

THE BERLIN MOSQUE

AN APPEAL

DEAR BROTHER IN ISLAM,—*Assalamu Alaikum!* The name of the Berlin Mosque and the Muslim Mission attached to it is too well-known to you to need any formal introduction. The Mosque was built in the year 1924 at a cost of about Rs. 1,50,000. The current expenses for the maintenance of the institution run up to about Rs. 1,000 p.m. The main object of the Mission is, not so much to proselytize as to contradict the mis-statements of the Christian propaganda about Islam in the West, and to save this religion from misrepresentations and sheer injustice.

With your permission we beg to enumerate the methods adopted for the achievement of the above purpose :

(1) Fortnightly lectures on different topics are delivered regularly. These lectures are delivered not only by the Imam himself but also by German converts to Islam and other non-Muslim distinguished personalities.

(2) Arabic classes are held for the instruction of the new converts in prayers and for imparting elementary knowledge of the Arabic language. Religious instructions are imparted to the Muslim children residing at Berlin.

(3) The Imam furnishes replies to the enquiries from persons residing in Germany and abroad where German language is spoken or understood. He furthermore gives interviews to persons interested in the study of Islam, and provides opportunities of face to face conversation.

(4) The journal (*Moslemische Revue*) published in the German language is distributed free of charge to persons interested in Islam and is sent practically to all the big libraries of Germany and German speaking countries. The *Revue* has been the most important factor on bringing home to the mind of the German people the beauties of Islam and making them converts. Now it has completed its 14th year of life.

(5) Some booklets and pamphlets have already been published in the German language and more are likely to appear in the near future. Most recent and commendable achievement of the Mission is the German translation of the Holy Quran by Maulana Sadr-ud-Din, which is in the press and expected to be out before the end of the year. This is the first German translation with Arabic text and commentary from a Muslim pen.

(6) In the year 1930 the German Muslim Society (Die Deutsch-Muslimische Gesellschaft, e. v.) was founded and has been registered in

the courts of the German Government at Berlin. There are many persons of name and fame amongst her members. The Eid festivals, Milad-un-Nabi and all other similar functions are arranged and celebrated under the auspices of the Society.

(7) In order to enhance the social and cultural relations of the Germans with the oriental, social gatherings have been started by the members of the German Muslim Society. Besides this regular discussion-evenings are arranged, where opportunities are afforded for Muslims and their friends to enter into free but healthy and congenial discussions on various religious subjects.

(8) Adequate arrangements are made for the performance of religious duties such as prayers, fasting, marriage ceremonies, funeral prayers and the like.

(9) Liberal-minded societies are induced to have their meetings addressed by the Imam of the Mosque.

This is the present situation of the work. They say, Rome was not built in a day. So religions are not spread in a day and especially in such materialistic times as ours. Fourteen years' strenuous efforts of the Berlin Muslim Mission have not been without their effects. The success is remarkable, but it is not to be taken in terms of numbers of actual converts (though about 150 souls have openly joined the fold of Islam), but in the amount of interest that has been created in Islam and the trend of thinking about Islam which has changed from hostile, prejudiced and bigoted into a dispassionate and admiring one. The Mission, as a matter of fact, does not aim so much at conversion as at telling people the truth about Islam.

Our earnest desire is not only to strengthen the present work but also to enhance our activities. We beg to approach your goodself with the humble request of lending us your helping hand in the task we have set before us. Your generosity, help and goodwill will take us to our goal—*Insha Allah*.

AL-HAJ DR. S. M. ABDULLAH,

Imam of the Mosque,

Berlin.

N. B.—All remittances in India may kindly be sent to the following address :—

The Financial Secretary, The Ahmadiyya Anjuman Ishaat-i-Islam, Ahmadiyya Buildings, Lahore.