

Musalman to convert the whole of that wilderness into a garden.

Like the twice-blessed quality of mercy propagation of the great ideals of Islam should recoil on our own selves. It would raise us in the estimation of the world. It would knit the world of Islam in closer contact and greater sympathies with the rest of the world. With the rise of our faith and culture, in world estimation is bound to come our own rise in the comity of nations. But, alas, a Subas has a greater insight into this Quranic truth than a Husain Ahmad!

## Letters to the Editor

### PD-UL-ADHA IN BERLIN

SIR,—On 11th February 1938, the Berlin Muslims celebrated P'd-ul-Adha in the Berlin mosque. Besides German Muslims, people from other countries—Arabia, Turkey, Syria, Jugoslavia, India offered their prayers in the mosque. For the Muslim women there was separate arrangement in the mosque. Prof. Nazir-ul-Islam, M.A., lead the P'd prayers and delivered a detailed *Khutba* on the significance and origin of P'd-ul-Adha. He traced the origin of this great festival and explained its importance for Muslims. Without great sacrifice, said he, a real honourable life is impossible. Islam requires from us a great sacrifice—a total submission of our will to God. After the *Khutba* the Muslims wished one another P'd Mubarak and embraced each other.

There were four representatives of various German newspapers, who wrote detailed articles on P'd-ul-Adha and published the photos of the mosque.

On the same evening at 8 p.m. the German Muslim Society held a meeting in the Berlin Mosque. Mr. Khalid Seiler the President of the D. M. G., was in the chair. The meeting was opened with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Prof. Nazir-ul-Islam. The lecturer of this evening was Geheim Regierungsrat, Universtitat Prof., Dr. R. Grützmacher. Prof. Grützmacher requires no introduction. He is a known personality in all circles. He is the private adviser of the government. The subject of his lecture was "The world religions and their influence on family, nation, and state, with special reference to Islam."

The learned Professor in the course of one hour gave the audience the outlines of all the great religions of the world and expressed his thorough and impartial remarks on the various aspects of these religions. His lecture was highly appreciated by one and all. After his lecture the Muslim children recited from the Holy Quran and sang a Na'at. At the end Mr. Rishad al-Kuzbari, a Syrian Arab, delivered a lecture in Arabic which was translated

into German. After the meeting was over, the guests were entertained with tea.

Berlin.

A CORRESPONDENT.

### WELLS ON CHRISTIANITY

*A Short History of the World* is a book by H. G. Wells published by Penguin Books, Ltd., London. The edition of June 1937 is with me. The passages quoted below from the book will be read with interest by the seekers after truth.

"A great temple, the Serapeum, was set up (at Alexandria) by Ptolemy I at which a sort of trinity of gods was worshipped. These were Serapis (who was Osiris-Apis rechristened), Isis and Horus.... This worship spread wherever the Hellenic influence extended, even into north India and western China". Page 145. Probably this trinity crept in Hindu religion in India in the name of *Brahma*—the Creator; *Vishna*—the Preserver, and *Shiva*—the Destroyer.

On pages 152 and 153 the learned author writes—"In the four gospels we find the personality and teachings of Jesus but very little of the dogmas of the Christian church. It is in the epistles, a series of writings by the immediate followers of Jesus that the broad lines of Christian belief are laid down. Chief among the makers of Christian doctrine was St. Paul. He had never seen Jesus nor heard him preach.... He was suddenly converted to Christianity.... He was well versed in Judaism and in the Mithraism and Alexandrian religion of the day. He carried over many of their ideas and terms of expression into Christianity... St. Paul familiarised his disciples with the idea that Jesus, like Osiris, was a god to rise again and give men immortality. And presently the spreading Christian community was greatly torn by the complicated theological disputes about the relationship of this god Jesus to God the Father of Mankind. The Arians taught that Jesus was divine; but distinct from and inferior to the Father. The Sabellians taught that Jesus was merely an aspect of the Father, and that God was Jesus and Father at the same time just as a man may be a father and an artificer at the same time; and the Trinitarians taught a more subtle doctrine that God was both one and three, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For a time it seemed that Arianism would prevail over its rivals, and then after disputes, violence, and wars, the Trinitarian formula became the accepted formula of all Christendom."

About the life of Jesus, the author writes on page 147—"He appeared in Judea in the reign of Tiberius Cæsar. He was a prophet. He preached after the fashion of the preceding Jewish prophets. He was a man of about thirty, and we are in the profoundest ignorance of his manner of life before his preaching began."

CUTTACK

SH. GHULAM GHAUS.