

Dr. H. R. L. Worrall began his work in Busrah in 1895. From the first a few women came for treatment and brought their little children. Even in those early days a few submitted to much needed operations. There were many eye cases.

In 1904 Mrs. Worrall, M.D., was appointed specially to women's medical work. She began work in a room on the ground floor of the Mission dwelling. The women patients had to wait in the court with the men patients and at first there was no special evangelistic address for them, but they heard that given by the minister. However, it was soon felt to be better that a woman should address them, and Jasmine, Busrah's first Bible woman, was engaged for this service. She read the Bible to them and prayed with them three times a week and Miss Lutton, who was at that time a language student in Busrah, spoke to them once or twice a week. Although quarters were very cramped, yet many women began to attend, but it was difficult to attend



LANSING MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (SIDE VIEW)

to any very serious cases, yet even with no nurse, and no special room for in-patients, Dr. Worrall himself did emergency cases such as amputation of arm for shark bites, stab wounds of abdomen, cases of cancer, etc.. Mrs. Worrall nursed the cases. Later on, an Indian Christian, Nurse Mary, was brought to Busrah for medical work. About this time to the great joy of the medical workers, the house next door was secured for in-patients. It seemed too good to be true and how thankful to God they were for a place in which patients needing an operation could be cared for. The women's dispensary was now moved to the new house, giving much more privacy and room for the work.

No money was given from America at any time to begin hospital work in Busrah till the gift of The Lansing Hospital came in and it was built in 1911. As the work increased it paid for its own progress. Whether the women's medical work could have early stood alone or

not is unknown, as, from the first its finances were so closely connected with the men's medical work. Up to January, 1911, about five hundred dollars were given each year for drugs and other expenses of Busrah medical work. But for some years before 1911, the balance paid back into the general treasury of the Mission was much more than that given by the Board at home. The women's medical work did its share in raising funds. As the work increased it paid for its own progress. When a sort of hospital was started next door to the house of the doctor there was as yet no permission from the Turkish Government to carry on a hospital. But as a door was opened between the residence and the house used as a hospital, in case of complaint, the doctor could claim that the patients were really living in a part of his house and in a way as his guests. A little room was fitted up as an operation room and here, as time went on, all sorts of operations were performed for women as well as for men. There was not much privacy for women patients in the hospital. One could only set apart a room or two as needed for them. Hence advance in numbers was slow. Much of the time of the woman doctor was given to seeing that both men and women cases were properly nursed and cared for. No suitable man nurse could be found. Nurse Mary did well but had had very little training in the care of operative cases. The number of women in-patients in the native house used as a hospital never rose to over forty-five, as far as is remembered, but during the year when the work was transferred to Lansing Memorial Hospital, the number rose to ninety-three. This may seem very small to those accustomed to the large numbers of in-patients in Indian and Chinese hospitals, but it means a great deal among Moslem women in Arabia. The number of treatments for women in dispensary work in 1911 was over seven thousand.

Many out-visits were made from year to year in the homes of the people and much suffering was relieved in this way. From the first it was planned to combine evangelistic work with the medical, not only in dispensary, but in the homes. So the Bible woman, Jasmine, early began to follow up dispensary cases by visiting them and teaching them the Bible in their homes. After Miss Scardefield came to Busrah, she often went with her. The woman doctor tried to follow up this work but did not have much available time to do so. She counted it a great privilege when she could snatch a few hours to visit in the houses of the women. The great difficulty was to stop and get back home again in time for other duties, the work was so fascinating. At one time it was attempted to teach all the girls who came to dispensary. Jasmine carried on this miniature school in a room adjoining the women's dispensary. But it was very difficult to get the girls to come regularly and it was given up after a time for more house visiting. Sunday Schools were also started in the houses in several quarters. This work was a great joy and felt to be profitable. In the summer it was attempted to get the children from the different quarters to come to Sunday School in the Mission House but the numbers of children thus reached were never so large as when we went to them in their homes.

In 1907 Miss Scardefield was appointed to assist Mrs. Worrall in

medical work and did good and effective service. When Mrs. Worrall went on furlough she filled the same post under Dr. Bennett. Mrs. Vogel was at that time appointed as nurse in the hospital. When Miss Scardefield went home on furlough Mrs. Vogel had charge of the dispensary for women under the direction of Dr. Bennett, as well as being the Superintendent of nursing in the hospital. During this time Dr. Bennett secured land for the new hospital and soon after a permit for the erection of such a hospital. On the return of Mrs. Worrall to the field in 1909, she was again appointed to women's medical work in Busrah.

During all the years in which hospital work was carried on in the native house in order to make the work self-supporting, the utmost economy was practiced. Necessary utensils were made out of old oil tins, cupboards and tables were made by native carpenters. Even when the hospital work was transferred to Lansing Memorial Hospital, the only proper equipment on hand was the nice operating table given by our beloved Secretary of the Woman's Board for Arabia, an operating stool donated by a friend, and a Kny Scheerer sterilizer for which money had been collected by Dr. Zwemer. The beds were iron cots made by native blacksmiths in Bombay, and painted white to look appropriate. But plenty of white enamel paint on tables, beds, cupboards, etc., caused the remark of one visitor, "Oh, you have many new things." But oh, what a comfort it was to move into large airy quarters after all the years in hot, stuffy rooms, and working under such great disadvantages. The patients appreciated the change too, for in less than a month after the new hospital was opened, there were twenty-six in-patients. Yet it took some time too for people to find out where the new hospital and dispensary were. During that summer there was a severe epidemic of cholera which kept the medical staff very busy. In the fall of 1911 the University of Michigan Christian Association began establishing its work in Busrah, Mrs. Bennett, being a graduate of that institution, was appointed in charge of the women's medical work there. She has carried it on up to the present and it is advancing steadily in every way. Financial affairs have increased in both men and women's medical work till not only have all the expenses of a dispenser's training for a four years' course in Beirut, as well as all the running expenses of the hospital and dispensary been paid with a good balance over at the end of the year, but this year an American nurse is to be supported from funds locally raised. Miss Holzhauser is from The Michigan University Training School and is showing what can be done by a loving consecrated nurse from America. Also another Indian nurse has been added to the staff. Now patients can have the very best of nursing which they needed all the time and the lack of which fully doubled the work of the woman doctor. A strong evangelistic work has been carried on in dispensary and hospital all these years, and is still continued. New opportunities are constantly opening up, and all classes are having the Gospel preached to them, Arabs of town and village, Turkish women, many Jews and native Christians, of many classes, as well as a few Persians. Many women from the Arab tribes come from long distances.

In Busrah, as in our other stations, the Gospel of loving medical service for women is being printed constantly in new editions, and can be read by even the most ignorant. May many soon claim all these truths as their own and claim allegiance to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

An "At Home" in Arabia

MISS JENNIE A. SCARDEFIELD

"Where are you going?" asks a Bahrein Arab woman of a group of friends she meets passing along the road.

"We are going to the Khatun's house. ("Khatun" is the Arabic word used for "lady missionary.") She promised that if we came on Thursday she would show us something that would make us laugh. Come with us and you will hear words of welcome on every side, for the three khatuns will be glad to see you."

Now the group enters the missionary compound and finds their missionary friends waiting to receive them.

"Peace be upon you!" "Upon you be peace! We are glad you have come! No, do not be afraid, there is no man about, and all here are your friends."

Among the assembled women is Tafaha, whom many of our readers will remember, the same bright, cheerful Jewess, still helping others. She herself has passed through much trouble and she knows how to speak a word of cheer to those who need it.

Here also is Rahma, who was so ill in the hospital. She looks much better than she used to, and what a happy face she now has!

And now the games have begun. A game of "fish pond" is in progress. We hear such exclamations as "How funny this game is!" "They look like real fish!" "Oh, I have caught one!" How they all laugh and enjoy the game!

The room is now full of guests and we play a game all together. What a happy lot, Christians, Jews and Moslems! The Moslems have forgotten to be afraid or suspicious and are joining in with a freedom we never thought possible. Now we play "poor pussy." One of the lady missionaries shows us how we are to be "poor pussy" and *not* laugh. Just then how they *do* laugh! There are some quiet, elderly women. We throw the ball to them. Ah, they, too, are now playing like children, throwing the ball and laughing.

We have laughed so much over the games that we are glad to see the tray brought in with glasses of hot tea and some sweetmeats. The spirit of play continues even while the refreshments are passed.

A quiet group sit near a picture of "The Feeding of the Five Thousand," and when the khatun comes near they ask many questions about the picture. Then they hear of the hungry ones being fed. They cannot understand it all, but exclaim, "Oh, how wonderful!"

A few more quiet games are played, such as crokinole and tiddley-winks, and then all begin to look about for their veils and cloaks. With many salaams they take their leave, saying, how much better