

Letters to the Editor

OUR BERLIN LETTER

The German Muslim Unity

The month of September did not have a very busy programme. This being the last month of the summer holidays, no lectures were arranged for the same. The characteristic feature of this month's programme was, however, the election of the executive committee of the German Muslim Society. On account of the vacations the attendance was not very satisfactory. The meeting opened on Saturday, the 22nd September 1934 at 5 p. m., in the office rooms of the house adjacent to the Mosque. Mr. Khalid Seiler, one of the oldest—perhaps the oldest—German convert to Islam was in the chair.

Mr. M. H. Ismail, B. Sc. (London), an Indian student at the Technical University of Berlin, proposed a vote of confidence in favour of the old executive. Mr. F. D. Ghauri, however, opposed this proposition and suggested an entirely new election. After a short discussion the following committee of seven persons was elected :

Dr Hamid Marcus, Ph. D., President (Elected unanimously)

Dr. S. M. Abdullah, Ph. D. General Secretary (Ex-officio).

Mr Faruq H. Fischer, Assist. Secretary.

Mr. Omar W. A. Schubert, Treasurer.

Mr. Hikmat F. Beyer, Member.

Mr. Khalid A. Seiler, Member.

Mr. M. H. Ismail, B. Sc., Member.

Mr. Ismail, withdrew his name as he would be leaving Berlin very shortly: and so Mr. Amin Boosfeld was elected to occupy the seat vacated by Mr. Ismail.

After the election the following resolutions were adopted:—

1. Dr. Abdullah proposed: As the membership of the German Muslim Society was still not very satisfactory, so each member ought to feel himself duty-bound to secure at least one more member for the Society each year. The proposition was adopted unanimously.

2. Mr. Aziz Mirza (M. Sc., Alig.) proposed: The library of the Mosque being very poor each member should try to strengthen it by presenting either useful books or some cash amount for the purchase of books. Carried unanimously.

3. Mr. F. D. Ghauri proposed to devote the first page of the Moslemische Revue for the activities of the Society. Furthermore, he suggested that an effective canvassing leaflet be prepared and distributed after the lecture for securing more members for the Society. The proposition was unanimously accepted.

Mrs. Oettinger proposed to have some lectures with lantern slides. The proposal was accepted with a slight modification, that is, so far as the slides were not very expensive and the lecture remained within the aim and the object of the Society.

With a few more proposals and a congratulatory telegram to the family of Mr. Hikmat Bey at the occasion of the birth of a son the official part of the meeting came to a close.

During the summer months of the year two courses, of three months each, were held by Dr. S. M. Abdullah, Imam of the Mosque for the benefit of those interested in the Islamic prayer. About twenty persons availed themselves of this opportunity. The second course for teaching the Arabic text and its meaning to the Germans ended on Tuesday the 25th of September. It is planned to hold a special course for the Muslim children during the coming winter months, *Inshallah*.

Another characteristic feature of this month's programme was a gathering of the members of the German Muslim Society and their friends to a Tea-evening. Besides the members of the Society some guests of honour were also present.

In summer Berlin, the capital of Germany, exhibits a variegated view to the eye. One meets people of various nationalities and denominations during these months. Tourists from amongst the Muslim countries usually pay a visit to the Mosque at Berlin—the only mosque in the whole of Germany, nay, the whole of central Europe. Among the notables who visited the mosque may be mentioned the names of personalities like Lady Ragheb Nashashibi, the wife of Lord Mayor of Jerusalem, her cousin Ali Mustakim from Palestine; Sheikh Muhammad Hilmi Tammarah, Muslim Judge from Cairo (Egypt); Sh. Asghar Ali, I. C. S. (Retired) along with his son; Prince Al Hadjie Amir Hasan-ud-din Pangeran, s/o Sultan Muhammad Sulaiman from Koetei.

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