

Letters to the Editor

OUR BERLIN LETTER

DEAR BROTHER IN ISLAM!—Assalamo-Alaikum. We hope you received our previous letter of the 15th May 1934. Now we take the liberty of sending you a copy of the Jubilee number of our quarterly journal (*Moslemische Revue*) published from the Mosque. As mentioned before it is the "Revue" which has been the most important factor in bringing home the beauties of Islam to the German people and making them converts.

The "Revue" is in the German language and we don't know if you are versed in this language or not. To give you an idea as to the scope and the nature of the work being done by it, we give below some excerpts from the congratulations and the goodwishes received by us from some of our readers in Germany and abroad.

Prof. Mirza Hassan, lecturer of the Persian language at the University of Berlin, says:—

"If we were to judge with an unbiased mind we must admit that the *Moslemische Revue* is the only Magazine in the whole of Europe, which defends Islam, expounds its Holiness and spreads its true teachings The "Revue" could serve a good model for the whole of the Islamic press. Islam, as a matter of fact, does not stand in need of any missionary work; but on account of the European envy and fanaticism there is a dire need of an Islamic press, which should defend and make clear the Truths of Islam and its teachings *Moslemische Revue* is doing this work in a most splendid way."

Mrs. Saffiyah Heuser, a German lady who accepted the faith of Islam in 1931, says:—

"Every article of the "Revue" means a flame in the service of Truth. A flame which illuminates the hearts with its warm rays The "Revue" does not speak about transcendental things alone, but also, in the true spirit of Islam, about things and happenings of this world it is just like a fruitful oasis with palm trees, springing waters, attracting fruits, cool and refreshing shadows in the midst of a desert." Speaking about the circulation of the "Revue" she adds:—"It is desirable to circulate it in a much wider circle and thus create in the eyes of the Westerner quite another picture of Islam. The "Revue" depicts Islam in such a simple, plain and homely way that it is bound to exercise an influence upon every unbiased person.

Anton Hartmann, a non-Muslim from Dresden, writes:—

"The Review gave me many valuable suggestions for the various questions, out of the domain of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics."

Speaking of Islam, the learned writer says:— "If we consider the various existing Religions which stand for the good of humanity, we come to the conclusion that we can learn a lot at the school of Islam and thus come much nearer to God. Islam has a great significance for humanity; because it promulgates The One God, who is the origin and end of all beings. Islam proclaims the godly nature of human soul, expounds the solidarity of the whole of humanity....." He closes by saying "May the *Moslemische Revue* accomplish its beautiful mission in the words of the Holy Quran (Q. II 115)

لله المشرق والمغرب فاينما تولوا فثم وجه الله

Allah's is the East and the West, therefore whither you turn, thither is Allah's face. Then it will contribute much good to the German lands

Mrs Rosa Kranz, a non-Muslim lady from Berlin, writes:—

"Through the writings of Maulana Sadr-ud-Din and the regular study of the *Moslemische Revue* which I read for years together, I came to learn the essence of Islam and respect its founder—Muhammad. Today through the study of Islam I am convinced to believe that Islam teaches its followers to submit to everything good, noble and pure and to help the poor, weak and oppressed ones. The saying of the Holy Prophet: "Paradise lies at the feet of mother" made the greatest impression upon my mind. In no other Religion we find a better exposition for the mother. Through the *Moslemische Revue* I also began to admire and respect the Holy Prophet Muhammad and his life. In him I found a true model (اسوة حسنة) who spoke to his followers not only through his Holy Scripture, but also through his deeds and works and thus influenced their lives."

Mr. Werner Benndorf, a non-Muslim from Leipzig writes to say:—

"I came to know of the existence of *Moslemische Revue* first of all in a German library at Leipzig in 1928. At that time I was a school boy and had no idea about Islam. I hardly knew that Islam was still living. I began to read the "Revue" and was so much influenced by it, that I at once ordered all the previous numbers of the same present in the library. This was my first step towards the study of Islam. I did not venture to order the "Revue" as I was still a school boy. Later on I happened to be in Berlin and went to the Mosque at Fehrbellner Platz. Finally I subscribed the "Revue" and joined the "German Muslim Society". Several times I visited the Mosque, attended the lectures and took part in one of the festivals. I left the place always with a deep impression." Speaking of Islam, the writer adds: "I am extremely happy to be able to have created a sense of great respect and high regard for Islam among my friends. I believe that Islam is the only religion which can satisfy the present world and create peace therein." Finally he closes by saying:—"I must not forget to thank the

Muslims who have erected the Mosque in Berlin and started the "Revue" which I have read for years with great interest. It would be the greatest joy for me to be able to read the "Revue" for many years to come and then serve the cause of Islam which is deeply rooted within humanity.

Mrs. Huda J. Schneider, a convert to Islam, writes from Zurich (Switzerland):—

"I greet all the co-workers of the Magazine, known as well as unknown, in the whole of the world.....What the "Revue" to me, a Muslimah, means I would like to say: It is an explanation and a commentary of the Holy QuranIt has enriched my knowledge but above all my heart. In the gloomy hours of my life it was the "Revue" whose every word served as the hand of a helping friend. The "Revue" is to me a light and a pleasure; an elevation and a reminder. It is an excellent organ for the promulgation of the Universal religion of Islam. In 1930 an Egyptian Muslim presented me with a copy of the "Revue" and thus I came to know about the existence of the Mosque in Berlin."

Baron Omar Ehrenfels, an Austrian convert to Islam, writes to say:—

"It was through the agency of a copy of the *Moslemische Revue* in (Jugoslavia) that I came to know of the Berlin Mosque which finally proved a very important turning point in my life and brought me over to Islam."

Mr. Mohammad Ali Binni, President of the Orient Club in Vienna (Austria) in his letter of the 24th February 1934, wishing the Editor of the *Moslemische Revue* his best good-wishes on the occasion of the celebration of ten years, Jubilee says:— "Especially we in Vienna highly appreciate the beautiful cultural work accomplished by your review during the last ten years for the benefit of Islam. We wish from the very bottom of our heart that the Almighty God may bless your work with further success."

Maulvi Abdul Majid, M. A., B. T. Imam of the Mosque, Woking (London) and Maulana Muhammad Ali, President of the A. A. Isha't-i-Islam Lahore (India) too sent their best greetings and goodwishes. Some reached us after the publication of the Jubilee issue and so could not be printed.

From these lines you would be able to form an idea as to the value and the importance of our "Revue". For the last ten years, we have supplied practically every big library and most of the reading-rooms in Germany with a copy of our review free of charge. Beside this we are sending it to many a non-Muslim who is interested in the study of Islam, but can't afford to subscribe it. As a matter of fact, each and every copy of the review is acting as a soldier in the cause of Islam, so very near and dear to us all. May we request you to enlist yourself to this army for the defence and propagation of Islam. Annual subscription for the *Moslemische Revue* is only

Rs four. Europe is suffering from misunderstandings regarding the religion of Islam and the true picture of its founder, the Holy Prophet Muhammad (may the choicest blessings of God be upon him). To clear and remove these mis-conceptions ought to be the duty of every loyal son and daughter of Islam.

Berlin.

DR. S. M. ABDULLAH.
Imam of the Mosque.