

In Baghdad, during most of the past eighteen months, there have been but two workers, Dr. Brigstocke and the late Miss Kelsey. There are the schools, both containing about eighty pupils, a bookshop, and the medical work. Our friends at home read of a "hospital" in Baghdad, but the hospital consists of part of a house and an adjoining stable which has been renovated and altered for the purpose. I cannot here go into the details of the medical work except to say that the reputation of the C.M.S. doctor reaches far into Arabia, patients coming four and five weeks' journey to get treatment, while on out-patients' days crowds come to get their names written down, of whom only a proportion can be seen.

The doctor's work is endless, what with dispensary, hospital and consultations, which he finds it necessary to attend, as the medical work is self-supporting, and it gains him entrance into some of the influential families. During his time here he has not had the assistance of a European helper, except Miss Kelsey, who had a few months' training before she left England. This speaks for itself.

To sum up our position, then. This mission, opened twenty-two years ago, has lost the most experienced of its staff, has withdrawn from one of its two stations, while it is in charge of a very small band of a younger generation of missionaries.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT BAHREIN.

MRS. S. J. THOMS.

The men's waiting room was decorated by Dr. Zwerner and one of the natives with palm and almond branches and red cloth. We arranged the presents on a long table at one end of the room. In the centre of this one palm branch was fixed, and on this some of the kindergarten work and a few small gifts were hung, which gave it the appearance of a diminutive tree. The table was draped with red, and above it, on the wall, was hung a large American flag. We had to prepare the refreshments at the house. Some of the Christians and Jews had sent us gifts of various kinds of sweets, and these we mostly donated to the feast.

The entertainment began at half-past three, and we found the chapel and small room in front of it well filled, with only a few seats left for guests. The whole European community, namely, the English Consul

and two young German merchants, had been invited and all accepted. One of the latter brought his new gramophone and added much to our programme by the music.

The school children were all present; the native Christians in their best clothes, and the Persians in the new dresses they had made for themselves in the school under Mrs. Zwemer's instruction. The first on the programme was a Christian hymn in Arabic, a translation of "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing."

This was followed by prayer by Muallim (teacher) Elias.

THE STORY AND ADDRESS.

After this Dr. Zwemer read from Luke 1-26-33 and Math. 13-31-33, and gave a short address. Among other things, he said: "This little school is like the grain of mustard seed. Once there were but three or four pupils in the old house by the sea. Now there are 68 enrolled, 51 Moslems, 13 Christians and 4 Jews; 29 are boys and 39 girls." He then spoke of the work which is being done by the pupils, the learning of Scripture portions and hymns, instruction in the common branches taught in Arabic and English lessons. Besides this some kindergarten work is being taught to the beginners and sewing to the girls.

"It is still but a grain of mustard seed compared to the vision we have of the Bahrein school of the future, a school or college to which students shall **come** from distant inland and coast towns."

RECITATIONS.

After the singing of another Christmas hymn, one of the Jewish lads recited the first Psalm in Hebrew. Other Scripture selections were recited in Arabic by two boys, and then four of the largest girls recited the 103d Psalm in Arabic correctly and well. After this we had two or three gramophone selections, which we all enjoyed.

SWEETS AND PRIZES.

After two or three more short recitations, Mrs. Zwemer and I prepared the refreshments. Then several of the assistants began to pass the trays of eatables and drinkables. The gramophone played all the time the people were being served.

When the plates of cake and sweets were nearly emptied and cups of tea were no longer taken, the distribution of prizes and presents was begun by Dr. Thoms.

Prizes were given to the pupils according to their standing, attendance and general work. Tufah, the young Jewish girl who helps us in

the dispensary, was given the first prize, a sewing case fitted up with the necessary articles. Others who had been in regular attendance were given books, knives, dolls or writing materials. A general spirit of good will pervaded the gathering. Fully 100 people were present in the two rooms and around the doors. Three Moslem women of one of the best families came and sat on the stairs, from which they could look in through the window and easily hear the singing.

At half-past five all had gone and we came home to get ready for our own Christmas dinner, to which we had invited our white neighbors.

SERMONS.

Christmas itself was observed with Christmas sermons in Arabic and English. The former was preached by one of our older colporteurs, and the latter by Dr. Zwemer, to whom we all felt grateful for his helpful Christmas message. In the afternoon several of us went to the houses of our Christians for short calls, and at the last house nearly all the Christians gathered and we had the usual Sunday-school lesson there. At night even the new-comers looked back over the day and were surprised to think how little opportunity there had been for loneliness, and I am sure all felt something of the Christmas message of "Peace."

WOMEN'S MEDICAL WORK, BUSRAH, 1904.

We thank God for the priceless gift of health. With His blessing, and as a result of moving into a healthier location, we have been quite free from attacks of fever this year. To be sure, we have had to take small doses of what we call "Busrah bread," namely, quinine, at stated intervals.

Work was begun in the women's dispensary at about the end of February, after our return from yearly meeting.

At first the numbers were few, but they gradually increased until, in July and August, there would be from thirty to forty on some mornings.

With only one small room to work in and insufficient help, we found it difficult to attend to so many in the time between the close of dispensary prayers and the lunch hour.

The women have assembled with the men in the hallway between Dr. Worrall's consulting room and mine. A little dark alcove aside