

REPORT NUMBER

A Thirsty Land



Algiers Mission Band

ALGERS MISSION BAND
ED. 1936

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 Sultane, Blida, Algeria.

Executive Committee :—

H. W. BUCKENHAM
MISS BUTLER.
W. CECIL COLLINSON.
MISS FARMER.

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

MISS PERKIN.
A. E. THEOBALD.
A. T. UPSON.
MISS WOOD.

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MRS. F. C. BRADING.
W. CECIL COLLINSON.

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MRS. S. KAYE.
JOHN L. OLIVER.
H. W. VERNER.

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MISS M. H. ROCHE, 4, Waldens Road, Horsell, Woking.

Hon. Medical Adviser : DR. GRACE CHAMBERS.

Hon. Auditor : C. NEVILLE RUSSELL.

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DR. W. C. PEARCE, W.S.S.A., 626, "W. M. Garland" Building,
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Algerian Mission Band, America :—

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MRS. J. A. WALKER, Sec., 2300, Dexter Street, Denver, Col.

MRS. F. GOODRICH, Treas., 302, College Ct., Albion, Mic.

Referees, France :

PASTOR J. P. COOK, Nevers, France.

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, during Report Year 1935-36.

DAR NAAMA, EL BIAR.

1906. Miss S. E. PERKIN.
1919 & 1922.
Mons. & Mme. P. NICOU.
1922. Mr. & Mrs. THEOBALD.
1927. Miss J. JOHNSTON.
(Now Mrs. H. Stalley)
1935. Mons. & Mme. Millon
(language study).

ALGIERS.

1930. Miss I. NASH.
1922. Mrs. THEOBALD.

MOSTAGANEM.

1906. Mlle. A. GAYRAL.

GHARDAIA (BENI M'ZAB). Spring.

Miss M. D. GRAUTOFF (part time).
Miss P. M. RUSSELL " "
Mlle. BUTTICAZ " "

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

BLIDA.

DAR EL AINE.
1920. Mr. & Mrs. H. W.
BUCKENHAM.
1934. Mr. H. STALLEY (part
time).
DAR ER RIH.
1907. Miss RIDLEY.

MILIANA.

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

TOZEUR.

1920. Miss V. WOOD.

SETIF.

Senor S. LULL (part time).
Mr. J. THOMSON " "

TOLGA.

1928. Senor S. LULL (part time).
1935. Mr. J. THOMSON " "

TLEMCEM.

1916. Miss K. BUTLER.

DELLYS.

1914. Miss A. M. FARMER.
(part time in Setif).
1922. Miss I. SHEACH.
(part time in Setif).
1935. Miss S. WRIGHT
(language study).
(part time in Setif).

BOUSAADA.

1909. Miss A. McILROY.
1919. Mlle. BUTTICAZ.
1932. Miss S. HANSEN (part time).

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

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



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AUTUMN, 1936.

1/6 PER ANNUM
POST FREE

Editorial.

"King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

In this number reports are given which as far as possible, bring the work of the past year before us.

As we read, we rejoice to mark the good Hand of our God upon us. "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

Though clouds are dark indeed on the world horizon, and men's hearts, in Algeria as elsewhere, are failing them for fear, yet we know that "The King of Glory shall come in" and so we lift up our heads.

* * *

From the Editor's point of view the year has been both interesting and encouraging. Letters from many parts of the world have brought the assurance of loving interest and of co-operation in prayer.

Our General Treasurer has sent a report of the past financial year, and it opens with the words—"It is with adoring praise . . . that we send on the testimony 'Great is Thy faithfulness.'" As, however, our balance sheets will be published in our winter issue, we are also holding over the Treasurer's story to be printed at the same time. Mostaganem's report, and an account of recent itinerations will be in our winter number, and also a report of our Annual Meetings.

Members of the Band will (D.V.) be back at their posts early in October after some days to be spent in Praise and Prayer, together, at Dar Naama. Let us join with them as they wait upon God for His fresh empowering in face of the conflict ahead.

M. H. R.

CHANGE OF OFFICE ADDRESS.

Please note that all correspondence should be addressed to the Secretary at—4 Waldens Road, Horsell, Woking.

Praise and Prayer Requests.

Praise.

Let us praise God for those gone on before who blazed the trail for us.

For God's mercies to us as a Band during this past year, and for all our needs supplied.

For the open doors set before us in Algeria and Tunisia.

For our faithful prayer helpers and friends, and for the many opportunities given this summer for telling about the work.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ among the Arabs and Kabyles.

Prayer.

That the Holy Spirit may guide us in focussing our prayers as we read the reports.

For journeying mercies for the workers returning to Algeria.

That Miss Hansen who is convalescing in Denmark may soon be restored to full health if it be God's will.

That the Field Committee may be guided in all plans.

That peaceful conditions may prevail in Algeria and Tunisia and that doors may be kept open.

For blessing on the new Office at Home and that all done there may be for God's glory.

That God will raise up new friends for the A.M.B. and provide fresh openings for making the work known.

"Emmanuel God With Us."

We do not know as yet what we have been up against in the conflict "for we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

We seem to be doing little, but we may be doing more than we shall ever know till we stand in the unseen world, where the Lord waits with his "well done"; and shows us what the fight has meant to Him, and to the great cloud of witnesses who have watched the contest.

As with Job of old, we may be left to fight on in the dark, knowing nothing of the issues at stake till we wake on that other side and find that the contest that seemed so futile here has meant much up there.

Till then, may we stand with Him who went through the uttermost of seeming defeat, to His crown.

* * *

Oh, to learn how to fight through the battle in the heavenly places till the day comes—to attempt the impossible, to expect the impossible; it comes back to that.

* * *

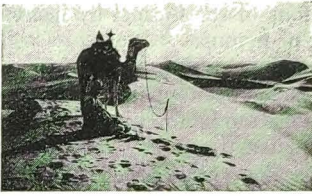
In the evening we went outside towards the east, where the first scattered palms stand alone, or in tiny groups, "outposts" again; but meaning that the forest is behind them; the first trickle of the water means the stream farther on, the first solitary souls mean that Pentecost is coming. Hallelujah!

I. L. TROTTER.

"I will sing unto the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously."

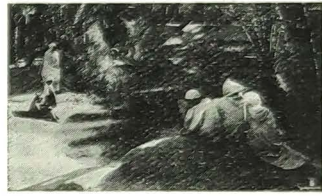
Reports for 1935-1936.

Sun and Sand.



"Everything
shall lie
whither
the river
cometh."

Sun, Sand and Water.



"Not heavenly fields, but desert sands
Rejoice and blossom as the rose;
For through the dry and thirsty lands
Thy river flows."

C. P. C.

Algiers City.

Miss NASH.

Mrs. THEOBALD.

I have been asked to send in a report of the work carried on in Algiers city during the past year. This sounds an easy enough task at first, but when one takes up pen and paper, and shutting one's eyes, looks back over twelve months, one just wonders where to begin, what to say and what to leave unsaid, for in a year many things happen, and if one were to tell of them all the report would outgrow the space reserved for it in the magazine.

Two subjects for praise, however, stand out well in relief.

First, the joy of seeing the little paralysed child, so often mentioned on the Prayer Sheets, turn more and more to the Saviour, until finally she was able to say she had given her heart to Him.

The change which has come to that little morose child is a miracle. Everyone who has visited her with me marvels at her wonderful patience, as she lies day after day on her pallet, in a dark, damp room, into which the sun's rays never penetrate.

I have visited her at all hours of the day and always find the same happy patient expression on her face, and the same bright smile of welcome. Once I was hindered from paying her my usual visit: "I listened for your footstep in the court," she told me, "and when you did not come, I said to my sister, 'Come, let us have a service together.'" The mother and sister have both given their hearts to Christ in simple childlike faith, and we believe the father is very near the Kingdom, if not right over the line. When he returns from his work in the evening, he gets down from the shelf "The Life of Christ," or his Gospel, and his son, aged nine years, who can read better than his father, reads to them all.

Do continue in prayer for this family that one day we may see them all baptised, not only with water, but with the Holy Ghost and with power from on High, that they may shine in the midst of the darkness of Islam, and be the means of leading many to Him who is the Light of the World. I say "many," and this may sound audacious to some, but there must be many hearts

prepared, and one day, perhaps not so far off now, the Lord will surely breathe on all the seed sown until it springs up into life, for we have His promise that His Word shall not return unto Him void.

We also rejoice over another beautiful answer to prayer, i.e., concerning our premises, which we had quite outgrown. In a most unexpected way a flat on the ground floor of this house where I live became vacant, and that, after the tenant had just had it freshly papered, white-washed, retiled, and the electricity put in, and the only charge made to us above the rent was the installation of this latter. The flat consists of two rooms with communicating door, making one large class room or two smaller ones, as most convenient, a kitchen and a small court where the little ones can play, not to mention a tiny room without a window and a huge cupboard in the wall, all this offering great possibilities for the future development of the work.

These rooms are much appreciated by both women and children, and many were the willing hands to help bring the things from the old quarters to the new. Our neighbours were greatly amused to see various processions headed by the elder children carrying big bundles and followed by tiny tots with their arms full of old rag dolls, cradles, bedding, miniature furniture, etc., etc., so proud to have their share in the move. We had some very happy inaugural fêtes; seventy-two children and six women the first day and about forty-five women and many tinies the second day.

Although several of our big girls have recently left to be married, and some others have ceased coming on account of the greater distance for them, since the move, many nice children living in this neighbourhood have joined us so that our numbers remain about the same as last year.

We hope that those young brides will be

carrying the Gospel Message with them into their new homes, and that we shall be able to keep in touch with them. Some had been with us for several years and know many portions of the Gospel by heart and quite a lot of hymns.

The women's meetings in our new premises have been most encouraging. The magic lantern is a never-failing source of joy. We could not have it in the old premises as there was no electricity.

The visiting has been very interesting on the whole. Many new doors have been opened to us among all classes of Arab Society, and although there are always those who, when they understand the meaning of our visit, will have nothing further to do with us, and try to prevent others from listening, most have listened, if not with eagerness, at least with interest, and many with real heart hunger. Many have been the pressing invitations to return, and as far as time permitted we have done so.

I. K. N.



Bou Saada.

Miss A. McILROY. Mlle. A. BUTTICAZ.

When we were closing for the summer two of the new French teachers (who, with others, come on Sunday afternoons), called to say good-bye to us. We were in the midst of our Girls' Fete and Scripture portions were being repeated in Arabic and hymns sung. Then we asked for something in French and were quite astonished at the progress the school girls had made in that language. Less than a hundred years ago, Stephen Grellet wrote concerning the changes he found in England after an absence of several years: "The education of the children has, by the Lord's blessing, contributed to the moral reform of the parents." May praying friends receive a deepened concern

for the Arab children that they may be converted to God and used in blessing to their parents! Attendance at the boys' class was not so regular as usual, but good numbers were reached in other ways. As well as some small boys who came in the morning with the girls, groups of bigger boys came at intervals.

Tuesdays and Wednesdays are market and dispensary days, when the number of callers and patients is greatly augmented. Groups of women call, too, when going to, or returning from the sacred shrine up in the hills, to rest, and some also to wait for their bus. A very intelligent woman called quite alone one day, and the Gospel message so gripped her heart that she could scarcely tear herself away. Our prayers follow her! We have been giving first-aid to a good number lately. Miss Hansen with her medical knowledge was a great help in all the work while Mlle. Butticaz was away at Ghardaia.

It was a great pleasure to us that Miss Perkin was able to come South for a few days and see and help in the work. We had a happy visit from Pastor Stalley and his son and M. Nicoud, with the N.M.P. car. It was a joy to know that the souls in the surrounding villages were having another opportunity to hear, and it was very fine to see the car one market day (and books being sold) stationed in the centre of Bou Saada's Market Square! The messages from God given by Pastor Stalley in the evenings were rich and blessed. A young Kabyle soldier converted at the Home for boys in Algiers and now working as a clerk at the Barracks, was able to join our party twice when M. Nicoud gave messages in French. Visiting, especially in the new village near us was very strenuous. It began with the sickness of H., a former class-girl and a little girl-wife near, both of whom we believe fully trusted the Lord. It took a good bit of courage at times to visit all the other sufferers! One

day a Taleb, newly come from the South, not willing that we should go into his house, carried his three-year-old daughter outside, so that we might treat her. The poor child, with a high temperature, had a deep hole in the centre of her forehead caused by having been thrown from a donkey and lighting on a sharp stone. We feared lock-jaw, but as the father refused to carry his suffering child to the doctor we treated her on the spot with simple remedies. Next day, better thoughts prevailed, and the Taleb arrived with his child in his arms. Mlle. Butticaz led the way to the doctor's house and the child's life was saved. We were then allowed to nurse her at her own house, and nowhere in Bou Saada have we now a warmer welcome! The father is reading God's Word and tracts, and we have met a good number of other nomads from time to time at his house when visiting there. And so—"we pass the blessing on"!

Some readers know R., the girl who professed to be a Christian years ago and in whose new home the various women listen so well. R.'s mother, still a young woman, lives in a distant part of the town and has been coming to see us of late all alone. May she come right into the Light!

Houses are open far beyond our powers to visit regularly. May the Holy Spirit use the Word already spoken!

In the Autumn we spent two full and blessed days at Msila in the Hodna, and the sense of God's working there leads us to believe that friends are remembering them before the Lord. In April we "took the long way round" to Algiers; first going South to Djelfa, and witnessing in many dark homes there, and then North to Boghari re-visiting a few in whose hearts there is a longing to know the salvation of God, and also many others. We felt the Lord was at work in hearts. Praise His Name!

A. McI.

Blida (Dar el Aine).

Mr. and Mrs. BUCKENHAM.

"The little one shall become a thousand, and the small one a strong nation: I the Lord will hasten it in its time" (Isa. 60. 22).

Evidently when "Blida" was named there was no prophetic vision of what it would become, the word "blida" being the Arabic diminutive for town; for this "little town" is now, after the city of Algiers, the largest town in the central province of Algeria.

"White already to harvest" . . . "fruit unto life eternal" . . . "that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together" have been words to which we have been held throughout the year, having been conscious all along of the much and faithful sowing of the past.

There has been so much to gladden in the classes, the keenness of the girls and boys of every age has always been fresh. The little ones would come every day if allowed, or so many of their mothers say; they love the hymns and texts they memorise. The bigger girls have, through the teaching of the years, apprehended much of the way of salvation, and some have testified to the surrender of their hearts to the Lord whom they have taken as "Way, Truth, and Life."

The Friday Women's Meeting, a particularly encouraging one for so long before we came, has grown, we believe, in both numbers and interest.

It was good to have Mr. Harold Stalley with us for a short period, when he greatly helped with the older boys lantern meetings, and also with the opening of the Depot.

The Sunday afternoon gathering for Christian fellowship has again been appreciated by soldiers and others for whom it meets a felt need.

Many have been our visitors, day by day, some coming for such simple medical

aid as we may give, others to "sit" and to hear the word of God.

In the visiting, with but few exceptions, there has been intelligent listening. Our few visits to *Colea* have meant times of joyful reunion with those we had come to love during our stay of ten and a half years there, and fresh links with families here have through them been established. We found also the owner of the café where several meetings have been held, willing still to grant us the use of it.

One of the chief joys of the year has been the opening of the Book Depot in a favourable spot in the heart of the town, an answer to the many prayers of some to whose hearts the work of the Lord in Blida is dear.

One of the most cheering aspects of its work thus-far has been the facility it affords of cementing friendliness, and following up the work begun by God in some hearts. Impressions made years—in some cases decades—back, have been revived. Men who were then class-boys, have been enabled to re-catch something of early conviction, long since allowed to slumber, and perhaps frequently stifled. One and another of our wall-pictures, or the hearing or reading again of a parable, have been used by the Holy Spirit, who does not swiftly take His departure from these lives of little opportunity. It was pathetic to see one man standing awestruck before Holman Hunt's "Light of the world," and then to hear him repeat from memory the French translation of "Knocking, knocking, who is there?" Another who had passed the way of the classes in his boyhood, and who now has children of his own who cannot attend classes at the Mission House because they live at the other side of the town, came seeking books for them. Yet another, who recalls with delight the "prize-days" of yore, introduced himself as the father of a certain little laddie who now comes regularly to the classes; he

frequently comes in to sit for an hour on end in the evenings for chat and reading.

Many, who for one reason or another, have preferred not to enter the Depot have nevertheless shown real interest in what may be seen and read at its doorway. The usual answer given by these to others who pause in passing to enquire "What is it?" is "Our Lord Jesus only"! Admitting that such a statement does not carry to the questioners the blessedness, that overhearing it brings every time to our hearts, we nevertheless rejoice that such a clear testimony is constantly given; for from its day of opening God had charged us with inward determination that from it should be known "nothing among men, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." and deliberately to refuse any semblance of camouflage, so that before all eyes "He might be openly set forth."

H. W. B.



Blida (Dar er Rih.)

There has been much interesting visiting far and near, where besides the personal friendliness there has been the touch of the Spirit Himself. It is more like moving amongst old friends than among complete strangers. Recently two women—mother and daughter—waited on their doorstep till I reached them, purposely to greet me and invited me warmly to visit them, though I had never seen them before. The whole house is friendly, and the daughter keen to listen to the Bible stories, and anxious to learn to read that she may read them for herself. She has had several French leaflets which greatly interested her. Three stranger women found their way here, two from Miliana where they had had teaching years ago. The good seed had been germinating ever since and they had shared what they knew with a young neighbour from Medea. These three arrived

hungry for spiritual things, and on their return home the same day they decided between themselves that it was "Christ they needed to cleanse their hearts and upon Whom they could lean through life's journey." These were their own words to me when visiting them two days later. They are still very ignorant in spiritual matters, but their faith is real, and they have from the first tried to interest their neighbours in Him, and have boldly witnessed to their trust in the One Saviour. Long distance visiting needs both a companion, and suitable weather. The former difficulty was partly overcome by the happy fact that I could take with me a young Arab woman, who has relations and friends in many outlying districts and villages. This young woman has had much teaching also in the past, but it was not till just over a year ago that she decided to follow Christ wholly. The great test came as usual with the month of Ramadhan. She started badly but ended with real victory for Christ in her life, and she has gone on steadily making progress in her Christian life ever since. It is another case where God has chosen the "weak things," for as some of you know she is both physically and mentally handicapped. It is wonderful to see what God has already done in her increased development during this past year. Her great ambition is to be a teacher to her own people, and often she is a real help in visiting, though sometimes her zeal outruns her ability to express herself.

This Easter, Dar er Rih had a visit from one of the young Christian women from Relizane, and God used her life and teaching in a very remarkable way to the two women living alongside who have been much prayed for. We spent many happy evenings together, and night after night there was a marked difference in the melting of their spirits. Prayer was asked that they might be won before the end of F's visit, and God answered by their complete

surrender on her last night with us. Several friends were with us that night, and it was in response to a message from Pastor Stalley that they announced their faith in Christ.

Please put on your prayer list one more woman, whose heart has been well sown with the Seed for many years. At one of the little gatherings of women held each Monday, she quite openly said she also had chosen the salvation of Christ. Her faith is real, but she is not so free as the others and it will be harder for her to take a stand against Moslem customs. She is taking great pains in learning to read really fluently that she may read the Gospels for herself.

E. K. M. RIDLEY.



MR. H. STALLEY AND MRS. STALLEY (née Miss Jessie Johnston) who are returning to the Field in October (D.V.).

Headquarters.

Dar Naama,
El Biar.

In the course of a season many people pass through Dar Naama (apart from members of the A.M.B.) coming from or going to distant regions and bringing fresh interests and wider visions. Some just look in and pass on, and others settle in for a fortnight or so.

The first of these in the Autumn was Dr. Wakefield, *en route* for Tamanrasset, all on fire to learn the Touareg language so as to be able to reach the women of that district.

Soon after her departure Mr. and Mrs. Tullar with Allan and little Virginia knocked at the door. They had landed from America with a small Ford lorry and a tent. There was quite a sensation in Algiers when they announced their intention to travel in this Ford across the Sahara to Nigeria. However, Mr. Tullar serenely made all the necessary arrangements, and Mrs. Tullar learnt from M. Millon all the French that she could acquire in three weeks. Then one fine day, off they went on their adventurous journey—the children wild with excitement! We heard later that they had had a few mishaps, but no disasters. In due time they arrived triumphantly at Jos in Nigeria. From henceforth an invisible thread connects them, and their work, with us.

The last Sunday that the Tullars were here the gallant Ford was placed before the front door, and by means of the loud-speaker with which it is provided, a French service was broadcast through El Biar. This was the inauguration of a French meeting on Sunday afternoons. M. Nicoud and M. Millon presided alternately and later the Pastors of the Reformed Church in Algiers preached fortnightly, and many Protestants who were unable to go down to the Church in Algiers were glad to come.

We had the joy during the winter of

having a Christian Arab wedding here. This was described in a former number of the magazine.

At the end of March the Rev. W. Stalley came on his long-promised visit. He did not linger at Dar Naama but went off almost at once with his son and M. Nicoud in the N.M.P. car on a journey to Bou Saada, Tolga, and Setif, selling literature at the towns and villages *en route*. On his return to Headquarters he had special meetings, some for the A.M.B., and others to which all the missionary community was invited. God's presence was manifested and it was a time of spiritual strengthening and refreshing. Then off again in the car westward—Blida, Miliana, Relizane, Tlemcen, Mostaganem and other towns were visited. European and native Christians were greatly cheered and encouraged.

Early in the autumn the Young People's Christian Federation of North Africa had their Annual Camp at Dar Naama. It was a time of strenuous Bible Study and of very happy intercourse between the young people with their leaders and pastors and missionaries.

At Easter a Belgian Y.W.C.A. Group—fifty-three in all, camped at Dar Naama for a fortnight. They had no previous knowledge of Islam and set themselves to study that subject, and to learn all they could of the customs and superstitions of the people around them and of the methods and results of Mission work.

The following words came to us from Belgium :—

“ Please do not think we have forgotten Dar Naama, and all the people who have been so wonderfully hospitable to us. The girls say they have never been in touch with such a real Christian spirit. It has moved them. It has made them realise perhaps what real faith can do.”

S. PERKIN.

Dellys.

Miss FARMER. Miss SHEACH.

Miss WRIGHT.

“ *Oh that Thou wouldst bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that Thine hand might be with me . . . and God granted him that which he requested.*”—1 Chron. 4. 10.

We can truly say that the above was our prayer and its answer during this last session. It was however a time of many interruptions. Miss Farmer and Miss Wright were alone in Dellys from October till the end of December, while I was in Tozeur with Miss Wood. During that time the classes in Dellys town and in the Mission House were the principal features of the work. They were all well attended and much seed was sown in young hearts. Eleven classes were held each week, six in the town and five in the Mission House. Without doubt there must be a rich harvest from that work.

Then we three were together for January and February, and in addition to classes did some villaging and house to house visiting in town and surrounding gardens.

Again, however, there was a break, and Dellys Mission Station was shut for two months, while we took up new work in the much prayed for town of Setif. It was a venture of faith; the Lord kept us waiting for means to furnish the new Mission Station, right up to the last two weeks before opening. Then gradually, one friend after another in the homeland sent gifts, and the house was soon furnished.

We had two very strenuous months there, but they were full of encouragement and joy in the reception given to us by the people. We were able to gather together a large class of girls and little boys, and we found them eager and intelligent.

The visiting was very encouraging. The Arabs live in four large villages just outside the town, and the Mission Station is near

one of these. Further off there are numerous other little communities. In the town itself there are many Arabs living in European houses with French and Jews. These last-named Arabs are difficult to reach. We gave some time to all these groups but felt that after two months we had barely touched the fringe of this work.

In May we resumed work in Dellys and had our usual classes and visiting. We are glad to report that the numbers in the boys' classes have been very steady all the year, and that their interest has been well maintained.

To His Name be all the glory. I. S.

—◆◆◆— Holding Forth the Word of Life.

As students, one of our tests was to preach before Principal, staff, and assembled students on a given theme, the time allowed for our sermon being three minutes! I have a more difficult task before me now—to give, in the restricted space allowable in a Report number, a comprehensive account of eight crowded weeks in Algeria, during which we covered over 2,500 miles, and visited nearly every centre of the vast field occupied by the Algiers Mission Band.

It was my joy to be on the field at a time when the Lord was answering the prayers of missionaries and prayer helpers, and to see some of the precious mercy drops which we believe are the earnest of the coming showers on this Thirsty Land. At Blida, at Tlemcen, and at Relizane, we witnessed sacred scenes, each worthy of detailed description. All I can do now, however, is to invite praying friends to join us in praise that the Power of the Holy Spirit was seen in the deliverance given to some captives, the recovering of sight to the blind, and the setting at liberty of them that were bruised. This note of praise is also an urgent call to unceasing prayer, for

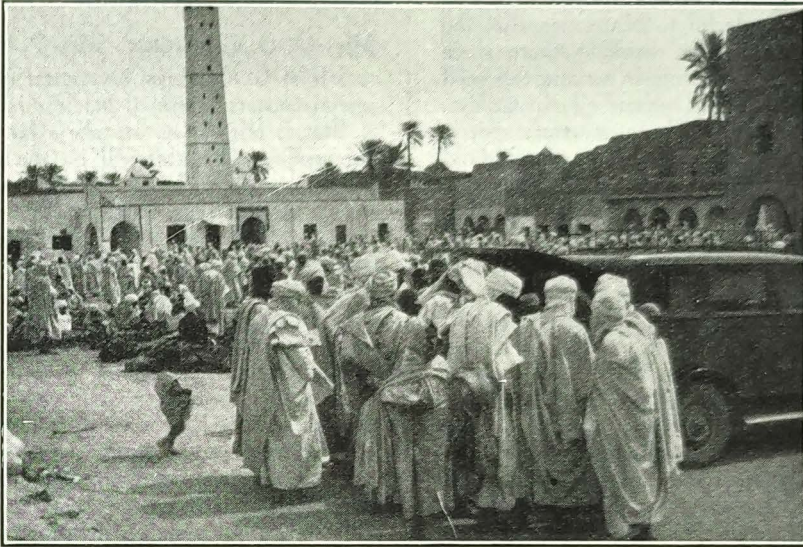
it is certain that the Adversary of the Lord Jesus Christ will not let this work of grace pass without counter attacks.

In my journeyings I had the great advantage of being able to join in an extended colportage tour arranged by Monsieur P. Nicoud, and my son. The journeys were made in the large car which has been fitted with a "book-room" well stored with precious Living Seed.

After a few days in Algiers, during which we had fellowship with our friends of the N.A.M. in their Spring Conference, we visited some of the desert stations. I must deny myself the privilege of attempting to describe the marvellous contrasts of scenery on that journey. Photographic records have been made, and I am looking forward to opportunities of showing the slides to at least some of our readers during the coming months.

The last part of our journey to Bou Saada, over barren desert, and under an almost tropical sun, prepared me to appreciate to the full the meaning of such phrases as "an oasis," "streams in the desert," and not least, though last, "tea is ready"! We had several full days of fellowship with the happy band of missionaries there, and the privilege of appreciating the fact that "patient endurance" is a necessary qualification in our desert workers. Faith to believe that the Seed is Good Seed, that God will keep His Promises, and that the reaping time will come, if we faint not,

From Bou Saada we visited some of the scattered villages around, some so like, in colour scheme, to their drab desert surroundings, that you do not see them until you actually arrive. While the brethren went round the market places with the Living Seed I had opportunities of seeing some Bible incidents enacted before me as I wandered about, or sat in the car. "Cups of cold water" from goat-skin bottles, "salutations in the market place," etc. I almost envied the brethren when



"WHERE THE RAID ON THE CAR TOOK PLACE."

I saw them engage in lively conversation over the portions of the Word they were reading to the crowd gathered around the car—all I could do was to Watch, and Pray, and smile when I was spoken to, or when every movement I made was a matter of absorbing interest to a crowd of youngsters.

A visit to a Great Zaouia, or Moslem College of 300 students, all being trained as propagandists, served to make one realise the greatness of the problem we have to face up to in our prayers and efforts.

At Tolga, one of the outstanding impressions I received was the fact that no women were visible. In these desert regions man is lord, and woman is property, to be kept under watch and ward. It was a joy while there, over Easter-tide, to receive visits from some fine young men who know their Bible, and, we believe, know the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour, but thus

far, have not had courage to confess Him openly.

At Ouled Djellal we witnessed something of the active resistance Islam makes against the Truth of God. A party of big lads made a concerted raid on the car, and in the confusion stole and ran off with some of the literature. Their elders stood by enjoying it all—"what does it matter, it is only infidel literature!" was their remark. One heard later on, in Algiers, a story which assured us that even such incidents as these may form part of the plan for disseminating the Truth.

It is a cause for definite rejoicing that the Word of God is being scattered and received by the people more freely than ever before. In our visit to Setif, we felt that vast opportunities were abounding in that great city and market centre to which farmers from the immense cornlands in

the Province of Constantine gravitate. It has been wonderful to hear since, that the two who have been working there since April have had success in sowing the seed of the printed Word beyond all expectation.

Later, visits to Miliana, a beauty spot in the Highlands; and Relizane, a stronghold of Satan, but where there are some choice trophies of Grace, and Tlemcen, another centre, beautiful for situation, although we saw very little of the beauty because of storms, all showed that after long and patient labour by some who have gone to their rest, and those who are still in the posts of honour, precious fruit will soon be gathered, if the prayer forces at home will rally and concentrate in prayer on the great problems and opportunities.

Several years ago I read that remarkable book *The Land of the Vanished Church*. Time was when North Africa had many churches and faithful witnesses and martyrs for Christ: we visited several ancient cities, now in ruins, where on the ruins of Christian churches and tombs, the Word of God is still visible in stone. But the Church became feeble in prayer, and testimony, the Word of God was withheld from the people, so that when the overflowing scourge of Islam swept over the country, the Faith was blotted out. Pray for that dark land, and for the few, the very few, witnesses for the Lord Jesus Christ, that they may witness a good Confession. Pray for the scattered Protestant Churches, who in many places, seem to be awaking to realize their responsibilities towards those around them. Pray that more young lives may be called and sent, from this favoured land of ours, to that country, from which missionaries once came with the message of Life to our forefathers.

W. G. STALLEY.

“ Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do ? ”

Miliana.

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

“ *Who hath believed our report (doctrine) and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?* ”

This is our cry as we take a far view of the year's work and it will be the reader's question as he looks for the answers to his prayer service. In choosing this verse I am thinking specially of the prejudiced Moslem of the South who believes that in the Koran only is the truth.

We cannot write below this a list of converts who have been free enough and brave enough to step out in baptism and confess their faith, for the cost to such souls is great. But we can tell of numbers of Miliana boys and girls coming regularly to classes and proud of the hymns they can sing or texts they can repeat—unconscious little missionaries in their own dark homes.

We rejoice over the women who make our mission room their “ rendezvous,” a break in the monotony of their lives. These through constant attendance have heard the whole Gospel story and much of it has been read to them in Bible words. The baptised girl B. comes to these meetings with her two merry little children and helps us much by singing aloud before the other women, who look upon such open testimony as bad form. She has had the great privilege of helping a dying man, who, as we were away, sent for her to read some verses of St. John 14. to him. He died soon after, before the Moslem religious reader could come and force him to witness to Mohammed. We feel at rest over this soul, whose name was Abdel Cader—“ Servant of the All-powerful.” M. and Mme. Nicoud who took over our Miliana work for a month this spring, had been reading with him and had been cheered by his simple faith. The fact that she read to this dying man has meant persecution for B. The landlord gave her notice saying that they could not have a

"M'tournia" i.e., a converted one, living in their compound.

Before leaving for the M'zab, an offer of marriage came, through missionaries of the N.A.M., to our baptised Arab house-girl, Y—, from a young (also baptised) convert Si. H. This young fellow has been much prayed for; he was in touch with Mr. Buckenham and is known to many under the name of Nicolas. These last fifteen months he has been shepherded by N.A.M. friends. The proposal seemed to be of God and so last Easter there was a very happy Christian wedding and consecration in the Mission Hall at Charchell. Now the young couple have a little home in that town and both attend the Sunday services and meetings at the Mission houses. They need our prayers that they may be sheltered and kept true, in the midst of Moslem surroundings with their subtle hidden malice.

Y's sister was much impressed by the ceremony, its atmosphere so different from the unlovely one of a Moslem wedding. From being hard and opposed to us, she came back to Miliana willing to help and wanting our friendship and has made wonderful progress in her reading.

In the Desert Station of Chardhaia.

Mlle. Buttica, from Bousaada, joined us for part of our time in the South and we gave our mornings to the study of the Mozabite dialect and also to classes of little girls. One class consisted of just the few Arab girls who are brave enough to come to our house, and another of loving little Jewesses. There were also almost daily classes for Arab and tent boys, and at different times for the young Jewish lads.

After the usual weary difficulties we at last obtained a new three years lease on our little house in Chardhaia though it involved a rise in rent. From there we visited

the six other M'zab towns which meant travelling about 266 miles to make just one call at each. In each town we left many Scriptures and leaflets, but Ghardhaia with its large weekly market is the most profitable centre.

In reviewing the two months work we see progress in the friendliness of the tent dwellers, and there are a certain number of open doors in the Arab and Jew quarters and in the houses of Mozabites living on the outskirts of the town. But the doors of the Mozabite quarter, and those of each town dwelling which is near the Mosque, are still closed to us, in fact entrance there is forbidden to us.

Pray that by God's overruling a shaft of His Glorious Light may pierce through to these shut-in women; for our God has such wonderful ways of working.

M.D.G.



Glemcen.

"Precious Seed."

Though the past season's work has been of necessity broken up, and in many ways hindered, yet it has seemed that the Word of the Lord has had a freer course than usual. The Heavenly Sower has been going on with His work of quickening the Seed in many hearts. From the beginning we were led to concentrate very specially on the teaching of the Word of God, word by word from the Bible, at daily prayers and in the classes and meetings.

Just before closing the station for the summer, some of the girls and children who had been regular attenders at the classes, had a little examination. It was a joy to realise then how God Himself had watched over His Word in their hearts and kept it living, and to have that special opportunity of bringing them each one face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many of these we believe do truly love Him, but

the enemy works hard to sow tares, and while they learn with us "Words of Eternal Life," at other times they are being obliged to memorise the Koran, either in the Koranic schools, or during the "Dhikers" (religious services), led by the Sheikhas of the Moslem Sisterhoods. Indeed this past year the Sheikhas have been far more zealous than usual in their endeavours to get hold of the children and young unmarried girls. One Sheikha whom we know well and with whom we are really on very friendly terms, has a sort of opposition class now on Sunday afternoons! This begins at the same time as our class and continues till late. A very large number attend, among them, sad to say, a good many children and big girls who used to come to us. We remember however to our comfort, that the Seed the Heavenly Sower has sown possesses His inherent and self-propagating Life, and so we do trust them to Him.

In visiting and in the native shops there has seemed special opportunity too of giving the Word of God. It has been asked for and received gratefully. One shop-keeper wished to read the Bible from cover to cover, and see for himself what it contained, rather than to have any special passages indicated to him.

Over and over again we have thanked God when visiting that we had the Word of Life to give to those poor suffering and sinned-against native women, whose lives on the human side are so utterly hopeless. Among them is Kh. of Sidi H., the young Christian woman whose husband drinks incessantly and treats her so cruelly. "Through patience and comfort of the Scriptures" God does give hope to such, in believing.

The native teacher whom we have known for years has been coming regularly and sparing no pains to go through the translation prepared by Mr. Theobald, of the Gospel of St. Luke. (This with the view that it might be understood in Tunisia as

well as in Algeria). It has meant of course that he has been obliged to think over, and weigh carefully, the exact meaning of the words and phrases used. Praise God we know that in so doing, those words that "are Spirit and are Life," must work effectually in his heart, and cannot possibly return to Him void. The hindrance to the seed springing up and bringing forth visible fruit in his case is *fear*.

Recently an earnest seeker, a young native student, has also been studying the Word of God. As far as we can judge, his heart is as prepared ground, "an honest and good heart," which, having heard the Word, is ready to receive and keep it. Time after time he has accepted some fresh truth without question. For him truly we need to pray much, that in his eagerness to know, not merely for his own sake, but that he might be able to help his companions, fruit may be brought forth "with patience" and persevering courage.

We record with gratitude God's definite blessing on the work of Mr. & Mrs. Morgan, who helped us at Tlemcen for several months.

Later we were very glad to have Mlle. Gayral, who came for a few weeks and who was specially interested in the students of Tlemcen. She was able to get into conversation with several, and of course always used the opportunity to draw attention to the "one thing needful." Latterly she read with the young student previously mentioned, whom she specially took on her heart to pray through and for whom she believes and expects great things.

Will you "lift up your eyes and look" with us on these fields out in Algeria that are truly "white already unto harvest"? As you look and think of these large important cities, strongholds of Islam, where there is at present only one permanent worker, will you very earnestly pray to "the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest"?

J. K. BUTLER.

Literature Report

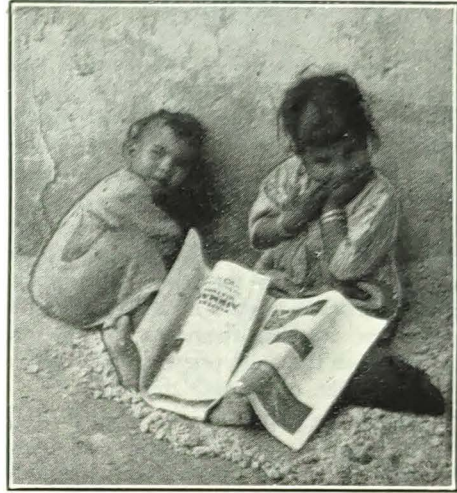
The keyword of the past year has been "Co-operation." First, with the "International Committee on Christian Literature for Africa," by whose aid we are hoping to receive offers of financial assistance with several projects. Then there has been co-operation with the N.M.P. over a "Life of Moses" in simple classical Arabic, with three illustrations by Harold Copping. The publication of this book has cleared the way for the "Life of Abraham" in the same series, which has been long desired. Until sufficient funds come in, however, we are unable to give an order for this. The same applies to a request which has been made for a reprint of "Abraham" in French.

Co-operation, through translation work, with the B. & F. B.S. has resulted in their being able to publish the Epistle to the Romans in colloquial Arabic.

We are about to publish a Scripture booklet in French, entitled: "Following Christ." It is intended for enquirers and those recently converted. It would be possible to bring out short leaflets for Arab boys and girls in French, in small quantities, provided we possessed a multigraphing machine. Such an apparatus, however, costs between £50 and £60, and is quite beyond our means, though it would surely halve our expenses and double our output for the future.

The statistics of literature distribution (including N.M.P. and B. & F.B.S. publications, etc.) by members of the A.M.B. are, approximately, as follows:—

1. Books and tracts (by sale and gift)	4734
2. Gospels and Scripture Portions (by sale and gift) ..	4316
Total	9050



LITERARY-MINDED !

We record with thankfulness that the number of Scriptures distributed during the past year is well over two thousand more than in the preceding year. Our colporteurs in the Setif district have had record sales of Literature during the months of May and June.

Thus, we can thank God and take courage.

P. M. RUSSELL
(Sec., Lit. Com.)

Fear not, for Islam too shall own
Our Saviour Christ the Lord :
In every mosque He shall be known,
His blessed Name adored.
Oh let us praise before we fight,
And sing before we see,
And claim the Muslim for His Knight
Who triumphs gloriously.

A. C.

Dohnavur Fellowship Chorus.
(By kind permission).

Tozeur.

"Keep on keeping on"—a motto I have seen hanging on a friend's wall—is not a bad description of the work in a Mission Station which (like Tozeur) has been established a good many years. A lot of sowing has been done, but we keep on going over the ground, and watering the seed that seems dormant, by repeated visits and class-work. Then the tender little plants that have begun to grow need that we should keep on tending them—as we do for instance, in the daily prayers, when two or three women come each morning.

During the past season we went through with them a Gospel, Acts, and many passages from the Epistles, with practical lessons for daily life. And in the evenings an equally tiny number of boys (some almost men) came together for Bible reading. The memory of some of those who come to these gatherings, and their ups and downs, reminds us of the necessity to keep on weeding, also. We hope some weeds have been got rid of in the life of at least one young man. He has long been a professing believer, but has often been unsatisfactory. This year, however, he is hoping that the past is quite put away, and that the future will be "better than ever before," as Miss Trotter used to say that each new year in a Christian's life should be.

We do not forget that there is still much ground to prepare and sow. In Tozeur itself and in its villages, and especially in Nefta, we have been keeping on at this work, and new contacts and fresh openings for the future have been made, spade work perhaps it will be at first.

Digging, sowing, watering, tending—in all these we "keep on, remembering," as the Arabs are so fond of saying, that "there is no might or power save in God the Most High."

May He endue us with the "long patience" of the husbandman (James 5. 7), and bestow on us "the early and latter rain" that there may be "precious fruit" to His glory!
V. WOOD.

Home Notes.

4 Waldens Road,
Horsell, WOKING.

Dear Friends,

Thanks are due to many of you who have arranged meetings for us this summer. Considerably over fifty addresses on the work of the A.M.B. have been given in various places, among which are—Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Prestonpans, Dundee, Kilty, Dunfermline, Kircaldy, Colchester, Bury St. Edmund's, Great Barton, Ixworth, Ipswich, Anerley, St. Leonard's, Bexhill, Eastbourne, Brighton, Bournemouth, Winton, Milford, Bracknell, Ditton, Woking, Wimbledon High School, and Ridgeland College.

It is a great cheer to hear of the interest shown, and to know that fresh prayer backing will have been secured for those on the Field.

I will gladly send our monthly Prayer Letter to any of our friends not already receiving it, if they will send a p.c. to me at above address. This is now our Office address and it will be a great help if all communications are sent direct here. We have no longer any address at Croydon.

We hope that many will be able to avail themselves of Pastor Stalley's offer. (See opposite page.)

We have extra copies of this Report number, and shall be glad to send some, free of charge, to any who can use them in interesting others.

Yours in the service of Christ and of the A.M.B.

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-speaking Moslems with special emphasis on the needs of the practically untouched regions of the interior.

Local Representatives :

ENGLAND.

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.
HEATHFIELD (Welcome Mission).—Miss E. Phillips, 2, East View, Alexandra Road.
ILFORD.—Mr. Walter Sarfas, 121, Coventry Road.
IPSWICH.—Miss Challin, C.A.W.G., Bolton Lane.
LEWES.—Miss Lee, "Cobury," 20 Prince Edward Road.
LEXDEN.—Mrs. Willsmore, 26, Halstead Road, Lexden, Colchester.
TEDDINGTON.—Miss Ethel Little, 32, Field Lane.
THORNTON HEATH.—Mr. C. J. Ford, 13, Heath View Road.
WEST SUFFOLK.—Mrs. Ed. Johnston, Campfield, Gt. Barton, Bury St. Edmunds.
WOKING.—Miss F. K. Currie, Walden Cottage, Waldens Road, Horsell.
WOODBIDGE.—Miss M. Fisher, 24, Chapel Street.
WORTHING.—Miss Gotelee, White Lodge, Mill 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. W. Gavin, Benruaig.

IRELAND.

BESSBROOK.—Miss R. Bailie, Deramore House.

NEW ZEALAND.

AUCKLAND.—Miss D. Markham, 23, Lake Road, Takapuna, Auckland.
Miss R. Smeeton, Deep Creek, Torbay, Waitemata, Auckland.

Literature.

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

Books by I. Lilius Trotter.

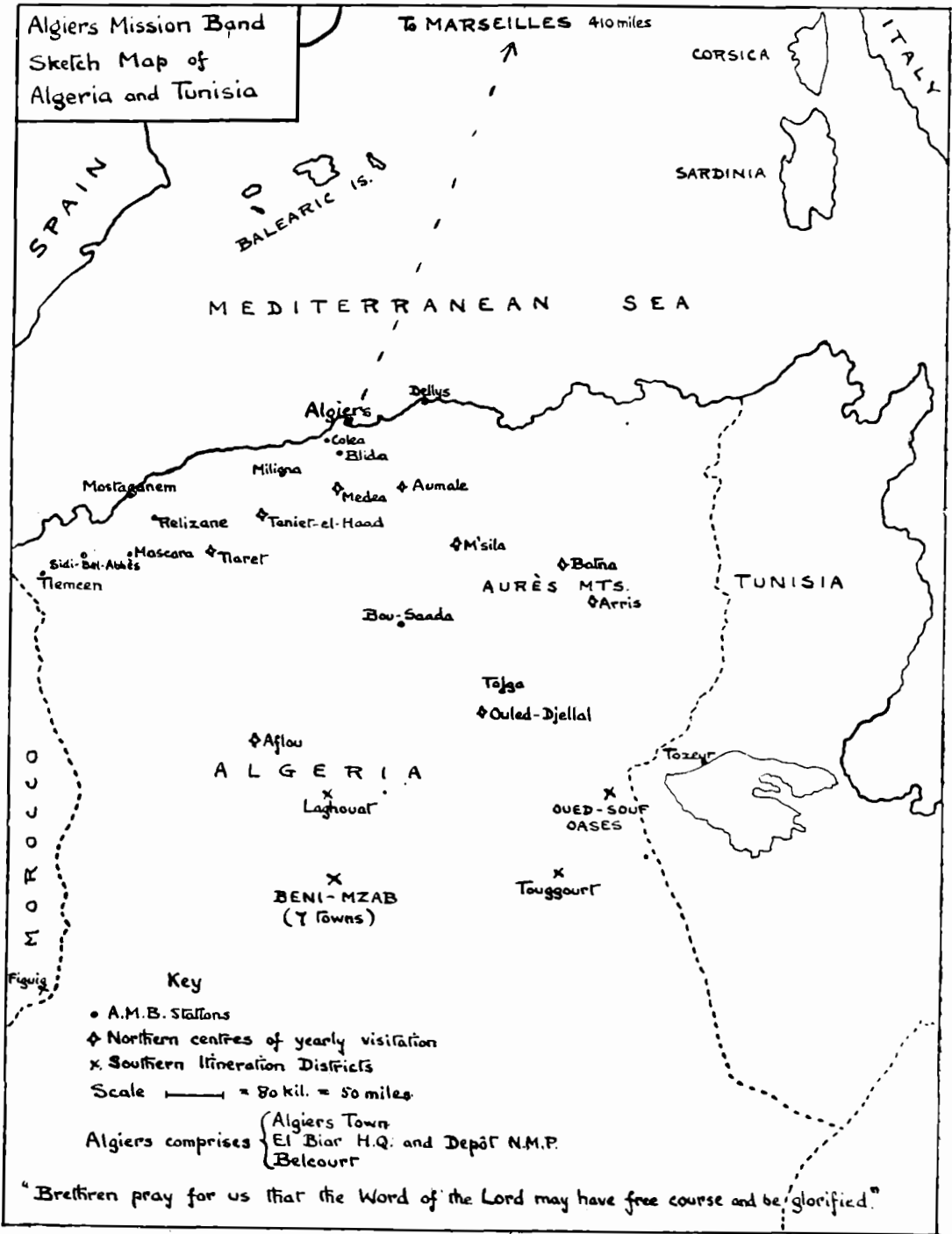
- "Between the Desert and the Sea." With sixteen pages of Miss Trotter's beautiful illustrations in colour. 6s., postage 6d.
- "The Life of I. Lilius Trotter." Compiled from her Letters and Journals by Blanche A. F. Pigott. 6s., postage 6d.
- "Parables of the Cross." Illustrated. 3s. 6d., postage 3d.
- "Parables of the Christ Life." Illustrated. 3s. 6d., postage 3d. Bound in one volume. 5s., postage 6d.

Pastor Stalley (Bournemouth) has lately been on a visit to Algeria where he has seen and shared in the work of the A.M.B. in Stations and on colportage. He has prepared Lantern Lectures describing his tour entitled :

1. Scenes and experiences in Algeria.
2. The work of the Algiers Mission Band.

and will be glad to hear from interested friends and Churches anywhere in the country. It will help if friends will give alternative dates, and write (to the Secretary or to Pastor Stalley) as early as possible, as time is limited.

Algiers Mission Band
 Sketch Map of
 Algeria and Tunisia



- Key
- A.M.B. Stations
 - ◊ Northern centres of yearly visitation
 - x Southern Itineration Districts
- Scale ——— = 80 kil. = 50 miles.

Algiers comprises { Algiers Town
 El Biar H.Q. and Dépôt N.M.P.
 Belcourt

"Brethren pray for us that the Word of the Lord may have free course and be glorified."