

Letters to the Editor

OUR BERLIN LETTER

(From Our Own Correspondent)

On Friday the 10th of June at 8 P.M. the German Muslim Society of Berlin arranged a very successful and interesting lecture in the big hall of the Berlin Mosque. The speaker of the evening was Baron Montagnac of Paris. Baron is an Hungarian and is a distinguished member of the Royal Academic Archaeological Society of Spain. He has travelled far and wide in the various Muslim countries of the middle East. He was not new to the Mosque as we had the honour of hearing him before as well. This time he spoke about his impressions and experiences of the land and people of Morocco. Within a short space of about 45 minutes he dealt with the various aspects, such as religious, economic, social, etc., of the subject. His discourse was full of information and covered a very wide field of his observation. The meeting, which was opened with a recitation of the Holy Quran by the Imam of the Mosque, came to a close at about 11 P.M. The guests were entertained to Tea and light Refreshments.

On Friday, the 24th of June, the German Muslim Society arranged for a discussion in the evening. The number of those who responded to the invitation of the society was beyond our expectation. The subject under discussion was: "Transmigration of Soul and the life after Death." Opening speech was delivered by Dr. Kindermann. The learned Doctor traced out the historical development of the idea of transmigration of soul in the various countries of the world—such as India, Egypt, Greece, etc. He remarked that this problem is a very old one and has been an article of faith with some religions and people of the East. Still it is not in a position to solve adequately the various points and difficulties connected with this all-important problem. Dr. Abdullah's contribution to the subject was from the Islamic point of view. He remarked that a belief in the transmigration of soul can be of any service to the soul, only when the soul is conscious of her past deeds and doings. She should be aware of all her sins of omission and commission for which she is being tortured in her present life, so that she may avoid them in future and thus obtain salvation. But such is not the case. Islam, however, does not believe in such a transmigration, but it holds a strong belief in the life after death, which is only a continuation of our present life on this planet. The soul is also conscious of her deeds and doings, and there is no retrogression but a continuous progression in "Akhirat". Quran is explicit upon this point:

"Whenever they shall be given a portion of the fruit thereof, they shall say: This is what was given to us before."

Because of the continuity of the life here in the life hereafter a Muslim is never afraid of death. This is testified to by the innumerable examples of the Muslim warriors of the various ages and the world has recently been reminded of it by the last words of Allama Iqbal.

Our thanks are due to the following gentlemen who took part in the discussion: Dr. Kindermann, Dr. Devriant, Dr. Abdullah, Dr. Hamid Marcus, Mr. Emran Husain and various others.

Friends will be glad to learn that a new Arabic class has been added to the one already existing. It starts on the 5th of July. Instructions are imparted free of charge.

FATHER OF MUSLIM RENAISSANCE

Assalamu Alaikum!

SIR,—Your paper the *Light* of the 24th June, 1938, is received here to-day. As soon as I opened it, I saw on its 1st page "Maulana Muhammad Ali's Health"—"Fervent Prayers Needed" written in bold letters; I am very much perturbed. The Maulana's is a noble life—a life of deep devotion to the sacred cause of Islam, a life which has caused a great revolution not only in minds of the Muslims of the world, but also among many of the opponents and enemies of Islam, a life which has brought about a great revolution in the Religious thought. The Maulana, I can say without any fear of contradiction, is the father of the Muslim Renaissance in the present world. His immortal works "The English Translation of the Holy Quran", "The Religion of Islam" and His books on Hadith are great assets to Islam. His services for the propagation of the Faith in a most vehement manner at a time when the whole Muslim world was sound asleep, his great services rendered for presenting to the world the real religion of Islam in its true colours in a most touching manner, at a time when the Religion of Islam was subjected to many attacks from outside the Muslim world, are real passports to our hearts. And I for one open it before the threshold of God the Almighty and fervently pray from the bottom of my heart to spare such a noble life for the sake of Islam. I shall be repeating the following couplets:—

تم سلامت رهو هزار برس هر برس لهن دن پچاس هزار

Madhugere,

Yours sincerely,

Mysore.

K. A. WALI SHERIFF.