

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA"

The N.A.M. News Letter



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THE GATES OF MEKNES, MOROCCO.

Frowning ramparts and mighty gates, symbols of medieval strength, are still a striking feature of most North African cities. Some of our veteran missionaries can recall the days when robbers were beheaded, and their heads hung up over the city gateway. At Marrakesh, for instance, in 1896, no fewer than fifty-seven were counted at one time outside the main entrance—a grisly spectacle. No longer, however, are these ancient gates shut and barred at nightfall. No more are they closed to the stranger—or to the missionary. Locked doors are a challenge; open doors speak eloquently of opportunity: but today, alas, there are fitfully few young men ready to enter these "open cities" and to claim them for Christ. When shall it be said of these neglected places, "Thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise"?

The Valedictory Meetings

A LARGE company of warm-hearted friends gathered at the Livingstone Hall on September 12th to bid GOD-speed to the three new Missionary Nurses—Miss E. Souter, Miss L. Goodacre and Miss M. Collins—whose photographs greet you upon page three. Each of them told of the way in which GOD had called them to offer themselves for service among the Moslems—a sphere of labour that originally held for them no attraction whatsoever, yet towards which the Lord had clearly led them, step by step.

At the afternoon meeting, under the Rev. S. J. Henman's helpful chairmanship, Mr. S. Arthur, of Azazga, stressed North Africa's great need of suitable Gospel literature, and even greater need of men called of GOD to meet the challenge of the hour. Miss K. Reed, of Settat, Morocco, bore testimony to GOD's gracious protection and provision during the enemy occupation of North Africa, and spoke of the blessing granted upon the witness among the Moorish women and children. Mrs. R. Brown told of her acceptance as a missionary candidate before the outbreak of war, of a departure for Tunisia that was frustrated at the last moment, and of seven years of waiting that had proved to be years of fuller preparation for a life-work upon which she now hoped soon to embark.

At the evening gathering, presided over by the Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor, our three nursing recruits gave a word, as we have already intimated. They were followed by Miss Irene Dew, of Rabat, Morocco, who gave a striking account of the power of GOD, through the Gospel, to transform an entire Moorish household into a family of believers.

The closing message, brought by the Rev. G. R. Harding Wood, M.A., most helpfully set forth Philip the Evangelist (Acts 8)—“the first Missionary to North Africa”—as an object-lesson to all who would be used of GOD in soul-winning.

Our Three New Missionary Nurses

THE arrival at Tangier, early in October, of three nursing recruits for the Tulloch Memorial Hospital marks the happy solution of an urgent problem, and records another wonderful answer to prayer.

During the War years the Hospital was considerably understaffed and the Doctor and Nurses overworked—all of them carrying on year after year without respite or relief.

The position was greatly eased when Dr. Farnham St. John, and Nurses G. W. Theakston and M. Hutchinson travelled out together early in 1945, releasing Dr. Anderson and other members of the staff for much-needed furlough. But a further problem still remained unsolved. Three of the nurses had never had adequate opportunity for serious language study, and it was realised that until three substitutes were forthcoming, there was no hope of bettering the position.

The matter was brought to the Lord in prayer, and the need made known through various channels: and, in due time, three experienced and thoroughly qualified nurses responded to the call. The first of the three to be accepted by the Mission Council was Miss E. Souter, of Bethesda Free Church, Sunderland; the second, Miss L. Goodacre, of the Bankhall Mission Church, Liverpool; and the third, Miss M. Collins, who carried on meetings of her own in the little Northumbrian village of Swarland, where she was District Nurse.

We commend these three friends to our readers' prayers, and shall look forward to publishing, from time to time, such news items concerning them as will keep them, their work, and their need fresh in our memories.

OUR THREE NEW TANGIER NURSES



Miss E. Souter



Miss L. Goodacre



Miss M. Collins

News from the Homeland

Miss L. G. Rokeby-Robinson, who has seen much arduous war-time service with the Army as a Hospital Matron, has left our ranks, the Lord having very clearly opened up for her a sphere of work at Ben Ahmed (Morocco), under the auspices of the Bible Churchmen's Missionary Society, that offers fuller scope for her special qualifications, as well as such well-adapted premises as we have not at present available. We pray that God's richest blessing may prosper our sister's endeavours to inaugurate this new witness in a very needy centre of population.

Miss M. L. Lickman feels that the time has come for her to relinquish her duties as Hostess at Hope House, Tangier. We would pay a warm tribute to the devoted and most efficient service that has been rendered during a long and exceptionally difficult period of Mission history in Tangier. It is our earnest hope that, in whatever new sphere of Christian activity awaits her, our sister may find such periods of leisure and relaxation, as can rarely have been available during her busy life at Tangier.

We are thankful to report that French passport *visas*, permitting their re-entry into French North Africa, have been granted to **Mr. and Mrs. R. Stanley Miles** and to **Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Cooper**. As soon as passages

are obtainable, these friends will be returning to Tunisia and Morocco respectively, God willing.

Mr. and Mrs. R. I. Brown are still detained in this country, repeated endeavours to procure the necessary *visas* having been, thus far, fruitless. For many months our brother exercised a ministry at Nathanael Free Church of England, Brighton, that the Lord greatly blessed; but now that there seems no immediate prospect of his return to the Field, Mr. Brown—who left Nathanael during the summer—has accepted a post as schoolmaster at Horley, Surrey. This engagement is terminable at the end of the year; and it is our constant prayer that, by then, the way may have reopened for missionary work in North Africa. Should the door to Tunis remain firmly closed, however, it would appear that the Lord is setting the compass for Spanish Morocco, for which country the French *visa* is not essential. We shall gratefully welcome the prayers of our readers on behalf of Mr. and Mrs. Brown, whose patient cheerfulness during this period of trial has been really wonderful.

When Mr. and Mrs. F. Ewing return to North Africa they will be leaving behind their two elder daughters, and taking with them the two younger girls. For these workers, too, the future is fraught with uncertainty. The house which they formerly occupied in Bône has been sold in their

absence, and their furniture stored elsewhere. If alternative accommodation cannot be found—and there seems little prospect of a favourable issue to enquiries addressed to the former landlady—Mr. and Mrs. Ewing will obviously not be able to resume their missionary labours in Bône. Here again, the solution of the problem may lie in the family's removal to quite another part of Algeria—always assuming that a house or suitable apartment is available.

Here, then, are the twin difficulties that beset us these days: at the home end, passport *visas*; on the Field, housing accommodation; and until these obstacles are removed, two valuable Arabic-speaking brethren remain immobilised here in the Homeland. Our Lord is "the Master of the Impossible": let us bring these problems to Him in believing prayer.

News in Brief

Miss Craggs, now aged 82, is back in this country after an absence of fourteen years, and is living in retirement with her sister, **Mrs. Simpson**, in the suburbs of Birmingham.

Our three new Nurses were accompanied to Tangier by the **Misses Glen, Marsh and Henman**. The latter has gone to Marrakesh for further language study, whilst Miss Marsh has returned to Djemâa Sahridj. During her stay in the Homeland she was a successful student at the Missionary School of Medicine, gaining three prizes; and the medical knowledge and experience she has thus acquired will stand her in good stead as she takes up once more her missionary labours upon our oldest Station.

Dr. and Mrs. Anderson and family, together with **Miss Irene Dew**, reached Tangier towards the end of October.

Our Honorary Treasurer, **Mr. E. T. Morriss** of Letchworth, has been very ill for many weeks—though the most recent news is a little more reassuring. Our brother has rendered the Mission priceless service as a member of the Council, where his wise counsel and good humour have made his attendance particularly welcome. Mr. and Mrs. Morriss celebrate their Golden Wedding on November 19th, GOD willing.

We welcome two new Council Members—the **Rev. Godfrey Robinson, B.A., B.D.**, of Oakwood Park Baptist Church, and the

Rev. Harold Fife, Pastor S. J. Henman's successor at St. James's Hall, Worthing. Both of these brethren are the missionary-hearted pastors of missionary-hearted Churches; so that we value both the contribution that their wisdom will bring and the strengthening of the ties with Oakwood and Worthing.

Headquarters Prayer Meeting

FRIENDS in the London Area who reside conveniently near to Highgate are cordially invited to the Monthly Prayer Meeting which is held at Headquarters on the FIRST WEDNESDAY of each month, GOD willing (August excepted). Tea is served at 3 o'clock *prompt*, and the session for Praise and Prayer follows—from 3.15 to 4.15 p.m.

N.B.—Please note that the Underground Station is Archway, *not* Highgate. A 611 Trolley-bus, taken just outside the station, climbs the Highgate Hill to the Village; and Bisham Gardens is the last stop before the terminus.

Finance

WE have been greatly cheered at Headquarters by letters expressing approval and even warm appreciation of the paragraph in the last issue of "THE N.A.M. NEWS LETTER" in which we took our readers into our confidence with regard to our financial needs. It is apparent that friends desire not only to "pray with the understanding", but to be guided in their giving to the Lord's work. When it is made clear that the high cost of living in North Africa makes it needful for us to send out monthly allocations approximately double the pre-war figure, we find that friends are swift to realise that our income must be correspondingly doubled if the Lord's work is to be maintained at its pre-war level.

We would express our thankfulness both to our Heavenly Father and to our faithful supporters that the funds in hand at the moment these words are written (October 26th) amply cover our needs to the end of the year. Such knowledge will both cheer our friends and encourage our missionaries, who, with happy hearts, will now be able to make their customary preparations for the Christmas Treats that they love to provide for the children and others attending their Classes.