

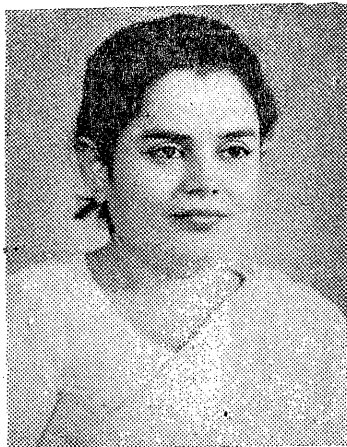
Introducing

Sultana Khaleelullah

AS soon as the new machinery is installed and German technicians start working for Sultana Khaleelullah's enterprise, Al-Azmat Ltd., we will be able to buy Swiss lace material, very reasonably priced as compared to foreign laces available in Karachi. Instead of the usual Rs. 50 a yard we may get it at Rs. 20 a yard.

Sultana's new factory will have four Swiss lace machines which would make it the largest lace factory in Pakistan. Sultana visited Japan on a five-month tour studying their lace market and, having seen some of the most beautiful lace in the world, she eagerly awaits the time when she can start manufacturing lace herself.

For a year Sultana Khaleelullah studied Textile Designing in France on a Government scholarship. Recently, when she visited Germany to buy machinery, she had a hard time convincing the people there that she was not just a young wo-



man day-dreaming of manufacturing lace but a capable business woman, though the only woman in this profession.

At present she already has one factory in SITE the Al-Azmat industries. The factory has fifty silk looms and about as many men and women labourers, the Industrial Home, Al-Azmat Cottage Industries, has about 50 women workers.

Sultana gave me the impression of being an outspoken young woman, who does not evade issues and looks facts in the face; she seems to be in the habit of tackling her problems most practically. The people who think that they may get the better of a member of the opposite sex get a surprise when she stands up for her rights and they find she is well informed of the details and techniques of the business world in general.

With a cool clear head aided by tact and diplomacy she supervises the 70 or more men and women who work for her and keeps them contentedly engrossed in their job. She uses her own firm way to tackle

problems of dishonesty, which is the common weakness of labourers. She is generous in coming to their aid when anyone of them is faced with personal tragedy or need medical aid.

With Sultana's business puissance handling and her mother Begum Khaleelullah's sound planning, Al-Azmat Cottage Industries have come a long way from the time in 1952 when her mother and she started making hosiery articles and knitted at home, and silk blouse pieces and scarves on a single silk handloom in the tin shed in the compound of their house.

MRS. HABIB.

Introducing

Mohtarima Farida Ahmad

AS the ladies listened in awe-filled silence, the sweet young voice recounted, with zeal and ardour how our Prophet Mohammad (May peace be on him!) gave Muslim women their status and lawful rights, and by comparison and contrast brought us to the present times, when the respect and status is more in name than deed.

Nobody knew when the hour and a half ticked by as Farida, better known as Mohtarima Farida Aleem Siddiqui, quoted Arabic sayings from the Quran and, explaining them, recited naaths and darud. As she finished, instead of the usual chatter that follows a vaz there was a hushed silence and one and all seemed to want to leave for their homes to contemplate on the vaz as their religious principles and moral codes seemed to have been stirred from the depths of their hearts, where they had lain buried under multifarious household and social duties, and seemed to need immediate attention.

This was not the only gathering to have been moved by Farida's vaz but every audience has been similarly affected. Her vaz attracts a mammoth crowd of

women regularly at Arambag, Jinnah Masjid, Lalukhet, Alamgir road, etc. In her first vaz, which she made as an M. A. student, at her friends' suggestion, she hesitantly addressed the gathering, in all humility.

To her surprise she found many of the women in tears. Farida said: "My vaz imparted more of sentiment than factual knowledge". But the daughter of the first Muslim missionary (described as the Roving Ambassador of Peace)—the eminent Shah Muhammad Abdul Aleem Siddique Al-Madani, nurtured in the highly rich atmosphere of religious beliefs and feeling, found complete happiness in knowing that she could make the vital contact with her audience.

When I learnt of her daily selfless duties in the cause of religion, I could understand how hard it must be to use the time and energy for speaking in small private gatherings of 75 to 100 people when she could utilise the same amount of time to speak in a public gathering where about three to four hundred women come from near and far. She said 'I always suggest that they bring their friends and relatives to any of the places where I speak regularly'. She also said that it was against her principles to accept any money in return for her Tablig.

'But if anyone offers a donation for the mission, however small I accept it and give a receipt immediately' she said.

The Mission she mentioned was the Womens Islamic Mission of which she is the Founder President. The aim of the Mission is to serve humanity through exposition, propagation and implementation of the teachings and ideals of Islam.

She hoped the Mission would have an auditorium which would accommodate 5,000 women for the meetings.

Begum Farida holds a full time job at the Inspectorate of Education as an assistant District Inspector, Urdu Girls School. This takes care of her day from nine to four, and the rest of the time is spent in the activities of the Mission and at the preaching centres.

I inquired about her Doctor's degree and was told it was in Homoeopathy. Doctor Farida was intending to study medicine but on her father's advice studied Arabic Literature and Theology instead. Mohtarima Farida has come a long way since the time when as a little girl, she recited poems in a loud clear voice, which carried through the rows of benches during the Muslim League movement for the struggle of Pakistan.

Mohtarima Farida is ardently following the trail blazed by her eminent father.

MRS. HABIB.