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from its position as a market used mainly by the Bedouin from the surrounding district, who obtained there the various products which they needed and notably some very good textiles, while it remained one of the most picturesque cities of Syria, with nine norias still working out of the eighteen recorded in the 18th century. But, since 1945, the town of Ḥamāt has shared in the general tendency to expansion of the towns of Syria and its population now exceeds 150,000.

There remain in Ḥamāt several monuments worthy of note. The most important is the Great Mosque, which dates from the Umayyad period, as is proved by the presence in its courtyard of a pavilion on columns intended as the local *bayt al-māl*. The hall of prayer is of an original plan: its three naves are in fact each of different width and its eight pillars support five cupolas in the form of a cross. The courtyard is surrounded by vaulted porticoes with semi-circular arches, some of which appear to date from the time that the mosque was built. The western portico opens into an adjoining mausoleum, which contains the tomb of al-Malik al-Muẓaffar III (683-98/1284-98), the last direct descendant of the nephew of Ṣalāḥ al-Dīn. Of its minarets, the one, isolated, to the east of the hall of prayer, bears an inscription of 529/1135, but is built on a base which seems earlier; the other, abutting on the north portico, dates from the Mamlūk period.

On the right bank of the Orontes is the *Djāmi' al-Nūrī*, the mosque of the lower town, founded by Nūr al-Dīn, in which still survive important parts of the original building and which is particularly famous for the interesting *minbar* which belongs to the first foundation. On the opposite bank of the Orontes is the *Djāmi' al-hayyāt*, or mosque of the snakes, so-called because of the form of the small columns which frame one of the windows of the hall of prayer and which resemble intertwined snakes. Beside this mosque is the tomb of Abu 'l-Fidā'.

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HAMAWAND, also HAMAWAND (generally Arabicized as Aḥmadwand, though Ḥama is the normal hypocoristic form of Muḥammad), a small Kurdish tribe of obscure origins, numbering about 10,000 souls, now settled mainly in the Čamčamāl and Bāzyān districts west of Sulaymāniya, in 'Irāk. The chief family is divided into the four branches Ramawand, Šafarwand, Rašhawand and Bagzāda. Aghas of this family were until recently established in some fifty villages of the area, having both tribal followers and client villagers in their service.

With the exception of one offshoot, which went to Šīrāz, the tribe is supposed to have migrated from the area of Kirmānshāh, in Persia, about 1185/1770. They supported the Baban princes of Sulaymāniya until their autonomy came to an end in 1847. For some decades thereafter the tribe continued to harass the Ottoman and Persian authorities equally, and earned themselves considerable notoriety by taking to systematic brigandage over the whole area between Baghdād, Kirmānshāh and Mosul. In 1889, however, having suffered losses at the hands of the Persians, they retired to Bāzyān and were then deported by the Ottoman authorities, half to Adana and half to Tripoli in North Africa. Seven years later the latter contingent, men, women, and children, fought its way back to Bāzyān and the whole tribe was shortly allowed to reunite. As late as 1908 caravans travelling from Kirkuk to Sulaymāniya did so in terror of attack from the tribe.

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(D. N. MACKENZIE)

HAMAWI [see SA'D AL-DĪN HAMAWI].

HAMD, WĀDĪ AL-, Ḥam of the classical Arab geographers, a seasonal watercourse in north-western Arabia which enters the Red Sea 50 km. south of al-Wādīj. Wādī al-Ḥamḍ is one of the major physiographic features of western Arabia; it and its tributaries drain a basin 455 km. long lying between the mountain chain of al-Ḥidjāz and the harracapped plateau to the east. Wādī al-Djizl, the main tributary of the system in the north, drains the southern and western slopes of Ḥarrat al-Raḥāh and Ḥarrat al-'Uwayriḍ. Tributaries in the south-east flow from Ḥarrat Khaybar. The southern limit of the Wādī al-Ḥamḍ watershed lies 75 km. south-south-west of Medina in the upper reaches of one of the several wādīs known as al-'Aḳīk [q.v.]. The Wādī al-'Aḳīk which drains a large plateau area east of Ḥarrat Raḥaṭ and southeast of Medina is not, as often reported, part of the Wādī al-Ḥamḍ system. Classical Ḥam lay in the *diras* of Ashdīja' and Djuhayna. Its