

them to Bombay. It would appear that now is the time to begin educational work in this section of our field. Again, we have, as never before, an opportunity for doing something among the women of Muscat. The advent of a white woman who can speak Arabic seems to have aroused considerable interest, and a number of native women have already been at the mission house to see for themselves. Mrs. Cantine hopes to pass her second year's examination in Arabic within a few months, and is looking forward to devoting a good share of her time to cultivating the field, broad and open, of woman's work for women in Oman. One of our best colporters is also bringing his family down from the north, and from this, the first native Christian home in Muscat, we hope will proceed a rich blessing.

Almost all the new impressions I have gained have been encouraging, but the best feature of all that which is newly spread before my eyes, is the realization that the Word is *taking root*. There are more than one now who profess a vital and abiding interest in the Christ. Our colporter, Ibrahim, was lately told by a group of men in a neighboring village, "Do not think that all your efforts have been in vain—that the gospel is having no entrance into our hearts. It is not so. We know what the truth is, and where it is, but what can we do? Can we lose our families, our children, our position, our property? Guarantee us freedom from persecution and then you will see!" This colporter, whom I never thought given to exaggeration, lately said in answer to a question, that he believed there were more than a score who wished to follow Christ. It is only the last step that remains to be taken—only to esteem Christ as the One above all price, for whom all else can be given up. May we who teach have grace given to us to rightly show them this, and may the Spirit, who alone is able, lead them to receive it.

NINE MONTHS MEDICAL WORK AT BAHREIN.

DR. LUCY M. PATTERSON.

The chief thing for which we give thanks in our work during the past nine months is the fact that we have had more in attendance at preaching than came for medical treatment. I believe this is the first time in the history of the medical work here that this has occurred.

One hundred and ninety-nine addresses were given on the men's side of the dispensary, and the same number on the women's side.

There have been over nine thousand patients, old and new, recorded at the out-clinics, and many of them were treated for more than one ailment, although only counted once. Fifty per cent. of the cases were medical, thirty per cent. surgical, and twenty per cent. were eye troubles.

We have had in nine months 116 in-patients, many of whom were successfully operated upon. The convalescent ones attended morning preaching in the dispensary, and every afternoon a service was held in the main ward. Thus many of the in-patients have a double opportunity of hearing the Word daily. Nor has that Word returned void unto Him. Many have been seeking earnestly the way of life. One of them has forsaken his family and renounced his worldly prospects, which were bright, for Christ's sake and, after instruction, was baptized on November 15th, publicly confessing his faith.

AN AWFUL EPIDEMIC.

Cholera began about the end of April, reached its climax in May, moderated in June and July, grew worse again in August, and took its departure in September. It is estimated that, out of a population of 30,000 in the villages of Menama and Moharek, about 3,000 were attacked, and over 2,000 died. In the most severe stage of the epidemic, all the hospital staff were pressed into service and some worked night and day.

Statistics would not convey much of an idea of the amount of work done by the whole mission staff during the cholera period. We were often too busy to record the visits to patients, and were frequently called out at night. Sometimes one of us would remain for hours in a home administering every kind of treatment to eliminate or control the poison of the disease and bring back the departing life; and sometimes one sat up all night.

No one, except those who have worked in a cholera epidemic under a tropical sun and who have seen the awful ravages of the disease, can realize the depression that comes, physical, mental and spiritual. Only the power of the Risen Christ can sustain in the trial.

We ask that all the friends of the mission offer special prayer for the success of the medical work at this juncture. The Mohammedans,



MASON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, HAIKOU

of the strictest sect, have contributed largely to the building of a dispensary—which is already in process of erection—to be carried on by the Indian government. The object of the Moslems is to have a place where they can be treated without listening to the Gospel. It is therefore a great joy for us at Bahrein to welcome the two doctors, Mr. and Mrs. Thoms, at this critical period.

May we all keep in mind the great commission: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and on earth. Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

EDUCATION IN BUSRAH.

REV. F. J. BARNY.

In the Turkish Empire education is mainly regarded as a function of the religious community. The law does indeed make provision for so-called "free" schools conducted by Ottoman or foreign persons, but permits for such schools are not easily obtained. The community is the organization through which the Turkish government rules its non-Moslem subjects. Each Jew, Catholic, Armenian or Protestant must be registered somewhere—all persons in any one place of one faith constituting the community of that place. Such communities are mainly tax-collecting agencies, but they have certain privileges such as caring for their own poor and providing schools for their children. Thus, the Jews of Busrah have their own school, as also the Catholics. The latter are not numerous enough to warrant much effort on their behalf, but the former, aided by the Rothschild Fund, have, under normal conditions, a prosperous institution offering to Jewish children what they most desire, viz., instruction in Hebrew, so that they can read the Hebrew Bible, and in Arabic, English, arithmetic and geography. Enough of these latter branches is given to cover the needs of business. If in any place there are strong communities of different sects and religions, and they all have schools, as they naturally do, there is rivalry which tends to improve the schools. In Busrah, however, there is no competition and standards are low.