

The N.A.M. News Letter

OFFICE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION, 34, BISHAM GARDENS, HIGHGATE, LONDON, N. 6
AMERICAN AUXILIARY: HON. SECRETARY, DR. HARVEY FARMER, 6109, COLUMBIA AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA., U.S.A.

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EDITED BY E. J. LONG, F.R.S.G.S.

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Photo by]

SUNSHINE AND SHADOW IN FEZ.

[E. J. Long

Methods of Missionary Work—

4. VISITATION OF SHUT-IN NATIVE WOMEN

WHETHER or not "an Englishman's home is his castle" may be open to question; but it is certainly no figure of speech to describe the average Moslem's house as a species of prison, in which the women-folk are effectually shut away from the outside world. The higher the social status, the stricter the seclusion. One knows of a wealthy Moor in Fez whose wife has never seen her husband's motor-car,

and whose acquaintance with her native city even is limited to furtive peeps from the rooftop, or envious peering through latticed windows into the narrow street below.

There is a region of Algeria where the child-bride, having once entered her husband's house, never again re-crosses the threshold—save in death, when the white bridal slippers that she wore but once are displayed upon the funeral bier, a silent testimony to every beholder of the sad little cortège that the bride has never, in her life-time, quitted her husband's dwelling.

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The heavily-veiled women that steal like ghosts through the by-ways of a native town are generally from the ranks of the very poor, the very old, the widows and the divorced. Such alone enjoy some measure of liberty. For the average married woman, as indeed for the girl of marriageable age, the life of wearisome incarceration is relieved only by rare and carefully-chaperoned visits to the *hammam* or the *djebbana*—the native bath or the cemetery.

Hence, if these millions of unhappy creatures are to be reached for Christ, they must be visited in their husband's house. (One is reluctant to use the word "home," for the happy Christian household that our beloved Queen Mother described as "GOD's temple" has assuredly no counterpart in any Moslem habitation).

It will be readily understood that however intensively this house-to-house visitation of shut-in women may be tackled (it is, of course, the special sphere of our missionary sisters), only the very fringe of the need can be touched. The man missionary is able to reach groups of men in the native coffee-shops, and crowds in the open markets; and at least a percentage of his hearers can read, and may therefore take away with them copies of the Word of God. The women, on the other hand, can only be visited in twos and threes at the most: they are almost entirely illiterate, and are therefore utterly dependent upon the necessarily infrequent calls of the lady missionary for every crumb of spiritual sustenance; and, quite obviously, even when a soul is won for Christ, the very isolation of the native household precludes the possibility of the changed life exerting any direct influence upon others in the neighbourhood.

But "GOD is visiting" (Acts 15, 14): so are our gracious missionary sisters: and they have brought, and are bringing, to hundreds of cheerless hearths and hearts in Moslem North Africa the wonderful tidings of GOD's tender love for poor, downtrodden Moham-medan women.

In the great cities—in Tunis particularly—there are thousands of sad-eyed women behind doors still fanatically closed to those that would fain enter with the message of hope and love.

Will you not bring the need of these unreached, unloosed "captives" (Luke 4, 18) before the Throne of HIM Whose divine touch can open both doors and hearts?

Three Recruits: One Goes, Two Stay!

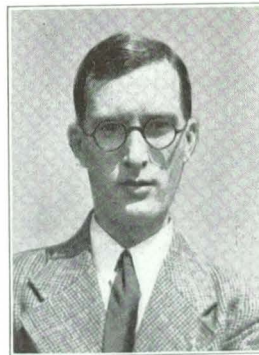
THE following paragraphs—and photographs—will serve briefly to introduce to our readers three new recruits: Mr. Norman Pearce, Miss Ethel Little and Miss Jeannie McRobbie.

Mr. Pearce left for Azazga, Algeria, early in the year, and subsequent letters from the field show that he is settling down happily, and finding the new life extraordinarily interesting. Some headway is being made, under Mr. Arthur's able tutelage, in the difficult Kabyle tongue; and excursions to neighbouring villages and markets assure a wise blending of the practical with the theoretical.

An Unforeseen Set-back.

WHEN, about ten weeks ago, Miss Little and Miss McRobbie went to the French Consulate in London to obtain their "visa," they encountered an unexpected set-back. Since Mr. Pearce's arrival on the field, Tunisia, Algeria and French Morocco have become a war zone, and can only be entered by special military permit. The obtaining of this permission might, we were warned, involve considerable delay. As it transpired, the anxiously-awaited permits did *not* come, but instead, an official communication stating that the application could not be granted. (*At the moment of going to press we learn that other missionaries have obtained the permit by making application through provincial centres: so our hopes are reviving!*)

Miss McRobbie is hoping to join Miss Petter and Miss Gotelee in the European work at Tunis, where reinforcements are urgently needed; and our sister is putting the waiting time to wise employ by studying French whilst staying in the Deputation Secretary's home at Finchley.



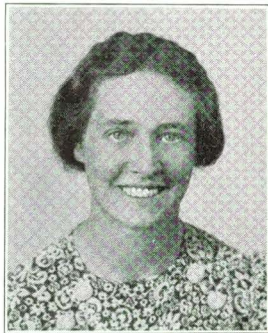
Mr Norman Pearce

Mr. Norman T. Pearce was brought to the Lord at the age of seventeen, during the first year of his business career. He later entered wholeheartedly into a varied range of Christian service that fully occupied his leisure hours.

On several occasions the Lord burdened our brother's heart with his personal responsibility towards the heathen, but whenever he was desirous of taking the decisive step of resigning his position and entering upon definite missionary training, he was confronted with obstacles that seemed, for a while, insuperable. Finally, however, the step was taken, and the obstacles melted away.

A brief but intensive period of training at the Missionary Training Colony, Upper Norwood, was followed by a nine months' medical course at Livingstone College. Then, after a month of Gospel Tent work, our brother proceeded to Paris to re-study French; where, incidentally, he rendered valuable service in helping to "hold the fort" at the missionary *foyer* whilst Mr. Warren was visiting mission stations in North Africa. When Mr. Pearce was subsequently led to apply to the N.A.M. as a missionary candidate Mr. Warren was able to write in warm appreciation of his capabilities.

Our brother, as stated above, went out to join Mr. Arthur, of Azaga, early in the year, and the reports that we have since received have been of a most encouraging character.



Miss Ethel A. Little

Miss Ethel A. Little hails from Teddington, and has from her earliest years sat under the ministry of our friend Rev. B. W. Ranken, late of Christ Church. At the age of fifteen our sister's heart was already burdened with North Africa's need of Christ, and the subsequent years were most usefully filled, both at Twickenham County School, where Miss Little had an excellent record, and later in the teaching profession, in preparation that had ever the one goal in view.

Two years at the Brighton Diocesan College, where she earned the warm commendation of her Principal, and Bible Study under the guidance of Mildmay, were further valuable steps; and experience on the practical side was gained as both Senior Sunday School and Bible Class teacher.

During her brief sojourn in Paris at the missionary *foyer*—abruptly terminated by the

outbreak of War—Miss Little considerably improved the French that had been one of her best subjects at school; and when the Lord opens up the way for her to go out to Cherchell, Algeria, we are confident that she will prove an excellent companion for Mrs. Bocking, herself a former school-teacher.

Miss Jeannie McRobbie was brought up in a Christian home in a small Aberdeenshire village, and accepted the Saviour at about the age of fifteen. For a time she did Sunday School work, though still feeling that much was lacking in her life. In January, 1935, however, during a C.S.S.M. campaign in Aberdeen—to which centre the family had in the meantime removed—a deeper work of grace was done; and about two months later our sister became convinced that God was calling her to missionary work abroad.



Miss Jeannie McRobbie

For some while longer, however, the door seemed closed by domestic circumstances; for Miss McRobbie was keeping house for her father, sister and brother. Later, however, the father too was taken to be with Christ, and the subsequent break-up of the home released Miss McRobbie for training at the B.T.I., Glasgow. There she won the affection and esteem of her fellow-students, and was elected Ladies' President during her second year.

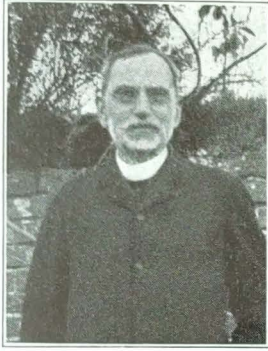
The needs of the European work at Tunis were brought before Miss McRobbie at the very moment when she was seeking clear guidance for the future, and prayerful consideration of the matter made it growingly evident that this was just the niche that the Lord would have our sister fill.

The delay in Miss McRobbie's departure for North Africa—reasons for which are given above—has afforded us the privilege of getting to know her much better whilst living under the same roof; and we are confident that Miss Petter and Miss Gotelee will find in this much-needed recruit a splendid and capable companion.

The Late Rev. Milton H. Marshall

“THE Homecall of the Rev. Milton Marshall on February 10th, 1940, after years of illness, patiently and bravely borne, severs a further link with the early days of the N.A.M.

“Mr. Marshall went out to Tunis in 1887, with the late Mr. George Michell. In 1888 he married Miss Ida de Hailes, at Algiers, and



The late
Rev. Milton H. Marshall

together they worked in Tlemcen until 1891, when ill-health compelled them both to return home. Mr. Marshall, who had a great gift for languages, then became tutor of Arabic to out-going missionaries, and worked at the old Mission House in Barking. In due course he became General Secretary of the Society

until ill-health forced him to give up so strenuous a work, in 1911.

“Later on, when his health had so far recovered, he undertook the pastorates of Baptist Churches at Whitchurch and Broughton, Hampshire; Bessels Green, Kent; and Upton-on-Severn, Worcs.; until in 1931 an unsuccessful operation forced him to retire and come to live at Fleet, Hants., where increasing bodily weakness prevented him from continuing the active life he had led so long in the Master’s service.”

FROM W.M.

Dr. Elliott Glenny’s Farewell Letter

OUR readers will, we are sure, appreciate the reproduction below of a few extracts from the letter sent by Dr. Glenny to his many friends shortly before his Homecall:

“My Dear Friends,

“As I have been unable to keep in touch with many of you for several months I felt I must take the rather unusual course of writing a good-bye letter. In the first place please don’t make the occasion of my death a time for excessive mourning. Death has been painted in such distressing colours that most people are terrified at the thought of it. That is all wrong. The worst of the whole thing is the separation from those we love and the breaking up of family circles. To those who have accepted the Redemption purchased by Jesus Christ at Calvary, this separation will, at most, be only a few years. . . From the

valley of the shadow we pass into the gorgeous sunlight of Heaven and enter a life in which joy is the outstanding feature. It will be so supremely delightful that no words of ours can ever portray the joy that awaits us. How can we mourn with such a prospect before us? Death is swallowed up in victory . . .

“ . . . I have no fear of death, because Christ has conquered death and all its powers, and has invited me to become a son of God—I am secure under His banner. Make no mistake, this is not due to any merit of mine, but to His gift of salvation which I have accepted . . .

“Forgive these rather rambling remarks, but I am very tired, and I felt I must tell you how I am looking forward to the future with anything but dread, and I want you to do the same.

“God bless you and keep you.

“ELLIOTT T. GLENNY.”

May these courageous words, which need no comment of ours, be richly blessed to countless souls!

“Slavanka” Conference

MAY we remind readers of the Week-end Prayer Conference arranged by the Fellowship of Faith for the Moslems, to be held (D.V.) at “Slavanka,” the Bournemouth Conference Centre, from June 7th to 11th.

The outline programme (available upon application to the Mission Offices) promises both refreshing spiritual ministry and first-hand reports from workers representing a variety of Moslem fields. There will be two Lantern Lectures; but, best of all, there will be multiplied opportunities at the Prayer sessions for fellowship in intercession with others whose hearts the Lord has burdened with the need of the Moslem world.

“Keswick” House-party

THUS far there has been very little response to our request (in the last NEWS LETTER) that friends desirous of joining the N.A.M. Keswick house-party would let us know without delay. Maybe the notice was a trifle early; but now that the Convention is less than two months distant, most of our readers will have made up their minds as to whether or not they expect to attend, God willing. May we again urge those wishing to join us to let us know at *the earliest possible moment*; for unless sufficient applications are forthcoming, the accommodation temporarily reserved for us will have to be relinquished.