

THE ARABIAN MISSION.

FOUNDED, 1889. INCORPORATED, 1894.

ADOPTED BY R. C. A., 1894.

Missionaries.—*Busrah*, Rev. James Cantine, D.D., Rev. John Van Ess, Dr. Arthur K. Bennett. *Kuweit*, Dr. C. Stanley G. Mylrea, Rev. E. E. Calverley. *Bahrein*, Rev. James E. Moerdyk, Miss Jennie Scardefield, Rev. D. Dykstra, Dr. Paul W. Harrison, Rev. Gerrit D. Van Peurseem, Miss Gertrud Schafheitlin. *Maskat and Matrah*, Rev. H. R. L. Worrall, M.D., Rev. F. J. Barny, Miss Fanny Lutton, Dr. Sarah L. Hosmon.

Associate Missionaries.—Mrs. J. Cantine, Mrs. H. R. L. Worrall, M.D., Mrs. J. Van Ess, Mrs. A. K. Bennett, M.D., Mrs. D. Dykstra, Mrs. C. S. G. Mylrea, Mrs. G. D. Van Peurseem.

University of Michigan Representatives.—*Bahrein*, Dr. and Mrs. Hall G. Van Vlack. *Busrah*, Miss M. C. Holzhauser.

In Cairo, Egypt.—Rev. Dr. and Mrs. S. M. Zwemer.

In America.—Mrs. F. J. Barny, Rev. G. J. Pennings, Mrs. E. E. Calverley.

REPORT OF THE ARABIAN MISSION FOR 1914.

The Arabian Mission has been at work for twenty-five years. Its object is to establish the Church of Christ throughout the whole Arabian peninsula. This is perhaps a suitable year to take note of our past progress, and comparing our present position with what God desires for Arabia, to gain a fresh realization of what lies before us.

We labor continually at three different tasks: the Occupation of Territory, the Overcoming of Obstacles, and the Winning of Men's Hearts. Our field also is naturally divided into three parts: Mesopotamia, which is tributary to Busrah; Maskat, with its hinterland of Oman; and the whole of Inland Arabia, called Nejd, which we approach from Kuweit and Bahrein.

THE OCCUPATION OF TERRITORY.

Busrah and Mesopotamia, we may speak of as "occupied," that is, the struggle for a foothold is finished. We have per-

manent work in Busrah, Amara and Nasaryieh, and it is doubtful whether further locations are needed. This field has also been occupied in a very real sense, during the past year, by civilization. The days of childish Turkish Medievalism are over. Under the British flag, Busrah and Mesopotamia face a new era and new opportunities, the extent of which we shall only realize as God shall unfold them. The object of our prayers for Busrah need no longer be the opening of territory, but the opening of men's hearts; no longer a mere foothold for missionaries, but the establishment of the Arab Church.

Inland Oman, formerly open and calling for workers, has been closed for the past three years. It is re-opening. The tribal warfare is quieting down. Mr. Barny writes that it is possible for Arabs to travel back and forth practically everywhere. The export of dates has been resumed. Roads are not considered safe, but Dr. Worrall reports a very successful trip to Seeb, and was only prevented by affairs in Mutrah from going on to Birkah. Inland Oman is unoccupied. We have not so much as a Colporteur outside of the two stations on the coast. We must still pray for an opportunity to work in Oman, and we will do well to pray also, for workers to enter and occupy, as the doors swing open.

And what shall we say of Nejd, the goal of our heart's desire? The base of approach has been strengthened, both in Bahrein and Kuwait. Apparently only the war prevented Dr. Mylrea's being invited in, for a visit, this past year. He had a most cordial interview with Bin Saoud, the great Arab chief, who is absolute Czar of Central Arabia. It is evident that our Medicine is greatly desired and that our religion is greatly feared.

Bahrein invaded the Mainland at Kateef. It was a medical trip, and Mrs. Van Peursem's work for the women was probably the most warmly appreciated feature of it. There has been much demand for a similar visit to Hassa, and prospects of gaining official permission seem to be good.

Nejd, we consider the very citadel of Islam. Here, indeed, we must pray for the opening of doors, for laborers to enter, and for the grace of God to soften men's hearts.

THE OVERCOMING OF OBSTACLES.

The major part of our time and effort, has been, and is still spent, in the overcoming of prejudice and ignorance, so that a sympathetic contact with the souls of those around us may be possible. Undoubtedly the greatest human force working toward this end has been the quiet, unobtrusive power of Christian lives, lived in the midst of a contemptuous and sometimes hostile Moslem society. Only second to this, however, has been the influence of the Hospitals and Schools of the Mission. It has been their aim to soften prejudice, and enlighten ignorance, and create an atmosphere of mutual understanding and sympathy, which shall be favorable to the presentation and acceptance of the Gospel.

The Mission has three well equipped hospitals in Busrah, Bahrein, and Kuweit, a complete medical work in rented quarters in Mutrah, and a Women's Dispensary in Maskat. A large number are reached in this way. During the past year over 25,000 were treated. Probably all of these have had at least some of their prejudice melted away, and even though the Gospel may have been heard, but once, in a dispensary service, and then very imperfectly understood, many of their former notions about the religion of Jesus Christ they now know to be false.

Our banner Hospital is the Lansing Memorial in Busrah, from which institution the reputation of Dr. and Mrs. Bennett extends far beyond the boundaries of our entire Mission. The acquisition of Miss Holzhauser as superintendent has made possible a great increase in the quantity, and possibly a still greater increase in the quality of the work done. In-patients to the number of 582 were cared for in the course of the year, and of these, 340 underwent major surgical operations. In the out-patient departments, 9,129 patients were treated and there was a total of 20,013 treatments given. Eighty to ninety per cent of these were free patients. Dr. Bennett writes: "The year that has just closed has been full of work, and of unprecedented opportunities. Never has the hospital been more appreciated by the Arabs, nor has there ever been a year when we have had less fanatacism and bigotry in those who have sought our advice for treatment or operation. The hospital has been open for the full

twelve months, and the number of patients has exceeded by far that of any other year in our history.

"Prayers are held clinic mornings as heretofore, a fifteen-minute service of Bible reading, preaching and prayer. It was my custom to take the service once a week. Salome, our Hospital Evangelist, supplied when Dr. Cantine was unable to be present. We count several men this year who were powerfully influenced by the Gospel. Salome's Bible sales among the patients have not been the least of his labors."

Mrs. Bennett writes: "In spite of the war, the women continued to crowd the morning clinics. My highest daily number (140) was reached early in September. The scarcity of drugs became a serious problem, so that we had to discriminate in the administration of medicines, giving only to those who were suffering from serious ailments."

"For the year before us," writes Miss Holzhauser, "I pray that we may be spared to our work, and kept in harmony with Him whose we are, and whom we try to serve, and in our endeavors to serve and help the sick, poor and ignorant that we may learn to understand and love them, and be comforted anew, that 'not one sparrow falleth.' If this is true, 'How much more doth the Father love all His children, even these least.'"

The Mason Memorial Hospital in Bahrein reports a good year. There were 6,328 out-patients and 322 in-patients treated, 152 of the latter had major operations performed. There was an increased effort to do careful evangelistic work with the in-patients, and the results, while not great, were encouraging. Mrs. Van Peurse, who is superintendent of the hospital, and who has as well the Women's Medical Work in charge, writes:

"My work during the past year consisted in holding the Morning Dispensary for women, general nursing and supervision of the patients, assisting at operations, outcalls with the physician, or alone, and housekeeping for the hospital.

"With the patients we did personal work. We tried to speak to each one individually each day about spiritual things. This was the most encouraging and pleasant feature of the evangelistic work. During the whole year we have not met with one single case who refused to listen."

In Kuwait 4,521 patients were seen. There were 11,570 treatments given. The hospital and the physician's residence were completed, and special gifts have provided much of the necessary equipment. It has been a year of building and moving, but as Mrs. Calverley writes: "It has been a year of slow, but continual progress, and in no respect has there been any cause for discouragement." The friendliness of the people and of the Sheikh has increased, and the Evangelistic work in the hospital has been steadily pushed. Next year will probably see Kuwait treating nearly or quite as many patients as any hospital we have.

Mutrah has been cut off from the interior, for the entire year, but the amount of work accomplished has been surprisingly large. Over 4,500 patients have been treated. The total number of treatments was over ten thousand. Mrs. Worrall writes of vaccinating 90 patients in one day. The effort to secure land for a hospital has not yet been successful, in spite of many promises. As soon as Inland Oman opens once more, the opportunity for evangelistic medical work in this field will perhaps be the finest of any in our Mission.

The Maskat Women's Dispensary is our youngest medical work. Dr. Hosmon has had both Hindus and Arabs to treat, which is not remarkable considering the character of the city. Many of the usual difficulties of a new work were encountered. She writes: "I have enjoyed giving the Gospel talks to the women, but it has not been as easy as it should be, because the women do not come on time. The Dispensary has been open three months and in that time there have been 202 patients."

THE EDUCATIONAL WORK.

We have educational work in Busrah and Bahrein. There have been efforts to establish schools in our other stations, but they have had only indifferent success. There is no lack of ignorance everywhere, but the thirst for knowledge seems undeveloped. In Busrah, however, under the new Turkish regime there has been a genuine demand for education and the development of "The School of High Hope" during the past three years has made it one of the brightest stars of our entire Mission

effort. For these three years, Mr. Van Ess has guided it skilfully through the difficulties and obstacles of Turkish officialism. He writes, doubtless with a long breath of relief:

"This is our last year under the Crescent. It is important, for it indicates what God can do in spite of the obstacles before his workers. The year was begun in a new and capacious building in a central and conspicuous location. Some of the outstanding features were.

"1. The systematic and thorough study of the Gospel by the pupils. The life of Christ was thoroughly studied and the final examination indicated that not only the text and history had been understood, but that deductions had been made which promise to take their place in accomplishing the purpose for which the school was established.

"2. The exceptional promise evinced by the Moslem boy. With the beginning of the year the great majority of the pupils returned, and with them new boys of like age and station. One could not but notice that through the former pupils ran a strain of higher purpose, cleaner thinking, and better manhood, and it was gratifying to notice how soon the new pupils were imbued with this spirit.

"Our first public exhibition was held in December at which the Governor and notables as well as parents were present. The boys acquitted themselves nobly and the local newspaper made the occasion a subject for a scathing article on the decadence of Turkish ideals and methods.

"The total in attendance during the year was 146. The total in attendance at the end of the year 94."

Mrs. Van Ess writes of the Girls School: "The total of girls enrolled was 61 and the average daily attendance between thirty and forty. Compulsory Bible study kept away some pupils, and several of the most promising students were taken away because their masculine relatives considered it a disgrace for such big girls to go to school." As she writes, "A new day is dawning for this region with the coming of British rule, and it will mean ultimately, without doubt, far greater opportunities for our school to build and grow on the foundations already laid, than we should ever have had under Turkey."

The Bahrein Boys' School, in the face of almost universal indifference and not a little acute opposition, was pushed up to a total attendance of 44. Of these 24 were in the Day School, and 20 in the Night School. Mr. Van Peurseem writes: "The evening pupils might have attended more regularly, but as it was, I came into contact with sixty different men during one month in the Night School. None of the pupils left us because they felt disappointed, but many of the day pupils left because their parents moved away. In a very short time, we lost ten of our best pupils." The influence of the school was felt throughout the entire community, and many homes were opened to us by this means. As an indirect testimony to the power of the work done in our school, a Persian school has been opened in Bahrein, and an Arabic-Persian printing press set up.

THE WINNING OF MEN'S HEARTS.

Our aim is to win men to Jesus Christ. All our activities find their justification in this one aim, and their highest usefulness in the support they contribute, to the direct efforts toward this end. It is a simple work here in Arabia, as it is the world over. One soul through contact with another leads to its acceptance of Life in Christ, God's greatest gift to men.

There are, in the first place, the regular preaching services, every Sunday, in each one of our stations. They are in Arabic, and the attendance by Moslems is increasing. This past year the Busrah and Bahrein chapels have both found their seating capacity, at times, insufficient. It is doubtless true that with many the motives have not been unmixed, but even so, this is something for which we "Thank God and take courage."

Supplementing these regular preaching services, is a steady visitation of the Moslems in their houses, carried on by both men and women missionaries. Visits are both made and received, and opportunities sought, not only to cultivate friendship, but to present Christ. The extent and value of this work cannot be easily overestimated. Women are perhaps even more accessible than men, and perhaps in nothing that we do, is the power of the work more manifest, than in the melting away of prej-

udice, and increasing readiness to listen to the Gospel, which results from this ministry of home visitation. Mrs. Mylrea writes from Kuwait, the newest and most bigoted of our stations: "Since that day I have not lacked for visitors. Groups of women came before I was dressed in the morning and before I had finished my nap in the afternoon. The work has been delightful because there has been real friendship. I have invitations to stop in and lunch, any day I can. I availed myself of this, during the weeks that Dr. Mylrea was busy building, and did not come home to tiffin. I took my sewing and my Gospel with me, and although I did not always have the opportunity to read, there was always the opportunity to witness to the truth." Miss Lutton writes similarly of the work in Maskat: "I think that I may now say that I am known and welcomed from one end of Maskat to the other, and including all the nearest villages, from Sudab to Reeyam. The constant house to house visitation has gained this popularity, and many faces which I fail to remember remind me of the time I either visited them, or met them in some house of mourning."

The sale of Scriptures has been a prominent feature of our work ever since the commencement of the Mission. Bibles and portions are kept on exhibit in the hospital waiting rooms. They are read by waiting patients; sometimes they are stolen, but as Dr. Mylrea writes from Kuwait: "A few verses of the Gospel, read quietly, not improbably stay longer in the memory than a quarter of an hour's talk. It is the Word of God as alongside the word of man."

To push the sale of the Scriptures more vigorously than the missionaries themselves could possibly do, the Mission employs a force of twelve colporteurs, who have this as their particular function. They meet with much opposition, not to say genuine persecution. They suffer everything short of physical injury, and occasionally not short of it. However, the Word of God is being circulated, and to an extent that indicates the "Good hand of our God upon us." From Busrah Station the report is of 2,106 Scriptures and portions sold this past year. Amara adds 801 to this number. Bahrain sold 1,724 copies, Kuwait 683 copies, and Maskat 709. These sales have been to Arabs from every

province in Arabia. They represent the results of tours into new territory where the sound of the Gospel has never before penetrated. The Bible has been put into the huts of the down-trodden Arabs who care for the date gardens of the Busrah River. It has been purchased by roving Bedouins from the sandy plains of Central Arabia. It has entered the houses of the rich, and the palaces of the ruling Sheikhs. In Kuwait, Mr. Calverley writes that "the officials of the local Moslem Benevolent Society asked for a Bible and a Bible Dictionary to be placed in their Mejlis. The request was of course granted, and now it will be possible to induce others to read, because if their religious leaders can ask for the Book, it is not wrong for them to have it. There has been a beginning of village work in the Bahrein Islands, a tent was secured from India, and was pitched in different localities for a whole week at a time, where the workers lived to come in contact with the people of the locality, and read to them and talk with them about spiritual things.

The sale of six thousand copies of the Word of God may seem like a small matter, but to one who knows of the difficulties under which it has been accomplished, and realizes something of the intense darkness into which this light has been brought, it will be reckoned the principal achievement of the year. The foundations of the Church of Christ in Arabia are being slowly laid, and the reason why the slowness of our present progress does not discourage us, is that we know the Church is being reared on foundations, that shall still be new and strong, after the sun and moon shall cease to exist.

The past twenty-five years have seen great things accomplished in Arabia, and perhaps none of them greater than the increased understanding, the new vision of what God wants us to do in this part of His great field. There may be no harder one. We are sure there is none more glorious. The Mission passed the following minute at its annual meeting just held in Maskat. It is a feeble effort to tell the Church something of what we feel God has done, is doing, and is anxious to do, through us, in Arabia.

*Minute Passed by the Arabian Mission at its Annual Meeting
held in Maskat, November, 1914:*

The Arabian Mission in celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary returns grateful thanks to God, our Heavenly Father, for his loving care and many blessings during these years. The quarter century has seen the growth of a Mission consisting of 2 young men to a force of 30 men and women who continue consecrated to the original purpose of occupying Arabia for Christ.

The people reached, the medical and educational service rendered, the Scriptures distributed, the preaching performed have all steadily increased during this time.

The Mission, while it has not outgrown its pioneer character, as it hopes it never will, until every Arab tribe has received its message, has shown its intention of permanently occupying every position gained, by gradually placing Christian homes and institutions in every center of population it has been possible to enter.

There have been marvelous changes, not only in the attitude of the people reached, but also in their political circumstances—changes which were never thought possible in the early days.

The Mission has experienced and indeed helped to bring about no less remarkable changes in the whole Moslem problem both as met with in the world of Islam and as received by the Christian Church.

For these and many other evidences of God's guidance and providence and His clear purpose of using the Arabian Mission in increasing measure for His glory and the salvation of the Arabs, we present our fervent thanks to God and pray that for our enlarging responsibilities we may be endued with greater faith and faithfulness.

On this occasion also, we the other members of the Mission, extend our congratulations to Dr. Cantine upon the completion of his first quarter century of service, thanking him for the inspiration of his example and precept, not only in dealing with the ultra Islam for which we work, but also in solving the problems of Mission policy and management. We pray with him that he may be given many more years of service and that he may see the full fruition of his hopes for the evangelization

of Arabia in this generation. We also extend these congratulations to Dr. Zwemer, another of the founders of the Mission, who is now occupied in work that affects all the rest of the Moslem world as well as Arabia, and thank him for the special share he has had in the promotion of the Mission.

We remember also the names and labors of those who have loved Arabia to the end, counting not their lives too dear a price for the winning of the Moslem, and we pray that we who enter into their labors may have no less a love for them, "That they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in Christ."

Our Board of Trustees, especially those who have been with us from the beginning, share our thanks, and join in our thanksgiving, for the progress and success to which this anniversary draws attention. Without their direction of our work here and their leadership of our friends and supporters at home, the Mission could not have prospered.

We now as a Mission most earnestly plead that our Board mark this occasion by granting in full our request for six new missionaries, making a special appeal to the churches and friends of the Mission that the present debt be wiped out, and increased funds provided, that the reinforcements may come to us to take up the new positions that God is now opening for us, and to share in the harvesting for which the Church and we have been patiently working these twenty-five years and which we now believe to be imminent.

There be it resolved: That a copy of this minute be sent to the Board of Trustees, and to Dr. Zwemer,

That Dr. Cantine be requested to address the meeting,

That the Literature Committee be directed to give the widest possible publicity to this minute, and that in adopting this minute the Mission rise while prayer is offered.

A NATIVE CHURCH.

According to our Church standards or as ordinarily understood in mission statistics we have no native church. But in four of the stations congregations are regularly served by mis-

sionaries, the Word is regularly preached, the sacraments administered and discipline enforced. An average of 125 attend these services and of these an average of 20 are Moslems. A few of the stations report inquirers under instruction but are not able to give an estimate.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF THE ARABIAN MISSION.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 31, 1914.

Presented in the form suggested by the Continuation Committee.

<p>A. FOREIGN FORCE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ordained men 8 2. Unordained men 4 3. Men. Total..... 12 4. Single women 4 5. Married women 9 6. Women. Total 13 7. Total foreign force..... 25 8. Special workers 1 9. Mission stations 5 10. Out-stations 3 <p style="text-align: center;">B. NATIVE FORCE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Other Christian workers.... 33 3. Other Christian workers, women 11 4. Total native workers..... 44 <p style="text-align: center;">C. THE NATIVE CHURCH.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Sunday Schools 6 8. Number enrolled 98 9. Other religious organizations 1 10. Native contributions....Rs., 680 	<p>D. EDUCATIONAL STATISTICS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teachers, men, foreign..... 2 2. Teachers, women, foreign... 2 3. Teachers, men, native..... 7 4. Teachers, women, native.... 3 8. Elementary schools 4 9. Pupils 72 10. Middle schools 3 11. Pupils, male 94 12. Pupils, female 27 13. Pupils, total 193 24. Boarders in foregoing..... 12 35. Under Christian instruction. 193 36. Native contributions for educational workRs., 2,649 <p style="text-align: center;">E. MEDICAL WORK</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physicians, men, foreign.... 4 2. Physicians, women, foreign.. 4 3. Nurses, foreign 2 5. Native medical assistants.... 11 6. Native nurses in service.... 6 7. Hospitals 5 8. Number of beds..... 90 9. In-patients for year.....1059 10. Major operations527 11. Dispensaries 7 12. Individuals treated23,709
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LITERATURE STATISTICS.

Bibles distributed.....	98
Testaments distributed.....	142
Scripture portions.....	5,783
Total Scriptures.....	6,023
Languages and Dialects.—Arabic, Persian, Hebrew, Turkish, Armenian, Syriac, Urdu, Pashtu, Hindi, Marathi, English, French, Portuguese.	

