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AN INTRODUCTORY SURVEY

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THE Moslem world is not a haphazard expression invented by missionaries to represent a portion of the great world problem of evangelization, but is a literalism which sums up an actual situation. Six years before the Cairo Conference the first number of the *Revue du Monde Musulman* was published in Paris, and for ten years this monthly magazine has, from a purely scientific standpoint, tried to survey the extent of Islam, its condition, and developments in those lands where it holds sway, and which as a world by itself scientifically requires unity of treatment.

Nor is the Moslem world merely a geographical expression for the vast areas covered by Moslem conquest or conversion. The term is of much deeper significance. As Dr. C. H. Becker pointed out in his article in the first number of *Der Islam*, the word Islam itself stands for a unity of religious conception, a unity of political theory and of ideals of civilization, as well as of religion, which together form the problem of Islam. Therefore the essential and philosophical unity of the problem, in lands which constitute the Moslem world, has been recognized by all those who have made a study of the subject.

It is possible, for this reason, to give a general survey of *the Moslem world as a unit*, and there are three reasons why this survey should be given at the opening of the Conference which succeeds that held at Cairo five years ago. The Cairo Conference marked a great step in advance towards the evangelization of the Mohammedan