



P. OTTONE HUBER

Ottone Huber was born on November 18, 1871 at Rulzheim (Germany, Diocesis of Spira). He entered the Institute at Verona on December, 15 1888. He made his Profession on December 24, 1890, completed his studies in Verona, and there he was ordained priest on April 28, 1895. He left for Egypt the same year in May.

He was first at Cairo and Gesira, and later at Assuan, where under able teachers he achieved that complete knowledge of Arabic which was very useful to him for ministry for many years. He kept this knowledge to the very end of his life, as we remember his occasional speeches in Arabic.

In 1900, he went to Sudan, and except for a short period in Lul, he always stayed at Khartoum and Omdurman. He returned to Italy for a few months in 1903 and returned to the Vicariate of Khartoum as a 'missionarius excurrens', visiting at least once a year the Catholics dispersed in the various centers of Northern Sudan, especially in Kassala, El Obeid, El Nahud, etc., traveling on train and often riding a donkey or a camel. It seemed that he was taking pleasure in these long solitary trips which he described in various articles in our magazines; and his visits and his characteristic figure are still remembered by the christians of those localities, both for his knowledge of Arabic and for his ingenious ability to attract all to the Sacraments.

He returned to Europe in 1919, and was almost always in Verona, until in 1928 when he was sent back to Assuan, and in 1932 to Khartoum, always in charge of the christians of Arabic language. In 1939 he returned finally to Verona, where he expired serenely in the first hours of May 21, 1954.

With him disappears a characteristic figure of the Congregation. Endowed with simple piety, almost childish, it looked as though there were no spiritual problems for him, and in the ministry of confession he could alleviate many souls of faithful and confreres who were trustfully turning to him. In spite of his peculiarities, he had something attractive, and Fr. Huber will remain an unforgettable figure for all who knew him.