

ARABIA CALLING

(formerly NEGLECTED ARABIA)



JOHN VAN ESS
1879 - 1949



No. 216

ANNUAL REPORT NUMBER

SPRING, 1949

The Arabian Mission

OF THE

REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA

156 Fifth Ave., New York 10, N. Y.

Officers of the Board of Foreign Missions

Mr. William T. Hakken, *President*

F. M. Potter, D. D., *Secretary and Treasurer*

Rev. L. J. Shafer, Litt. D., *Secretary*

Miss Ruth Ransom, *Secretary*

MISSIONARIES

Rev. S. M. Zwerner, D. D.	33 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	Retired
Rev. and Mrs. F. J. Barny	89-01 212th Street, Queens Village, N.Y.	Emeritus
Miss J. A. Scardefield	Fern Park, Florida	Emeritus
Mrs. May DeP. Thoms	232 Pine Ave., Holland, Mich.	Emeritus
Rev. and Mrs. G. D. Van Peurseem	North Branch, N.J.	Emeritus
Dr. C. S. G. Mylrea	Kodaikanal, S. India	Emeritus
Dr. and Mrs. P. W. Harrison	Berea College, Berea, Kentucky	Emeritus
**Rev. and Mrs. John Van Ess	156 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.	On Furlough
Rev. and Mrs. G. J. Pennings	Amarah, Iraq	Evangelistic Work
Rev. and Mrs. D. Dykstra	Muscat, Arabia	Evangelistic Work
Miss Charlotte B. Kellien	Basrah, Iraq	Educational Work
Miss Ruth Jackson	Bahrain, Pers. Gulf	Educational Work
Miss Rachel Jackson	Basrah, Iraq	Educational Work
Miss Cornelia Dalenberg	Bahrain, Pers. Gulf	Medical Work
*Rev. and Mrs. B. D. Hakken	Baghdad, Iraq	Educational Work
Dr. and Mrs. W. J. Moerdyk	Holland, Mich.	On Furlough
Rev. and Mrs. G. E. De Jong	Kuwait, Arabia	Evangelistic Work
Dr. and Mrs. W. Harold Storm	11 Seminary Place, New Brunswick, N.J.	On Furlough
Rev. and Mrs. G. Gosselink	Basrah, Iraq	Educational Work
Dr. and Mrs. W. Wells Thoms	1848 Godfrey Ave., S.W., Grand Rapids, Mich.	On Furlough
Dr. and Mrs. L. R. Scudder	Amarah, Iraq	Medical Work
Dr. and Mrs. G. H. Nykerk	Kuwait, Arabia	Medical Work
Rev. and Mrs. Harry J. Almond	Basrah, Iraq	Educational Work
Rev. and Mrs. E. M. Luidens	Bahrain, Pers. Gulf	Evangelistic Work
Rev. and Mrs. J. R. Kapenga	Muscat, Arabia	Evangelistic Work
Miss Jeanette H. Boersma	Amarah, Iraq	Medical Work
Dr. and Mrs. M. M. Heusinkveld	Kuwait, Arabia	Medical Work
Mr. G. Jacob Holler, Jr.	Basrah, Iraq	Educational Work
Miss Joan Olthoff	Kuwait, Arabia	Medical Work
Miss Nellie Hekhuis	Bahrain, Pers. Gulf	Medical Work
Miss Louise Essenberg	Kuwait, Arabia	Medical Work
Miss Eunice Post	Harris, Iowa	Under Appointment
Miss Hazel M. Wood	Bahrain, Pers. Gulf	Language Study

Air mail service to Iraq and the Persian Gulf is available. The rate of postage is twenty-five cents for each half ounce. Ordinary mail functions also but is subject to delays. The rate is the same as heretofore, five cents for the first ounce and three cents for each additional ounce. A special air mail sheet already stamped may be obtained from the post office for 10¢, no enclosures.

*Members of the United Mission in Mesopotamia in which we cooperate with the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. and the Evangelical and Reformed Church

**Rev. John Van Ess died April 26, 1949.

ARABIA CALLING

Missionary News and Letters
Published Quarterly

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION AMONG THE FRIENDS OF
THE ARABIAN MISSION

A Word of Thanks to Our Readers

In Issue Number 214 we included a questionnaire designed to secure some reactions from our readers. There has been quite a generous response and it is distinctly encouraging to those who work on this little publication to know how many appreciate it.

There was a rather general approval of its present simple form so we plan no ambitious changes. Some have asked for more copies and their requests will be granted. We want to enlarge the circle of readers. Some have made thoughtful suggestions and these will receive careful attention, though obviously all the good advice cannot be followed.

The response to our question as to the title was quite diversified. One suggested "The Oasis" as a new name; "Arabia Today" was another suggestion. There was, however, a fairly general expression of feeling that the title might be improved. This is not a new idea. Many have criticised the negative character of the title and the editor remembers vividly an outburst of indignant criticism in the Near East when editors outside our circle somewhat inadvertently discovered that we were using a title which seemed to them to reflect upon their native land. It was finally decided, therefore, to make a change and the title used in this issue, "Arabia Calling", suggested by unanimous vote of the Mission, preserves something of the challenge of the old but in a more positive vein.

There is always a tinge of regret in making a change for those who have come to know and love an institution bound up with so many recollections of a long line of noble men and women who have been eager to render service in areas where the need was great and compelling. But we look forward to years of the same challenge and are assured that the call of Arabia will still sound strongly in the minds and hearts not only of our young people who step forward to serve abroad, but also in that wide circle at home who follow them with their prayers and support them in their work.

Thank you, dear readers, for the evidence of your interest which will cheer those who contributed to these pages from abroad and those whose humble task it is to assemble these contributions at home.

Editor

In Memoriam

Just as this issue was going to press a cablegram was received announcing the death of John Van Ess on April 26. No details were included in the report but it is well known to his friends that Dr. Van Ess has been in poor health for several years. It has been by a great exertion of his indomitable will that he has been able to continue to meet his beloved students to the very end.

It is a strange and moving coincidence that the compiler of the Annual Report which fills the following pages should have been called to his reward before that report appeared in print. While we are saddened by his passing on the very eve of his departure for America, we know that to him the leaving of the post which he filled so magnificently for forty-seven years was tragedy and that he would have chosen rather to end his days in the land which he had selected for his home, and while still active in his service for Arab youth.

The brilliant description of the founding of the Mission with which his report opens, gives a key to the passion of devotion which underlay his own long service and what finer description of his own Christian philosophy can be given than in the concluding words of his introduction:—"All this and much more was in God's plan. He saw the end from the beginning. It is our task to obey day by day and to do each day the best we can to implement His will."

Annual Report of the Arabian Mission

1948

BACKGROUND FOR TODAY

It is just sixty years ago since a great idea was conceived and born in the mind of a great man. The man was John G. Lansing, Professor of Old Testament in the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. The idea was to bring the gospel to the Moslems in their homeland of Arabia. For sheer effrontery the idea was unsurpassed, for in that homeland was intrenched the implacable enemy of the Divine Saviour and of His cross. The enemy was intrenched behind a simple but unyielding creed, he was surrounded physically by trackless deserts and historically by a reputation for invincibility. The path to his mind and heart was guarded by an appalling difficult language.

The idea caught the imagination of three students: S. M. Zwemer, James Cantine and Philip Phelps. The first two, on completion of their studies, went to Arabia, They were followed by others--ministers, doctors, nurses, teachers, men and women. The powers of darkness, sensing an invasion, smote the invaders in body, mind and soul, in body with sickness, in mind with doubt, in soul with temptation. But steadily their numbers grew. The Church at home, fascinated by the spectacle of her sons and daughters attempting the impossible, prayed and gave and encouraged. Stone by stone, brick by brick, schools, hospitals and houses arose. Again and again the enemy struck, this time with death. He seemed to prefer first-born. Yet always through shimmering noondays and through choking nights centers of work were established from which went out the missionary effort and influence.

Deep in the heart of each member of the Arabian Mission has always been that sense of imperativeness to the point of thralldom, and yet with it a sense of emancipation that comes with the consciousness of being held by an irresistible and ultimately triumphant idea.

We prayed for and expected converts and a thriving church, and yet we are aware of victory, the victory which comes from a realization of God's presence always. St. Paul himself said, "Christ sent me not to baptize but to preach." He himself could hardly remember the few he had baptized. But we have preached and we still preach, in healing, in teaching, in the printed word and in living. We covet for all young men and women the thralldom and emancipation of a great idea.

TWO NEW FACTORS ENTER

Two factors have entered into the picture of which the pioneers knew nothing. The first is the speeding up of communications. In this last Pilgrim season one thousand busses from Persia passed through Basrah loaded with pilgrims to Mecca. Many hundreds went by air, indeed the peninsula is now criss-crossed by motor and airplane routes. The second factor is oil. All of Iraq and the whole peninsula of Arabia literally floats on oil. The attention of the western world has been attracted by these fabulous riches and wells are being drilled everywhere. It is not impossible that a gusher may break out right under the Kaaba at Mecca. The question then will be: how long will the holy city be able to resist the presence of the unbeliever? All this and much more was in God's plan. He saw the end from the beginning. It is our task to obey day by day and to do each day the best we can to implement His will. The story of that effort during 1948 follows.

AMARAH, THE NORTHERNMOST STATION

Amarah, the northernmost station is situated on the Tigris River about one hundred miles from its junction with the Euphrates. Amarah is a city of about fifty thousand people, but it is the center for numerous tribes who go thither to do their trading. There is located the Lansing Memorial Hospital for men and women. After being visited on tours of greater or less duration by Mission doctors for many years, the hospital itself was built for settled occupation by Dr. William Moerdyk. Since many lepers are found in the vicinity of Amarah, Dr. Moerdyk opened special work for lepers and performed near miracles until the leper camp was removed by the Iraq Government to an island many miles up the river. As the Iraq Government health services improved, Government medical work was established in Amarah, but there, as elsewhere in our field the Arabs discerned readily the motivation and came in great numbers. Through the years medical work for women has also been carried on, special emphasis being placed on obstetrics. Dr. Lewis Scudder is in charge of the hospital work and particularly by his surgery draws many patients. He is assisted by Mrs. Scudder and Miss Jeanette Boersma, both graduate nurses. Men out-patients in 1948 totalled 14,810, with 121 in-patients. Women to the number of 43,240 were treated with 138 in-patients.

The Rev. G. J. Pennings is in charge of direct evangelistic work which implies regular Arabic preaching services on Sundays in the chapel and daily Gospel talks to the out-patients, as well as frequent sessions with the in-patients. He also oversees the Bible distribution and the Bible Shop in the bazaar and the touring and thus reaches many hundreds, especially of young men.

Mrs. Pennings, until her recent severe illness, was in charge of evangelistic work for women in the hospital and in her home, and in the homes she visited, teaching many to read and reading to, and with, many more. In the Sunday school work she was ably assisted by Miss Boersma. The woman leper convert received constant instruction and encouragement.



Paul Thomas, Christian in Arabia

The Palestine issue caused turbulence and demonstrations, during one of which Ata, the trained medical helper, was accidentally killed. He was very close to Christ.

BASRAH, THE OLDEST STATION

Basrah is the oldest station of the Arabian Mission, and because of its location as an air and sea port on the great Shatt-el-Arab, which consists of a broad deep river formed by the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates, has a unique importance in the whole Arab East.

The Lansing Memorial Hospital was formerly located at Basrah, but was moved to Amarah after World War I because of the building by the Government of a large hospital at Basrah. The hospital plant was taken over by the Basrah Boys' School. An imperial *firman* was issued by the Turkish Sultan in 1910 and thus was opened the first Arabic school for Arabs in all Iraq. Among the provisions of the *firman* is the permission to teach the Bible to all Moslem pupils, a provision which has been persistently taken advantage of throughout the years. Indeed it can be said that Christ is the center of the school's whole curriculum. Special emphasis has been laid on teaching village boys during the last several years, and the course of study has been contracted to that of a Junior High School because these village boys, on account of their poverty, cannot afford to remain in school for a longer period. We also desire that they shall remain in their villages as an influence for good in the rebuilding of the new Iraq. Under the direction of Mr. George J. Holler, the short termer, the school was

very successful in the various athletic competitions during the year. The total number of pupils from the primary grades through the intermediate was 250 with Mr. Gosselink, the principal, and Mr. Van Ess giving regular Bible instruction.

In Basrah, as throughout the Arab East, strikes and demonstrations by school boys and even girls were frequent. Some of these demonstrations represented artificially stimulated protests against Jews or protests against prevailing social and economic abuses. Student unions were formed and indeed the first union at the advice and encouragement of our principal, Mr. Gosselink. Student representatives from each class were elected who undertook also the maintenance of order and indeed the prevention of cheating in examinations. This action caused wide and favorable comment throughout the land. The percentage of passes on the part of our pupils in the Government examinations was very creditable. This year marks the twenty-fifth year of continued service as a teacher by Jelil Amso, a service marked by utterly unselfish and efficient loyalty.

An interesting and valuable adjunct of the school is the Union Athletic Club which consists of one hundred and twenty young Arabs, most of whom are graduates or former pupils of our school. They are all in positions of responsibility in the Government or the community. They asked originally to be allowed to use a small bungalow on the Mission compound as a center for their activities. Thereupon they were allowed to enlarge and vastly improve the building on condition that it revert to the Mission after three years. The condition imposed by us that there should be no gambling or drinking was welcomed and has been faithfully observed. The club forms a splendid center for our contacts with these fine young men.

The Basrah Girls' School under the principalship of Miss Kellien has made its unique contribution to the welfare of womanhood, specializing in teaching the poor village girls through the fourth year primary, and giving thorough instruction in child welfare, social hygiene, handwork and Bible. The exhibition of handwork drew the admiration of many visitors. The enrollment totalled 85, all of whom were Moslems.

Basrah evangelistic work for men centered in the Bible shop which is presided over by Qass Yashua, a mission evangelist of many years. The shop is located in a front room of the Bilkert Memorial library on the Boys' School grounds. It is easy of access and yet offers sufficient privacy for earnest religious conversations. An average of twelve men a day have visited the shop. Qass Yashua, on stated days, also canvassed the bazaars and villages. Numbers of young men visited Mr. Van Ess in his home and seemed anxious for guidance in these turbulent and distressing times. A considerable amount of effort was also expended in obtaining employment for the needy.

Work for women in Basrah is carried on chiefly through clubs for girls, the great majority of whom attend no school whatever. The total number of girls in these clubs was 250, and their activities consisted of sewing, knitting and handwork, organized play, instruction in hygiene and child care and Bible, special stress being laid on memory work. The contacts thus made were followed up by visits to the girls'



Basrah Club Girls at Their Sewing

homes by Mrs. Van Ess, Mrs. Gosselink and Mrs. Almond. A new room was erected, adjacent to an enclosed playground and served as a gathering place for girls and their mothers and friends. Visual aids in the form of lantern slides and cinema strips of travel, as well as of Bible stories were frequently employed. Every Thursday afternoon a Bible lesson and prayer meeting were attended by twenty or more Moslem women.

KUWAIT, WHERE OIL DOMINATES

It is not so very long ago that the real contest was between the Cross and the Crescent, for Kuwait represented the old Arab and Moslem culture and tradition, but oil has come into the picture and has driven religion out, all religion, and men's minds and hearts are focussed only on money. The vices of civilization have come hand in hand with the oil. But the Cross has still its ancient power and remains our only method and objective. In the Bible Shop, still so ably cared for by Ya'coub, by means of Scripture sales and distribution, in the Beitel Rabaan services held Sunday afternoons and patronized chiefly by Moslem women and children, in the Sunday services in Arabic for Arabs, and in English for the English-speaking population, all of this under the direction of the Rev. G. E. De Jong.

New cities are being built to deal with the production and shipment of oil. These will in time demand special attention by a trained English or American chaplain. The Kuwait government conducts six boys' schools besides a school for teaching religion and for teaching the blind.

The women's evangelistic work under the care of Mrs. De Jong reached many, through house to house visitation and special meetings where visual aids, in the form of slides and cinema films were used. Girls' clubs are maintained, as in Basrah, in which handwork, organized play, hygiene and child care are taught as well as Bible. A Sunday school for English-speaking children was also conducted.

The year began with the medical work for men under the care of Dr. Heusinkveld, but the unfortunate accident by which a heavy iron pipe fell on his head and caused a serious skull fracture, incapacitated him and left the work insufficiently cared for until the return of Dr. Nykerk in June from furlough.



Friends in the Kuwait Desert. The little girl behind the kid is Lateefa (pretty) and the little boy is Kahlid (immortal). The tent is their home. The temperature at the time the picture was taken was 102 degrees in the shade.

Despite the presence of well equipped and well staffed hospitals for the oil population, and likewise a hospital especially built and maintained by the Kuwait government, the total number of treatments in the Men's Hospital reached the staggering total of 48,900, with 243 in-patients and operations of every kind, many of them extremely serious and amazingly successful. It is all to be explained by the place given to God in our hospitals as in all of our work everywhere. Clinic prayers for men and women were conducted by the missionaries and their helpers, as also personal work with the in-patients.

The women's medical work, in charge of Dr. Mary Allison, gave 21,249 treatments, with 431 in-patients. This latter figure in a fanatical Moslem city like Kuwait is very eloquent of the people's confidence in us. Able assistance was rendered by the Indian nurses.

BAHRAIN, THE CENTER OF SPECIAL ACTIVITY

Because of its geographical location and relatively independent political status, Bahrain has always been the center of special mission activity. Here was built our first hospital, the Mason Memorial Hospital, under the direction of Dr. Sharon Thoms. It was occupied in turn by various mission doctors, and finally by Dr. P. W. Harrison, until he left the field in June, 1948. The hospital gained special fame because of the surgical skill displayed there and it may truthfully be said that the Lord's own hand seemed often to have done the work. New equipment and new methods have been introduced during the years, but the Bible, in clinic and bedside talks, always retained supreme



Dr. and Mrs. Storm on a trip to Qatar

place, and the patients, both men and women, formed a substantial part of the Sunday services in the church. A new doctor's house was constructed during the year. The number of treatments reached 44,450, and of operations of all kinds, 2121. New work was opened on the peninsula of Qatar on the mainland in a twenty-bed hospital built and equipped by the Sheikh himself. An Indian doctor remains in charge and frequent visits are made by Dr. Storm and Miss Dalenburg. Several visits were made to Riyadh by Dr. and Mrs. Storm at the request of King Ibn Saoud, as also visits to Hofhuf.

The Marion Wells Thoms Hospital for women was enlarged by the opening on March 18 of a large wing affording ample space for private wards and a new delivery room, as well as air-conditioned quarters. Substantial supplies, as well as money, were contributed by the Arabs



A Bedouin Family. The little girl is carrying on her head a bundle of Guild Box clothes just given to her

themselves. Women came as patients not alone from the Bahrain islands but from the Oman coast, Hofhuf, and even Mecca and Medina. All this work was in charge of Miss Cornelia Dalenberg, assisted by Miss Nellie Hekhuis and by four Indian nurses. A feature was the training of four of our Girls' School pupils as nurses. Special significance should be given to the able talks given to patients by Mrs. P. W. Harrison, who returned to the United States during the year, as well as to the efforts of "Om Sara" the wife of a deceased evangelist. The great and imperative need is for a woman doctor. Two tours were made to Qatar by Miss Dalenberg. The number of out-patients reached 25,000, and of in-patients 853.

The Bahrain men's evangelistic work was in charge of the Rev. E. M. Luidens. He conducted regular Arabic services for Arab men and women, most of whom came from our two hospitals, and also his share of the clinic talks and visiting of in-patients. Besides this work, Mr. Luidens also conducted Sunday services in English for the English-speaking population, both Indian and European, superintended the work of the Bible shop, and made four visits to the oil camps on the mainland to conduct worship in English. He has pioneered in the use of cinema films of the Life of Christ with most gratifying results,

and made contacts with Arab young men through giving lessons in English. In all his work, Mr. Luidens received valuable assistance from the Rev. Merrell Callaway of the Southern Baptist Convention, who with his wife is studying Arabic in Bahrain preparatory to opening new work on the south coast of Arabia.

The women's evangelistic work was in charge of Mrs. Harrison until her departure, whereupon Mrs. Luidens took over. Besides clinic talks and weekly prayer meetings and house visiting, an important activity is the orphanage in which there are now fourteen orphans, with Um Miriam as house mother. A feature of the year was the marriage of one of these orphan girls to a Moslem convert from Aden.

The Bahrain Girls' School was under the direction of Miss Rachel Jackson until the return of her sister Ruth from furlough, whereupon she was transferred back to Basrah. There were seven teachers in the school, 126 girls in attendance and six diplomas were given at the end of the academic year. An alumnae club was formed and made a substantial contribution to the work during the year.



The Sultan of Muscat and Oman, Sayyed Said, cutting the ribbon across the entrance to the Sharon Thoms Memorial Hospital for Contagious Diseases at Matrah

THE TWIN STATIONS OF MATRAH AND MUSCAT

Muscat and Matrah were in charge of the Rev. and Mrs. Dirk Dykstra, and the evangelistic work for men and women was so interlocked that a joint report is appropriate. The activities consisted of a weekly advanced Bible class, a weekly prayer meeting, a class for instructing Sunday school teachers, Bible lessons for individuals, visiting in-patients in the hospitals, daily clinic prayers, regular Sun-

day preaching services and a weekly "at home" for women. The Sunday school consists of eight classes, from the most advanced to the infant stage. The highest attendance was 94. Two classes were held for Baluchi girls and were taught by Baluchi women members of the church group.

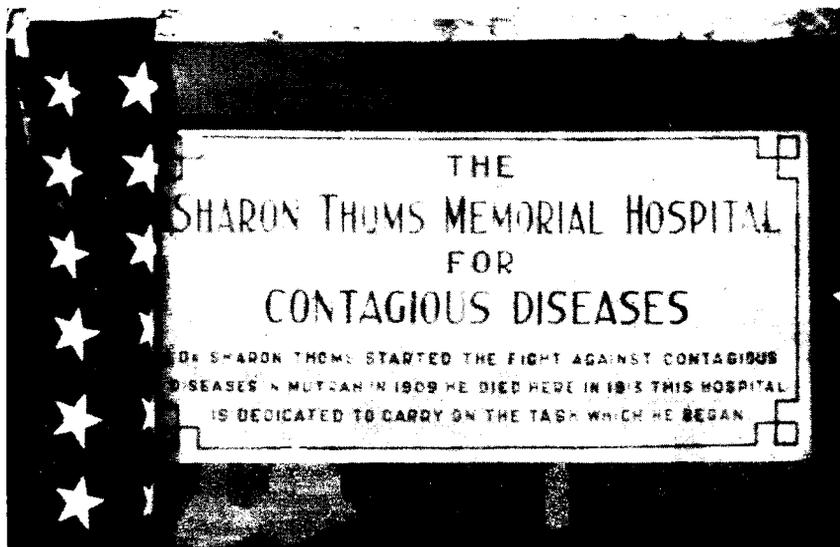
The Bible shop was under the care of Rubeya, a convert. By his faithful witness he is a great asset and his shop is frequently visited by the young men of the town. The guest house dating from the time of Dr. Cantine is occupied by one of the evangelists and it is hoped that it can function soon again when inland touring makes the reciprocal entertainment of visitors from inland imperative. The son of this evangelist was kidnapped during the year and had been taken inland and despite strenuous efforts has not been recovered. Frequent visits were made to neighboring villages and a longer tour to the Batina, visiting all the large towns along the coast, was made by Rev. J. R. Kapenga. Opportunities for touring constantly occur and we are prevented from taking advantage thereof, only by lack of personnel. The Peter Zwemer Memorial Chapel was rebuilt and doubled in size in 1944, but it is again too small and needs to be enlarged once more. This is possible because of a space on the side which would accommodate sixty more.

Uneasiness in regard to the Boys' School developed during the year due to the extreme nationalism now so prevalent in the Near East. The school was closed for half a year but was reopened by verbal permission from the Sultan. The same attitude was manifested in the clinic prayers and in the other efforts that have been made in evangelism. Life is made difficult for the few men and women who are struggling along the hard upward way the Master trod. The infant church in Muscat is a praying church and prays constantly for its members who are in difficulty. It is not easy for new converts in Moslem lands.

Owing to Dr. Heusinkveld's illness no report was made to the Mission on the medical work in Matrah and Muscat. Dr. Wells Thoms sends us the following information which supplies the missing link:

Work at the Knox Memorial Hospital in Matrah ran at full speed for six months until late in April when Dr. and Mrs. Thoms left on their furlough. Dr. Lakra carried on alone the remaining half of the year. Early in February Dr. and Mrs. Heusinkveld and their two sons arrived to spend six weeks with us. Those were days of happy fellowship for all eight missionaries. Two medical and two evangelistic couples, working together for the healing of the sick and the preaching of the Gospel in an area much larger than Michigan is a minimum force and yet at times during the past few years only one couple had charge of the entire work. When the Heusinkvelds returned to Kuwait it was thought that they would be back in less than two months but due to his serious accident their return was delayed six months.

The Sharon Thoms Memorial Hospital for Contagious Diseases was officially opened on April 15 by Sayyed Said, the Sultan of Muscat and Oman, who had granted the large piece of land on which a seven-



One of the two marble tablets at the entrance to the new Hospital at Matrah unveiled by the Sultan on April 15, 1948. The other tablet is written in Arabic

bed, cement-block building for tuberculosis patients has been completed. After cutting a ribbon stretched across the entrance to the new hospital compound the ruler and eighty other guests were shown through the new building. Construction on a second building in the southwestern corner to be used for the isolation and treatment of lepers was begun later in the summer. That will have accommodations for twelve patients. The American Mission to Lepers contributed two thousand dollars toward the cost of construction and has promised to continue its help in the future. It is hoped that gradually, as funds come in from friends at home and on the field, another building for tuberculosis patients and one for cases of dysentery, typhoid and small pox will be built in other parts of the spacious yard. An elevated area with a good view of the harbor has been set aside for the construction of a residence for the second missionary doctor who is so badly needed.

Since 1938 when Dr. Sarah Hosman resigned we have been asking for a woman doctor to replace her. Nurse Mary had over one hundred and twenty obstetrical cases in the eight-bed Women's Hospital in Muscat. Most of these were normal cases but ten required the help of the doctor. If a woman doctor were in charge the number of patients would more than triple.

Morning prayers at both hospitals were conducted regularly by the missionaries. The Sunday afternoon services for the patients and townsmen were well attended and appreciated. It is our prayer and hope that the men and women patients may learn to know and love Christ, the Good Physician, whose we are and whom we serve.

Personalia

Mrs. Harold Storm arrived in Dare, Virginia on February 18. She spent some time visiting her family there and during May spent some time in Oklahoma City. **Dr. Storm's** arrival was delayed by an invitation from King Ibn Saoud to go to Riyadh, but he arrived in America May 29. They will make their home during furlough in one of the missionary apartments in New Brunswick, N. J.

Dr. and Mrs. Paul Harrison are completing their last furlough, he with forty years in Arabia behind him and Mrs. Harrison with thirty-two. On or about June 1 they will go to Berea College in Kentucky where Dr. Harrison becomes resident physician. On May 12 a farewell service was given them at Trinity Reformed Church, Plainfield, N. J. which has contributed to the support of Dr. Harrison, since he first went out to Arabia.

Miss Ruth Ransom, Secretary for the Board of Foreign Missions, plans to visit Arabia, India and perhaps Africa this fall and winter. She plans to leave around the middle of September and will return by Christmas.

Mr. William T. Hakken, president of the Board will make the same deputation trip, flying both ways. One of the highlights of his visit will be the reunion with his brother and sister-in-law in Baghdad. They will attend the sixtieth Anniversary of the Arabian Mission which is to be held at Kuwait in October.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel M. Zwemer have also received a cordial invitation from the Arabian Mission to be present on this occasion of the Mission's anniversary. It would be peculiarly fitting that one of the founders of the Mission should share in this celebration and it is hoped that friends of the grand old pioneer of the Mission may make this possible.

Dr. William Moerdyk, who with his wife is furloughing in Holland, Michigan, is in charge of the Hope College Dispensary until the end of the term in June.



The boatman on the trip to Qatar