been appointed to Matrah, Dr. Sarah L. Hosmon to Maskat, Dr. P. W. Harrison to Bahrein, and Dr. and Mrs. Mylrea to Kuweit.

(11) Reports of Committees. These reports are rendered by standing committees appointed last year to deal with various questions. Samples are: Work for Lepers, Co-operation with the Reformed Church of the U. S. A., Bible Study for Native Helpers, Book Lists for Bible Shops.

The report of the Auditing Committee stands in a class all by itself. Every account must be gone over and considered both as to accuracy and suitability of items. The task is a heavy one and necessitates the burning of much midnight oil—the burden of this work presses especially heavily on the Chairman, who must carefully inspect every account after it has been audited by the other members of the Committee. This Committee must also draw up all estimates for the coming year. It should be mentioned that the Committee consists of a member of each station, chosen by that station.

(12) Unfinished business.

(13) Estimates for the new year.

These two numbers do not call for special comment.

(14) New Business. Under this head comes up the discussion of cherished schemes and plans. At this stage of Annual Meeting one realizes more than ever that missionaries are usually people of strong convictions and great tenacity of purpose. The dreamer insists on the achievement of the impossible while on the other hand the practical man constantly sees the limitations of necessity and in addition the treasurer breaks in from time to time with financial statements that cool the ardor of the over-ambitious. But out of all the turmoil of heated arguments pro and con comes a call for the question and the majority rules—the probability is that the majority is generally right.

(15) Reading of minutes. This is the last item on the program, and with the approval of the minutes the meeting is ready to adjourn sine die, the adjournment being preceded, however, by a prayer meeting of some fifteen minutes' duration, closed by the pronouncement of the benediction.

Kuweit, P. G.

The Geography and Climate of Bahrein

G. J. Van Peursem

There are no doubt many people who read about Bahrein and occasionally address letters to their friends there, and still know but little of the place itself. No atlas puts Bahrein in glaring and conspicuous colors, much less so than the whole peninsula of Arabia. Hence the ignorance is only natural for those who have not seen the

East. The next best thing to seeing Arabia is hearing about it. The more one knows of a place the better one can sympathize with the laborers there and the more intelligently he can pray for its needs.

The Islands of Bahrein, halfway up the Persian Gulf, consist mainly of three islands in size, respectively, Awal, Moharrek, and Sitrah. The first named is the most important in regard to trade and commerce; the second because it is the home of the ruling Sheikh. Sitrah is only a small island where many people settle for the hot summer months. Menama is the main city and the only seaport for all the islands. All ships stop here to discharge and load cargo. All Hassa is supplied by Menama as a distributing center. Here the English Consul resides and here our work began and is carried on to-day.

THE TOMBS AT "ALI", BAHREIN

Bahrein climate is all but healthful. It is not extremely hot in summer as in other parts of Arabia. But even moderate heat becomes oppressive because of the great humidity. In August the dry and wet bulb thermometers both rise to 95 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. The dampness of the air prevents all kinds of evaporation, so that the water can not be cooled for drinking. Perspiration remaining on the skin causes prickly heat—a prickly feeling as of a needle. During the damp nights of September the trees drip with water and the ground itself is converted into mud. Due to this dampness, the summer nights are often more uncomfortable than the days. One blessing is the sun, which, because of its penetrating heat, dries up the dampness of the night. However, only three months of the year can be considered really oppressive. November, December, March and April are delightful. January and February are cold and damp, while May, June and October are quite bearable. But we grin and bear the op-

pression of July, August and September. The highest maximum temperature during the last ten years was 107 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade, and the lowest minimum 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

The rainfall is very little in this region, and that only from November to March. For ten years (1902-11) the average rainfall was only a little over two inches. In 1911-12 it increased, however, to over six inches. Most people do not welcome rainstorms very heartily, for even the stone houses covered with mud roofs leak like a sieve. There is no need of mentioning the inadaptability of the date stick hut to withstand rain and storm.

A MOUND OPENED

As to the structure of the earth, there is difference of opinion. Geologists studying the soil here in Menama conclude that it is all composed of coral. Others studying the earth's surface around Jebel Dokhan, fourteen miles away, dispute this, for the soil there is composed of almost solid rock. This causes the discrepancy.

The archipelago is under the rule of Sheikh Esa Bin Ali—placed on the throne by the British Government in 1869. The Sheikh himself is rather a passive ruler, and his work is almost altogether carried out by his representatives. He has a judge in this city to whom all Arabs apply for justice when troubles arise. All foreigners apply to the British political agent for political or judicial matters. Most foreigners, whether Persian or Indian, see that benefits are derived

from being under British protection. And verily there is a difference between the justice of the Koran, which, in addition to the traditions, is the only law book, and the justice of the British government touched by Christianity. Gradually the British government is gaining in authority and respect among the people, so that the most ignorant are putting implicit trust in the agent, knowing that he deals equitably.

The population of Bahrein is predominantly Arab Mohammedan, but in Menama many foreigners reside. These settle here not so much because they have special love for the place, but for financial reasons merely. The Jewish population is gradually increasing, due partly to compulsory army service in Busrah and Baghdad, but largely due to their desire for money, which can be satisfied here. Nearly all the coolie class are Persians, whereas some of the richest merchants of Menama are also Persians. The Hindus and Indian Mohammedans are the modernizers of the place. They introduce, from Bombay, all sorts of Western wares, as shoes, socks, sun shades, etc. On the other two Islands—Moharrek and Sitrah—a foreigner can hardly be found. It is even said that no Jew, Christian, or Hindu is allowed in Moharrek. The population of the islands is estimated in Bahrein trade at 100,000. No doubt during the pearling season this number is considerably increased, for divers fairly flood this city during the pearl harvest. At the end of the season every ship leaving Bahrein is loaded with pearl divers, giving us some estimate of the floating population.

There are a few points of interest to the tourist, even in Bahrein. But he need not spend more than two days to take in all the historical remnants, of which no record is left. This island can boast of having two castles, said to have been built by the Portuguese years ago. One of these is near the city of Menama, which the Sheikh occupies during the summer months, and the other, although five miles away, can be seen from here. The latter is the larger and more interesting for the visitor, in spite of the fact that more than half of it is a heap of ruins. But the thick, high stone walls tell us how the people fortified themselves against the enemy in those days.

The other historical spot worth visiting is Ali, with its numberless mounds which loom up in the distance like so many knolls along the horizon. These are seven miles from Menama, said to be of Phoenician origin, but that can not be proven. Many other theories are held as to their origin. But it is quite plain that they were built for tombs, judging from the niches inside. Excavators say that they found dead bones inside. Some of these mounds are over fifty feet high, built of whitish smooth stone, covered over with crushed stone and sand. Only a few of the thousands have been opened, so as yet they rather add to the mystery of the history of Bahrein.

All three islands abound in fresh water springs despite the fact that nearly all the well water is salty and bitter. One of the largest and purest is called the Virgin Spring, over twenty feet deep and over eighty feet in diameter. This spring supplies sufficient water for numbers of date gardens and acres of lucerne fields. About the only grass extant on the island is found near the stream that issues from this

ever-living spring. It is there the missionaries go to refresh their lungs with a breath of clean, pure air.

According to some there is no future for Bahrein. They say there is no possibility in the soil itself, and the people, corrupted by pearl gambling, lack the thrift and initiative to improve or change the place. But for the Christian missionary there is at least hope in the people for whom he came out. The only way of judging the future is by the past. That a change for the better has come to Bahrein is all too evident to gainsay. People may be more fanatical than formerly, but that is only a sign that their eyes are being opened. Arabs are opening book shops at every corner; Egyptian newspapers are read widely, and Reuters' telegrams are translated for them every week. A desire for education has been created so that boys leaving our school go to India and Beirut for further study. All classes of people apply to our hospital for medicines, making their once-famous quack doctors a laughing stock; no longer surrendering the sick and dying to grim fate, as formerly, but to the surgeon of our hospital, to do as he thinks wise.

In view of this, we think Bahrein still worth while.

Bahrein.

Our Medical Work

P. W. Harrison

The Medical Missionary's work in Arabia, differs from that of the Doctor at home in many ways, particularly in the breadth of his practice. The same morning may bring him ringworm, cataract, malaria, hernia, tuberculosis and plague. All of these must be treated as efficiently as possible, for there is no specialist to consult. The missionary is chief of staff to the hospital, head of the out-patient clinic, and general practitioner as well, a sort of reversed E Pluribus Unum, which serves to keep him very busy, and also militates against his best work.

He works for a varied constituency. The rich have houses that are airy, and, to a fair degree, clean. Their habits of life are reasonably hygienic, in outward things. The poorer classes, on the contrary, and especially the Bedou are dirty to a degree scarcely believable. They have little instinct to be clean, and seem to lack any perceptible sense of order, so their homes present a chaos quite indescribable. Even their cooking is most inefficient. The writer distinctly remembers a dinner with a Bedou. The smallest piece of mutton in the dish was selected. It had to be swallowed whole, for it was impossible to even bite it in two, to say nothing of chewing it.

In comparison with Hospital work at home, the Medical Missionary's work is not expensive. The Massachusetts General Hospital spends 46 cents on each out-patient treatment, and about $3.00 a day, or $45 all told, on each in-patient. Their money is spent too, with the greatest economy and good judgment. The Busrah Hospital takes care of five hundred in-patients, and fifteen thousand dispensary