

Your missionaries at the stations in Arabia have been greatly amused with tales from home which tell us that few realize how far apart we live and what a trip between stations means. Busrah is about as far from Bahrein as Chicago is from Minneapolis. Muscat is farther away from Bahrein. A mail and passenger steamer arrives at and leaves Bahrein once in every two weeks only. One spends as much time here in traveling per steamer from one station to the next as he spends at home in making two return trips between Chicago and New York.

Rev. Dr. Young, of the Keith-Falconer Mission at Aden, attempted a trip inland to Sanaa by way of Hodeidah, but was turned back by the Turks at the latter place.

England has opened a post-office at Makalla, a promising place on the southern coast of Arabia.

A weekly prayer meeting is held for women at Bahrein station. Seven or eight Muslim women attend quite regularly.

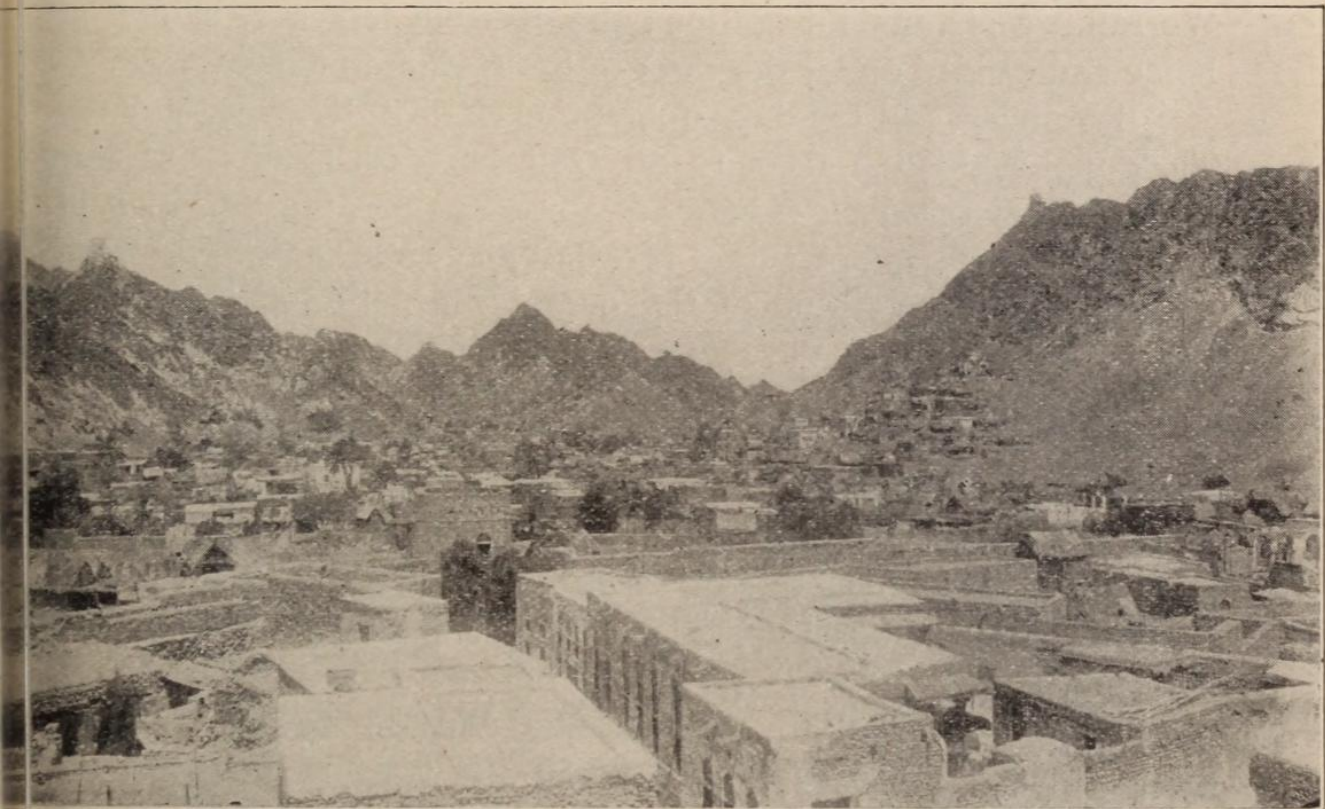
Dr. Sutton, of the C. M. S. Mission at Mosul in northern Arabia, writes that the medical work there has opened with more patients than he can treat satisfactorily under existing conditions. "One morning the streets leading to the dispensary were lined for several hundred yards by crowds of sick. There seemed to be about 500."

The Mason Memorial Hospital at Bahrein is building. With abundance of building material purchased and delivered on the ground, and contracts with masons and others signed and filed, we look forward to a successful summer's work.

One paper published in India tells us that the British government's policy at Kuwait in Arabia is to maintain the "status quo." Four warships are at Kuwait, and trenches have been dug round the place. From a second paper we learn that prominent men in

India have said that the sooner Great Britain openly proclaims her suzerainty at Kuweit the better it will be for all.

Our colporters at Muscat, Bahrein and Busrah made tours to the number of eighty in 1901. "They have traveled on donkeys, camels, and in native sail-boats, traversing distances which are equivalent to more than two times the number of miles between Liverpool and New York along the track of the great ocean steamers.



VIEW OF MUSCAT, OUTSIDE THE WALLS, LOOKING INLAND.

The missionary at Muscat reports progress in the building of the mission-house at that place. Two more months of successful building and the task will have been completed.

Dr. S. J. Thoms has begun a weekly dispensary at Moharrak, Bahrein Islands. He reports twenty-five or thirty patients, and little or no disturbance in the bazaar street.

UNDER THE YELLOW FLAG.

REV. S. M. ZWEMER, D.D.

The annual meeting of our mission is held as early as possible in the new year. Last year we met at Bahrein; this year for several reasons it was thought best to meet at Busrah. The British India steamer that left Bahrein on January 14th had all the delegates on board. Except for the welcome presence of Mrs. Worrall it was a male delgation; the Bahrein ladies remained at home and carried on all the work of the station in our absence.

Busrah has still ten days quarantine against Bombay, and the Turk applies this ten days to all Gulf ports for financial rather than sanitary reasons. Therefore to save time, the "Classis of Arabia" met in quarantine. Mr. Barny became "infected" with us, by special permission of the quarantine police, and we spent ten happy and busy days together under the yellow flag. Of course we had a cook and a good commisariat through the kindness of Mrs. Barny. Our quarters were not elegant, but fairly comfortable, even when the thermometer went down to 30° F., and the north winds blew down the Shatt el Arab. There were advantages in thus meeting in a desert place apart; no callers, and no interruption to business, as well as a compulsory quorum at all sessions.

We were all glad to welcome the Worralls back to Arabia although their presence could not fill the vacant place of dear Wiersum. We had a short memorial service in his memory, and all through the meetings we felt how great was our loss in the death of so diligent and zealous a worker.

With business sessions regularly twice a day, devotional meetings, and committee reports, you can imagine that time did not drag heavily. The quarantine house for first-class passengers is of one story, and has four rooms with a hallway; you can promenade the roof for exercise or run around the house to get up an appetite. For variety there were insects and a shower of rain that made the roof leak!

I wish all of our contributors could have been present and could have heard the discussions of the work at our stations. It

was good to learn of inquirers and seekers even in distant villages. Our reports of Scripture and Book Sales were larger than ever before, and new doors for this work have opened during the past year.

Arrangements were made to complete the Muscat house and build the Mason Memorial Hospital at Bahrein. A set of new rules for our colporters was adopted, intended to set forth the ideal and to meet some real difficulties. Two new colporters were engaged by the mission, and we trust they will equal the best of those now on the staff. Their work is one that tries like fire ; and wood, hay or stubble men soon give it up. Do remember them in your prayers ; they are the vanguard in East Arabia and (most of them) the King's Own. The British and Foreign Bible Society as well as the American Bible Society give a grant-in-aid, without which all this work of distributing the Word of God would be impossible.

The report of medical work for the past year was good, and we all enjoyed hearing Dr. Thom's paper on this topic and its look into the future. The new hospital calls for new energies in this department and makes new demands for men and money. Indeed the need for reinforcements was never so great because the work was never before so promising and so pressing.

Our mission again asks the Board and asks *you* for help to send out to the front immediately : a single medical missionary, a clergyman and two single ladies. Do you realize that even if all of these were to sail next Autumn it would be two years before they could freely use Arabic and begin to reinforce us ?

Beside the strictly business sessions we had papers on such subjects as, "Vacations and Furloughs," and "The Relation between the Individual Missionary and the Board at Home." This exchange of ideas often results in raising us from the dust of routine to higher ideals of service.

The annual meeting is our only Keswick or Northfield, and we all appreciate the privilege of mutual prayer and counsel. Once out of quarantine we enjoyed the freedom and hospitality of the mission-house, and had a few days left to visit friends and meet Arab acquaintances.

On the day of our adjournment we met to break bread and remember the death of our Saviour who is alive forevermore. Even

under the Turkish flag we could meet in remembrance of Him who sent us as His witnesses. Even under the yellow flag we planned for His kingdom and felt that His banner over us was love.

MISSIONS AND POLITICS IN BUSRAH.

REV F. J. BARNY.

The important event of the quarter is the re-opening of the medical work after having been closed for more than a year. The importance of this event for our work can hardly be over-estimated. It was a sore disappointment for us last fall, when, instead of learning of Dr. and Mrs. Worrall's departure for the field, the mail brought the news that the lack of funds would delay their return. Now, for joy that the work has re-opened, we have almost forgotten the bitterness of the disappointment. The good friend of the mission into whose heart God put it to pay for the traveling expenses of Dr. Worrall and his wife has done a marked service to the cause of Christ in Arabia. How much of a demand there is for a doctor is shown by the fact that hardly had he arrived when patients began to come and to-day, after a week's opening, there were enough to keep the doctor busy all the morning. So persistent have the people been that it has been impossible to fit up the dispensary properly, but in a few days everything will be in order and the work will be in full swing. Apart from the intrinsic value of this work as a practical example and proof of Christian love it has the greatest possible value in making definite evangelistic work possible. In this station where street preaching is prohibited and proselyting is a state crime an agency that gives the missionary an audience of from thirty to fifty every day is of the first importance. This is what our dispensary does, it brings an audience right to the house where God's word may be expounded under the most favorable circumstances and this is then followed up by as much personal work as the time and strength of the missionaries will permit. This is the reason why the stopping of the medical work a year ago was so much deplored and why we rejoice so much that it has begun again.

History has been making in this part of Arabia during the last six months. The latest news is that there are uprisings of the

Arabs in the Turkish provinces of Hassa and Katar and that an English gun-boat has gone to Katif, the port of Hassa, on official business. Perhaps a brief explanation of the politics of these events will not be out of place here. Though politics is not the sphere of a missionary it would be a mistake to say that missionaries must not pay any attention to the political happenings; for God rules in the world of politics and often His hand is so plain that it cannot be mistaken. The story of what has been transpiring in the last few months goes back to five years ago. At that time, Mubarek usurped the chieftianship of Kuwait (pronounced Kuwait). He murdered his two brothers and became sole sheikh of Kuwait and the dependent tribes. The children of the murdered brothers escaped and came to Busrah where they sought the help of the Turkish authorities with but little apparent success. I say apparent, purposely, for an attack made on Mubarek by Abdul Aziz bin Rashid, ruler of the Nijd, last summer has not a very evident connection with these events, but I have no doubt that it was at the instigation of the Turks that Ibn Rashid attacked Mubarek. These two are both powerful sheikhs ruling over a considerable extent of territory and both independent of the Turkish government. *Divide et impera* is a favorite maxim of the Osmanlis, a principle which they have successfully applied to the task of governing since they had anything to govern. The misdeeds of Mubarek were a convenient pretext for mixing in the affairs of these rulers and playing off one against the other. They would step in at the opportune moment and fully assert their authority. Should the connection of events not be exactly as stated, still the fact is that Mubarek was attacked by Ibn Rashid and lost a large number of men and when he prepared to retaliate the Turkish government interfered. Mubarek finding himself pressed on all sides called in the help of the English with the result as is well known, that Kuwait has become an English protectorate. I believe the English government denies that it has established a protectorate, and as a matter of fact the English flag has not been raised, but it requires considerable skill in finely drawn distinction to show the difference between a protectorate and the English position in Kuwait.

Perhaps we may soon hear of a "Katif affair" involving parts of East Arabia opposite to Bahrein. Certain it is that East Ara-