

Two days in the week we have sewing which they all enjoy and even the very smallest must have a needle and thread. The work they hand back to me at the close of school is often badly done and very dirty, but some of the girls really sew very neatly. At present we are making patchwork quilts.

I always take a little time before school to teach them Bible verses. The final act is the singing of a hymn or two followed by the Lord's Prayer.

MINIATURE TOURS.

MISS FANNY LUTTON.

For some time before this work was attempted, it was thought about and prayed for. The "mountains" of difficulty that seemed so great then, have become "molehills," and we can thank God and take courage.

I now face a greater difficulty and that is, to try and give an interesting and somewhat accurate report of these tours for the readers of *NEGLECTED ARABIA*.

At first sight this may startle some and they will exclaim, we want the truth and nothing but the truth. Well, if you want exact statistics they cannot be recorded, and I can only ask you to step over to Arabia and accompany me on one of these tours (but you must be able to ride a donkey, no other need apply), and see for yourselves how hard it is for me to give the exact number of women gathered and number of treatments, because they are all crowding around and it is utterly impossible for me to count, unless in a place where very few are gathered.

It is Wednesday, so we must start off directly after prayers and off we go on the donkeys, with books and medicines. Our first halting-place is a village called Bedai. We alight at the schoolmaster's door. He is very polite and accommodating, turns his scholars out and places his schoolroom (a hut) at our disposal.

The news has been spread all around, and so into the hut the people flock—women and children of all ages. They are rather fearful and shy, but I have taken my hat off and am very busy spreading out the medicines. Oh these wonderful remedies! I can easily read the labels, viz., "Tonic," "Cough Mixture," "Boracic," and numerous others. Now as I look up and see these women, I give a guess and count sometimes between twenty and thirty around me, but I have to give up in despair, because others have entered and I lose count. When I can get a little lull, the women are told "we are your friends and we have come to do you good, and before we give medicines, which

are free, we want you to listen to some good words from God's book." Quite a few call out, "There is no God but the one God, and Mohammed is His prophet." The first part of that "creed" we acknowledge, and reply: "True! Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

The last part has nothing to do with us, so that is not mentioned. Our business is to proclaim the living, sinless prophet, the Saviour and Redeemer. If this opportunity is not seized then, very likely it is the only one we get. They are getting impatient and others are coming in and the children are very lively and not like well-behaved Sunday school children. This is a faint pen picture of the evangelistic work.

Now one sample of the medical work. Here is a woman who has shown great courage in having her eyes looked at, but she is afraid to let me drop any medicine in her eyes. All the coaxing will not convince her until I drop it in my own eyes first, so before them all, I treat myself with boracic solution. Generally after that, all goes well.

Feeling the pulse is a very important operation, but both wrists must be attended to. If the left one is felt first, then you must feel the right wrist afterwards. By this time many of the women have got very friendly and they discuss the object of the visit and quite frequently remark, "Oh, they do it to get a reward from God." They do not intend to give us one, but they are quite willing for God to reward us for being good to the Moslems.

In this place, six portions of scripture are sold, but in some villages they will not even take one as a gift.

This is only a brief record of one village tour, but it is sufficient to awaken interest, and I ask your prayers and help in this very interesting but at times not easy work.

Up to this date fourteen villages have been visited. On six of these journeys a colporteur has accompanied me, because they are a long way off; but the other eight have been much nearer, and it has been perfectly prudent to have only the donkey-boy, who looks after the donkey while I am visiting.

In conclusion, I have already stated one need, "Brethren, pray for us." We need and ask your prayers. Secondly, we have to hire a donkey for these trips. If a good one comes along, a four hours' ride is not a hardship, but if he is a bad one, well, just try one ride and you will say, "Oh, the hardships [or hard donkeys] of a poor itinerant missionary."

GOSPEL ARTILLERY AT BUSRAH.

DR. A. K. BENNETT.

After returning from the annual meeting at Bahrein, Dr. and Mrs. Worrall at once began preparations for leaving on furlough, and

a week later I was left in charge of medical work here. During our absence at Bahrein, Saleem, our dispenser, had been hard at work painting and whitewashing the house used for a hospital, so that when we began work the last week in January the place looked quite new. The making over of the old operating room is what rejoiced us most of all, for we had transferred a marble floor from one of the lower rooms and this made the place easy to keep clean and much cooler.

Of course it took the people some time to get used to a new doctor, but gradually they began to come, until our daily morning clinic, which began with about twenty patients, increased to from eighty to one hundred and forty. We appointed two days for operations, Wednesday for general surgery and Saturday for eye-operations. Mrs. Vogel has proved herself a great help as nurse of the hospital and at operations; her previous experience has made her most valuable. With her assistance and that of Miss Scardefield, who has become quite adept at chloroform administrations, having given it over fifty times already this year, we have been able to perform a number of serious operations.

When I contemplate what many of my comrades of college days are doing at home, many of them satisfied with a competitive practice with four or five other physicians in a town of two or three thousand people, and when I think of the opportunities here for a Christian physician, I wonder that more do not apply to the mission boards. Work that is done here is as attractive as in many of the large hospitals at home. At Busrah, for example, one has a great variety of gun-shot wounds to operate upon, because the people of the surrounding country are almost constantly at war among each other. Here one sees scores of vesicle calculi, liver-abscesses, hydatid cysts, amputations, deep seated abscess and fistulæ galore, with even an occasional appendicitis, although this last is very rare out here. In the last four months we have taken out a dozen cataracts and have done many other eye-operations. Looking at it simply from a medical point of view, work on the foreign field is desirable, but when one considers that he is a Christian missionary, how thankful indeed he is that all his work will tell for the Master. One would miss the real joy of the thing if his coming were for mere experience. To look out upon such a crowd of people each morning and to realize that before you is the fanatical Moslem, the bigoted Jew, the exclusive Sabaeon and the degenerate Christian, each one listening to the Gospel stories, many for the first time, is to have an experience worth coming to Arabia to feel. How well they harken to our words and bear with us in our reading of the gospel is a miracle in itself, and for this freedom we