

nation of highly civilized barbarians, ruled by a benignant despot. The long struggle that took place between the late king and an arrogant priest-hood lasted for many years, and the Shah succeeded in shaking himself free of the mollahs, and in reducing their claims upon the public purse. Persia is no longer a priest-ridden country.

In "Persian Life and Customs," published last year, Rev. S. G. Wilson wrote concerning the crown prince, since become Shah: "The Vali Ahd or crown prince is Muzzaffir-e-Din, the eldest son of the Shah by a royal mother. He has never been tried by the great responsibilities of government, so that his capacity is largely unknown. One marked characteristic of the prince is his religious disposition. He is devout in his fulfilment of religious rites, and a total abstainer from intoxicants. He has a humane and sympathetic nature, and is a friend of education, taking a great interest in the government school at Tabriz, having European tutors for his sons and encouraging his interpreters to translate standard works into Persian. He is much interested in telegraphy, photography, and like practical arts.

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN MISSION IN PERSIA.

Twenty-five years ago the whole mission was centred in the single station of Oroomiah, with a little band of five missionaries, one of whom was a physician. At present there are six principal stations, four of which are large and important cities. There are sixteen ordained missionaries, five missionary physicians, and one lay worker. The entire missionary staff at the present time, including ladies, is 63. The native preachers, from 53 have increased to 121. From 746 church members the roll has increased to 2,823, while the total additions to the Church during the quarter of a century number in all more than 3,000. Educational work has expanded from two boarding-schools to nine thoroughly equipped institutions, with an aggregate of 450 pupils in their various departments, including academic, theological, and medical lines of instruction. The total of pupils in all schools has increased from 865 to 3502. The medical arm of the mission has assumed a position of great influence and usefulness, with three established hospitals located at Oroomiah, Tabriz, and Teheran, and five large dispensaries, one of which will soon be another hospital at Hamadan. Christian forces are rallying, and the spiritual leaven is working.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND MISSION IN PERSIA.

The report of the Persia and Bagdad Mission of the Church Missionary Society shows cause for thankfulness that, amid the disheartening influences of the past year, they have been able to carry on their work with