## **HARRISON, Ethel Gray**

Ethel Gray Harrison was born in 1878, in the district of St. George, the daughter of George R. & Sophia M. Harrison.**1**

By 1894 the family were living at Beecroft. In May of that year Ethel was accepted as a candidate for training by the Church Missionary Association in Sydney. For a considerable time, she was superintendent of the Sunday School at St. John's, Church of England, Beecroft. She had made many friends, as well as becoming a great favourite among her pupils.**2**

In November 1898 a well-attended meeting was held in the Church of England, Rookwood, when Miss Harrison, a lady missionary who was about to proceed to Gaza, Palestine, delivered an address. It was ten years since she first offered herself for missionary work, and it was five years since she offered herself to the Christian Endeavour Society as a worker in the mission field.**3**

By 1910 Ethel had returned to Australia, being a guest at Miss Dorothy Vernon Whittell’s wedding in Beecroft.**4**

By May 1925 Ethel Harrison, of the British Syrian Mission, was welcomed to a meeting held at the Gospel Union Hall, Commonwealth-street, under the auspices of the All Nations' Missionary Union of New South Wales. Miss Harrison showed the region of her work on a map, and spoke of Syria. The British Syrian Mission field lies within the province of Syria proper, which is the northern portion of the Holy Land. The mission has Its principal stations In Beyrout, Damascus, Baalbek, and Lebanon. Schools are established in all these places.

She stated that the work is interdenominational, having as the president of the committee Lord Radstock. The work was considerably hindered in consequence of the war. The field occupied lies in the province of Syria proper, the northern portion of the Holy Land, and the mission has its principal stations at Beyrout and Damascus, with outposts in the ranges of Lebanon, and extends northwards to towards Baalbee, and southward to Hasbeya on Mount Hermon, its extreme limit being at Tyre.

There are training colleges for men and women, and also industrial schools for blind men and girls. Miss Harrison had been working for the mission since 1901.

The mission was founded by Mrs. Boyd Thompson in 1860, and was carried on until the years of war, when many people had to leave the country. The mission work has now been resumed, but funds and workers are urgently needed. Miss Harrison spoke chiefly of her work with the Moslem population in the towns, and also of converts, many of whom are trained as teachers. She hoped that a centre of the Syrian Mission would be established in Sydney shortly, she said.**5**

Ethel Gray Harrison died on 21st May 1928 at her residence, Darlinghurst.**6**

**Bibliography**

1 NSW Births Deaths & Marriages

2 Sydney Morning Herald, Sat 5 May 1894; Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 8 Sep 1894; Cumberland Mercury, Sat 15 Sep 1894

3 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 26 Nov 1898

4 Cumberland Argus and Fruitgrowers Advocate, Sat 7 May 1910

5 Sydney Morning Herald, Tue 5 May 1925; Methodist, Sat 23 May 1925

6 Sydney Morning Herald, Wed 26 May 1948