment of mosques in Bucharest, Budapest and Manchuria. At the same time, the Prime

Minister has promised that the Egyptian Government will make a contribution towards the cost of repairs to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. This last decision has evoked some criticism from orthodox Muslims, who wish to know why a Muslim Government is contributing towards the repairs of the reputed burial place of Christ when Islam denies that he was ever buried there! *The Guardian*, 7th July, 1938.

A Lecture on Purdah.

Speaking on 'Islamic Purdah' under the auspices of the Theology Students' Union, Professor Manazif Hassan Saheb, Chairman of the Theology Department, Osmania University observed that Islam had given permission to women to go out in open, with a veil on their faces and in plain attire, though it was against their going out unnecessarily. It also preferred women to stay indoors instead of going to open mosques for the purpose of offering their prayers, participation in funeral processions of relatives was likewise prohibited. He then referred to the present circumstances in which purdah was observed and spoke in appreciation of the value of the veil to the women when obliged to move in the open. *Hyderabad Bulletin*, 8th August, 1938.

Mecca Library.

The following is a translation of a notice which appeared in the Meccan newspaper *Sautul-Hejaz* :—

An appeal from the library of Al-Haram at Mecca to the authors of books and proprietors of libraries throughout the world says that after the committee charged with the general library of the Holy Mosque had been completely formed, the members held several meetings during which they discussed certain matters regarding the organization of the said library, and the question of furnishing it with an adequate number of books, and undertaking new repairs. The appeal is worded as follows :

"In view of the fact that the committee charged with the organization of the library of Al-Haram at Mecca proposes to make new improvements to the said library, the committee requests the authors of books and the proprietors of libraries throughout the world to hasten to assist the said library by supplying any number of books as a present to the library, which is to be a unique collection where all Muslims of various nationalities may find what they want in the shade of the Kaaba and the centre of Islam."

The Light.

Pilgrims to Iraq.

Five thousand six hundred and sixteen Indian pilgrims visited Iraq in 1937, compared with 4,186 in 1936, says the Report on the work of the Indian Section of the British Consulate at Bagdad, just published.

Golden minarets gleaming for miles across the desert, blue and

gold tiled domes under which lie the remains of pious Caliphs. Imams and Sufis of Islam—these are the holy places which attract Muslims from all over India to Iraq.

At Karbala rest the martyrs of the House of the Prophet, massacred, parched and thirsty. At Najaf is Ali, the Lion of Islam, the fourth Caliph; Bagdad holds the tomb of the greatest of Muslim mystics, Abdul Qadir Jilani.

Iraq is also being increasingly used as a route by Muslim pilgrims to Mecca every year. It enables them to visit Bagdad, Karbala and Najaf, as they proceed by the cross-country bus service to Damascus in Syria and to Jerusalem. Thence they go to Medina and Mecca.

The untold treasures of the famous Shrine of Karbala where Hussain, the grandson of the Prophet, is buried, have now been further enhanced by the piety of the Borah community, according to the Report. The Zarih (screen) on the tomb has been replaced by a new one, an exact replica, made of 250 tolas of gold and 1,000 tolas of silver, it is an interesting piece of Indian art.

Medical aid, furnishing information about the Iraqi Residence Law's requirements, thus saving pilgrims difficulties with the Iraqi authorities, instructions about passports, inoculations, banking and even about motor buses, are but a few of the innumerable ways described in the Report by which the British Consulate at Bagdad helps the pilgrims on their way. *Hyderabad Bulletin, 13th August, 1938.*

New Mosque in Japan.

Unusual interest, was taken in the recent ceremonious opening of a new mosque in Tokio, the first in the capital and the second in Japan, if only for the fact that several guests high in the Mahommedan world as well as a number of leaders of the Pan-Asiatic movement in Japan were present. The latter included Mr. Mitsuru Toyama, venerable leader of the famed "Black Dragon" Society and President of the Japanese Islamic Society, who performed the opening ceremony, and General Iwane Matsui, lately Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese forces at Shanghai, and leader of the Pan-Asianism.

There were 500 guests at the ceremony.

King Farouk of Egypt was represented by Abdul Wahab Dawod Bey, the Egyptian Minister in Tokio, First Secretary Abulfetouh, of the Egyptian Legation in Tokio, attended the ceremony on behalf of Sheikh Malagi, the Rector of Azhar University in Cairo.

The Italian Ambassador and the Italian Councillor of Embassy were also present.

Many Moslem nations, including Indians, Arabs, Turks, Turko-Tartars, Iranians, Malaysians, Manchurians, Chinese, and Japanese were well represented.—Reuter. *Hyderabad Bulletin, 13 August, 1938.*

Hyderabad Academy.

An event of great literary importance both to Hyderabad and the intellectual world outside is the formation here of a Society of Scholars under the name of the Hyderabad Academy. The primary object of this body is to stimulate the production of creative and scientific literature of a high standard by its members and promote a right taste for literary judgment among the intellectual classes by (a) affording opportunities for a free interchange of ideas between the members interested in particular subjects and for active collaboration between them, (b) conducting a Journal of its own in English and Urdu and (c) publishing the works of its members.

The Academy has started with about 40 members all belonging to the front rank of scholars belonging to Hyderabad, most of whom are either professors of the Osmania University or are its distinguished products holding high European and other Academic qualifications, and further membership is open to every person who has to his or her credit any published work of outstanding merit or is engaged in high research and is recommended by the Academy's Council.

Scholars of international reputation, particularly the orientalists of England and the European Continent, are expected to join as Honorary Members and Correspondents of the Academy.

The Academy will issue a quarterly magazine both in English and Urdu embodying the results of research by its different members.

It has been decided to translate into Urdu the *Encyclopedia of Islam*, a monumental work dealing with the Islamic history, philosophy, religion, arts and sciences, personalities and peoples, and issue the translation in instalments in the journal of the Academy. The Academy has before it a programme to concentrate in the pages of the journal and other publications of the Academy not merely the results of research by its members in arts and sciences but to bring to light the literary and scientific achievements of India in the domain of knowledge available in Sanskrit, Persian, Arabic and the modern Indian languages. *Hyderabad Bulletin*, 16 August, 1938.

London Muslim's Demonstration

London, August 18.

The unusual spectacle of turbanned Indian Muslims marching in a procession from the East End via the city along the Embankment was witnessed by Londoners this morning.

The demonstration, which was organised by the Jamiat-ul-Muslemin, consisted of about 200 and marched behind the Islamic banner shouting "Alla-ho-Akbar" and "Down with H. G. Wells."

The gathering proceeded to the India House where a deputation of six leaders was received by Sir Feroze Khan Noon to whom they presented a representation signed by numerous Muslims protesting against a paragraph in H. G. Wells' book "Short History of the World" which, it was asserted, insults the Prophet and the "Koran."

Sir Feroze Khan Noon promised to submit the representation to the Government. The demonstrators had planned to go to the India Office, but the leaders expressed satisfaction with Sir Feroze Khan Noon's reply and, therefore, they dispersed.—Reuter. *Hyderabad Bulletin*, 19 August, 1938.

BOOK NOTICE.

FROM THE C. L. S. BOOKMAN.

The Master of the Impossible. Sayings, for the most part in parable, from the letters and journals of Lilius Trotter of Algiers. Arranged by Constance E. Padwick. S. P. C. K. Rs. 2-7.

Lilius Trotter landed in Algiers in 1888 faced with innumerable impossibilities, and this book gives a wide variety of her thoughts and sayings through the greater part of her life.

PRAYER AND PRAISE.

PRAYER is asked for a new convert now in the Lucknow Ashram, that he may be made strong.

LET US PRAY for Canon Goldsmith, that in his weakness Christ's power may be fully felt.

LET US PRAY for his Indian colleagues who are carrying on the work.

LET US PRAY for the plans now being made for the conference of workers among Muslims which it is hoped will be held in Delhi before Tambaram.

LET US PRAY for the Tambaram Conference.

Several months ago, in writing about this Conference, Rev. W. Paton said, "The certainties on which we stand are in no wise shaken, and the world has never more needed that they should be fearlessly, clearly and prayerfully offered to it."

NOTICE.

Any notification of change of address, names of new members or remittance of subscriptions etc., should be sent to the Superintendent, Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack, India, and *not* to the Secretary of the League. The annual subscription to the League is Rs. 2-0-0 (English 3s. od.).

Matters of interest to members of the League, items of news and requests for prayer should be sent (if possible, early in the month) to the Honorary Secretary:—

Miss K. Greenfield,
Methodist Mission,
Medak, Nizam's Dominions.