

The increase in the sale of the Scriptures indicates a growing interest in the Gospel. Medical work plays a very important part in the work of evangelization. People flock to the mission hospitals in large numbers, but often their eagerness for spiritual instruction is greater than for medical aid. Belief in Christ as the only Savior is spreading even among the Moslems, tho often secretly.

The condition of women, as in other Moslem lands, is pitiable in the extreme. There is no home life. Polygamy has destroyed the Persian morality, if there ever was any, and the children grow up accustomed to the language and scenes of a brothel.

It is still too early to predict the effect upon the mission work of the coming of the new Shah to the throne. He is said to be less enlightened, but more indifferent than his predecessor.

ARABIAN MISSIONS.

The work in "the neglected peninsula" consists chiefly in medical treatment at the mission stations, and in the sale of the Arabic Scriptures to Jews and Moslems by native helpers. An interesting example of the way in which the Lord turns apparent misfortune into blessing is seen in a recent riot in Muscat. In a fight between two Arab chiefs the mission premises were looted and a large supply of Bibles were stolen. These were put up at auction and sold as foreign books to one of the Arabs. He, in order not to lose money on his purchase, sent his slaves all over the district, and they sold the copies of the Scriptures to hundreds of Moslems who could otherwise never have been reached directly by the missionaries. The work is progressing in the face of many difficulties, climatic, financial, and Satanic.

THE GOSPEL IN RUSSIA.

The land of the Tsars is almost as much a closed land to the Gospel as are Tibet and Afghanistan. No stone is left unturned to bring every inhabitant

into the Greek Church, and no persecution is too severe for those who become apostate. Active proselyting is carried on in the Baltic provinces and elsewhere, and between bribes and threats many of the people have joined the Russian Church. Proselyting for Protestants is not forbidden among Jews and others who are not adherents of the Greek faith, but converts are often sorely persecuted, as has been so abundantly seen in the case of the Stundists. The Baptists in Russia also continue to suffer deep persecution, to which has now been added the confiscation of all religious literature. In spite of the great difficulties under which they labor the work goes on, and they now report a membership of more than 17,000, with 90 ministers, and the baptisms last year were more than 1200.

The religion of the great majority of the European inhabitants of Russia is, of course, the Orthodox or Greek Church. The absence of a celibate clergy gives it an advantage over the Romish Church, and, until now, little, if any, obstacle has been placed in the way of the free circulation of the Holy Scriptures. The monks and the higher clergy are, however, forbidden to marry, and any advantage which the Greek Church possesses over its great rival in the matter of doctrine is almost outweighed by the superstition and idolatry which press alike on priest and people. Strong pressure is now being brought to bear to drive outsiders into the bosom of the Orthodox Church, but secession is making far greater progress than forced conversions. God is, indeed, working mightily in Russia among Jews and Gentiles, in the midst of so much sin and wrong. In the case of the Jewish population the old prejudice is found to be slowly but surely giving way before the spirit of inquiry, and the seed sown in the past is beginning to bear fruit. The outlook for Christian missions is more than hopeful, and, altho theoretically absolutely forbidden by the government, up to the present time there has been little difficulty in carry-