

A. Popley proved how powerful an influence music possesses to reach Indian hearers. Lantern lectures, social purity lectures, a music club and a reading room are other activities.

*Indian Standard.*

#### **Basel Mission in South India**

THE churches of the Basel Mission in Malabar recently decided to unite with the South India United Church, and the Church of the Khassia and Lushai Hills, connected with the Welsh Mission, has agreed upon union with the Presbyterian Church. These churches have a rich heritage of usefulness, and in the new relationship the leaders desire to launch an enthusiastic evangelistic movement in Malabar. A beginning has been made by a group of young men who have pledged themselves to become volunteer helpers. The Thiers are ready to respond to religious appeals, the Nairs can be reached one by one and the depressed classes are eager to find a Gospel.

H. A. POPLEY.

#### **MOSLEM LANDS**

##### **Famous for Truth Telling**

A YOUNG man in Syria not long ago received a letter from a friend in America containing treasonable remarks about the Ottoman government. He was immediately haled to court and tried as a traitor to his country. The court was entirely Moslem, while the boy was Christian, and he seemed to stand no chance at all. The young man said that he knew nothing about the contents of the letter before receiving it, but his assertion was received with sneers. Then the judge asked him where he came from. The boy answered that he was a student in the Syrian Protestant College. Instantly the presiding officer turned to his court and said: "We do not need to go further in this case. The boy comes from the Syrian Protestant College, and the boys from there tell the truth."

##### **Hero Worship in Arabia**

WHEREVER the Shiah sect of Mohammedanism is found an annual celebration is held to commemorate the death of Hussein, grandson of Mohammed and one of their religious heroes. Mrs. Paul W. Harrison, in *Neglected Arabia*, describes such a celebration which took place in Bahrein. Every strictly orthodox Shiah wore black clothes for the entire month of Meharram, and draped his house in black. Readings were held in the homes throughout the town, the sufferings and death of Hussein being the theme. On the ninth day, a bier, gaily decorated, was carried through the streets, followed by men and women beating their breasts and wailing—this in honor of a nephew of the hero, slain on the same day. The culmination of all these demonstrations was reached on the tenth day, when religious zealots, anxious to win a good reward in the next world, took part in an elaborately planned parade. Companies of men brandishing swords and occasionally gashing themselves on the forehead, chanted "Oh, Hussein! Oh, Hussein!" These men wore new white garments in order to display the blood from their wounds to the best advantage. The main part of the procession was made up of men and boys representing different relatives of Hussein, and following these were horsemen representing Hussein's assassins, all endeavoring to kill another horseman who was Hussein's brother. On another horse rode Hussein's son, ingeniously attired to give the appearance of a sword being thrust through his head. Then came men carrying biers, supposed to contain bodies of various relatives, and most important of all, the bier of Hussein himself, draped in white and perched on it a pure white dove. To make the beheading more realistic, a man lay on the bier with his head out of sight and where the head should have been protruded the neck of a

freshly slaughtered animal, which at the beginning of the performance spurted blood in most ghastly manner. The procession wound up with two companies of men beating their breasts and crying, "Oh, Hussein! Oh, Hussein!" Thus ended the celebration commemorating the death of a hero of a religion which drags its followers to a moral and physical plane of living that is almost unthinkable.

#### Missionary Shock Troops

WHEN Secretary Josephus Daniels recently cited the U. S. A. marines for distinguished service in Belleau Wood he closed the citation with the words:

"More than faithful in every emergency, accepting hardships with admirable morale, proud of the honor of taking their place as shock troops for the American legions, they have fulfilled every glorious tradition of their corps, and they have given to the world a list of heroes whose names will go down in all history."

The missionaries might well be called the "shock troops" of the Missionary Army occupying these outposts. Some have laid down their lives in holding their posts, but their names and all they have done will go down in missionary history.

Since the surrender of Turkey there are practically 3,950,000 destitute Armenians, Greeks, Syrians and others in Asia Minor, the Caucasus, Syria and Mesopotamia, who are accessible to relief funds which have been administered by missionaries and others—the "shock troops" during the years of the War, and which are being administered today, and which will need to be administered in the immediate future.

The American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief are hoping and expecting, with the cooperation of the State Department to secure one or more government colliers or transports, on which can be sent from 100 to 300 doctors, nurses, agricultural experts, sanitary engin-

eers, mechanics and other technically trained men to assist in this work of rehabilitation. The company will include a considerable proportion of teachers, doctors and others formerly resident in Turkey and familiar with the language and conditions.

The Armenians in this country are doing their share in this work. Over \$2,000,000 have been contributed by Syrians and Armenians in America through the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions.

#### Some Fruits of Victory

DR. JOHN H. FINLEY considers General Allenby a worthy successor of Joshua. When General Allenby received a despatch from his Chief of Staff on September 20th he said: "The battle of Armageddon has commenced. It is the dawn of the thousand years of peace." The terms of the armistice signed on November 11 included the surrender of Mosul and the evacuation by the Turkish troops of Northwestern Persia and the Caucasus as well.

In driving the Turks out from the Caucasus, it is again possible to open up communication with Northwestern Persia, which has been pretty well cut off from the world for nearly four years. For a long time no mail has come from there, and what has come through has only been by private messengers, some of whom have been robbed and killed. One recent package of letters was brought out by an English aviator, who kindly went over Urumia to see what had become of the isolated band there, and carried their letters out.

The opening of the Caucasus will also mean a chance to provision Urumia and Tabriz with the many necessities for lack of which there has been great suffering.

The fact that the English troops are in Hamadan, and that a small contingent was recently sent to the help of Urumia,—arriving, however, a week too late to avert the awful flight of nearly all the Christian population—shows that they are in a

position to move in and help restrain the present lawless elements. The bitter feeling between the Moslems and Christians who have aroused all of this enmity, by daring for the first time to stand for their lives, must in some way be allayed if these two peoples who have for centuries lived together in peace, are to continue their relations to each other. The people, weary with years of disorder and all the losses that have followed them, would gladly welcome outside help.

#### Industrial Work for the Syrian Mission

**N**OW that General Allenby's victory has freed the whole of Syria from Turkish oppression, the British Syrian Mission, founded in 1860, is making an urgent appeal for help in reestablishing their work. The Mission buildings must be restored and equipped and simple forms of industrial work should be established—hand-loom weaving, rug making, etc. Several of the missionaries are qualifying themselves to train the women in these industries.

Among the thousands of Syrian women widowed by the war, there will be many spiritually fitted for the vocation of Biblewomen. The Committee is making plans for the establishment of a Biblewomen's Training Home at Damascus, where carefully chosen women will be trained for the work of carrying the Word of God into the homes and harems of the land.

#### Modern Martyrs

**REV. CHARLES A. DANA** and **R**Dr. William S. Nelson, missionaries of the Presbyterian Board in Syria were imprisoned by the Turks because of their activities in distributing Red Cross supplies to the Armenians. The story of their sufferings was told by Mr. Dana to a correspondent of the Associated Press:

"On Nov. 19, 1917, after all the records and correspondence of the Presbyterian Board were seized by

the Turkish police at Beirut, I was imprisoned for a week and then ordered to leave the city, without any explanation being given. With my wife and child I started for Constantinople, traveling in open cars and filthy cattle trains, exposed to the bitter weather.

"At Karaman our train was stalled for three days and nights. We had no food or means with which to keep warm on a plain covered with two feet of snow and in a temperature below zero. Thirty-two persons on our train were frozen to death.

"I offered \$2,000 for a camel transport to Konia, a journey of three hours. This was declined as not being a sufficient amount. My wife and child have not recovered yet from the terrible ordeal.

"After living in Constantinople six months I was thrown into a secret prison at Stamboul with thirty criminals, some of whom were chained to the walls. Neither food nor water was procurable. Afterwards I was sent to the military prison, where I was kept until Sept. 3, my cellmates being an insane Turk and an Egyptian spy. The madman tried twice to cut my throat while I was asleep."

*The Continent.*

#### AFRICA

##### Sunday-School Work in Egypt

**S**HEIKH METRY DEWAIRY, who was recently called to assist Rev. Stephen Trowbridge as Sunday-school field worker for Egypt, is making a personal study of the Coptic Bible classes and Sunday-schools in Cairo. From this he will extend his survey to include the beginnings of Sunday-school effort in the Orthodox Coptic churches throughout Egypt. Since his father was an ordained Coptic priest, honored among a wide circle of friends, Sheikh Dewairy has an entree to any of the Orthodox Coptic churches. One of his aims is to educate the priests to an interest in systematic Bible study, and to organize groups of children for lectures and the begin-

nings of class work, led by intelligent young college men.

#### **New Movement Among Moslems in Abyssinia**

**T**HROUGH the Swedish Evangelical Mission a remarkable religious movement is reported from the interior of Abyssinia. This has taken hold of the Moslem population, so that in the last six years some 10,000 have been baptized into the Christian Church. The apostle of this movement is an ex-Sheik, Zaccharia, who has changed his name to Noaye Kristus, a person of great influence in Sokoto, in the Amhara country where he lives. The movement has sprung from Scriptures distributed by the British Bible Society in Abyssinia, and is evangelical in character. Indeed these new Christians are so dissatisfied with the dead forms of the Coptic Church that they are organizing classes for Scripture study and have mobilized some 500 men, who are serving as teachers.

*The Christian Express.*

#### **The Bible in Zande**

**I**N the very heart of Central Africa there is a region where the frontiers of three enormous states—Belgian Congo, French Congo and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan—come together. This is the home of the Azande, black savages numbering some 300,000 and sometimes called "Niam niam" (flesh flesh) on account of their cannibalism. Three or four missions have approached them from different points of the compass and representatives of the Africa Inland Mission and the Church Missionary Society have now undertaken to translate the Bible into Zande. A good start was made in the compilation of a grammar and vocabulary of about 1,000 words by a Frenchman named Colomberoli, working with an interpreter.

The Azande are a virile race, intelligent and progressive, and the printing of the first Gospel in their native speech is a momentous event.

#### **A Missionary Physician in West Africa**

**D**R. LUCIUS E. SMITH has been the only missionary physician at Benito, West Africa, for a year and the report of cases treated by him during that time fills one with amazement at the possibilities of human endurance. During the twelve months Dr. Smith cared for 10,859 individual cases and made 301 outside calls. One midnight summons required an eight-mile walk in the rain. One hundred and eighty-three operations were performed, including eighty-three major operations, two of them performed with the thermometer at 110°. One patient came from 650 miles distant and another, a very old man, walked continuously for sixteen days to reach the hospital.

#### **Adjusting Personal Property**

**R**EV. W. C. JOHNSTONE, of Elat, West Africa, relates some of the experiences a missionary to Africa may have in straightening up the "personal property" entanglements of natives who accept Christianity. One of the head men became a Christian a short time ago, and as he had forty-seven wives it took some time to get his affairs adjusted. At a recent communion service at Ngomeden, four men with from two to six wives apiece, wished to become Christians. One who was the possessor of six wives had not a single child, which made his problem easier to solve, as the men usually wish to put away all the wives who have children and take a new one without children. Another said he would give up trying to be a Christian rather than keep the wife who had three little children. There is much patient work for a pastor to do in such conditions.

#### **The Effect of the Gospel**

**T**HIS is the testimony of an African native to the work of the Gospel among the fierce Ngoni tribes:

"As I saw men with scars of spears and clubs on them, I marveled exceedingly. And then, at the