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Days of Perplexity

BY W. E. READ

DUE to the peculiar situation obtaining in the northlands and the irregularity of mail facilities, this issue of the SURVEY will have a rather limited circulation. Many important moves in the international situation have been made since our last issue was published. We are certainly living in a time when events take place with startling rapidity. Overnight great changes come; nations with the heritage of years are eclipsed. Smaller states are compelled to yield their sovereignty to more powerful neighbours, and in many places the flag of freedom no longer flutters at the masthead.

Again in the field of military achievement, our Division has been affected. A few years ago, on the east coast of Africa, Ethiopia ceased to be a sovereign state, and the territory from the standpoint of mission supervision passed over to the kindly care of our brethren in Southern Europe. Last year Poland was divided between two powerful European states. At the present time it is difficult for anyone to communicate with the brethren and sisters in that part of our Division territory.

During the past few weeks Denmark has been forced to bow to the authority of a totalitarian state, and thus come under its complete control and direction. Norway also, in part at least, shares the same fate, and the territory thus occupied will present great difficulties to us so far as communications are concerned. In fact, it looks as though, for some time at least, it will be practically impossible for us to visit the brethren in those fields. It is very probable, also, that even mail facilities will be uncertain and difficult.

We still maintain cable communications, however, with other parts of

the Division in Europe, and there are mail facilities between our headquarters and the Baltic States, with Sweden and Finland, as well as with our large mission territory in Africa.

We are glad for the splendid response to the calls which have been made on behalf of Finland. All the money thus far received has been passed over to the brethren in that field, and they wish us to express their heartfelt gratitude for all that has been done for them. A cable communication just received shows that the funds have been used to care for our members who have been separated from their homes and who have lost all their personal belongings. They are being assisted while finding homes in other centres, and in seeking to establish themselves again in some self-supporting work.

Now many of the brethren and sisters in Norway are homeless, and the need is still great in Finland. It looks as though relief funds will be needed for some time to come. We therefore earnestly request our brethren and sisters, and particularly those who are well able to do so, to continue to make liberal gifts to assist our needy believers in these lands.

The situation in the northlands will certainly make quite a difference to our Division finances, and it will mean a complete revision of our budget for this year. On account of currency regulations now obtaining in each of the Scandinavian fields, we can count on but little, if any, financial support from them to our large mission programme for the remainder of this year.

This will naturally call for certain economies, and careful, prayerful

study is being given to this whole question at this time. One matter that is related to this question somewhat, but which has become a necessity more on account of the paper rationing plan obtaining in Britain at the present time, is that greater economy will have to be exercised in the use of paper. Decision has already been made by our committee to reduce the number of bulletins which have been issued from our office. These will not only be reduced in number, but also in size. Then, again, the ADVENT SURVEY which has been issued regularly each month will be issued once every two months from now on.

In this time of uncertainty, in these days when the foundations of many things are being removed, let us keep our faith firm in the God of heaven who never changes. Amid the clash of nations and the upheaval of these times, we must bear in mind that God still lives, and that He is overruling in the councils of men and guiding in the affairs of nations.

"In the annals of human history, the growth of nations, the rise and fall of empires, appear as if dependent on the will and prowess of man; the shaping of events seems, to a great degree, to be determined by his power, ambition, and caprice. But in the Word of God the curtain is drawn aside, and we behold, above, behind, and all through the play and counterplay of human interest and power and passions, the agencies of the All-merciful One, silently, patiently working out the counsels of His own will."—*Prophets and Kings*, pages 499, 500.

Let us pray particularly for our leaders in these fields that are passing through severe trials at this time;

let us pray also for our brethren and sisters, especially those who have been separated from their families and who have lost so much through invasion. May God's protecting hand be over His people at such a

time as this, and may they find comfort and hope and consolation in Him in all the experiences that come. Let us all remember that: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psa. 46:1.

Our Missionaries Carry On

BY J. I. ROBISON

At the outbreak of war eight months ago, eight of our missionaries with their families were home on furlough, and four missionary couples were under appointment. It seemed at first that it might be impossible for some of these to return to their fields because of war conditions. However we are glad to report that all of them are now in their mission fields. We are indeed thankful that God has protected them in travel over the wide seas in these times of peril.

Among those who have recently sailed are the following: W. T. B. Hyde and family sailed in November for Nigeria, where they arrived safely for another term of service. Miss C. Olsen and Miss G. Clarke sailed from London also in November for Kenya, where they arrived just before New Year. Pastor F. H. Thomas and family sailed in January from Italy and are now back at their station in Gendia. Pastor J. Clifford and wife sailed from Liverpool in February and are now in the Gold Coast. Pastor S. Broberg and family of Denmark had the greatest difficulty in returning to their field. They had to fly from Copenhagen to Amsterdam and from there they expected to take a Dutch steamer to West Africa. However, the steamer after starting was delayed, and the Broberg family were held up in Rotterdam nearly three weeks before being able to continue on their journey. Pastor M. E. Lind and family spent their furlough in Norway, but left a few weeks before the extension of the war to the Scandinavian countries. They sailed from Italy in March and are now back in Uganda. Pastor M. C. Murdoch sailed on the same boat with the Linds and is now in North-west Kenya.

We welcome the new recruits who have recently gone forward to join our mission staff. Dr. L. G. Ermshar of California succeeded in passing his qualifying examinations in Edinburgh after only six weeks' preparation. It was decided that it would be best for him to go on to his field in Kenya at once as the course in tropical medicine that he had expected to take had been can-

celled because of the war. So in early December Dr. and Mrs. Ermshar sailed from Italy for Mombasa, where they arrived safely on December 28th. The doctor is taking over the work at Kendu Hospital, thus relieving Dr. Madgwick who has accepted an appointment in Nigeria to open up our new hospital near Ife. Word recently received from Dr. Ermshar indicates that he is highly pleased with the work at Kendu Hospital and very glad to be in active mission service.

Another new recruit for the mis-

sion field is Brother T. L. Gillett of England, who has recently responded to a call for work in Nigeria. Brother and Sister Gillett sailed in December and are now located in the Ibo country in South-east Nigeria, opening up work in a new territory. We are glad to welcome them into mission service.

East Africa also has received two new workers in Brother and Sister C. T. Bannister who sailed early in February for Kenya. Brother Bannister has been associated with the Granose Foods, Limited, for some years, and has now responded to a call to take over the secretary-treasurer's work in the Kenya Union Mission. We are indeed happy that the Kenya Union will have such efficient help in their office and we welcome these workers into mission service.

We are glad to announce that Pastor G. Gudmundsen of Norway is now in the Sudan. He is our first missionary to this country after many years of waiting.

Entering a New Language Area in Liberia

BY K. F. NOLTZE

IN the small country of Liberia we have still about twenty-four languages and dialects, in which the respective peoples have no idea of even the simple alphabet necessary for the writing of their mother-tongue. It is very often the missionary's work then to open to himself as well as to them the secrets of their own manner of speech, as otherwise no clear sound of the Advent message will be heard. An interpreter may now and then be able to do well, but if the Gospel is also new to him, or he has a wrong conception of it, then the best sermon will be preached in vain. Still worse will it become, if the preacher is not acquainted with the every-day life and thoughts of the people, if he uses phrases and sentences which the interpreter could never grasp, nor interpret, which could only find a clear explanation after a careful translation is made. New thoughts and ideas must by all means be linked up with known facts, otherwise one would build on sand or, still worse, into the air. One of the visiting brethren, it is told, gave a sermon on Sabbath morning at a camp-meeting. The local African worker offered the closing prayer, in which he said that they

had not understood much of the message preached, but that they are thankful for the deep willingness of the brother to preach so earnestly to them; he must feel a great love for them, as he wept so frequently while preaching. This was a sermon for the preacher.

The great Judgment Day can become through weak translation a large frying-pan into which sinners are put and fried with palm oil eternally; God may become the spiritual leader of a secret society, and the heaven will be God's town, where wars and fightings are going on against evil spirits of other tribes, as the thunder and lightning "without doubt" reveal. Or all devils are white, all angels are black. And recently one said instead of, "I saw the devil falling from heaven," "I saw a pumpkin falling from heaven," for in the language interpreted "devil" and "pumpkin" are the same words, only a slight rise in the tone makes the difference. The music in the language is for a foreigner the most difficult problem, and it becomes a puzzle when composing songs with religious ideas.

We have recently begun a series of meetings among a group of the

Mano, one of the most industrious tribes in Liberia. My interpreter was no Mano, but he assured me of his good knowledge of this tongue, and I could nowhere find anyone else who was acquainted with Christian thoughts. We met in an open hall. The chief took his seat in the midst of the shelter on a mat, and around him his wives. Two took his legs on their laps, another one supported his back by sitting behind him, and nearby was sitting one who had to chew cola-nuts, which he then could swallow without much work. With such an easy chair in a religious meeting, I thought, he would soon fall asleep. The other people had taken places all around, and I had mine just near the chief in the midst of all. Unfortunately the ceiling was so low that I could not stand upright; over my head was a hole in the mat, into which a part of it fitted; but this fixed me right on the spot, while I always like to walk about when speaking to natives.

As usual, I asked them to sing a Mano song, a song of gladness, which almost all tribes hereabouts have for certain occasions in their tribal society affairs. Nobody wanted to begin, everybody asked the next, a long discussion went on over twenty minutes, until finally the chief ordered a hand-drum with which he introduced a very rhythmical melody. At a certain point of the song, all jumped up and began with great enthusiasm a lively dancing on the spot, supporting the chief in his alternating singing. When I had them again seated and explained that such nice songs can also be sung without using the legs, another fifteen minutes had passed. Then we tried singing again, but this time only the upper parts of the body made moderate movements, and the hands were clapping the time. All the following meetings were begun with this lively song, which called many others into us, and woke those up who were absent-minded. After a full hour of such preliminary ceremonies at that first meeting, I could begin to speak to them. Soon the interpreter had a very hard time, as questions and answers from both sides pressed in continually. Often he was corrected by the people, or laughed at, when he gave a misleading pronunciation. It was all in all a wonderful meeting but a success.

Week after week we continued this effort, until we could organize a small group of Sabbath-keepers, who are longing for baptism. As the Mano people are very strong snake-worshippers, our converts soon had much opposition to meet with from

their former friends. One night a group of them destroyed all the property of an honest couple, threw the seed-rice into the creek, drowned the mortar and pot in the swamp, and took away the field tools. Just recently the man, out of kindness, lent to somebody his last pair of trousers and a shirt, and the fellow

ran away with them. Now they laugh at him, saying he has given away even his skin. We shall not let him suffer for this deed of kindness.

May the Lord richly bless these people and give them courage to endure unto the end for the sake of the Mano tribe, and for the honour of God.

In the Hinterland of Liberia

BY T. KETOLA

Two and a half years ago we were called to work among the people who had burnt the bungalow at our Liiwa station some years before. Now some of the men who burnt the house have joined our Bible class and Sabbath-school.

Because we have only one interpreter, we have organized all our churchmembers and schoolboys for evangelical work. Most of our members do not know how to read, but they can explain biblical pictures.

Many districts are waiting for teachers. Last year while travelling I stopped for a Sabbath day in a village near the border of Liberia and French Guinea. At the end of my first meeting in the village a man quickly left the meeting. I thought he was angry for some reason. In a few minutes he came back bringing an expensive charm to me saying: "This has been the watchman of my house so that thieves could not come to steal. It has given power to my rice to grow so that I have got rich. It has given me game when hunting. Because you told us that God has more power than all charms and that He is willing to use His great power to help us, I shall destroy my charms in order to get God's help. But because I do not dare to do it by myself, I beg you to do it for me." Then he went back to his house and brought another

charm, saying: "This is my last strange god. If now the true God does not help me, then I have nothing else to help me."

On the following day eight men came to me saying: "We, too, want to turn to the true God. You told us that you are going to-morrow. How can you leave us here without a teacher? You surely know that we shall soon forget your teaching, and then we are in the darkness again." I told them that I would be pleased to send them a teacher, if I had one for the purpose, but now I have nobody. They continued their begging until at last I said: "You know Natali, because he is from this town. I can send him to you, he is not a teacher yet." Then they became glad and said: "Send us Natali to teach us."

According to my promise, I sent them Natali, one of our schoolboys. In two weeks he came back with a wonderful report. He had held nineteen meetings, nearly all the town people had attended; on the Sabbath they did not go to work but came to Natali's meeting; they sent by him a strong appeal to me for a teacher, but I have not been able to send them one. In fact "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."

Evangelism Among Liberians

BY I. W. HARDING

IN past years the propagation of the Advent message has been more or less wholly confined to the hinterland tribes of Liberia, and some measure of success has been achieved. Many have been won from heathen darkness into the marvellous light of the Gospel, and are rejoicing in God for the wonderful transformation wrought in their lives. Some of our native believers have now caught the spirit of evangelism and are going

out on their own accord preaching to their kith and kin. Many through their testimonies and preaching have been influenced to turn from their idols to serve the living God.

Owing to lack of men and means we have not been able to do much aggressive preaching in the seaport towns where civilized and educated Liberians settle; nevertheless our periodicals and books are being sold and read by not a few, and these

"silent messengers" are helping to break down prejudice against our work.

I held public meetings at Lower Buchanan, the chief city in Grand Bassa country, some time ago, and many attended. As a result not a few have been aroused to search the Scriptures, and have been convinced that they should keep holy the Sabbath day.

Progress in Kenya

BY S. G. MAXWELL

FEW regrets marked the passing of the year 1939. For our work in Kenya it meant a shortage in staff due to normal furloughs being increased by sick leave. Yet the Lord watched over His work so that it progressed in spite of difficulties.

W. W. Armstrong had to lay down his work and go home for an operation. The decision that he should not return on health grounds robbed us of an old and tried worker. His nineteen years of service in this Union gave him a measured outlook and his counsel was always valuable. We surely miss him and his good companion.

The Union superintendent found himself looking after the Central and Northwest fields, a portion of the West field and the Union office. It is difficult to write on the Union as a whole, seeing it was not possible to visit some fields for over a year.

Baptisms totalled 631. All fields reported gains in African tithes, while two of the new fields showed nearly 100 per cent of their membership returning to the Lord His own. All schools now pay fees and this is becoming an important source of income. The Africans are coming to realize the help which can be obtained from Harvest Ingathering. The South Kenya field with over 1,300 Christians collected over a shilling per member. Government continues to help our educational work by contributing over £1,800.

The Training School at Kamagambo enjoyed a good year. Twelve out of sixteen students passed the Government Primary School examination. Our first girl candidate passed with distinction. In the Teacher Training Department the Lord blessed the efforts of the staff. Out of a class of seventeen twelve passed the Government Elementary Teacher's examination. This included our first four girls to be offered. The examiner made a good report on the high standard of teacher training done, giving it first place in the province.

Since the starting of our elementary school work at Lower Buchanan, a Sabbath-school has been formed, and those interested meet together at the residence of the school teacher, Brother Moses K. Davies, every Sabbath day to study the Scriptures.

On behalf of the work and workers in this corner of Africa we ask your prayers, brethren and sisters.

Our Training School also exhibited in an Arts and Crafts section of the annual Agricultural Show. They secured a first prize in both the Nairobi and Mombasa shows, attracting much attention by the pleasing display of soap-stone hand carvings.

An evangelical department was commenced, fourteen men taking the first of a two years' training course.

We were glad of the assistance of L. A. Vixie from the Division for several of our camp meetings, also a colporteurs' institute. Attendance at the camps grows with each year. A remarkable offering at the Kisii camp of Sh.5,000 was an outstanding feature.

Our members and adherents keep up their enthusiasm for evangelism. The older churches devote a month each year to a special campaign to gather in the heathen. In the Kisii field their efforts resulted in twenty-six new Christian villages being established, with 619 interested souls desiring instruction.

The enemy is ever active both inside and outside the churches. One company of forty-eight Christians working on a European plantation, where they had been granted Sabbath privileges over a number of years, were suddenly ordered to work on the Sabbath. Forty-six of them chose to leave their remunerative employment rather than be disloyal to God.

At the Coast a large school building was destroyed by fire, due to heathen opposition, but the members are replying by erecting another in its place.

After working six years in the Kikuyu country in Central Kenya with continual opposition, permission has at last been secured for a prayer house on Mt. Kenya. This is so far our only legalized foothold in a reserve of over a million people.

On Mt. Elgon we have an encouraging interest without the usual opposition. The president of the local tribunal personally supervised

the erection of a large school building. The former cave dwellers are attending Sabbath meetings in large numbers. Now that the new mission house at Chebwai has been completed we anticipate a large ingathering of souls in the Northwest field.

Our colporteurs continued to scatter our literature. Literacy is only two per cent of the population, so the maintaining of a strong literature ministry is still a problem. The seed sown by one colporteur resulted in 200 people coming out for the Sabbath.

The Kendu Hospital enjoyed a successful year, earning enough income to support its own African staff and all hospital operations. A gift of £400 from the Local Native Council added a new ward. Other building additions have nearly completed a really useful hospital unit.

The close of the old year saw the arrival of Dr. L. G. Ermshar to take over the superintendency of the hospital. Dr. G. A. S. Madgwick will soon be leaving for his furlough and Nigeria. His untiring and faithful labours for the past nineteen years have endeared him to all.

We were glad to welcome two of our Ethiopian brethren, trained at Spicer College, India. They bring a new standard to our African working force, and we believe their attainments will prove an added stimulus to many of our workers. One of them is connecting with our Training School and the other with Union departmental work.

Teachers' Convention

WE are in the midst of a convention of workers for Bible study, at Konola. Brother Ketola, Pastor During, and I give the lectures. These are the studies:

Daniel and Revelation	30 hrs.
Methods of Bible Study	14 hrs.
Spirit of Prophecy	14 hrs.
Advent History	14 hrs.
The Preacher	14 hrs.
History	14 hrs.
Present Truth	14 hrs.

We plan to come together every year for some weeks for such a purpose. Our lessons are fully outlined on the blackboard, and notes are furnished.

Sometimes in the evening we go out, fifteen in all, into a village, and each speaks for five minutes about Christian experience. This has made a splendid impression upon many, and this is especially the case with those of our workers who are almost on the same level as our native population.

K. NOLTZE.

God's Working in Luoland

BY H. A. MATTHEWS

OWING to Brother F. H. Thomas being out of the West Kenya field on furlough last year, the responsibility for the greater portion of the Gendia mission work fell on the writer. The two Luo missions form the bulk of our work in Kenya, with twenty-five churches having some 4,000 baptized members, and more than this figure in the Baptismal and Hearers' classes.

Had it not been for the help of Brother R. A. Carey, who has charge of our publishing work, in taking over the finances and many of the building problems, the task would have been too formidable.

Some of our African leaders showed themselves especially active and valuable during this time. Churches got together and collected materials for new church buildings. At one place they showed me 10,000 bricks which they had made and burned themselves. At another place

everything was ready for dedication. At Kanyadoto a large school building, seventy-four feet by twenty feet, in burnt brick is nearing completion.

The camps were better attended, the Africans built themselves better booths, more interest was manifested, larger offerings were given, and everything ended in a good spirit with 321 new members added to the Luo churches.

Tithes have increased by nearly Sh.900; some offerings also showed an improvement.

In the north Gulf section of the Gendia field two hundred Africans, chiefly members of another society, are taking their stand for the Sabbath. We are greatly cheered at this news, and we ask your prayers for these people that they may become strong and faithful members.

The year ended with a good Week of Prayer, and during that week we had packed churches.

At the Kendu Hospital

BY GEO. A. S. MADWICK, M.D., B.S. LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M. & H. ENG.

IT gives us joy to report a satisfactory year in 1939, and we must thank our heavenly Father for His continued blessing.

Last year we reported the completion of the new ward made available by reason of a grant of Sh.8,000 from the South Kavirondo Local Native Council. This year we report its occupation. We were compelled to open it for use before we intended, the reason being that the old wards were overflowing. Now all the wards are full. The present number of beds is seventy-eight (including eight reserved for maternity patients).

Patients enjoy the comfortable steel spring beds in clean, airy wards with pale green walls and white enamelled furniture. There is no difficulty these days to get patients into the wards. There was a time when natives used to avoid passing close to the hospital for fear of the mysterious ways of the European doctor and his assistants.

During the year we were able to make much-needed improvements. We built a new kitchen, various store rooms, shower baths, a permanent workshop and store. We did this construction work without calling for funds from either the Kenya Union or the N.E.D. A week or two ago we were complimented by one

of the older officers in the Kenya Medical Service on such a good kitchen.

We hope in 1940 to erect an administration block, with operating room, anæsthetizing room and sterilizing room, out-patient and consulting rooms, doctor's office, laboratory, staff room, and dispensing room. Already half the required number of bricks has been burnt on our compound.

When the war broke on us, Sister Carentze Olsen was in Europe on furlough and we wondered whether she would be able to return. However, God overruled and she is back again among us.

Stocks of medicines were short in the country, and their future supply uncertain. Prices of medical supplies increased. However, when laying in stocks at the end of 1938 we had kept the eventuality of a war in mind and so have ample supplies in our store. We were also able to get our usual yearly indent for medical supplies from Government. This is a great help, especially in these times. We were also able to make an early contract for the supply of Dagenan (M.&B. "693"), that great sheet anchor among specific drugs in the treatment of pneumonia, bronchitis, gonorrhœa, puerperal septi-

cæmia, cerebrospinal meningitis, gas gangrene, etc., etc., in spite of the requisition of all available stocks by Government. This drug has been a great blessing to us in treating various cases. Deaths were conspicuous by their absence. Many cases of pneumonia were treated in adults and babies with hardly a death. In connection with M.&B. "693" I would like to mention a rather unusual case. A little boy was brought into hospital. His skull had been punctured to a depth of nearly four inches by a steel wire, fixed to a spear handle and used by little boys for spearing snakes, rabbits, and birds. The little boy's companion had thrown this spear while hunting and the patient had accidentally stopped it with his skull. Someone had pulled the spear out from the boy's skull and the father had brought the child along to the hospital. We all know how dirty these weapons are and I expected an infection of the contents of the skull. However, I administered this M.&B. "693" in tablet form and in about a week the boy was discharged. He had not even developed a temperature.

During the year we had feared a much-reduced income on account of the failure of the rains, which caused reduced crop yields, and a very poor cotton crop. This latter is one of their cash crops. We were surprised when our books showed that we had received a good income after all. The income from Africans and Indians during 1939 amounted to Sh.21,294 compared with Sh.23,323 for 1938.

The following figures give a small idea of the work accomplished. We admitted 1,152 in-patients into the wards. There were about 27,000 attendances at the out-patient department and the two dispensaries. Two hundred operations (nearly all major) were performed, and 170 babies were born in the maternity ward.

It gives cause for satisfaction when we notice how much more readily the Africans listen to advice and instruction, and their keener appreciation of all that is done for them.

A good interest has been shown in the spiritual instruction given. Our chaplain conducts Bible classes with some of the patients and has frequent talks with others. During the brief stay in hospital by the great majority of the patients we hope that what they see and hear will lead them to seek eternal life. We expect to see many in the kingdom who first were led to Jesus through the influence of the hospital upon their lives.

This will be my last report for the

Kendu Hospital, as my wife and myself will be leaving in a few weeks' time for our furlough in South Africa, prior to going to Nigeria to open up a new hospital at Ife.

We have been in Kenya since March, 1921, and have seen many changes. We have seen the medical work grow from nothing to the large work carried on by our nice little hospital and its two dispensaries. We remember the time when the European workers lived in very poor temporary grass houses, through the walls of which hyenas poked their heads, and in which venomous snakes made their homes. The doctor in those days used to cycle, at a moment's notice, forty miles to see someone who had fallen sick and needed urgently some medical help. I remember when I had to bargain with the yaws and syphilis patients to submit to N.A.B. injections, and what the natives said when they saw me give the first anæsthetic, "He killed the man and brought him to life again." I remember when the frothing in the mouth of Eno's Fruit Salts and strong suggestion were the means of saving a man from death who believed himself dying from having been bewitched.

These days have passed and we

live in respectable houses. There are hardly any hyenas around. We use motor-cars instead of push cycles and porters. We have now to persuade patients against the desire on their part to have injections of N.A.B. for every ailment. Many now clamour to be operated upon, and even say they would rather die on the table than live as they are. Nudity has given place to clothing, and some of the ailments that go with European clothing. Schools have sprung up everywhere. Churches have followed. We now have an African Training School, and upon the products of this school we have great hopes of placing the burden of taking the Gospel to the Africans of Africa, a work that only Africans can accomplish. So the work expands as it should.

Dr. Lloyd G. Ermshar and his wife have arrived to take my place here. They are from our medical school in California, and fitting into the work very well indeed. We pray, as we say good-bye to Kenya, that God will richly bless the labours of these new workers at Kendu Hospital. We are glad to have a part in the closing message. We look forward to our new field of labour and pray that God will bless our work there as He has done in Kenya.

believers there had shown their faith by their works in cutting a track through the forest for four miles to enable the car to get there. How many tree stumps they dug out we did not count. But it meant real perspiring work for weeks without any remuneration other than the joy of getting the white Bwana to their place to stay and teach them.

At another school nearby we met grey-haired Job, an old man who had gained the victory where others failed. He is now building near the school and his wife is suitably clothed, another test to these Giriama. The womenfolk prefer to wear round their waist, as their only garment, nine yards of white cloth, about eighteen inches deep, with numberless pleats, which soon develop into a home for unmentionable livestock.

At another new interest, yet without a worker, we found them attempting to cut a four-mile road through the bush. They had already erected a place of worship and, in spite of the intense heat, kept fully awake to the instruction. Several women had changed their dresses. An hour's walk away a second interest was growing and a prayer-house nearing completion.

Fording the Sabaki river, which was in partial flood, our believers at Singwaya carried our loads for an hour to their village. The large school building had been burned down a few weeks before. Apparently some of the old men became annoyed at the school bell for classes and services—may have been a twinge of conscience. Under the influence of drink they decided to burn out the offender, and one of them made his way by night to light the roof. In his muddled condition he did not get the blaze going fast enough and there was time to retrieve the equipment inside. There is the nucleus of a good church here, ten having been baptized. It was encouraging to see a dozen families line up after the Sabbath service and show what the Gospel message had done for them.

Through misrepresentation of other societies Government had not been willing to give us school sites at the coast. But after the local official had paid a visit to this school, under a progressive teacher trained at Kamagambo, and had seen the way an excellent school garden had been cultivated, he changed his mind. Now we cannot find the men and the means fast enough to meet the permissions granted.

To reach the next interest we had to recross the river. It was now un-

New Interests on the Kenya Coast

BY S. G. MAXWELL

(The Coast Mission with headquarters at Changamwe, Mombasa, is the only work we have on the East Coast of Africa from Natal to Port Said.)

OWING to so many workers being home on leave last year it was impossible for me to make an extended visit to this field. The opportunity came early in 1940. W. C. S. Raitt met me at the railway station some twenty miles from Mombasa, and in a fully loaded car we made our way over rough and sandy roads to meet with some of our Giriama believers on the Sabbath.

This tribe is the largest of the several which make up the population of the Kenya coast region. Living for generations in close contact with Islam, victims of the former slave trade, enervated by the tropical climate and subject to the detrimental effects of bilharzia and other diseases, they do not present the most promising material for evangelization.

This was illustrated in the first interest visited. We arrived unannounced at Sabbath-school time. Only four were present. This place, Mwebwa, had started four years ago

with an apparently good following. A school was built but had to be moved to a new site owing to the opposition of another society. While the teacher was there folk attended school and services. The Sabbath presents little difficulty to the African in his native reserve. But plurality of wives, strong drink, and tobacco are his great stumbling-blocks. Only the grace of Christ can give him victory over these age-long habits. The school gives local prestige and is often sought for this reason. But the test is in the surrendered life, and that is where this interest failed. We returned the following day by appointment and found a good crowd who had come—to see the Europeans! We had to tell them that it was necessary to discontinue the school until definite fruitage appeared, but they were encouraged to come to the Sabbath meetings. This was just one of the disappointments which come in the mission field, but do not often appear in print.

But this story is about new interests. The afternoon of the first day was at a new school, Rârê. The

fordable and in full flood, carrying down banana trees and debris of all kinds. In a dugout canoe we essayed a crossing and just managed to grab the reeds on the other side to prevent being swept downstream. Scrambling to the bank through thick mud we anxiously watched the next three crossings as our goods came over.

At Pāziāni a school had been in operation a month. But in all these places the believers are tested first as to their willingness to erect a building and a house for the teacher. Across the river on a high bluff was another prayer house awaiting a worker. The river was now impassable, so we had to miss seeing these people.

We had visited only a section of this interesting field, and in one year six new interests had commenced and developed largely through their own efforts. The whole coast area has been largely neglected by missions through more pleasing prospects inland. But our faith is being rewarded as more and more calls continue to reach us from those seeing the light.

W. C. S. Raitt takes a keen per-

sonal interest in all his followers, recording their history from the time they are granted a Hearer's card. The book helps one to appreciate the steady plodding needed in this field. While to date 340 have at some time taken the initial stand, 106 progressed to the Baptismal class and fifty have so far been received into the church.

The mission at Changamwe presents a pleasing appearance to all up-country passengers on the trains, and many favourable comments have been overheard. A new church and a girls' cottage were the most recent additions. Mrs. Raitt takes a personal oversight of the first class of girls to come in for training. Some of these have been rescued from being married to old men. Their appreciation of the new life opening out before them is shown by their happy faces and enthusiastic response to all their duties.

One can truly say that the work on the Kenya coast is onward in spite of much opposition. One needs a strong courage to press on in the humid climate of the low-lying coastal belt, and we should not fail to remember Brother and Sister Raitt in our prayers.

Searching for Gold

BY KAREN NIELSEN

WHEN I started on this my fourth trip round the churches to treat the sick and teach the women, I wanted at the same time to do a bit of gold-mining among our Christian women.

All the country I was visiting is rich in gold, and mining is carried on on a large scale, so it was only natural that my thoughts should go to the finest gold.

At my first halt I went round one late afternoon searching for the precious metal. I found on my way back, next to my own hut, the very thing I was looking for. An old woman was working hard at her grindstone. The sun was sinking fast, food had to be got ready, but she had a little time for a friendly chat. So when she offered me a stool I sat down and began to ask questions. She had been a Christian for years and was now a widow. Her girls had not followed in their mother's footsteps but had married heathen men, much against their mother's wish. So the old mother had left her own village, where she had a comfortable hut and a good garden, so that she could be near her daughters to help them back to Christ. "I must save my daughters," she said, "whatever price I have to

pay." The light shining in her eyes told me she knew what it meant to have Jesus for a friend.

I came to one village late, and after I had settled in the hut provided for me I felt cold and disheartened. Something seemed to be wrong with the place, and I had small hope of finding gold. The second night I was awakened by voices outside my hut, and I found a crowd of men carrying a bed with a woman who was in trouble and needed immediate help. I attended to the woman and succeeded in giving her relief, but she needed warm shelter and something hot to drink. I looked round for help from the Christian women but none were there. While I was wondering what to do an elderly woman looked out of her hut; our distress must have appealed to her. Without a word she took the poor woman in, made a fire, cooked hot gruel for her, and nursed her as her own daughter for more than three days. The stranger was exhausted from the ordeal she had been through, but above all she was sick at heart because she had had the misfortune to bring twins into the world, to some African women a terrible disgrace. She is

regarded as a curse to her husband and brings bad luck to the fields and gardens—even her shadow is avoided. Abigail, through the grace of God, had overcome all such fear and was showing to this poor heathen woman a little of the love of Christ. May the good seed thus sown bear fruit.

Out of all the gold I found on this trip Hada shone the brightest. She has a remarkable personality. One always spots her bright face and eager eyes in the women's meetings. Always she asks questions and wants to learn. She visits women's gatherings in other places, and if there is any trouble she will not rest till she has seen the group rejoicing in restored peace and unity. She knows so marvellously how to straighten out the small knotty problems which come between the women now and then. Hada looks after her family well. Her husband respects her, and her old father and her brothers come to her for advice. I myself have found marvellous help in discussing different matters with her concerning the women.

Yes, the women are coming on one

Important Notices

ALL letters sent to the Division office MUST bear the sender's name and address on the outside of the envelope. This is required by the Censor, and applies especially where plain envelopes are used.

SINCE the outbreak of war the government has not permitted telegrams to be sent to telegraphic addresses within the British Isles, so that our telegraphic address, "Advent Edgware," cannot now be used. The following telegraphic address, however, can be used and will count as three words only:

= T F Edgware 0825 =
Robison, Edgware.

The two little parallel lines or equal signs before and after "T F Edgware 0825" must be inserted in this address. If the telegram is sent to any other individual, of course his surname would take the place of "Robison."

This telegraphic address is recognized in England and in all countries in the world, and if any telegraphic office should not be willing to accept it, it should be explained that it is acceptable in England and counts only as three words.

The Advent Survey

Organ of
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by one in spite of all there is to drag them the other way. When I live among them I often ask myself if we would manage better than our black sisters if we had as much hard work to do. When we make a meal how easy and ready everything is for us; our black sisters must fetch the corn from the granary, dry it, thresh and clean it, and then grind it into flour before they can sit down to do the cooking. They go miles to find

firewood to cook with, and other miles to fetch water, not to mention many other daily duties. The African woman works hard, and little time is spared her for improving herself.

I came back from my five weeks' travelling impressed that the work of the Refiner is going on, and when the Master returns He will find pure tried gold among our Christian native women in South Kavirondo.

time is spent on the practical work of the home, yet our educational standard is good, and many of the girls will be able to finish what is termed in Africa "Elementary education."

Kisii Girls' School

BY MARJORY LEWIS

THERE are thirty-six girls in training this year, more than we have had since the reopening of the school in 1937. This is the more encouraging as this year saw the introduction of school fees, a feature hitherto unknown for the girls' school. We believe that the Kisii parents are at last awakening to the necessity for girls' education. This has not been accomplished without hard labour by Pastor Lewis and his ordained evangelists who have striven to show our believers that a Christian parent who neglects the education and development of his daughter is sadly lacking in true Christianity himself.

Much is involved in training these girls and providing for their spiritual, mental, and physical growth. In spite of the fact that the majority are the children of Christian parents, few of them realize the great Gospel truths. Our primary aim is to send forth consecrated girls who will be soul winners.

The girls need much home training, too, for they are ignorant of the simplest rules of healthful living and hygiene. Much of the sickness and suffering is directly due to the people's ignorance. We are glad when girls come to us young, for they can be trained into clean, self-respecting women, untrammelled by the shackles of heathen ignorance and superstition, able to uplift their less fortunate sisters.

The women and girls of Africa can only be uplifted by the influence of others of their own sex. We can see the beginnings of such

a movement. Next year we hope that two of our girls will be ready to take a teachers' course. Such a venture will be new to the Kisii field.

The curriculum of the school bears on the aims mentioned. Studies do not crowd out the Word

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PLEASE do not overlook the announcement in the President's article that after this issue the ADVENT SURVEY will appear in alternate months. The remaining issues in 1940 will be dated August, October, December.

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of God, the Sabbath-school lesson, prayer meeting, worship, and time for meditation and prayer. Much



Four girls from the Kamagambo Girls' School, who passed their Elementary Teachers' Course.

Kamagambo Girls' School

BY K. M. JÖRGENSEN

THIS past year has been a very busy one in our girls' school, and the Lord has blessed us.

The school has been overcrowded, but the budget remained the same; nevertheless with careful consideration every day we have just managed to get through.

It has been a good school year. Many things have been made by the girls, as mats, baskets, dresses for themselves, and baby clothes. It is surprising to see the great interest these girls take in all kinds of needlework and domestic subjects, as cookery and child welfare, and we do hope that they will put it all into practice when they get a home of their own.

Our school year was marked by three great events: First, the Sabbath when we walked out to a little stream nearby and baptized three of the girls.

Next, the day when four of the biggest girls finished their Elementary Teachers' Course. It was the first time any of our girls sat, and some of them did very well.

The third took place when we sent our first girl in to sit for the Government Primary School Exam. in Kisii. This girl was the oldest daughter of one of our first ordained native ministers, and she had stayed in the girls' school for about three and a half years. She passed and got credits in several subjects.

These girls now go home to their villages to teach the children in our out-schools, and we hope that the example they set will open many parents' eyes to the fact that girls—not boys only—need a Christian education.