FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

The First Annual Meeting of the Society of Friends of the Moslems in China was held in room 212 Missions Building, Shanghai at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May first. Bishop Molony presided and the whole tone of the meeting was that of a quickened interest on the part of the missionaries to make a more determined effort to carry the Gospel to the Moslems.

Bishop Holden, the first speaker, started off by saying that he holds a distinction few Christians can claim:—he built a mosque in Kweilin. The mission property was next door to a mosque and one night it burnt down, the mosque burning with it. At first the Mohammedans were quite angry, but when he offered to pay for the building of another they became quite friendly. Kweilin is the only city in his diocese containing any number of Moslems. There are 25,000 there, with six mosques to minister to their needs. The faith is not aggressive, but on the other hand it is very difficult to meet the Moslems. Their respect of their ancestors seems to dominate everything, even their worship of Allah. The month of Ramadan is more a time of paying respect to ancestors, when the ahungs spend much time reading prayers for souls in purgatory. Among the masses the refusal to eat pork marks the Moslem, while among the educated classes the adherence to stricter Moslem rules is carried out. At the principal mosques are small schools where elementary Arabic is taught. The Koran is only taught to those who are studying to
be ahungs. A few of the Moslems have become Christians. The senior pastor of the Diocese is a converted Moslem, a Mr. Sung. This man was attracted by the high character of one of the earliest missionaries, a Mr. Bird. The persistent love revealed in the life of that missionary called Mr. Sung to be baptised, and become an evangelist, catechist, and priest. This man though not a particularly strong character is nevertheless a sincere preacher of the Gospel. Whereas there is at present no special work in Kweilin for Moslems a little has been done in the hospital. This work in the future will be enlarged and an attempt made to reach the Moslems through the use of tracts and personal contacts.

The Rev. T. Darlington of Wanhsien was the next speaker. He said we must come to China with the idea of the Triune God. The Devil has a parody on this. The Heathen makes a parody on God, the Roman Catholic Church on Jesus Christ and the Moslems on the Holy Spirit. When the interest for Moslem evangelization began in this country he made a systematic visit to the Ahungs, taking literature to them week by week. But even with this effort he found it very difficult to get in touch with the Moslems. We must go straight to the Cross and the Resurrection in dealing with them. Contested religion is much better than comparative religion. There is so much in which Moslems can agree with Christians but they lose sight of the central point of the Christian faith. Once while traveling on a steamer with an educated Moslem this man said to him, If I were not a Moslem I would be a Christian, but I am a Moslem. I could not be a Christian because your religion is not spectacular enough." After all the only way to reach the Moslems is through the background of prayer.

Mr. Isaac Mason stressed the point that we must speak as friends of Moslems. It was with this idea in mind that he wrote his article in the April NEWSLETTER, "Hints for Friends of Moslems". For nothing can be done unless we approach them as friends. Imagine what we would do were we brought up in their surroundings. It is easy to be shocked by others. How would we react in their place? When we visit a mosque there is always a barrier, but a friendly approach is of extreme importance. It is splendid that there is so much in common in the following points:

1. Unity of God.  2. Divine omnipotence and goodness.  3. Doctrine of the future life.  4. Jesus Christ as one of the saints.
ANNUAL MEETING

They do not recognize His Divinity. 5. Jesus Christ as intercessor as no other saint. 6. Faith in the Book (Koran). Similar as our Bible,—the "Word of God."

In those things in which we are separated we must lead them cautiously as in the following: 1. The Fatherhood of God, which is the sublime truth of Christianity; 2. Jesus Christ, whom they acknowledge only in the human relationship; 3. Redemption through Jesus Christ, for they are trained to get it through other means: 4. Christianity the only true religion, for the Koran also has truth; 5. Denial of Mohammed as a prophet. There is another way. We must show the excellency of Jesus Christ. It is most important that we should study Mohammedanism. We should know at least a little about them. In Chinese alone the Moslems have a wealth of literature. There are over three hundred books, which are worth examining. It is absolutely necessary for one who is working among them to obtain a sympathetic knowledge of their literature and doctrine.

Miss S. J. Garland who has been in the Moslem community of Hweihsien for some years was the last speaker. She opened with her key text, "Supreme conflict is the way to touch Mohammedans." To go on the hill behind the large mosque in Hweihsien at 5:15 in the evening and listen to the boys reciting the creed is a revelation. There is an intensity of spirit that is a challenge. The Roman Catholics have been in this city for 50 years and have made no converts from the Moslems. The Mohammedans boasted that no converts are made among them. The first touch with the Moslems was through one of their group who fell off a horse. The evangelist attended the man and in this way came in touch with his son-in-law. This young man became interested, but was soon sent away because of this curiosity. Upon his return to Hweihsien his heart had changed and he would have nothing more to do with the Christians. Any attempt to meet the women is interfered with after the first visit. The whole approach is a conflict. There must be a strong prayer force to win through. Several years ago a poster called, "The Bible as Light" was prepared and used. It proved of great benefit in many places. In other places such as Hweihsien two were sold and then a ban was put upon them. A second poster has just been completed. The title of this is "The Messiah is the Lamb of God." It is a poster in four colors, black denoting sin, red for redemption, white for purity and gold for glory. The black heart at the bottom, through the sacrifice of the Lamb gives one a pure
ANNUAL MEETING

and upright heart and permits him to enter into glory. Miss Garland went on to say that the Moslem's similarity to Christianity is a hindrance to Christian work amongst them. Often she has asked Moslems, "Does praying at the mosque make the heart different?" The answer is always, "No!" But through Christ's atonement hatred is turned to love and the thief is changed to a lover of truth and righteousness. God has given us the strength to pull down the strongholds. At Hochow there is a break, for some have already been baptised.

The meeting ended with the reading of a letter of greeting from the group of the Society in Chefoo. Although the meeting was not as well attended as the first meeting last year, the group felt that much good had come of it. If this zeal can be kept alive nothing can stop the Gospel from changing the lives of many of the followers of the prophet.

Executive Committee Meeting

On the morning of May first the Executive Committee of the Society held its meeting at which time a splendid report was handed in of work done. First came the financial standing of the year. This is as follows:

INCOME.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From National Christian Council Moslem Com</td>
<td>$512.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From American Christian Lit. Soc. for Moslems</td>
<td>1,082.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships (23 yearly, 38 life memberships)</td>
<td>240.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gift from England</td>
<td>33.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>6.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,875.23</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

EXPENDITURE.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stamps, stationery and etc.</td>
<td>$33.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>36.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>188.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditure</strong></td>
<td><strong>$247.88</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Because of the departure of Mr. Drummond to America due to his wife's death two people were elected to take his place, Mr. G. K. Harris and Miss S. J. Garland. To cut down on duplicate work the treasurership was transferred to the secretary.
ANNUAL MEETING

The following literature was reported as prepared by the Society during the year: "Notes on Christian Literature for Chinese Moslems", "List of Chinese-Moslem Terms", the poster "The Messiah is the Lamb of God", the six tracts of the "Problem Series", the reprinting of "The Sermon on the Mount", "Hints for Friends of Moslems" and the "NEWSLETTER".

It was decided that the Society should join the Christian Publishers' Association. Mr. Mason is to represent us in that group. It was also decided that the Society should advertise its publication in the China "Bookman".

In order to arouse interest and to keep before the Shanghai missionary community the Moslems in China the Missionary Prayer Meeting Committee is to be approached to give the Society permission to conduct one Prayer Meeting a quarter for Moslems in China. It is hoped that in time this method will spread to other large cities or communities of missionaries. There is already a Prayer Group in Chefoo.

Some years ago Mr. Rhodes of the C. I. M. Mission collected the names of many mosques and ahungs throughout China. To these places from time to time he sent suitable literature. This Society wishes to continue this most excellent practice. Will all those who can help in this matter please write to the secretary, giving as much information as possible?

The Committee was much encouraged by the generous gift of the American Literature Society for Moslems of $500 gold. With such whole-hearted backing from our American friends we should push forward to carry the message to the Moslems.

Problem Series"

These are a group of six tracts prepared by Mr. G. K. Harris. There are four pages to each tract, containing verses from the Bible in Chinese and Arabic. The tract is prepared in a similar fashion to the Chinese-Moslem literature with the Arabic verse, and the Chinese underneath. The first two of these tracts are published and ready for distribution at one cent each postage included. These may be secured from the Religious Tract Society in Hankow or from the Secretary.
BIBLIOGRAPHY.

A selected list, by no means complete.

(This bibliography forms the remainder of the article "Hints to Friends of Moslems" written by Mr. I. Mason and published in the April issue of the NEWSLETTER—Editor)


The most readable Koran translation for a beginner.


First appeared in 1734, and is still valuable for its full commentary.

Palmer, E. H. translator. The Quran, (Sacred Books of the East, Vols. VI, IX) Also in one volume.

The best idiomatic, spirited, rhythmical version of the Koran, but shews strange lapses of care.

History and Literature of Islam.


Discusses the history of Islam in China, the present Mohammedan population, and the problems of their evangelism. Scientific, critical, based on thorough investigations, and reliable.


A Life of Mohammed from Chinese sources, with valuable appendices on the introduction of Islam to China, and some description of its beliefs and practices.


A very important summary of these aspects of Islam, by a leading Western student of Islam. A sane book well worth careful reading.

An unpretentious but well-balanced little biography, useful as a first sketch.


A life of Mohammed, based on Moslem sources, intended to be perfectly fair. It pictures Mohammed as a hero rather than as a prophet.


This is the best work of its kind for an English reader, and has been a standard work for over 60 years.


Based on original authorities, this volume echoes and answers the opinions of the modern school of Moslem apologists in India.

Zwemer, S. M.  *Arabia, the Cradle of Islam.* 437 pp. Revell. 1900.

Studies in the geography, peoples and politics of the Peninsula.

**The Content of Islam.**


An excellent brief picture of the Mohammed of Moslem tradition, giving the original sources in Arabic, of all quotations.


An exposition of Islam, very thorough.


An important study; the best handbook of Islam from the Indian viewpoint.
HINTS FOR


Modern Movements in Islam.

Studies in Sufiism, Babism, the religious orders of Islam, the recensions of the Koran, and the Hanifs. Worth studying.

A thorough study of this significant movement in India.


Islam and Christianity.

The Presentation of Christianity to Moslems. 142 pp. Board of Missionary Preparation. 1916.

An excellent book on the subject.

A revised edition with a slight change in title now available.

A valuable, accurate study of the Christology of Islam.

A sympathetic and helpful study of the relations between Moslems and Christians, political, social, and historical, by a missionary of fifty years' experience in Turkey.

Translation of an Arabic book written by a convert from Islam. Of value to missionaries.

An invaluable, exhaustive handbook for missionaries to Moslems, written by an experienced scholar with missionary experience.


A valuable book for missionaries who hope to reach Moslems with the Gospel.


A popular sketch of the Moslem world, and the problems of Missions to it.


A monograph of the Christology of Islam. It shows how ignorant even learned Moslems are of the actual facts regarding our Lord. Quite useful to the missionary.

Missionary and Christian Biography.

Imad-ud-Din. A Mohammedan brought to Christ. 22 pp. C. M. S. 1885.

The story of the conversion of an Indian Moslem who became a great Christian defender.


A picture of the life and work of this first modern missionary Moslems.

Zwemer, S. M. Raymund Lull; First Missionary to the Moslems. 319 pp. Funk and Wagnalls, 1902.

An illustrated biography of this great missionary; vivid and interesting.

Descriptive Works and Stories.

Lane, E. W. An Account of the Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians.
A indispensible book for every missionary to Islam. An excellent cheap edition, with all the original illustrations, in Everyman Series.


A narrative of thirteen years of pioneer life with the Ishmaelites of Moab, Edom and Arabia.

Small, A. H. Suwarta, and other Sketches of Indian Life.

An excellent sketch of women's work among Muhammedan women.


A study of the environment of childhood in Islam, showing the lack of religious and moral education.


An instructive and inspiring story of the conversion of two Indian Moslem young men. It deals specially with the Moslem charge of corruption of the Christian Scriptures.

**Literature in Chinese Language.**


The names of over 300 works are given in Chinese and English, with summaries of contents, and notes thereon.
A Moslem Convert.

(Portion of a letter written by Leighton Rand, B.A., M.D. of Lanchow, Kansu, which appeared in the January 1928 issue of "CHINA'S MILLIONS." It was sent to us by Mr. G. K. Harris the Missionary in charge in Hochow.-Editor)

"News from Hochow is very encouraging. Our evangelist Hsien is spending most of his time there now. I mentioned the baptism here in Lanchow of the first Hochow Moslem. Perhaps you may be interested in the sequel. The man himself went on to another city to seek employment, as he was driven out of Hochow. He left his wife in her mother's home, where she took such a decided stand for the LORD that she, too, was driven out. Her husband's home as well would not receive her. Finally, the little group of Christians took care of her, but one of them was so persecuted for it that he came to stay with us at Lanchow for a few days while the storm blew over. I hear now that the girl is back in her old home, is treated well, but still stands true. There are now twelve Hochow Moslem Christians, all of whom are bitterly persecuted. Beside the one mentioned above, another is a baptised Church member. He is a Labrang man who heard the Gospel at the Hochow Hospital, and was later baptised by the C. and M.A. missionary at Labrang. He is now living at Hochow. They are meeting regularly for worship, and are planning the formation of an organised Huei Min Chi Tuh Chiao (Christian Church for Moslems). I am sure there will be fierce persecution ahead, but it looks as if the break is at hand in the Moslem wall."

"The Messiah is the Lamb of God"

This is a poster in four colors (30 inches by 42 inches) in Chinese and Arabic. The four colors, black, red, white, and gold, one strip above the other, represent sin, redemption, purity and glory. The selling price of this poster is six cents each, postage included. Smaller handbills (10½ by 15 inches) of the same design sell fifty for forty cents, postage included. These can be secured from the Religious Tract Society, Hankow, or through the Secretary.

The Membership fee of the Society is $1.00 a year or $10.00 for a Life Membership. Remittance should be sent to Rev. C. L. Pickens, Secretary, 43 Tungting Road, Hankow, Hupeh, China.
NEWS ITEMS

For Prayer

Let us pray for the distribution of the new poster and tracts, that they may lead many Moslems to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Let us praise the Lord for the 12 Moslem converts in Ho-chow, and pray that they may withstand temptation and hold fast to the new Faith.

Let us give thanks for the generous gift from the American Literature Society for Moslems.

New Members

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Mr. C. G. Edwards C. I. M.
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Chefoo, Shantung
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Cairo, Egypt

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