



eries, and there he found the Pearl of Great Price. The instrument in his conversion being another Arab convert, who used to come to our conferences at Zeitoun, and is now working as an evangelist with the Arabian Mission at Bahrein. The new convert returned to Madina to get his wife and family, but persecution broke out, and he only just escaped with his life. He had been sentenced to death, but his mother, who was loyal to him, provided him with money and helped him to get away. He turned up at our station quite destitute, and, although he has evidently been a man of good position, he is content to work as sweeper and door-keeper of the girls' school. Wherever he goes in the village he bears fearless testimony, and much opposition and persecution resulted. Many have been praying for him, and that the enemy is really alarmed is evident from the fact that our compound was broken into, and a determined attempt made to take his life. It was on a Sunday evening, when our workers were busy with a meeting for British soldiers, that the murderous attack was made, and when he was found he was lying on the ground in a terrible condition. His mouth had been filled with mud, there were marks of attempted strangling on his neck, and his ribs had been badly battered. When he was restored to consciousness, he said two men had attacked him; they have since been captured, and the government inspector is determined that nothing of the sort shall happen again. All through the affair this Arab convert has shown the most loving and forgiving spirit towards his persecutors.

Pray for him, that he may be kept for Jesus Christ; that wisdom may be given in all our dealings with him, that he may be filled with the Holy Ghost and become spiritual and able to stand against all the awful temptations that assail the convert from Islam. Pray, too, for Arabia and its need; that soon the doors may open, and that this man and many like him may enter in as ambassadors for Christ.—(*Egypt General Mission News*.)

Kuweit Medical Work, 1915-1916

DR. C. STANLEY G. MYLREA



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Before proceeding to discuss the year's work it must be pointed out that the actual working year has been very materially bitten into by unavoidable delays and duties outside of medical work pure and simple. In the first place annual meeting at Bahrein delayed us several weeks, so that (owing to lack of steamer connections) we did not get back to Kuwait until December 14th—a clear loss of six weeks' time. Then in April I was again absent twelve days in connection with Dr. Chamberlain's visit. All through the year the building of the Kuwait second residence took up a great deal of my spare time, and the final plastering and finishing work of this house during the sum-

mer demanded all of my time, so much so that from July 18th on I closed down the regular routine of the hospital and attended only to urgent and emergency cases. Finally on September 24th I left for a vacation in India. The total time then in which the hospital routine was in full swing was only six and a half months, although, of course, some work was done by the assistants during the other five and a half months, in fact a good deal of work. Again it must not be forgotten that all the duties of the station, both evangelistic and educational devolved, upon the physician, with the exception of the early part of the year up to March 9th, when we had Mr. Dykstra with us and had the pleasure of his assistance at the Sunday services.

Taking all these things into consideration the returns show a distinct advance on last year.

The *in-patients in the hospital* numbered 58, of which 36 were Surgical, 13 were Eye and 9 were Medical. Between them they spent 820 days in the hospital, or an average stay of about 14 days per patient. This total of 58 is the same as last year. Several of these in-patients were from the best families in the town, and the Sheikh's household was represented on two occasions. An important Sheikh from Fao was also an in-patient for some weeks and went home cured and grateful, and has been a good friend of ours ever since.

Dispensary Work. On the Men's side 2,203 New Cases were treated and 796 on the Women's, with total treatments New Cases and Old Cases of 6,166 on the Men's side and 1,986 on the Women's, making a Grand Total of all Treatments on both sides of the hospital 8,152. These totals are only a trifle below last year's figures.

Visits. 120 were made to 40 different individuals.

Surgical Operations. 119 Surgical Operations were performed, exclusive of some 300 Tooth Extractions.

Fees. Fees show a slight increase over last year—the total being Rs.1710-10-6 an increase over last year of Rs.84-13. Of this total Rs.112-12-3 was contributed from the Women's side.

In connection with the subject of fees it should be mentioned that a fine horse, together with saddle and bridle, was presented to the doctor by Sheikh Naar, as were also a microscope and some surgical instruments formerly belonging to the opposition hospital here—a Moslem Institution, now defunct.

The New Ward to which I referred in my report last year as a possibility during 1916 has now materialized. It is a fine big room, which will easily accommodate eight beds and measures some 35 feet by 14 feet. It was made possible by the gift of Rs.1000 by Lt.-Col. W. G. Grey, and this sum, together with special gifts and G. L. M. A. S. grants, represents the cost of the building, altogether about Rs.1800.

The money given by the Viceroy last year has now been spent and the Operating Room is the richer by a first class clock and a 300 candle power lamp.

I think it is fair to say that the popularity of our medical work is steadily growing—the attitude of the people is ever more and more friendly and when I recently returned from my vacation in India I was surprised at the number of visitors who came to welcome me back.

The Evangelistic work of the Hospital has been kept up on the old, well-tried lines. Michael, the colporteur, has spent his mornings with the dispensary patients and has done good and faithful service. As last year, he still maintains that he sells more Scriptures in the hospital than anywhere else, by two to one, although he only spends half his time in the hospital.

During the year we have had on the hospital staff two men who professed an interest in Christianity. The first, who had come across country from Hebron, where he had deserted from the Turkish Army, made a great impression on the native brethren when he arrived in Kuwait. He had been in touch with a missionary in Hebron and had learned to know his Bible, both Old and New Testaments, fairly well, and was faithful and apparently keen in attending all religious exercises. He insisted that he had rejected Islam and was a Christian. He brought no letters or credentials of any kind from his former missionary friend, but I gathered from one of our men who knows Hebron that his statements were true. I did my best to get the man to earn his living and told him from the very start that I did not want to employ him and that his witness would be much more valuable if he accepted no financial assistance from us. However, he did not seem to be able to get anything to do, and later on I allowed him to work with the labourers on our house building operations. He did pretty well at this for a while, but a hot temper and an arrogant disposition made him speedily unpopular with his fellows. The native brethren were by this time, however, more impressed with his genuineness than ever—as one of them put it—“Ma lahu mutlub ebeden—He has no ulterior motive whatever,” and they began to put pressure on me to give him regular work. The horse referred to above had just been given to me, and as he knew a good deal about stable routine there seemed to be an opening for him in this direction. He did very well at this, and not long afterwards I extended his duties by taking him into the hospital as a probationer in the drug department, allowing him also to go to school one hour a day in the hope of his learning enough English to make him an efficient druggist. I had a weekly Bible Class for the hospital assistants and the man came regularly to this and took a keen interest in all the lessons. His bad temper now began to assert itself again—at this time he had been with us some three months—he quarreled with everybody and gossiped about our people in the bazaar with all sorts of chance acquaintances, without any regard to truth or circumstances. Later on he left our service, but came back penitent two days afterwards only to revert very soon to his same old ways. By this time the Native Brethren had almost lost faith in him as a possible member of our force, but I continued to hold on to him in the hope that he would eventually settle down. Once again he left our service, as he was convinced that the whole station was against him; I have not seen him since. The behaviour of the Native Brethren towards him and their patience in the face of his overbearing ways was splendid. In spite of his failure to fit in here I believe the man really was in earnest when he said he was a Christian—he was just an impossible type of man and perhaps a trifle

unsound mentally. In case any of my colleagues should meet him, I may mention that his name was Rafit.

The second candidate for Christianity was a man whose eyes we saved from inevitable destruction by our care of him in the hospital. He, too, was destitute, and as it suited me at the time I gave him employment, but when it suited him he left us and I find it hard to believe that he was ever in earnest religiously. There seems to be no doubt that the policy of employing "would-be" converts and inquirers is unsuccessful in most cases, and yet all of us know how almost impossible it is to leave them to stand alone.

May I close this report with a request. The Hospital is greatly in need of additional out-buildings—we need quarters for our assistants who cannot live in the town, which is a mile and a half away. Hospital assistants should live on the hospital premises so as to be always available. Heretofore they have managed to get along in one room, but they have both recently been married so that the present accommodation is quite insufficient. We also need a small room for the sweeper to live in—he, like the assistants, should live on the place. Finally we need a large store room for drugs and supplies—the present one being far too small. The sum of \$1,000 would put up all these additional rooms.

The Appointees for 1917 and their Message to the Church

At the meeting of farewell at General Synod in June the appointees for Arabia together with the other out-going missionaries stated their reason for going to the foreign field. This farewell message of each one as he was introduced to the Synod that evening follows. It is, in fact, their message to the whole church.

REV. HENRY A. BILKERT:

'Arabia needs my Christ. There are others who cannot go. I can go, therefore I must go; and, with your co-operation and in God's providence, I want to go.'

MRS. ANNA MONTEITH BILKERT:

"I am going to Arabia as the result of the prayers of my Father and Mother, and somehow to-night the privilege of going there and the great trust to me in going there seems greater than ever, and I can imagine myself, after a hard day in Arabia, being revived and made glad at the memory of this occasion. And I thank you that you thought it was worth while to bring us here."

MISS MARY C. VAN PELT:

"When Jesus stood and looked on the multitude, He said: 'What are you going to do with them?' Someone said: 'You have nothing!' And Andrew said: 'There is a lad here who has five loaves and two fishes.' And He said: 'Bring them to me.' And he brought them and then He blessed them and brake, and they were fed. Here is a girl. She has been a nurse. If He can take her life and bless it and use it—I will go because He sends me. There is not one of us who would dare to go one-hundredth of a step without the power of God. Will you help us by paying the price of power? The price of power is prayer."