

REPORT NUMBER

A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

Algiers Mission Band.

FOUNDED IN 1888 BY I. LILIAS TROTTER.

HEADQUARTERS :—DAR NAAMA, EL BIAR, ALGIERS.

General Secretary : Miss S. E. PERKIN.

General Treasurer :—Mr. H. W. BUCKENHAM, Oulad Sultan, Blida, Algeria.

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MISS BUTLER.
W. CECIL COLLINSON.
MISS FARMER.

MISS GRAUTOFF.
MISS McILROY.
MISS NASH.
JOHN L. OLIVER.

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A. E. THEOBALD.
A. T. UPSON.
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PASTOR R. SAILLENS, Nogent sur Marne, Seine.

Referee, Algeria : PASTOR CUCHE, Mostaganem, Algeria.

Editor of "A Thirsty Land" :—MISS M. H. ROCHE.

Location of Workers. Autumn, 1937.

DAR NAAMA, EL BIAR (Algiers).

Headquarters.

1906. Miss S. E. PERKIN.
1907. Miss RIDLEY.
1919 & 1922.

M. and Mme. P. NICLOUD.
1922. Mr. and Mrs. THEOBALD.

ALGIERS (City).

1930. Miss I. NASH.
1922. Mrs. THEOBALD.
1935. M. and Mme. MILLON.

BLIDA.

1920. Mr. and Mrs. H. W. BUCKENHAM.

BOU SAADA.

1909. Miss A. McILROY.
1919. Mlle. BUTTICAZ.

Miss MARY MAY (in U.S.A.).

Evangelist Colporteur : Senor MUNIOZ (of the Nile Mission Press). Headquarters at Relizane.

MILIANA.

1907. Miss M. D. GRAUTOFF.
1929. Miss P. M. RUSSELL.

MOSTAGANEM.

1906. Mlle. A. GAYRAL.

RELIZANE.

1934 & 1927.

Mr. and Mrs. H. STALLEY.

SETIF.

1914. Miss A. M. FARMER.

1922. Miss I. SHEACH.

1935. Mr. and Mrs. THOMSON.

Miss S. HANSEN (Now in Denmark on sick leave).

TLEMEN.

1916. Miss K. BUTLER.

TOLGA.

1928 & 1937.

M. and Mme. S. LULL.

TOZEUR.

1920. Miss V. WOOD.

OUT-POSTS.

NEFTA (from Tozeur).

Miss V. WOOD (part time).

GHARDAIA (Beni M'zab). Spring.

1907. Miss M. D. GRAUTOFF.
(part time).

1919. Mlle. BUTTICAZ. "

1929. Miss. P. M. RUSSELL. "



No. 42.

AUTUMN, 1937

1/6 PER ANNUM
POST FREE

"All Nations Shall Serve Him."

"He shall judge the poor of the people. He shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor."

"He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth."

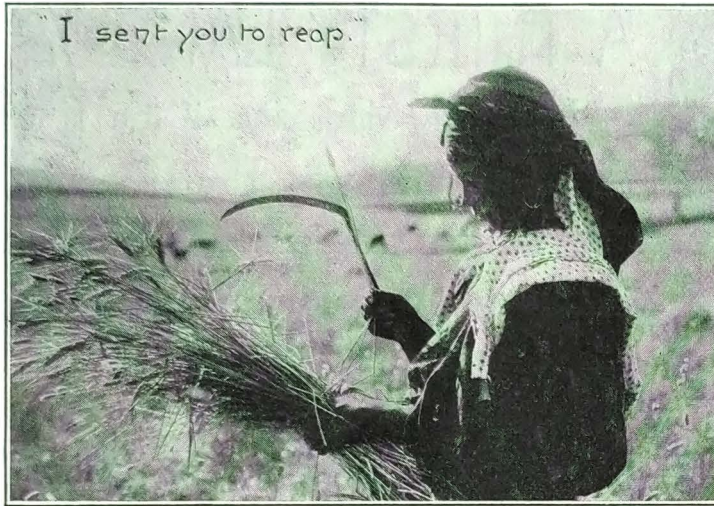
"There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall flourish like grass of the earth."

"His name shall endure for ever: His name shall be continued as long as the sun: and men shall be blessed in Him: all nations shall call Him blessed."

"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things."

"And blessed be His glorious name for ever: and let the whole earth be filled with His glory: Amen and Amen."

(The Psalm of the Kingdom)—*Psalm 72. 4, 6, 16-19.*



"A HANDFUL OF CORN."

HARDLY worth binding, this first handful, so the passing glance would say. Faith judges otherwise; for it looks, not at the few cars that have got ahead of the rest, but at the sheaves that are coming.

"A handful of corn on the top of the mountains"—that is spoken of, in the Psalm of the kingdom (Psalm 72) as one of its glories. Even now, in its tiny measure, the first groups of Converts from Moslem Lands may look like that in heaven, and praise may go to God for them, more than we realise who are face to face with their fewness and their frailty. Like the barley stalks in the little maiden's hands, they have hardly reached even a "thirty-fold" standard. But there they are, thank God, and we must learn to garner them.

We look back, to a range of ever new horizons that stretch before us; horizons that would have seemed a dreamland in the hemmed-in years of the past; yet it is not so much in these that our hope lies, as in the sense that, far and near, there

are beginning to appear strangely ready souls, sown and ripening towards harvesting, we know not how. "I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour" may await us, among the surprises of His grace.

* * *

What does it mean, in its full sense, this harvesting? It means the sharp sickle of separation from everything of the old faith and the old practices and the old self-life; it means being separated to the Holy Ghost, with all that this involves of abandonment. Separation—surrender—sacrifice: this is the path that the true convert must tread; a path where we Anglo-Saxons understand but little of the pain and loneliness to an Eastern nature, with its passion for the past and its intensity of family ties. Can we expect them to tread it manfully if we shrink and falter from the way of the Cross in our easier lot? Have we ourselves borne through? It may be that your prayers need to go farther back still. "Brethren, pray for us."

(Reprinted) I. L. TROTTER.

Reports for 1936-1937.

Algiers.

Miss I. K. NASH. Mrs. THEOBALD.

Another year has gone by and our Editor is asking me for a report of the work done among the women and girls of Algiers city 1936-37.

As in previous years much time has been spent in holding classes and in visiting in the homes and in hospital.

The classes are kaleidoscopic, for the natives frequently change from one dwelling to another (to change neighbours being one of the few distractions which breaks the monotony of an Arab woman's life), therefore many of the old girls have left us, having moved from the neighbourhood. They have, however, been replaced by others, so that our numbers (an average of forty school children and about twelve others) remain about the same. Mrs. Theobald has had a large class of tiny tots.

Much seed has been sown in these young hearts and the harvest will surely one day be reaped, though we may not see it. How often we have come across women who in their youth attended the Mission classes, on whose souls the teaching has left a lasting impression, and who are eager, not only to learn more themselves but have been passing on the light they already possess.

The visiting has been very encouraging on the whole; we are always gladly welcomed and our message well received.

An entirely new feature of the work is my affiliation to the Association for the Protection of Women, recently founded in this city. During this past year we have dealt with forty-seven native girls, out of which number only four have gone back to a life of sin. A number of S.O.S. calls reach us almost daily, and yet many of these

girls have been lost to us for one reason or another. Some, while waiting for us to get into touch with them, or to find them situations, have committed suicide. Others, through drugs or by various means, have been got hold of by evil women of whom there are always many detained in the Dispensary alongside young girls, who are usually victims of a set trap.

In view of these facts we opened a Refuge, "The Door of Hope." Since its inauguration at the end of January it has sheltered seventeen girls of different nationalities, the half of which number are natives. Needless to say this Refuge gives us precious opportunities of reaching their souls before starting them off on a new life.

I have also had the privilege of visiting Touggourt in Southern Algeria and of preaching to large crowds of natives in that town and in the villages. It was a most inspiring time, but also infinitely sad, for so many of the people are starving owing to the drought of the past two years. Following our Lord's example we did what we could to relieve their physical sufferings first of all, and this opened to us the door of many a heart, but oh how we longed to be able to multiply those sacks of loaves and rice!

The time is short—the labourers are few—"Come over and help us!"

I. K. N.

Algiers Student Centre.

M. and Mme. MILLON.

What have been the results of these six months of work? There are those that are known to God alone, fruit of prayer and witness, of which no account can be given—and yet these are the most important!

There are, however, results that we can see. There is the welcome given by students to the one whom they know to be a missionary and the interest shown in the talks given. There are those, though alas too few, who have visited us. Then also there is the spiritual response, not to be found in everyday matters, which seems to come to life in a conversation about what Christianity can bring, and there are too the Bibles accepted and read.

I felt that the results were few, and was not fully satisfied, but the experiences of these last days at the end of the University year have comforted me, and shown that in face of everything we can hope.

I was very sad as I saw the time of examinations at hand, and the day approaching when all the students would be dispersing. I realised that I should be four months without meeting these young men with whom I had been in daily contact. I thought that it would be a good idea to bring out a little periodical dealing with the spiritual life, and Christian apologetics. This magazine I could send to them during the vacation, and at the end of their time at the University it could follow them into their careers.

We had to get out the first number in a hurry! In a few days the booklet was prepared and we reproduced it ourselves in the best way we could. There remained the matter of getting our fledging accepted! It was a ticklish matter to ask for addresses and to offer to send a Christian periodical to Moslem students. But the venture was made, and in a few days I had thirty addresses. It is the welcome given to this offer that gives me hope, for it proved to me that friendship and interest exists and I can try to bring these students openly in contact with Christian life and thought.

They have all gone away now, and we are working to produce and print the numbers of the little magazine, for July

and September. God sent a gift with which I was able to buy the necessary equipment. I have a new typewriter and a duplicating machine. It is all very simple but it will accomplish what we want.

A gift has also come to us for forming a lending library for the students.

It would be most helpful if we could have a room, a sort of club, where young men could come to read and chat, listen to addresses, etc.

I do not know if we can realise this project next year, but as far as I have been able with the limited means at my disposal I have begun to organise the library. We have rearranged the room that we use as a room for prayer gatherings in our flat, and we shall try with this modest beginning to organise something next year for the young men. We pray that God will open out further possibilities.

My wife and I hope to go to France this Summer and to spend our furlough in having a series of Conferences. We want to get prayer backing in the Churches that are sympathetic towards the work, and this plan in spite of difficulties is taking shape well.

We commend to the prayers of all the accomplishment of this work among the students and the educated classes.

G. M.

—◆◆◆—
Blida.

Mr. and Mrs. BUCKENHAM.

"Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to praise Thee." (Ps. 65. 8.)

The outgoings of another year's days have in many respects been much alike; but although "routine" is a convenient word to use as touching them, the adjective "dull" cannot be prefixed, for as God makes the outgoings of each morning and evening to "rejoice," to "sing," to "praise

Him," so we, and many of those with whom we have had to do, have been "singing in the ways of the Lord." Moreover, "as every day required" and "as every day's work required," the Holy Spirit's ministry has been so real, that "songs of praise and thanksgiving to God, according to the commandment," have not been wanting.

On Sundays and Thursdays about 150 girls and boys in their respective classes have heartily entered into their services of praise; and some, we believe, have been "learning" of Him who is "meek and lowly in heart." Their memorising of Scripture, industrial work, and crayoning have also been praiseworthy.

On the women's side, visiting in homes has been as acceptable as ever, and in many cases burdens have been lifted through a newly-felt nearness of Him who still says, "I know their sorrows"; while on the men's side—Praise God—there are those who habitually look for the opened door of the Book Depot, and conversations have revealed at times some deep thinking, the work of the Holy Spirit who "trieth hearts and reins."

Relief for ailments of body and mind have been almost daily sought at the Mission House, and we think none have been turned empty away.

The Women's Friday Meeting has continued to be one of the great occasions of the week. Sometimes the Holy Spirit's breathing upon this gathering has been most markedly felt.

There are those from among the women and bigger girls "whose hearts the Lord has opened" and who "have believed to the saving of the soul." The atoning work of Christ is precious to them, and "by the Holy Ghost," we believe, they truly "call Him Lord." It is natural that these should want to meet often together, and to this purpose Sunday after-

noon has of late been devoted. This has come to be the most precious season of the week, and seems to be God's provision for them to "confess with the mouth Jesus as Lord."

At the beginning of the season we were helped specially on the men's and boys' side through Mr. Thomson's seven weeks' stay with us, and we have appreciated the help from time to time of other members of the Band and fellow-missionaries of other societies who have paid short visits. Most marked of all was the Spring visit of Miss Roche, whose many years of labour on the station had endeared her to so many, and for whose first return there had been an eager looking forward.

Some native help with the girls' classes must also be mentioned; from among the bigger girls there are those who deserve the title "monitors."

The so-often-overflowing Women's Meeting, and the place being "too strait" for the development of the boys' class, led the last Committee to sanction the erection of a larger room to adjoin the children's porch. At the moment of writing, this is well on its way to completion, and we anticipate its dedication at the beginning of the new season's work. We would ask our readers to join in prayer with us for this event. Could we not desire that it should be impossible to "stand to minister by reason of the cloud, and the glory of the Lord filling the house of God"!

And by-and-by from Blida as from the other stations, "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their heads . . . and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." H. W. B.

—◆◆◆—
 "The golden harvest of endless joy,
 The joy He had sown in weeping;
 How can I tell the blest employ,
 The songs of that glorious reaping."

P.C.

Bou Saada.

Miss McILROY.

Mlle. BUTTICAZ.

Psalm 34, so often read at Bou Saada, brings to our memory the deliverances experienced during this year of work, and a song of gratitude arises from our hearts to Him Who always "delivers magnificently."

At the beginning of October the little girls came with joy to learn to knit. The scarcity of knitting needles did not daunt them, a long thorn, a bit of reed, or even the spoke of an umbrella served the purpose! On the sandy paths one met our Arab maidens doing their best to knit a scarf with odds and ends of many coloured wool. Bible lessons and hymns were learnt the more easily side by side with daily progress made in knitting.

Did the Enemy try to spoil their joy in coming and their keenness for the Classes?

Alas, as they talked together in whispers the word "marriage" was too often repeated. "Yes," said the younger sister, speaking of the older one, "They married her yesterday evening: she was so pretty, and she has been given a nice little room for herself and her husband." Poor little bride!—scarcely ten years old, and closely shut up in a small house!

Another of the girls was promised in marriage, then another, and we had to have our Christmas treat sooner than we had intended, so as to be sure of having these older girls, who had been such regular attenders, with us. The treats were overshadowed by these fears, but Jesus Himself can put His touch upon these young hearts and make the good seed sown at that time to grow up.

We had a proof of God's working when we heard one of our little girls say, "In the evening I repeat my prayer, 'May the blood of Jesus Christ purify me from all sin,' and in the morning I say, 'Lord Jesus

keep your hand upon me that I may not sin.'" God grant that this childish faith may grow day by day until Eternity!

The work among the boys was often difficult, but it was encouraging also.

The medical work had its joys. For example, a poor man, who had six knife wounds, got well marvellously after treatment. Some time after he came to us in the market place, and expressed his gratitude. To each who came the Word of Life was given, in faith, and we are certain that the harvest will be gathered in, one day, unto Eternal Life.

Already in January they were talking of famine. The rain which should have made the harvest fruitful, watered the flocks, and satisfied the thirst of mankind, did not fall. In vain the Moslems cried to Allah to send the showers, the skies seemed as brass.

Week after week want and misery increased. Hordes of nomads from farther South passed through Bou Saada asking for relief. They had lost their all—sheep, donkeys and camels and knew not how to exist. Very often our class-room was filled by those who came to our daily service so that they might have a bit of bread to satisfy their hunger while waiting for the free meal provided later in the day by the Government.

Were we to go down under the trying circumstances and to shut our doors on the difficulties? Surely not!

As we look again at Psalm 34, v. 19 we read, "He saves." Even when on an April day less than three pints of drinking water remained in our cruche, did not our Father send us some rain that very same evening?

Can we doubt the lovingkindness of our God? Does He not long to save these poor nomad Arabs whom He permits to suffer that they, may repent and turn to Him?

I cannot end this report without saying that we thank from our hearts all those who visited us, and all who have helped us by prayer and by their generous gifts during these last months of great need.

Continue to pray and to believe with us for the salvation of those who are walking in the shadow of death—in the awful darkness of Islam. The sun of righteousness *shall* arise for them if we are faithful in our intercession. A. B.

Dar Naama, El Biar.

Headquarters.

Miss S. PERKIN. Miss M. RIDLEY.
M. and Mme. NICOURD.

We began the season's work in October with a sense of space limitation. Our unproductive fields and wood had been given over to a Building Society to develop, and we could not even keep their hands off the garden. To widen the roads leading to the estate, they cut off large slices from the end of the garden and the courtyard.

In addition Arab workmen were constantly passing through the garden. Thus it seemed that no longer could women and children come to enjoy the fresh air and freedom, *pro tem*.

However, on the contrary, the garden though diminished in size, was if anything more frequently visited than usual by family parties, and on Sundays, when the coast was clear, women and children often came to spend the day. Miss Ridley had a sort of C.S.S.M. meeting for the children in the mornings, and in the afternoons the adults had their turn, and the children were usually pleased to join them. Miss Ridley was at home to Arab women on Friday afternoons. Sometimes quite a number came.

Madame Nicoud, who has a special ministry for mothers and their children,

comforted many by her sympathetic advice and help.

A large gang of dark-skinned Moroccan road-makers were employed by the Building Society on the land. Monsieur Nicoud made friends with them and invited them to come with all their wounds and ailments to him and Mme. Nicoud. They took him at his word, and he was also a welcome guest at their lodgings.

Mr. Theobald gladly fell in with M. Nicoud's suggestion to have meetings for these men. A large group came the first Sunday, having made themselves as clean and tidy as their poverty allowed. They listened intently to Mr. Theobald's address, and audibly expressed their interest and assent. Every time a meeting was announced they came in increasing numbers. In the Spring, Si M'barek spoke to them on several different Sundays.

Later on labour agitators made trouble between them and their employers, the road work had to come to a stop, and the men are scattered.

Monsieur Begou-Bonnefon started a fortnightly French Sunday School and Service on Sunday mornings, which a few native men who understood French, liked to attend. Later M. Begou-Bonnefon had to discontinue this service for health reasons.

No report of Dar Naama would be quite complete without a reference to some of our visitors.

In the Spring we had with us two Irish friends—the Misses Magee, and also Mr. Edwards (Treasurer of All Nations College) and Mrs. Edwards. They visited several Stations. Mr. Edwards was ever ready to speak by interpretation to groups of men, women and children, and his message was always appreciated.

Later we were glad to welcome our Secretary and her sister Miss V. Roche who were with us for a short stay on their way to visit some of the Stations. S. P.

Mostaganem.

Mlle. Gayral, who has bravely held the fort alone at Mostaganem during this year has been able to do a good deal of visiting. She has had talks with many individuals both men and women and has distributed the Scriptures in both Arabic and French.

An account which Mlle. Gayral has sent of a typical visit which she paid not long ago in the town will be in our Winter Number. We regret that we have not space for it this time.

Miliana.

Miss M. D. GRAUTOFF. Miss P. M. RUSSELL.

Another report required! How tell in a few words of all God's loving care of us, and the many opportunities of the year?

Fresh points of contact shall come first. A beautiful new French hospital with infirmary attached has been opened in Miliana, and as we helped several sad cases to enter the women's ward, we were allowed to visit it regularly. Gifts of fruit, stories and scrapbooks for the children, and tracts or Gospels to those who can read, have opened our way. Many of the women who come from other towns, have no one to visit them, and welcome us when we come with Bible stories, and pictures.

As in the Spring, we could not find a room outside the town for a big industrial class such as we had held in the Autumn, we replaced this by a class of young married women, and girls of marriageable age, who would not have been allowed to come to women's meetings or schoolgirls' classes. Such small classes are especially precious and some among these girls were so sweet and responsive.

Among the various Christmas fêtes, was a coffee party for men, held on our veranda. This was possible because M. and Mme.

Nicoud had come from Algiers to help us with a Boys' fête, which had taken place earlier in the afternoon. It was a representative group but somewhat difficult to handle; there was a young lad from the iron mines, a chauffeur, who runs a huge commercial van to the different markets, a fellah (tiller of the soil), whom I had known since he came as a baby lad only able to roll himself over our doorstep, and an aged Moslem Sheikh, with his grandson who is studying at a Koranic school to be a Taleb. He will be a writer of amulets against disease or the evil eye, a chanter at funerals, and likely a teacher of the Koran in one of the Arab schools in the mountains.

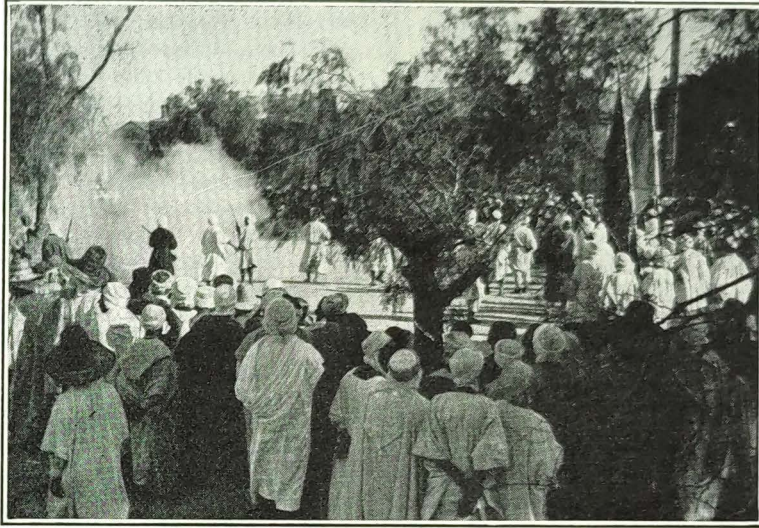
In February we went off to our desert outstation in the M'zab, where Mlle. Buttica joined us for a month. In spite of hindrances, it was encouraging, for there was scarcely a day of those nine weeks without a class of either boys, girls, or infants, small groups of Arabs, Bedouins, Mozabites, or Jews. As many of the same boys or girls came regularly, it meant the possibility of valuable consecutive teaching.

We were cheered because hymns and texts had been remembered from former years, and prejudice is breaking down. We could talk to them this year of the crucifixion and resurrection without stirring up too much opposition.

Yet our circle of influence down there is still small, for the majority of Mozabite houses are sternly closed to us.

Much literature was distributed in markets and shops, boys and men asking for it daily. A certain quantity of this was destroyed, torn up and placed on our doorstep! but perhaps a message of it went home first, and much we trust was carried back into encampments and hamlets where we could not go.

As one Arab said when refusing the Gospel, "It is too dangerous." So it is,



MOZABITE FEAST IN CONNECTION WITH THE MOULOU (birthday of the prophet Mohammed).

Note the smoke from the guns just fired, and also the banners.

praise God, for "Thy Word is a light unto my path," and the darkness of all that is false must flee before it in the heart of any sincere seeker after truth. M. D. G.

Nefta.

Standing alone amid the desert sands of South Tunisia, out of sight even of her twin-sister Tozeur, and beyond the limits of railway lines, Nefta has from early days drawn people to her for what they can find there. And still, as of old, they find the golden brown, honey-sweet fruit of her many hundreds of date-palms, which provide food and work for so many of her people. In former days, the fruit of learning, to be found there was almost as much sought after; and from many far-off towns and villages men sent their sons to Nefta to get the thorough, though very narrow, education of a strict Moslem. This is less the case now than formerly, but

the effect of it still remains in the large number of readers, and the sincere, even bigoted, love of Islam.

Then too, Nefta still draws devout Moslems as a place of pilgrimage. There is a very holy shrine there (non-Moslems may only see it from outside) to which many come from far and near, thinking thereby to gain perhaps health, or forgiveness, or entrance to Paradise. Surely they must often find only disappointment, but the depth of their faith and the trouble and expense to which they put themselves is great: would that that faith were set on the One Who alone is worthy!

With all these "good things" in her, until last year Nefta was lacking what the sister-town had had for years, namely a house where thirsty souls could learn of Christ, and from which the Good News could be taken to some of the many homes where Moslem women live their prisoned lives. Visiting missionaries, there had

been, from time to time, but never a resident one. So the starting of the little Mission House last Autumn was a step forward. It seemed as if the time had come at last when Nefta might have the best of all "good things," the good news of a perfect Saviour.

But there was still the big question, "do the people wish for this good thing we put before them?" And I fear that the answer must be "No." However great their need, and however little joy, peace, or strength they can find in their old way of religion, they are still very sure that it is the right way.

A woman whom a little friendliness had caused to think well of her missionary friend said, "Well, you are really a good woman, only a little more and you might be a Moslem; but (with the air of one saying a thing almost impossible of belief, an utterly strange idea) *perhaps* you don't want to!"

With people so fixed in their old way of thought, it will need one of Christ's miracles of love to open their eyes to a better way. All we can do is by love and friendliness, and by any word we can speak that may a little show His loveliness, and above all by faithful prayer, to seek to draw them towards Him. Then let us wait to see *His* working Who has promised to draw all men to Himself.

V. WOOD.

Relizane.

Mr. and Mrs. H. STALLEY.

For some years the Mission Station at Relizane had stood closed like a deserted island, close to the very heart of the Arab town, and when God sent us there in *October*, 1936, in answer to prayer, there was mutual rejoicing and many happy reunions.

In *November* the Book Depot was opened and much could be written of the different types of men it has touched—Arabs, Moors,

Negroes, professors, sheikhs, labourers, craftsmen, and wandering marabouts (holy men), and of the Holy Spirit's working in some of their hearts in a very definite manner, as they have sat down and conversed among the books—but space forbids.

December brings memories of Ramadhan, and it was a joy that several of the Christian girls broke the Fast quite fearlessly. In the evening of this month the women are free to go out into the streets to visit their friends, so they very gladly came to the Mission House one evening a week for a lantern meeting.

In *January*, Ramadhan, with its disturbing influences being over, we settled down steadily to regular work. Each week more and more girls came to their classes, the non-schoolgirls on Wednesday afternoons, a wild undisciplined set at first, and on Thursdays the schoolgirls with whom it was possible to have organised games. It was encouraging to see progress being made: the girls learnt several hymns and portions of Scripture by heart, and the little ones who came by themselves on Wednesday mornings entered into their action hymns and choruses with zest.

The boys were a bigger problem. If a "cinema" (lantern meeting) were announced, they would come in hordes, ready for any kind of mischief, but the few who came to a simple "class" on Sunday mornings found greater attractions in the streets outside, and they dropped off. A week-evening class was more successful.

As we went on into *February* it was possible to do more visiting in the homes of the women and this side of the work is always a great joy. The invitations of girls to come and see their parents brought interesting contacts.

At this time three of the Christian girls who were free began to spend their week-ends at the Mission House. This gave opportunities of much happy fellowship together.

March brought Easter—a time of overflowing joy, at the meetings on Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

In April our first visitors came, among them M. and Mme. Nicoud and Mr. Gerald Collinson. This made possible (for the men-folk) a colportage tournée far away to the South of the province, reaching places which had rarely had any Gospel witness, and the simmering wish became a more definite prayer that if it should be God's will He would give us a car so that such journeys might be possible more often than once in a year!

In May the visit of the Home Secretary was a time to be long remembered.

Later on, one hot day we sadly followed the body of Colporteur Salvador Munios' baby son "Daniel" to his grave. He had been given to the Lord from his birth to be a "missionary to the Arabs," but "God took him," and wonderfully enabled his parents to say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

We left Relizane on June 25th, but our going was clouded with the discovery at the very last minute, that Rosebud's mother was determined to marry the child (still a schoolgirl of between twelve and fourteen years) within a month or two, contrary to all the laws of the land. We felt our helplessness, but God gave us this promise, "Call unto Me, and I will answer thee and shew thee great and mighty things . . ." So we "called" in prayer and faith night and day; we enlisted the help of those who *could* act on behalf of the girl, and we have just had God's answer, and know that she will be protected. Best of all we know that her own faith has been strengthened as she has seen the Lord Jesus, the One she has come to love and trust, working what was nothing short of a miracle, on her behalf.

"Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness."

J. C. S. and H. S.

Praise and Prayer Requests.

Praise.

For God's good hand on the A.M.B. during the past year, for praying friends, and for God's full provision for our needs.

For all that this Report Number tells concerning, those who have responded in any measure to the Gospel, the literature distributed, homes visited in Christ's name, and the large numbers of children coming to classes.

For the safe journeys of all who have done colportage and itineration and of those who came to England.

That doors are still open for the missions, in Algeria and Tunisia.

Prayer.

That this coming year may be one of deep and rich blessing for workers, converts, and enquirers, and a year of progress both on the Field and at Home.

For God's healing touch on some members of our Band who are ill.

That Jesus Himself may draw very near to all at Dar Naama during the Rally days, October 1st and 2nd.

For God's sheltering, of new beginnings, in the student work (Algiers), women's work (Tolga), new openings (Setif), and also of the workers at the "Door of Hope" and those who have been helped there.

For Mr. Theobald and those engaged with him in translation work. For strength and wisdom.

For much blessing on the French edition of Miss Trotter's Life, for the new edition of Miss Padwick's booklet, and for guidance in all fresh literature planning.

For Arabs in special need, out of work, or in famine districts; also that wisdom may be granted to the authorities in dealing with the difficulties of the present time.

Setif.

Miss A. M. FARMER. Miss I. SHEACH.
Mr. and Mrs. THOMSON.

Miss Sheach and I began the work in our new Station in Setif last October.

The classes were held in the garage, and at first we found it very cold and unattractive, as the walls were rough and bare and the floor just loose earth.

In February, however, we were able to have the floors cemented and the walls whitewashed. Then we hung a few Scripture pictures on the walls, and now it is quite a cosy room. The women and children are very pleased with it, and we found it very cool and comfortable when the heat came.

The girls have attended three times a week and they enjoy the hymn singing and Bible teaching. Only one girl seems to be bored by this, and yawns throughout the lesson, but recovers as soon as we begin the knitting! They are waiting outside quite early in the morning, and think we are very late when we open at nine o'clock!

We have had several quite big girls, and these have always been well behaved. They left at the end of the season, looking forward to the time when the classes should begin again.

The women came on Friday afternoons. We had the meeting first; their interest has been maintained and they have asked many questions about the teaching of Jesus Christ. They wonder why we never mention Mohammed's name, but we tell them that we teach Christ, because He died to save us from our sins, and is now at the right hand of God to intercede for us. The meeting has become quite a bright spot in their lives. Afterwards, while they are drinking their coffee, they are able to have a little chat among themselves.

The afternoons we give up to visiting. There are four good sized villages within easy walking distance of Setif. We take these in turn. One is a village built by the French to relieve overcrowding.

At first we did not get much encouragement but determined to continue our visits. Lately the people have become more friendly, and we have had some cheering times.

The other three villages are quite friendly and we are always being invited into new houses. We were asked into a wealthy house recently to give a talk to the women. This was the first time many of them had heard the Gospel. There were eighteen women beside ourselves, and some young girls. They thanked us very heartily, and asked us to be sure to return to them.

"How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed?—and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard?—and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Rom. 10. 14.)

A. M. F.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomson have been studying for their language examination this year. Mr. Thomson has established a book depot in Setif and we hope to give his report of this in our January issue.



Dellys Itineration.

When we paid a visit to Dellys, after nearly a year's absence at Setif, we found how wonderfully God had answered not only our prayers but those of friends at home who love the place.

We found our class children eager to have us open the class-room and begin again. Their mothers told us of their love for what they had been taught in Bible stories, hymns and choruses, and it seemed as if some of them had acted as little missionaries in our absence.

The men were very friendly and were pressing us to go and see their women.

We were unable to reach any of the outlying villages which formed our Dellys district. The reason was lack of time and funds. We pray that we may be privileged to go to them next year.

There is not time to detail our visiting in Dellys town itself, and a bare report of numbers gives no idea of what was accomplished in the two full weeks. Everywhere we went we found much more eagerness than we could have believed possible, and the real joy of the women was very cheering. I. S.

Tlemcen.

"PREPARATIONS."

"Preparations of the heart" are "from the Lord" (Prov. 16. 1). Thank God we have seen preparation going on in the hearts of those who have been coming regularly to the Mission house this past year. We believe this to be the work of His Spirit, not only in those who have heard of Christ, the Saviour of the world for the first time, but in several who truly want others to know the message that has been a blessing to themselves.

One woman who loves the Lord brought other women time after time to the Sunday Class, often walking a long distance to fetch them herself. Several times she brought a poor, homeless old beggar woman, having first fed her and washed her clothes. Once or twice she had her for the night in order to be sure she should come. She has let her light shine and has had the neighbours constantly in her room so that her daughter should read the Gospel to them, and that they might pray and sing hymns together.

God's preparation has been going on too in others. We have seen His victories in the daily life of the girl who works for

us, though there have been, it is true, many battles. She has been with us for years, and God could use her greatly in her village if she were wholly His.

Another "preparation" has been the use He has made of the little Church—not so much for meetings and services as for individuals and small groups of people. There in the stillness of God's presence, it has been easy to talk to them of Christ, and they have been ready to be prayed with.

The brother of the Christian woman mentioned above, an elderly, staunch Moslem man, came one day with his little girl. He had been to the house before but never to the Church. We all went down together, and there standing with the little girl by his side, his sister praying too, he heard prayer to God for the first time in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ the Redeemer.

Some have specially asked to come and pray in the church; and after we had laid their burdens before the Lord, He has enabled them to go away comforted. The people are beginning to look upon it as their Place of prayer, and we believe this is all part of God's preparation for the time when we may be able to have more general and regular services. We did have a service nearly every day during Holy Week, and invited any to come who liked, big or little. It was an experiment, for we were not sure whether the women would be able to come as early as 8 a.m., our usual prayer time. Thank God, several never missed, and He brought others whom we had hardly expected, and even some of the boys. His presence was truly in the midst, and we felt those times were a preparation for the joy of the coming "first day of the week," the day of Christ's Resurrection.

Twice we had the great privilege of a visit from the Bishop in North Africa, and Archdeacon Morris, who, in spite of very little time to spare, most kindly stopped

during their "tournée" to give us the Holy Communion. Some of the natives and French friends were present, and we praised God for those times of fresh vision for His Body, the Church in these lands.

A different sort of preparation has been going on in some, as yet probably unconsciously to themselves. In Algiers, and in some other places in Algeria, Moslem women and girls are much freer now than they used to be, but at Tlemcen where the tenets of Islam are rigidly adhered to, they are practically as shut in as ever. But in spite of this there is a stirring among the younger generation.

Words come to mind that were sent by beloved Miss Trotter when Tlemcen was first opened as an A.M.B. Station. "His going forth is prepared as the morning" (Hos. 6. 3). We know God has purposes of blessing already planned, for His is a "Sure Covenant." Pray that His thoughts and desires for Tlemcen may have a fulfilment.

J. K. BUTLER.

Tolga.

When, last October, I was faced with the suggestion of going back by myself to work in Tolga, in spite of my great desire to return there, I had a moment of hesitation. I rather dreaded the thought of living and working alone in the desert for a good many months. But now at the end of my time there I can say, "Bless the Lord O my soul," for His presence was so real that I rarely felt lonely.

God has again noticeably blessed the work this year. The month of Ramthān was particularly encouraging. During this month men and lads came for talks on spiritual matters. The Fast of Ramthān itself was often the subject of our conversations. These men were shown from God's Word that what we *are* is of value before God, and not our sacrifices and good works.

During the month of fasting, many thefts of dates were committed in the



ITINERATING WITH THE CAR FROM TOLGA. (Note the visitors!)

palm gardens. One evening in the course of conversation I said to a man, "Those who steal dates ought neither to fast nor to pray." "Oh yes," he replied, "they fast and pray, but they also steal."

A great number of sick people came to get treatment for their eyes or for their sores, and such work always brings many opportunities of giving God's word to souls. But those who hear do not always want to carry it out, as the following story shows.

One evening they brought a man to me whose head had been badly hurt in a quarrel between camel drivers. After dressing the wound I said, "Now you ought to pardon those who injured you, and to pray for them." "Impossible," he said, "if I had a gun I would kill them all."

It is difficult for a Moslem to forgive anyone who has offended him.

The boys were very regular in coming to the classes. Some of those who follow the Koranic School are very religious and fanatical. At the end of a rather inattentive class, one of the boys said, "We pray for you that you may become converted to Mohammedanism." But in spite of their fanaticism, and sometimes against the orders of the marabout, these lads cannot help returning to the classes, or coming perhaps to ask for a Gospel or a tract.

Among the men and the young fellows who came for interviews were two religious leaders, many talebs, the chief of a neighbouring tribe and his secretary, who came often, two professors from the Zaouia and a good number of the students—in all we had three hundred and sixty-one visitors.

God was present in these conversations during which we always read and considered God's Word and it was a joy to note the working of God's Spirit.

A student with whom I had at least twenty interviews said to me one evening,

"If I were in Algiers I should not hesitate to become a member of your Church, but here, my family is a hindrance."

Another said to me, "If I did not love the Lord Jesus I should not come to see you."

Two men came every night for many weeks to read God's Word. They were already familiar with the Gospels, and this time we studied together the first ten chapters of the Acts of the Apostles.

Bou Saada.

In March, and then again in June, I was able to be for a short time at the Station of Bou Saada, during the absence of Miss McIlroy and Mlle. Buttica.

The work among the Arab lads gave me much joy, and I was particularly encouraged in meeting with the young Jewish men. It was possible to study with small groups of the latter the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Lord, and their fulfilment in the New Testament. These young men were not hostile towards the Gospel, and read it willingly. I realised once more how deeply the question of the coming of the Messiah interests some of them. They said, "We see the signs of the end, the Messiah is about to appear."

May God hasten the day when, according to His promise, they shall turn to Him Whom they pierced.

S. LULL (Translated).

* * *

It will be of special interest in reading the above article to remember that M. Lull was married in July to Mlle. Bancel who has already had some experience of missionary work in Algeria.

It is a joy to know that M. and Mme. Lull will (D.V.), be going to Tolga in the Autumn, and our prayers will follow them as they take up work in this needy desert town. The women and children will give a joyful welcome to Mme. Lull who will be able to help their sick bodies as well as their souls.

M. H. R.

America.

Our friends of the Algerian Mission Band (U.S.A.) have been staunch and loyal helpers of the A.M.B. for thirty years. Their love is undimmed and they still send us financial help.

The Secretary's visit to Algeria this Spring was made possible by their generous gifts.

Letters from Mrs. Bryner (President), Mrs. Goodrich (Treasurer), and from our dear Mrs. Walker (Secretary) keep us in touch with those who, though far away, continue to pray and work for the A.M.B., and for the Moslems of Algeria.

We take this opportunity to send them our loving greetings and most grateful thanks.
M. H. R.

Literature Report.

We are very sorry indeed to have to hold over a most interesting (Field) Literature report until our next issue owing to lack of space.

Home Notes.

4 Waldens Road,
Horsell,
Woking.

Dear Friends,

The sending out of this report number seems a good occasion on which to say "thank you" to all of you, including some of our local representatives, who have done so much for the A.M.B. this year, in England, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, U.S.A., New Zealand, and in other parts of the world. We are hoping to get fresh districts represented this year, so as to widen the interest.

Some new prayer helpers joined us during last year, and this is a great joy as it is on these that we count for prayer help in the daily warfare.

Meetings have been held during the Summer in various places, among which we might specially mention the Annual Meetings of our Branches at Brighton and Eastbourne. Our two faithful and splendid local representatives there, had worked so hard beforehand, and much interest and prayerful sympathy were shown. Ipswich, Felixstowe, Penge, Sidcup, Ditton and various other places, some in Ireland and Scotland, have also had A.M.B. meetings.

Next year will be the Jubilee year of the A.M.B. Could we *each* try to get one new friend interested in the work and a new subscriber for the magazine? If we did this, our Jubilee year would be a shining one!

Pastor W. G. Stalley has an electric lantern with attractive new slides of Algeria, and will be glad of any openings in Kent or Sussex to tell of the work between October 4th and 15th. Kindly write to the Office and ask for further information.

Please notice the bringing out of a new edition of "Lilias Trotter of Algiers," by Constance Padwick. This book is delightfully got up, and a photograph of Miss Trotter is included in it. (See notice on last page of cover.)

We congratulate the Nouvelle Société d'Éditions de Toulouse, Dieulefit, Drôme, France, on the French edition of Miss Trotter's life (translated) which they have just published. It is most attractive with its desert cover, and its title "L'Appel du Desert," and it will, we feel sure, be a great inspiration to many.

This magazine goes to press before our Annual Meeting. An account of it, and also the balance sheets (Field and Home) will be in the January number.

Please study our new map on the last page of the cover.

Your sincere friend,
MILLICENT H. ROCHE
(Hon. Secretary).

Basis.

The A.M.B. is interdenominational and desires to have fellowship with all who form the One Body of Christ. The Band holds and teaches:—

- (1) Absolute Faith in the Deity of each Person of the Trinity.
- (2) Absolute confidence in the full inspiration of the Old and New Testaments.
- (3) Absolute belief in the Cross of Christ as the one means of access to God, and the redemptive power for the whole world.

COMMISSION.—The aim of the A.M.B. is the Evangelization of the Arabic and French-speaking Moslems of Algeria and Tunisia with special emphasis on the needs of the practically untouched regions of the interior.

ENGLAND.

Local Representatives:

BEXHILL.—Mrs. Brownrigg, Gorse Cottage, Terminus Avenue.
BOURNEMOUTH (Winton).—Pastor W. G. Stalley, "Kurichee," Norton Road.
BIRKENHEAD (Emmanuel).—Mrs. J. D. Drysdale, Emmanuel Training Home, 1, Palm Grove.
BRIGHTON.—Miss E. Bullen, 14, Clifton Terrace.
CARLISLE (Fisher Street Mission).—Mr. T. Child, 11, Ferguson Road, Longsowerby.
DARLINGTON (Pierremont Mission).—Miss E. Armstrong, 37, Green Street.
EASTBOURNE.—Miss C. Firmin, "Dar Naama," Baldwin Avenue.
FELIXSTOWE.—Miss E. Threadkell, "Raebury," Constable Road.
ILFORD.—Mrs. Walter Sarfas, 121, Coventry Road.
IPSWICH.—Miss Challen, C.A.W.G., Bolton Lane.
LEWES.—Miss Lee, "Cobury," 20 Prince Edward Road.
LEXDEN.—Mrs. Willsmore, 26, Halstead Road, Lexden, Colchester.
PENGE.—Miss E. B. Russell, 54, Thicket Road, Anerley.
SIDCUP.—Miss P. E. C. Russell, 8, Old Forge Way.
TEDDINGTON.—Miss Ethel Little, 32, Field Lane.
THORNTON HEATH.—Mr. C. J. Ford, 13, Heath View Road.
WEST SUFFOLK.—Mrs. Ed. Johnston, Camofield, Gt. Barton, Bury St. Edmunds.
WOKING.—Miss M. H. Roche, 4, Waldens Road, Horsell.
WOODBIDGE.—Miss M. Fisher, 24, Chapel Street.
WORTHING.—Miss Gotelee, "Heston," St. Botolph's Road.

SCOTLAND.

DUNDEE.—Miss Stewart, 8 Woodlands Terrace.
FAITH MISSION TRAINING HOME.—Miss I. R. Govan, 18, Ravelston Park, Edinburgh.
GLASGOW.—Miss Guthrie, 90, Barrington Drive, C.4.
NEWPORT (N. Fife).—Mr. D. R. M-Gavin, Benruaig.

IRELAND.

BESSBROOK.—Miss R. Baillie, Deramore House.

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND.—Miss D. Markham, 23, Lake Road, Takapuna, Auckland.

HOW YOU MAY HELP.

By becoming a Prayer Partner. Intercession on behalf of the work and the workers is greatly needed and deeply valued.

The monthly Prayer Letter giving the special requests and news from the Field will gladly be sent on application to the Secretary at Home.

By forming or joining an A.M.B. Prayer Group in your district, or by bringing A.M.B. needs before Prayer Groups already formed.

By taking the magazine, *A Thirsty Land*, so that by following the reports given of

the work, its needs and opportunities, your prayers may be definite and intelligent.

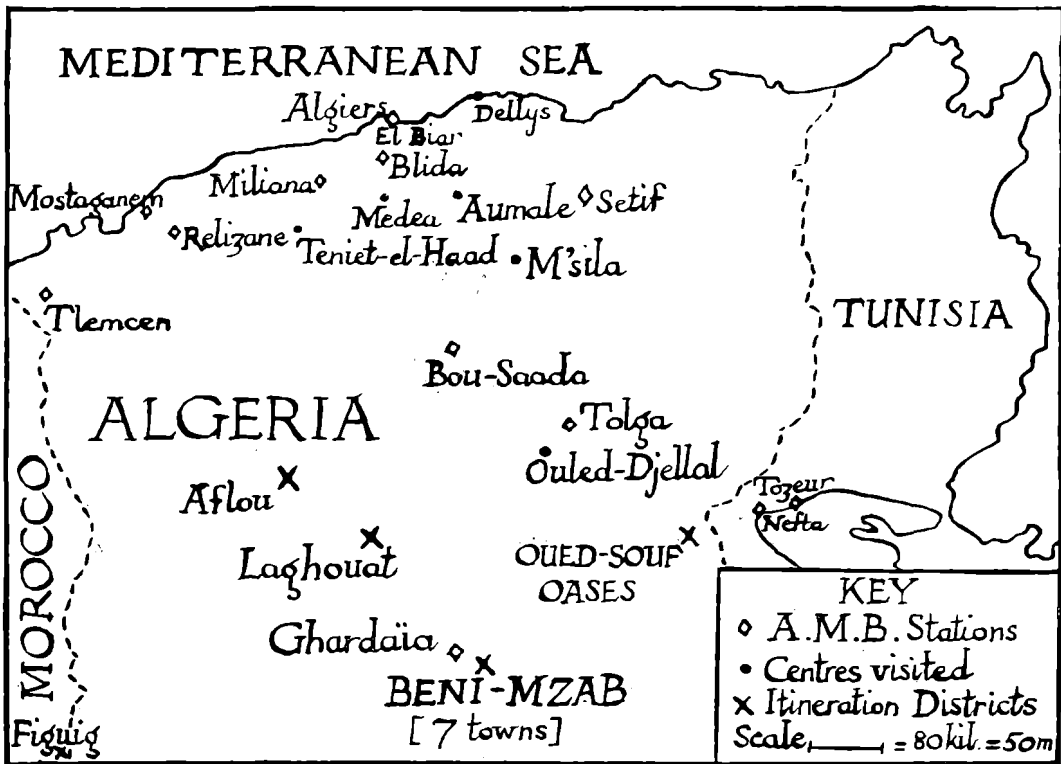
By arranging meetings in drawing room, hall, or church, thus giving an opportunity of spreading a knowledge of the work.

By undertaking to be a Local Representative for your district.

By purchasing A.M.B. publications, which include Miss Trotter's unique and helpful writings.

By supporting the work in a material sense in any way that God may direct, such as by taking an A.M.B. missionary box. Sums left to the Band by will, would help the work of the future.

By facing God's call "Who will go for us?" in view of the need of the Moslems for Christ.



Literature.

To be obtained from The Secretary, A.M.B.
4 Waldens Road, Horsell, Woking.

Books by I. Lilius Trotter.

- "Between the Desert and the Sea." With sixteen pages of Miss Trotter's beautiful illustrations in colour. 6s., postage 6d.
- "Parables of the Cross" and "Parables of the Christ Life." Illustrated. Each 3s. 6d., postage 3d.
- "Focussed." 3d., postage ½d.
- "Vibrations." 2d., postage ½d.
- "A Challenge to Faith." 1d., postage ½d.
- "Trained to Rule." 1d., postage ½d.
- Chorus: "Here I Come." Words, I. L. Trotter. Music, K. A. M. Kelly. 1d. each, postage ½d.
- "Faith's Highway." A. E. Theobald. 1d., postage ½d.
- "Islam and Its Need." A concise book, splendid for study circles. By Dr. W. Norman Leak, M.A. 6d., postage 1d.

"LILIAS TROTTER OF ALGIERS"

BY

CONSTANCE PADWICK.

Second edition (with portrait) of this beautiful Booklet.

Price 6d. Postage 1d.

- "A Ripened Life." 1d., postage ½d.
- "Children of the Sandhills," a descriptive painting book. Pictures by Miss Elsie Anna Wood. 6d., postage 1d.