



the Evangelization of Arabia in this generation. We also extend these congratulations to Dr. Zwemer, another of the founders of the Mission, who is now spending his life in work that affects all the rest of the Moslem world as well as Arabia, and thank him for the special share he has had in the promotion of the Mission.

We remember also the names and labors of those who have loved Arabia to the end, counting not their lives too dear a price for the winning of the Moslem, and we pray that we who enter into their labors may have no less a love for them, "That they may turn from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among them that are sanctified by faith in Christ."

Our Board of Trustees, especially those who have been with us from the beginning, share our thanks, and join in our thanksgiving, for the progress and success to which this Anniversary draws attention. Without their direction of our work here and leadership of our friends and supporters at home, the Mission could not have prospered.

We now as a Mission most earnestly plead that our Board mark this occasion by granting in full our request for six new missionaries, making a special appeal to the Churches and friends of the Mission that the present debt be wiped out, and increased funds provided that the reinforcements may come to us to take up the new positions that God is now opening for us and to share in the harvesting for which the Church and we have been patiently working these twenty-five years and which we now believe to be imminent.

Kuweit, The "Little Walled Town"

GERRIT J. PENNINGS

Of all the cities on the Persian Gulf, Kuweit is the most typically Arab. That mixture of many different races which is so characteristic of the other Gulf cities, is far less prominent here, although even in Kuweit there is a considerable Persian element. Life here therefore most nearly resembles that which exists in the towns of the interior. Again, its location and surroundings are typically Arabian, for, except on the side toward the sea, it is encircled by an absolutely barren desert.

Seen from a distance from the sea, the city does not have a very inviting aspect. A line of low, monotonous, gray-colored houses, stretches for a distance of about three miles along the shore. Back of this the houses extend inland for about a mile. In this area dwells a population variously estimated as to number, but put by some as high as 50,000.

Most of the houses are one-storied, and appear from the outside as high enclosing walls. The rooms are built along the walls inside and open upon the inner court. Houses of this character answer the requirements of Mohammedan propriety, which demands that the women shall be shut away from public sight.

The streets are often very narrow, especially in the older parts of the city. At some places one can easily stretch across from wall to wall, and two laden donkeys can hardly pass. The streets are also very irregular, and in some parts they form an actual maze, where the stranger manages to lose his way hopelessly—like Boston. The missionary physician in Kuwait ought to have a well-developed sense of direction, to help him on his out-calls.

Owing to the forbidding, inhospitable appearance of the houses, the streets have a rather dull, lifeless aspect, all except the business street, which is a veritable hive of human activity. The main business street recalls what in America is known as an arcade, only here the street is covered over, not with glass, but with reed mats, supported on frames of poles. This long, rather crooked street averages hardly more than twenty feet in width. Along the sides are numerous little shops, resembling enormous pigeon holes, each about eight feet square. Scientific experiments in America in recent years seem to indicate that it is economy on the part of the employer to allow his clerks



THE ARCHITECTURE OF KUWEIT.

to sit down when not waiting on customers. In this respect the Arab shop-keeper not only has American science beaten by many years, but goes it one better, for he remains seated even while serving his customers. The shops are stocked mostly with such simple articles as are needed by the townspeople and the numerous Bedouins that visit the city. Still it is possible to find many articles of luxury, for the Arabs are far more anxious to import the luxuries of the West than its religion.

Back of the city towards the south lies the Bedouin market-place, where the Bedouin sells or barter the few products of the desert, such as brushwood, skins, wool, sheep and clarified butter. Beyond this are the black, goat-hair tents of the desert-dweller, who comes to trade for a few days, and then leaves to have his place taken by others like him.

The prosperity of Kuwait is due in part to trade with the interior, which absorbs enormous quantities of rice, tea, coffee and sugar. Practically all of Nejd is clothed in Massachusetts Sheeting, of which

hundreds of bales are imported at Kuwait every year. Another activity is the transport of dates from the Busrah district to Indian, South and West Arabian and East African ports. A fleet of perhaps thirty sailing boats, of about three hundred tons burden each, leaves Kuwait each year in October, and the following August returns with firewood, ship- and house-building lumber. The third and main source of wealth is the pearl-fisheries, in which thousands of the people engage every year. The ready cash realized from this last source forms the capital without which little business could be done. And yet, but for the firm, and on the whole, just government which the city has enjoyed the last few years, the present prosperity would be impossible, and the capital would have been transferred elsewhere.

Whether the railroad will ever come here to alter the character of the city is hard to say. Before the railroad from Baghdad to Busrah has been built many a sun will rise and set, and even then it is doubtful if it will be extended to Kuwait.

The Opening of Kuwait

ARTHUR K. BENNETT, M.D.

Much has been written about the strategic position of Kuwait from a political point of view, and I well remember that during my first four years on the field the Mission kept emphasizing the importance of Kuwait from a missionary standpoint, and not a few attempts were made to re-open our work in Kuwait. In 1903 Dr. Zwemer had succeeded in placing a colporteur in the place, but the footing was never secure and when Sheikh Mobarrek sent the colporteur away, after less than a year, he is reputed to have said that he never wanted anyone from the Mission to come there again. Mr. Moerdyk however attempted to regain the foothold in 1904, but was unsuccessful, and later Dr. Thoms landed there for a day, hoping that surgery and medicine would help out, but he was sent abruptly away in a native boat.

The Mission continued praying that the station might be occupied, and from time to time colporteurs were sent to make the attempt. One colporteur succeeded in disposing of seventeen Scripture portions. Mr. Van Ess made the next attempt, and timed his arrival at the shore with the departure from the harbor of the ship that had brought him. He was treated with more courtesy than his predecessors had received, but was as firmly told to leave by the next steamer that called. This however gave Mr. Van Ess a week or more in which to become known to the people of the place. And it is worthy of note that the hill just outside the city, from which he had a vision of the whole town and upon which he prayed for the evangelization of the town, has now become the site of the medical missionary's residence, and the hospital in which the latter works is at the foot of the hill.

So it was that our eyes were very often turned toward Kuwait, waiting for the opportunity that would open for us this most desirable port and Bedouin center, just as now that we have occupied Kuwait,