

five per cent. of the Mohammedans of that country are illiterate! Arabia, so long typical of the stagnation of Islam and of a dead orthodoxy, a country at the very antipodes of progress, is also awakening. Mission work has been established, and has not only gained a foothold, but is marching on inland. The Sultan is building a railroad from Damascus to Mecca, and in 1912 the Baldwin locomotive will screech beside the Kaaba, and perhaps the last door of the Moslem world will be opened.

**Mohammedan
Conference at
Mecca**

It seems that, unknown to the Christian world, conferences of Mohammedans have been held to discuss the decay of Islam. The first of these conferences was held in 1899 at Mecca. A little book recently published, and already in its second edition, contains the minutes of this meeting. Twenty-three leading Moslems from every nation under heaven met for this conference, and for two solid weeks discussed the reasons for the decline of their religion and the means by which the tendency could be checked and new life imparted to the faith. The doctors disagreed as to the remedy, but they unitedly declared that there were no less than fifty-eight reasons for the dangerous condition of the patient. Some of the reasons given were: the doctrine of fatalism, ascetic practices, the opposition of science, the rejec-