

Confidential.

Missionaries to Muslims League.

News and Notes.

Series VII, No. 12.

APRIL, 1919.

OUR NEW PRESIDENT.

The Committee of the M. M. League have unanimously chosen as President in place of Bishop G. A. Lefroy, the late Metropolitan of India, Dr. E. M. Wherry of Ludhiana, one who is well known as an authority on all subjects connected with the evangelization of Muslims. In acknowledging this honour, Dr. Wherry says:—"I wish to thank you and the League for the honour bestowed on me. I desire the prayers of every member that during the short time yet remaining to complete my course I may be enabled to render efficient service in the cause of Muslim evangelization." All members of the League will join heartily in the prayer that Dr. Wherry may be long spared to continue to inspire us with enthusiasm in this great cause.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

We welcome into the ranks of our members this month the Rt. Rev. R. S. Heywood, Bishop of Mombasa, who was for many years Secretary of the C. M. S. in Bombay. His Diocese contains many Musalmans, and also many other Indians, and we have in Bishop Heywood one who is truly in sympathy with the objects of the League, the evangelization of Muslims, and particularly of those in the Far East. Up to the present we have not had among our members any who are working in East Africa, but, although perhaps that country is not formally included in the title of the League, still East Africa is in some respects to be regarded as an extension of the Indian field. Bishop Heywood says:—"We ought to do some work among the multitudes of Indians here..... They all talk Hindustani..... They seem to be all Gujeratis or Panjabis. I wonder whether

possibly we might hear of some ex-Indian missionary, who has had to leave India on health grounds who could stand this climate, and who might work with an Indian Christian helper among the multitudes of Indians who are living here." The climate of East Africa, in the inland parts, is from all accounts a good one, and it would be gratifying if our League could be the means of helping to supply this need which Bishop Heywood mentions.

BIBLE COLPORTAGE FOR MUSLIMS.

The following message comes from Dr. Wherry:—"I am trying to inaugurate a special work of Bible Colportage for Muslims. I find it difficult to secure the right man and the right place. The worker should be, if possible, a Convert from Islam—a man of intelligence and discretion. His work would be personal—*special aim* to persuade Muslims to buy the Scriptures and to read them; also to read portions to illiterate men. *There must be no controversy. Let the Word talk.* At present the work will be confined to North India. Funds are available for 5 or 6 men, at maximum cost (salary and expenses, including house rent) of Rs. 50 p. m. Who has such a man available? and where is a suitable field? I have at present Rs. 3,000 available for the Bible Missionary work among Muslims. Success in the work would make this an annual grant, and no doubt largely increase the amount to make it available elsewhere."

DR. WHERRY'S "COMMENTARY ON THE QURAN."

The author writes as follows:—"All arrangements were made for a third edition in a cheap form at the opening of the war, but everything is at a standstill now. I want to write to my publishers on the subject. I wonder if the members of the League would intimate how many copies they would take. The price proposed in 1913 was about £1 a copy—two volumes instead of four as in the old edition. *Missionaries among Muslims want to study the Quran; Muslims should be persuaded to study the Bible.*

NEWS FROM MUSCAT.

The Rev. G. D. Van Peurseem writes as follows:—

The sultan of this place is having a hard time with the drink habit. Strong drink is sold openly in the bazaar by the Goanese. According to the treaty made with the British some

years ago, no restriction can be put on imports. This is binding to both parties, of course, and consequently no one seems to have the authority to check the growing crave for drink. The sultan has put Arabs in prison for getting drunk, but this punishment can hardly be followed with men who are more or less his favourites.

The boys in our mission school are reading the Gospel every day, and no objection is made any more. One of the boys is coming to my room every day to receive instruction in Bible. He confesses to believe in the Bible and follows its direction as closely as the best Christian. He will no doubt ask for baptism this year. In this way I know that the seed does not return unto Him void.

MAP OF THE MUSLIM WORLD.

The Rev. L. Bevan Jones informs the members of the M. M. League that he has prepared a large linen map of the Muslim World, measuring 10 ft. by 8 ft., with an explanatory chart to accompany it. The map is in water colours, made fast by a special process, and the whole weighs only about 1 lb. It is a large scale reproduction of the map at the end of Canon Gairdner's "Reproach of Islam," and the idea was given him by Dr. Zwemer. Mr. Bevan Jones, who has just returned from furlough in England, has left the map and chart in the care of the "Manager of Loan and Exhibition Dept., Baptist Mission House, 19 Farnival St., London, E. C. 4," on the understanding that any member of the M. M. League may have them for use on Deputation tours. A small charge of about 6d. is made for wear and tear. Mr. Bevan Jones says he used these a good deal during his furlough, and he confidently commends their use to any of his fellow-members of the M. M. L. as they form a fine background (in more senses than one) for a missionary address on Islam. Let us hope that League members will not be slow to take advantage of this generous offer, which will no doubt greatly further the cause.

WILL YOU VISIT CHINA?

The Rev. F. Herbert Rhodes (Chefoo, China,) says:—
 "Now the great war is over, it may be that fewer missionaries will travel home *via* the East. But, should any come this way, especially any members of the M. M. League, we should be glad to know, and, if their time permits of a visit to Shanghai, we would be glad to put them in touch with friends there, then they could see a little of Chinese Mohammedanism, and give

much-appreciated advice.....If any young stamp collectors (in your mission) would care for some Chinese stamps, my son Bernard would like to exchange for Indian ones."

"THE MOSLEM WORLD."

Dr. Zwemer has sent us an advance copy of the contents of the April number of "The Moslem World," and he remarks "the April number will, I hope, be the best we have yet issued." Once again we would call the attention of members of the M. M. League to this Quarterly, with the hope that many will see their way to become subscribers to it. It may be ordered from the Christian Literature Society, P. O. Box 501 Parktown, Madras, and subscriptions may also be sent there. The Indian subscription is Rs. 4 per annum post free.

The contents of the April number are as follows:—*The Need of Patience*, by George Swan; *An Indian Sufi Hymn*, by Revs. R. Siraj-ud-Din and H. A. Walter; *Illiteracy among Indian Moslems*, by Rev. H. J. Lane Smith; *Christian Literature for Russian Moslems*, by Miss Jenny de Mayer; *Islam in Siam*, by P. McC. Hinkhouse; *The Moslem Idea of Ilm*, by F. J. Barny, D.D.; *The Crescent as Symbol of Islam*, by H. E. E. Hayes; *Constantinople College*, by Eveline A. Thomson; *All India Moslem Ladies Conference*, by Marguerite B. Walter; *Mohammedans in Syria during the War*, by Wm. H. Hall; *Evil Spirits and the Evil Eye in Turkey*, by Rev. G. White, D.D.; *The Correct Foundations: a Tientsin Tract*, by Isaac Mason; and the usual reviews, and notes on current topics.

The January number contains a good deal that is interesting, but the most striking article is one by Canon W. H. T. Gairdner of Cairo, who writes a refutation of the extravagant laudation of the Prophet Muhammad, which the editor of the "Islamic Review" of Woking lately indulged in when he issued "Our Prophet's Birthday Number." The article is able, and throws a bright light on the character of Muhammad *from Muslim sources*.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR MUSLIMS.

Miss F. M. Davidson (Peshawar) writes: "Don't you think a fixed 'Day of Prayer' for Muhammadans would be another link, and bind us all together in this work? I often find that when 'Days' are settled at home, we out here don't hear about them in time to join in, or else have got some other

engagements for the day. I think if a special date was fixed, we should make a point of keeping it every year all over the world, and perhaps you and the other Muhammadan missionary societies would join in too. I should suggest June 30th, Raymond Lull's day. There's nothing like praying together to make us feel the strength of our unity, and how we need it in the fight."

The editor of *News and Notes* will be glad to hear from members of the M. M. League as to whether they agree with this suggestion. There is no time to be lost if June 30th this year should be agreed upon. A post card will be enough. Kindly send one *on receipt* of this note.

URDU HANDBILLS.

The first of the new series, "Miftah-ul-Qulub," of which 40,000 were printed at first, has passed into a second edition of 35,000, and a third edition, which will be considerably revised and improved, is now in contemplation. Again we wish to draw the attention of all members to this most excellent means of bringing the Gospel message to bear on Muhammadans. The handbills are issued under the title of "Hal-ul-Ishkal" and this one is No. 1 of this series. Please order large quantities of them from the Panjab Religious Book Society, Anarkali St., Lahore. The price is ONE RUPEE per 1,000, postage extra.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

1. Our new President, Dr. Wherry. See opening article.
2. British East Africa. See page 91.
3. Bible Colportage. See page 92.
4. Muscat. See page 92.
5. Suggested 'Day of Prayer.' See page 94, that we all may be rightly guided in this important matter.

SECRETARY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

1. With this issue of *News and Notes* "Series VII" will be completed. Next month we hope to give an Index to the chief contents of this "Series," as well as the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.

2. It is earnestly requested that any *changes of address*, whether at home or in India, may be reported to the Secretary *in good time*, so that *News and Notes* may be correctly addressed, and that thus redirections may be avoided as far as may be.

3. The Secretary will be grateful if all who have not yet paid their subscriptions (at least those due in April) will be good enough to remit them to him before the end of April.

NEW MEMBERS.

274 Rt. Rev. R. S. Heywood, Bishop of Mombasa, Nairobi,
B. E. A.

*199 Dr. Edith Brown, N. I. School of Medicine, Ludhiana,
Panjab.

* 71 Mr. C. Kalemkarian, Student, Boone, Iowa, U. S. A.

**These numbers were formerly assigned to persons who are no longer members.*

Please send news and requests for prayer as early as possible to

Rev. H. J. Lane Smith,

Hon. Sec. M. M. League.

*C. M. S. House,
Girgaum, Bombay.*