



QUARTERLY REVIEW

ORGAN OF THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN DIVISION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF S.D.A.

Vol. XXXI

September 1964

Number 3

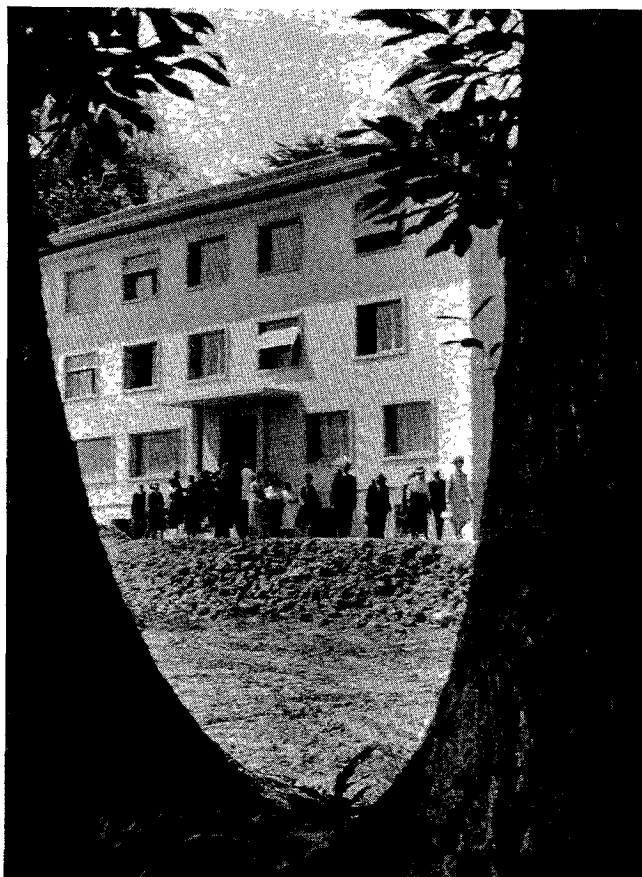
For many years, some of the nurses at La Lignière, our sanatorium on the northern shore of Lake Geneva, have been living in the top-floor rooms and attics of the main building. This custom has brought them nearer heaven than some of us who live close to the ground, but it has not brought them celestial comfort, for the accommodation has been primitive, and in spite of their high position it has been easy for those nurses to be cast down because of their dreary dwelling quarters.

The management has been well aware of this unsatisfactory situation and has long wanted to change it. In 1960 the Sanatorium board voted to build an adequate home for the nursing staff, but it was not until June 1962, that the foundations were laid, and even then the shortage of labour greatly delayed construction until some wondered if the building would ever be finished. By springtime of this year, however, its completion was in sight, and by the end of May several of its rooms were occupied.

Sunday May 31st, then, was chosen for the official opening—a fortunate choice, for under a kindly sun La Lignière generously displayed her abundant beauties. Visitors from many parts of France and Switzerland, and even one from California, had come to attend the annual meeting of “Adil” (Association des Infirmières de La Lignière) which convened, under the able presidency of Mme M. L. Moser, in the assembly hall of the

Home, sweet home!

Opening of the Nurses' Home at La Lignière



*The beautiful
Nurses' Home
at La Lignière*

News from North Africa

H. Pichot

new chapel at 9:30 in the morning. A devotional message, an address by Dr. Müller, a well-written report read by Mme Brigitte Viaud of Lausanne, and study of the Association's business occupied the morning hours and made fifty to sixty members ready for the first-class lunch prepared by Sister Rachel and her helpers.

Early in the afternoon, the group climbed above the chapel to the edge of the beech woods where the handsome new home awaited her visitors. After a friendly inspection all agreed on the beauty, the utility, the sensible appointments, the light and airy design of the building. The lounge, the dining-room, the kitchen fittings, the toilet facilities, and the attractive layout of the twenty-three rooms drew many admiring comments; but it was the glory of the frontal view over fields and lake to Haute Savoie and Mont Blanc that caught most imaginations. Here was a well-planned home where our nurses, after exhausting hours of service, could relax in ideal surroundings and find fresh strength for further spells of duty.

Such an occasion called for some speechifying, and several officials cheerfully responded to the call. There was Pastor S. Meyer, the sanatorium manager who had supervised the construction, Dr. H. Müller, the medical director, Pastors C. Monnier, W. Ruf, and H. Möschinger, the presidents of the Swiss Union, the French-Swiss and German-Swiss Conferences respectively, and the Division medical secretary—dispensers of sufficient information and counsel to guide the new home for many months to come!

A little more refreshment, tastefully prepared and appreciatively eaten; further rounds of conversation between long-parted Adiliennes and other friends; a last look at the proud façade behind which some twenty-eight nurses may now expect to find some peace; then, with cordial good-byes, a memorably happy day came to its close. May the Lord of all good nurses—past, present, and future—bless His faithful assistants and use their ministry to comfort and heal the sufferers who come to La Lignière.

Conditions for the work of God in North Africa have changed considerably since the independence of the three countries that comprise our field: Tunisia, Morocco and especially Algeria. Almost all the two million French or Europeans who lived here had to leave for France because of the political situation in North Africa. So, of the 18 churches or groups we have built up through the last ten years, only five are left and their effectiveness is weakened. We have only 150 members instead of the 1,500 we should have had. Because our work has been limited to the Christians, this tremendous exodus of Europeans to more settled countries has almost completely stopped all evangelization. Suddenly we have to direct all our efforts toward the 25 million Moslems in our North African field.

Our first consideration was to try to alleviate human suffering by devel-

oping the welfare work. Through the generosity of our Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Austrian and Swiss brethren we were able to distribute clothes and food to thousands of homeless, unhappy beings suffering from cold and hunger.

Thousands of children cannot be taught because most of the French teachers have left for France. We thought of opening a primary class for the young Moslems who had not been accepted into the public or private schools. A little later we had to open a second class, and right now we are operating four classes, full to overflowing. If only we could find the necessary teaching personnel we could increase our classes next year!

In Constantine and Oran, in Tunisia, we have the premises for such schools, but again, we do not have the teachers! It is certainly unfortunate that right now when we have the opportunity to develop our edu-

Delegates to the Workers' Meeting in Algiers



cational work, we are unable to do so because of the lack of teachers. Who will pray the Lord to send the necessary workers to this field, so ripe for harvest?

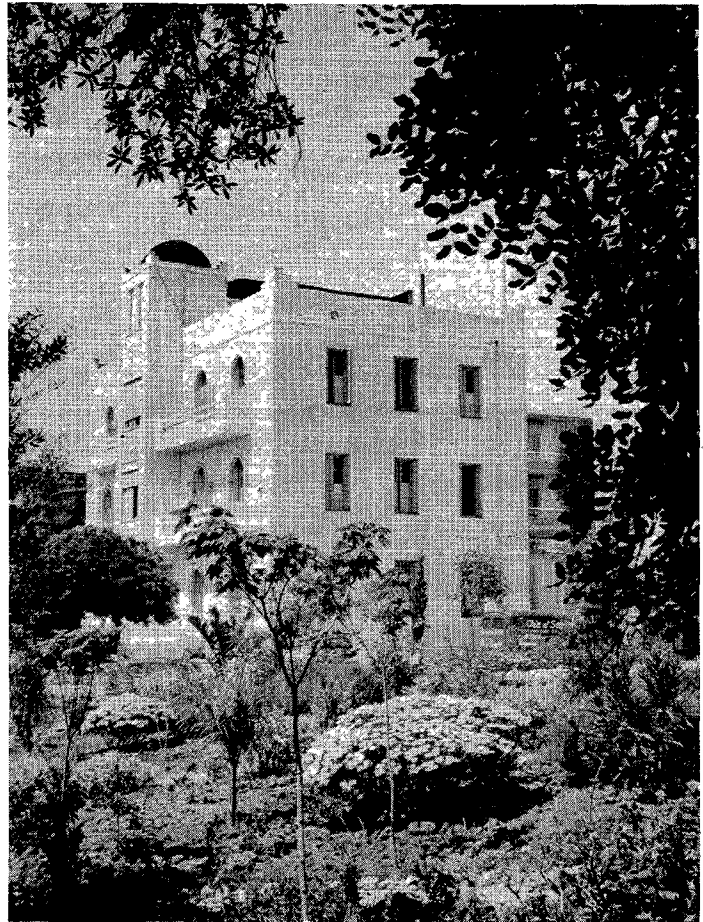
We have also seriously started the publishing work for the Moslems.

As the literature from other Moslem countries is not suited to our field, Brother E. Pellicer has taken on the task of writing and translating into the Arabic spoken here, parts or the whole of certain of Mrs. White's books such as: *Steps to Christ*, *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, parts of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, and several brochures. This literature is distributed in this country and beyond. Brother Pellicer has also started a correspondence course which consumes a great deal of time. But this work has already proved worthwhile.

In addition, we have started the medical work again. We have opened the two dispensaries in Mostaganem and at our mission station at Relizane (Oran), where the sick are kindly received and nursed as well as the few medical means at our disposal permit. We would like to start many more medical centers, for the country is in great need. Medicines are not to be found, and when the chemist does have some, then the prices are exorbitant.

When traveling through these terribly disrupted countries one cannot help but share the feelings of our Lord Jesus who was moved to compassion when He traveled from place to place and saw the multitudes "because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:35-38).

The accompanying group photo shows the delegates taking part in a workers' meeting from March 24 to 29 this year. Among those present were Brother George D. Keough, former missionary in the Middle East, Brethren Charles Cornaz and Daniel Sanz, presidents of the Tunisian and Moroccan Missions, Brother G. Cupertino, secretary of the Ministerial Association of the Southern European Division, and Brother E. Pellicer, who for many years has devoted



*The clinic
in Algiers
«Vie et
Santé»*

all his time to work among the Moslems.

The books and brochures displayed on the table in some way or other describe the different aspects of our work among the Moslems.

During these meetings and work sessions all the participants discussed the immense task facing the workers in North Africa, as they realize that this gospel must be preached "to every nation and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Rev. 14:6).

Elder Keough was well qualified to give advice and counsel, as he has spent many years in work among the Moslems. He had made this journey from England in spite of his poor state of health, and now he emphasized the essential qualities necessary to witness for the truth and to be steadfast even under such unfavorable circumstances as prevail in North Africa at the present time.

He said among other things that a worker who knows all the technical aspects of the religion of the Koran, but does not know Jesus will fail, whereas a worker, who may not know all the aspects, but is familiar with the life and teachings of Christ, will always see some fruits for his labors.

In turn the delegates made their observations, aired their problems and sought in prayer together to find a way to ensure the presence of the Adventist church in North Africa. Thus far, as mentioned above, it has only been possible to do something by means of educational and welfare work as well as through medical aid to the needy. Pray for our members and workers in North Africa. At the present time our voices may be lost in the sands of the desert, and it is only by faith we are able to carry on. Your prayers on our behalf will hold up our courage!

With J. Ernest Edwards across Southern Europe

L. Belloy

On April 1, 1964, Brother J. Ernest Edwards, secretary of the Home Missionary Department of the General Conference, arrived in Paris to begin a two months' itinerary in the European and North African parts of our Division.

The first week was spent in Paris, where a convention for home missionary leaders was conducted. Secretaries from ten countries were present as well as several union and conference presidents. Our hosts, the Franco-Belgian Union and French Conference, made us feel very welcome in this beautiful city.

The meetings were held in the pleasant young people's hall in the Paris church at 130 boulevard de l'Hôpital, from April 2 to 9. The daytime hours were strictly reserved for instruction and edification of the delegates, but in the evenings the members and friends of the church were invited to participate. The convention was not a large one as far as numbers were concerned, since only two or three representatives from each country had been allowed to come, but it was very important for two reasons:

1. The rarity of the meetings. The last one of its kind was held in Rome in 1950 at the time of the Winter Council of the Southern European Division, and was attended by all the home missionary secretaries. Since that time all the secretaries have changed, so it was high time to receive new instructions.

2. The solemnity of the times in which we live. The time of the end is fast approaching, but there is still a great work to be done, and it should be accomplished swiftly. It is the home missionary secretaries who must enlarge the vision of the members, and guide, enlighten and instruct the church for action. In order to be able to train the members, it is first necessary that the leaders have a clear understanding of what God has called them to do, and what they will be able to do with the help of

such a well organized army of workers. It devolved on Brother Edwards to show us what it is to be a good leader, what the source of his strength is, and the tools at his disposition. He emphasized again and again that it is clear that the end of all things is at hand, and therefore it is not enough just to maintain the work on the usual solid foundation, but the time has come to keep constantly before us the vision of a *task accomplished*. By simple demonstrations our brother tried to bring home to the delegates the methods to be used as we go forth to bring the gospel to all peoples, kindreds and tongues. The God of wisdom has not given His church an impossible task. It *can* be done, if the whole church is mobilized for service. We are often told what to do, but Brother Edwards told us *how* to do it. How to win souls, how to enter the homes, how to give Bible studies, how to make Christ the center of our Bible studies, and how to lead the people to a decision for Christ and the truth.

All the courses were based upon the words so often cited by Mrs E. G. White: "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers." *Gospel Workers*, p. 352.

The secret of positive results is the collaboration between the pastors, the members and the officers of the church. Brother Edwards presented the Three Step Program, and explained in detail how it could be worked out in the different churches:

1. Enter the homes. Do not be satisfied by sliding a brochure through the mailbox, but try to get in and talk with the people.

2. Give Bible studies. Explain the sacred Scriptures. Teach, but do not preach.

3. Try to get decisions for Christ and the truth.

There are many people in the world

who believe that the Sabbath is the day of the Lord. But that is not sufficient. A simple intellectual confession of the truth is not enough to save anyone. It is necessary to be obedient to the whole truth.

The course was built around these three points. All the lessons were richly illustrated with fitting experiences which helped to drive home the point.

After the daily courses Brother Edwards showed his beautiful slides from the Amazon and New Guinea. Who could forget one of the pictures showing Brother Edwards and the missionary surrounded by about thirty ferocious warriors brandishing their spears? Only by the help of God did they escape unharmed!

In another country we visited, a non-Adventist spectator became so impressed with what he saw on the screen that he donated the equivalent of \$400, which is enough to maintain five nurses' aids for one year in New Guinea.

Two evenings were spent in showing filmstrips which depicted different ways of distributing literature as well as the art of securing decisions. The delegates asked that a request be filed with the Division Committee that the books *Christian Service* and *Welfare Ministry* be translated into all the languages spoken in our Division, as they would be of great help to lay members in their ministry.

It would take too much space to tell about the many courses conducted in the several countries we visited after the convention in Paris. Suffice it to mention that in Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Yugoslavia, Greece and Italy encouraging courses were conducted to enthusiastic participants.

In some places we were able to gather the workers for two or three days, and in other places we could conduct conventions over the weekend. Elsewhere we were able to give laymen's courses in two or three localities. Some places we arrived just

at the time of the annual camp meetings. In Austria we were gathered together in a youth hostel right in the mountains. One hundred members as well as the union president, two conference presidents and several workers came from all parts of Austria.

In Portugal we had the joy of conducting an investiture during the meetings of the society of the 120, at which badges were presented to 34 brothers and sisters. This badge is given only on certain conditions, the principal one being that the recipient has won at least one soul during the past year. It would be good to publicize this idea in other countries of our Division, because there are still many leaders and members who do not understand the main issue of this important phase of our work.

In North Africa Elder Edwards drew our attention to an article which had appeared in the *Signs of the Times* telling about a converted Moslem who had succeeded in winning 25 of his former co-religionists. This article mentioned several good ideas on how to approach the Moslems. Brother Pichot, the president of the North African Union Mission, has valiantly stayed in North Africa with his workers after the exodus of most Frenchmen to more settled countries. He is persuaded that the moment has come when we could work more successfully for the Moslems, and he has asked us to pray that the efforts of our workers to win over the followers of Mohammed to the true gospel of Christ may be blessed.

Some people seem to think that a departmental secretary's enthusiasm for evangelism would wane, but Brother Edwards showed us that in spite of eighteen years' devotion to this one department, he has not lost his evangelistic enthusiasm, nor his ardor for the saving of souls. As we all need perseverance and strength from above to fulfill the charge God has entrusted to us, Brother Edwards suggested under the slogan: "Let us pray for power at the noonday hour" that we all pray at the same time during the day for the progress of the work. Thus every day, at the time of the midday meal, we will commend to God our missionaries, our pastors, our lay members, the workers of the institutions, and all those who in one way or another are

working for the advancement of God's reign on earth.

Before us now lies the great task of building quickly and firmly on the foundations laid by our brother with such fervor and conviction. We must apply ourselves to this task with all our power, that the instruc-

tions may bear rich fruitage for the eternal kingdom.

As we bade goodbye to our dear friend, we fervently expressed the sentiments of all the participants: Thank you, and come back again soon!



The large delegation at Bad Aussee

Convention in Paris



Messina to Milan

Bernard E. Seton

Memories of a Maytime Italian Journey

For one who lives in Berne, the first problem on such a journey was that of reaching Messina; but a train to Zurich, a flight over the Alps to Rome, another plane to Catania, and a morning train to Messina soon settled the question and set me on the north-eastern tip of Sicily where the Straits of Messina keep the toe of Italy at arm's length—if you know what I mean!

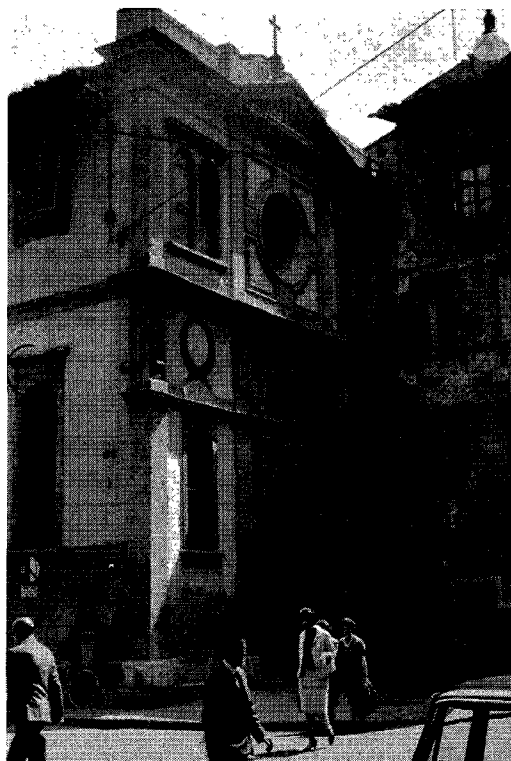
A couple of hours afterwards, at three o'clock on Friday afternoon, May 8th, the first of three regional assemblies and Sabbath School conventions began. Seventeen days and forty-six meetings later the series ended with the midday service in Milan, and left a multitude of memories that now need sorting out.

From the kaleidoscope of lasting impressions that crowd the mind, several brilliant patterns emerge. First comes the sunshine that bathed the whole land, from south to north, in

golden glory. It shone on Etna as the snow-covered cone belched forth clouds of smoke; it glowed over bean fields and citrus orchards; it glittered on the crystalline waters of the blue-green Mediterranean; and it smiled on the age-old cities that bejewel so much of the Italian landscape. The cities themselves are remembered for their loveliness, for even the large seaports and industrial centers such as Messina and Genoa, Turin and Milan, are noble towns, each bearing a character and charm of its own; while Palermo, Rome, and Florence need libraries and miles of film to tell but a tithe of their beauties. And who could forget a visit to Torre Pellice with its small SDA church and the faithful witness of brethren A. Long and V. Speranza and their wives? There is evangelistic inspiration in seeing the town, visiting the museum, treading the woodland paths that wind along the mountainside,

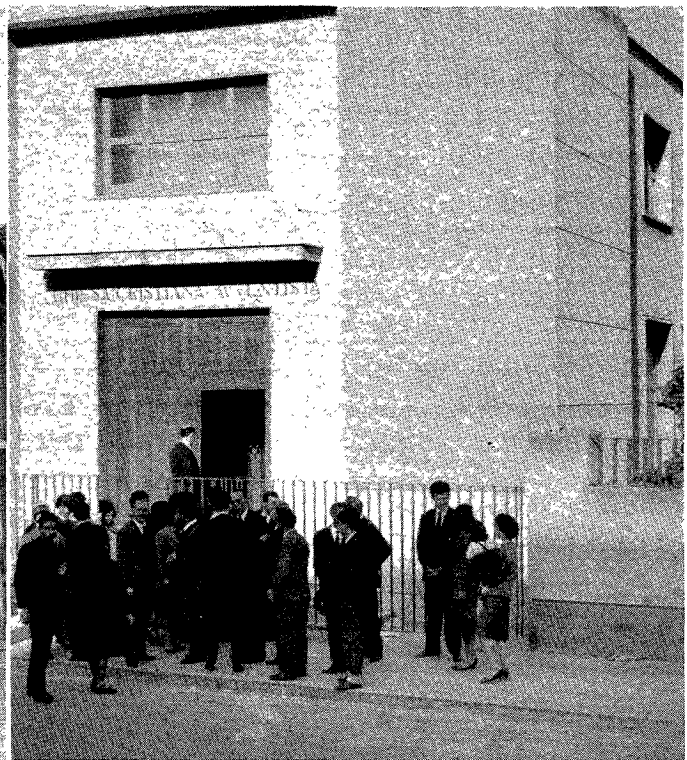
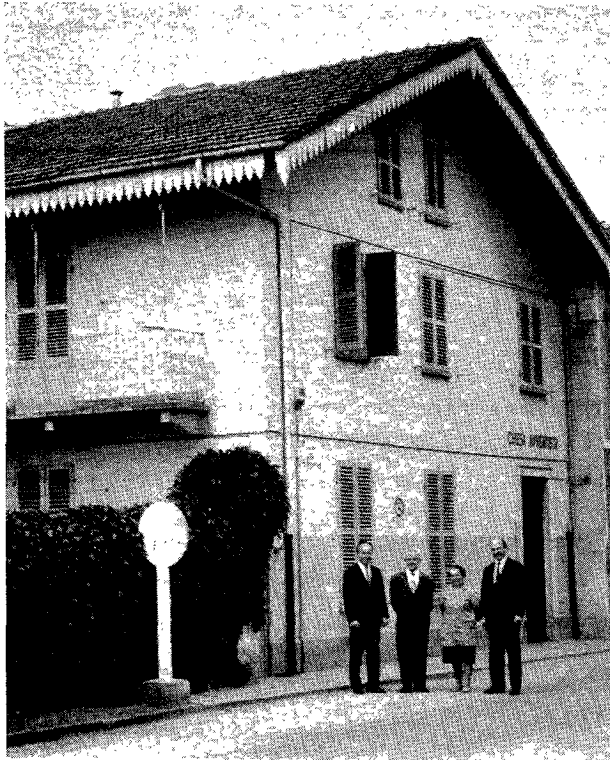
and clambering down the rock-strewn slopes to penetrate the lofty cave of d'La Tana, a veritable cathedral in natural stone, where the persecuted Waldenses used to hold their secret services.

To Adventist eyes, however, the center of interest lay in the churches where the regional meetings and the conventions were held. In Messina, Florence, and Milan the centrally-situated buildings provided convenient rendezvous, but were too small for the comfort of the large congregations that crowded them during the Sabbath morning hours. Attendances revealed a lively desire for Sabbath School instruction, for even on Friday afternoons and Sunday mornings whole rows of seats were filled with officers, members, workers, and even a priest, most of whom quickly warmed to the discussion periods, asking provocative questions, finding solutions to some of



◀ 1 ▲ 2 ▼ 3





4

5

Legends to the pages 6 and 7

1. SDA Church, Florence 2. Group attending Genoa Church 3. Some of those attending Convention, «Villa Aurora», Florence 4. Torre Pellice, outside SDA Church: R. Monaia, book evangelist. Pastor A. Long, Mrs. A. Long, Dr. G. Rossi, Sabbath School Secretary, Italian Union Mission 5. Group outside Messina Church, Sicily. Sabbath School Convention May 1964

the problems posed, and accepting many of the stimulating suggestions that were aired. As one looked and listened there came the comforting assurance that the instruction then received would spread far beyond those three loyal churches, for many Sabbath Schools were represented in each place—26 at Messina, 16 at Florence, and 12 at Milan.

Week-night meetings in the smaller cities added their quota of satisfaction, for they too were well-attended, in spite of their pastors' cautious and slender expectations. In Piazza Amerina, for instance, there was a Monday night congregation of eighty eager souls; Palermo, La Spezia, and Turin each saw a sizeable audience on subsequent evenings, while Genoa's afternoon service was large enough to cheer any visitor's heart. Through these strategically distributed gatherings, a large section of the Church shared in the blessings which God gave to His people.

Responsibility for the success of such meetings usually rests in many hands. On this occasion the chief architects were the Union president, Pastor G. Cavalcante, and the Sabbath School department secretary, Dr. G. Rossi. Together they cared for the regional organization and made their contributions to the convention programs. Their tasks were lightened by the cooperation of the pastors in whose churches we met, and by the visiting ministers from other areas. In addition, specialized and much-appreciated help was given by brethren Agnello and Caracciolo from the Publishing House, and Brother H. Long and the fine school choir under Brother A. Romano from the Italian Union Training School at Villa Aurora.

But of course, without the enthusiastic participation of church members on whose unpaid labors as officers and teachers the Sabbath School is built, there would have been very

little accomplished. The church owes a great debt to its faithful lay leaders: they are so often an inspiration to the ministers who have the oversight of all departments of church activity.

The real test of a convention's success, however, comes after the meetings have closed. How much of the instruction is remembered? How many of the suggestions are practiced? What progress is seen in Sabbath School life? Does the membership grow? Is attendance greater and more punctual? Does spiritual life deepen? Are mission offerings more generous and more proportionate to income? Are our children better cared for? Are more friends introduced to the church? Is there an increasing number of baptisms among Sabbath School members? Succeeding months will provide answers to these questions and will demonstrate the value of the meetings that were held in Sicily and Italy during the merry month of May.

News Items

* Dr. W. E. Westcott, medical director of the Cameroun Mission Hospital, Koza, writes that during the last five months he has performed 250 major and 230 minor operations. Patients come long distances to be treated, even from Yaoundé, the capital of the republic, one thousand miles away.

The doctor, his wife and the nurses hold their morning worships on the open porch in order that the ambulant patients and their relatives may listen. Kenneth Wood's book 'Meditations for Moderns' is used the text, and as many as 75 persons have been attending these worships.

* Dr. E. E. White, educational secretary of the Australasian Division, and Mrs. White stayed three days in Berne, and were made welcome at our Division office. A. H. Forbes, business manager of the Sydney Sanitarium and Hospital, and other workers from the Australasian Division have been through the territories of the Southern European Division, and we are always glad to see workers from other fields.

* Brethren M. Fridlin and W. A. Wild attended the different camp meeting sessions in Yugoslavia, during the month of June, and B. J. Kohler visited Vienna and Budapest.

* In May B. E. Seton, Sabbath School secretary of the Division, made an extensive trip to Italy and Sicily, visiting churches and promoting the Sabbath School work. A report is appearing on pages 6-7.

* On May 2, 1964, the church in Basel celebrated the inauguration of the enlarged chapel. Members from all parts of Switzerland were present to participate in this joyous occasion, and to remember, at the same time, the 80th anniversary of the starting of the Swiss church in Basel. The sermon was preached by M. Fridlin, Division president, and W. A. Wild, secretary, offered the dedicatory prayer.

An article by R. Gerber, dealing with the arrival and work of the first missionary to Switzerland, J. N. Andrews, will appear in the next issue of *Quarterly Review*, as October 16 is the 90th anniversary of this missionary's arrival in Switzerland from the United States.

* A Division Publishing Leader's Convention will be held in Florence,

Italy, from July 30 to August 4, with W. A. Higgins from the General Conference Publishing Department in attendance. Many publishing secretaries from the European continent will be present, and a report will appear in the December number of *Quarterly Review*. E. Naenny, Division publishing secretary, will accompany W. A. Higgins, on a six weeks' itinerary in the Division.

* A Young People's Congress for the Swiss Union Conference was held in Lugano, Switzerland, from July 16 to 21, and M. Fridlin, P. Steiner, and H. Stoeger was in attendance from the Division staff.

* M. Fridlin reports that at the time of the camp meetings in Yugoslavia a conference was organized in Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia. This town has also many mosques, as it is the headquarters for the many Moslems living in this part of Yugoslavia. Sarajevo is also remembered as the scene of the tragic events which fifty years ago led to the outbreak of World War I.

* In Tel Aviv, Israel, a beautiful apartment has been purchased, which will be remodeled into a church hall for the company of believers in this town. Until now they have been meeting in a private home, so the members are rejoicing at the prospect of having a proper meeting place.

* The auditors R. Davidson and W. Johnson from the General Conference spent two weeks in June auditing the Division books.

C. L. Torrey and W. E. Phillips visited our Division headquarters in Berne for a few days in the month of July.

6. Some of those attending Sabbath School Convention at SDA Church, Messina, Sicily, mentioned in the article on pp. 6/7



SOUTHERN EUROPEAN QUARTERLY REVIEW

Organ of the Southern European Division of Seventh-day Adventists published every quarter

Address of Editor (to whom all manuscripts should be sent): Höhweg 17, Berne, Switzerland.

W. A. Wild Editor
Mrs. B. J. Kohler Editorial Secretary