

all time. Hence the name the Trucial Coast of Oman.

I believe the coast has the hottest climate in the world; but that may be open to dispute. But I have known the night temperature there to be 110 degrees with humidity approaching 100 per cent. In July, August, and September the temperature probably averages about 100 degrees with humidity about 90 per cent. We worked only from 5 to 10 in the morning. The sea was literally too hot to bathe in after midday, and clothes, if left locked up, mildewed inside three days.

The main industry in the Persian Gulf is pearling, and since the disappearance from the market of the Japanese cultured pearl the value of real pearls has increased. I was once offered a selection of pearls which were brought in to me wrapped up in a turban. There must have been several hundreds in the bundle, which the merchant priced at 70,000 rupees (about £7,000 or £8,000). After the pearling season is finished the pearls are generally exported to India, where the rajahs and maharajahs pay extremely good prices for them.

Purdah is still the order of the day, and I did not see a girl above the age of seven or eight not wearing this peculiar and barbarous form of headgear. Natives of the coast favour a black metal strip over the nose extending to slightly above the eyes with eye-slits. By Mohammedan law—and 99 per cent. of the Arabs on the coast are of Mohammedan extraction—the Arab is allowed up to four wives at one time, and he treats his women with great respect. For a stranger or even his best friend to see any of his wives unveiled would be as bad as having raped them. Having acquired certain Western modes and fashions and wishing to abolish the veil, the Shah of Persia some years ago issued an edict that all women wearing the veil were to be regarded as prostitutes. The edict was received with much favour by the younger generation, but it was ultimately repealed because of the vigorous disapproval of the older people. The girls are often married very shortly after birth, and on one occasion I was invited to the wedding breakfast of a newly married couple, though throughout the whole evening no women were in

sight. A wife costs, on an average, roughly £15, but the price depends to some extent on her beauty, position, and ability.

Visiting a well-to-do Arab is at first a difficult procedure, for there are many pitfalls for the unwary. For instance, business can never be tackled in the straightforward manner to which we are accustomed. You must always inquire after the host's health at least four times in varied phraseology. Trivial conversation must be indulged in for at least fifteen minutes. After a reasonable time the host proffers sweetmeats and coffee. You must accept no more nor any fewer than three cups of coffee. If you take less than three, the coffee is of inferior quality, and if you take more you are being greedy. After the coffee, business can be tactfully approached. You must be careful never to force an Arab to lose face, for if you do so you have not only lost a possible friend but made an enemy. On entering an Arab's house it is customary to take one's shoes off, but the educated Arab will not be offended if this is not carried out.

A follower of Sheik Sayed of Dubai had the misfortune to lose an eye in some bazaar brawl and was sent to Bahrein at the sheik's expense to be fitted with a

