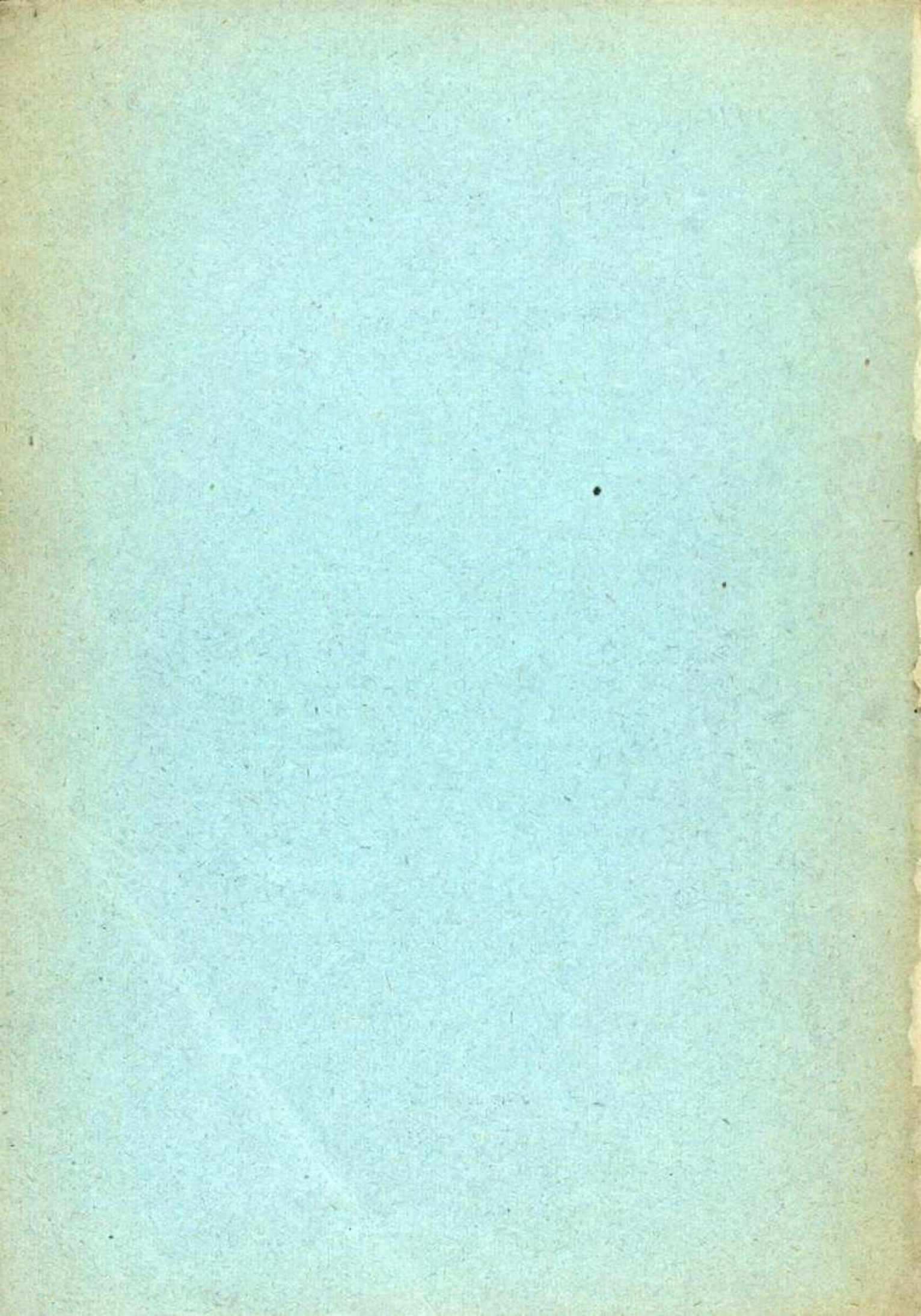


FIFTY-TWO WEEKS
IN
THE TURKEY MISSION
OF THE
AMERICAN BOARD



CONSTANTINOPLE HARBOR

1925
SOUHOULET PRESS
STAMBOUL



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Printed in Constantinople
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FOREWORD

Nowhere has the impact of the Great War entailed more unforeseen changes than in the Near East. Nor does it appear that the end has yet been reached. These changes have greatly modified the organization of the American Board Mission in Turkey, where a century of service had brought the Mission into closest relationship with many thousands of the people. Constantinople excepted, practically no Greeks or Armenians remain in the country. The former partition of the field into three Missions, (Eastern, Central and Western) has accordingly been abandoned. What is now called «The Turkey Mission of the American Board» has charge not only of all the territory once occupied by these three Missions but includes, for the present, two stations in Greece as well, where much is being done for the Greek and Armenian refugee population in the line of education and friendly co-operation. With the departure of the Christian populations the Moslem Turks have shown a much greater readiness to take advantage of Mission institutions, which from the first have been open to all, irrespective of race or religion.

This increasingly appreciative and friendly attitude of the Turkish people completely alters an otherwise disheartening situation. Can the American Board not do even more for the Turks than it did for the Armenians and Greeks? The Mission represents the best that America offers for building up character and responsible citizenship. The American churches have always shown a keen desire through their missionaries to extend to other nations the privileges they enjoy. This Mission commends itself

again to the sympathy and prayers of its supporters at home and to the goodwill and co-operation of all its friends in the Near East.

HISTORICAL REVIEW

In 1819, Pliny Fisk and Levi Parsons were sent by the American Board to the Turkish Empire. Their commission told them to explore, and find out where and among what classes of that great Empire there might be an open door for mission work. They landed in Smyrna, and after a brief trip through the region of the original Seven Churches, went on to Palestine. Both these pioneers were short-lived, but their successors lived to see real progress in missionary settlement. The first Station occupied was Beirut, in 1823; the first in Asia Minor was Smyrna, in 1827. Constantinople was not occupied until 1831. The journey of Messrs. Eli Smith and H. G. O. Dwight through northern Asia Minor, in 1830-31 was of great value in the choice of locations for stations, and in the knowledge of the whole country gained thereby.

From the very start, the missionary work in Turkey was for all nationalities and classes. The various languages were mastered, and the Bible translated into each one as soon as feasible. Mission work was chiefly along three lines: — the giving of the Bible to the various peoples in their spoken languages; the starting of schools on modern lines with modern textbooks; and the expository and practical preaching of God's Word, usually in private houses. The early missionaries distinctly did not have in view the formation of any separate church; they desired to co-operate with the Orthodox and Gregorian Churches in the reform of these ancient churches. But the seven years of bitter persecution and final excommunication of the evangelicals on the part of their own Patriarchs and Bishops, forced these

persons to form themselves into a separate ecclesiastical body, the first Protestant church organized being that in Pera, Constantinople, in 1846. From the very start, the Evangelical Church has always been undenominational, and as far as possible modeled on apostolic lines.

Five main lines of work have been carried on,—evangelistic, educational, publication, medical, and philanthropic. All have had the evangelistic purpose. In each line, there has always been very real and helpful co-operation between the American force and their native associates. It has been the desire and effort to turn over the responsibility for the conduct and maintenance of the work progressively to the people themselves; and to a large extent this hope had been achieved. The native leadership was of so high a type that it was generally conceded that should every American be withdrawn, the Church would successfully carry on by itself. Withdrawal had, in fact, been more than once talked of, but had not been undertaken.

Spiritual results can never be tabulated. Further, the figures given at any one time take no account of the results of previous years, for former members of churches, schools, etc., pass to their reward, and only their successors are enumerated. However, as an index in part of the results of the first century of work, the following statistics of the Missions for 1913 are given:

Missionaries, 198, of whom 58 ordained, 135 women; 13 physicians.

Native laborers, 1,299, of whom 210 preachers, 897 teachers.

Churches, 163, with 15,348 communicant members and 65,240 adherents.

Sunday Schools, 331, with 32,525 members.

Schools, 450, of which 4 theological schools, 9 colleges, 50 boarding and high schools, and 387 others; students in colleges, 1,826; in boarding and high schools, 4,346; in others 19,800; total, 25,911.

Hospitals, 9, with 18 dispensaries; patients, 39,503; treatments, 134,367.

Native contributions, 196,627 dollars, (during 1913, the last full pre-war year.)

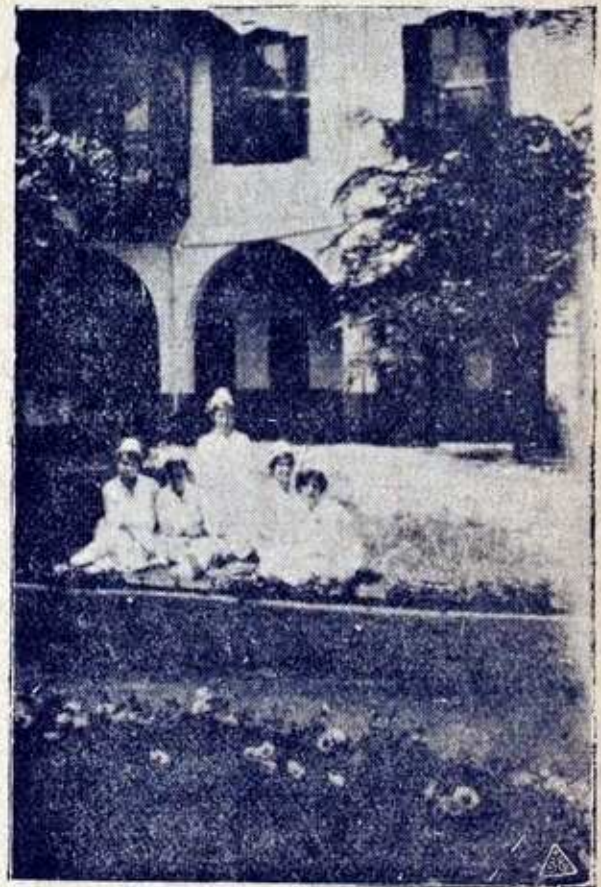
THE VOICE OF THE STATIONS

So much for the past. How about the present? Have the tragic events which so completely dispersed its former constituency likewise disrupted the Mission? With the Christian populations gone, what further need can there be of Christian witnesses in Turkey? Let the Mission Stations serving exclusively Turkish populations first answer that question out of their experiences during 1924—25.

ADANA, including TARSUS

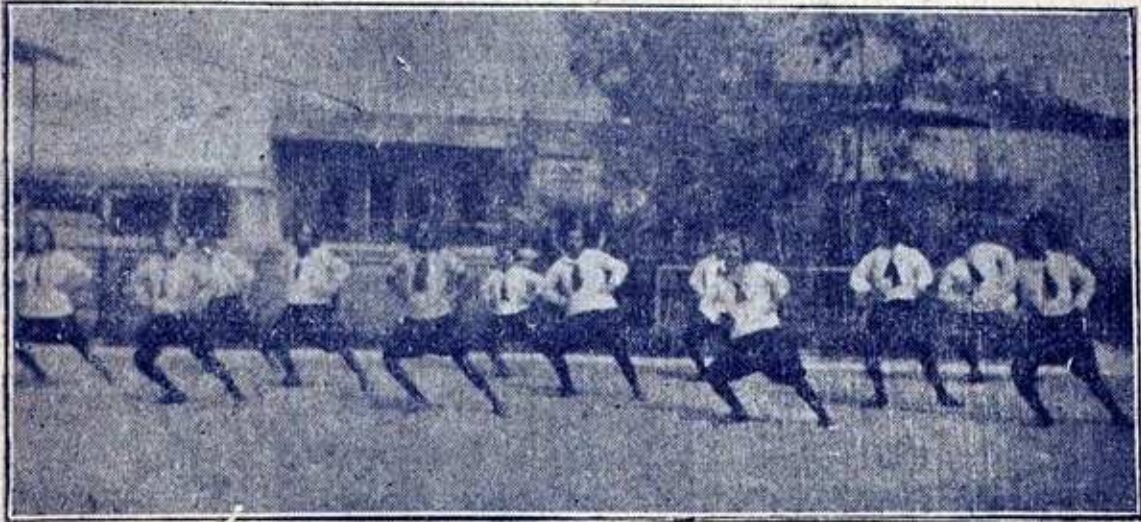
The institutional work has been done in the Hospital and Girls' School at Adana and the College at Tarsus. A play ground service and the teaching of English in two secondary Government schools have brought about pleasant contact with many outside the influence of our institutions.

The Hospital, which is admired as a model by the local authorities, has found it necessary to increase its native staff. The number of in-patients has been 433, an increase of 122 as compared with last year. These



Nurses, Adana Hospital

were of 16 nationalities. Four thousand six hundred new clinic



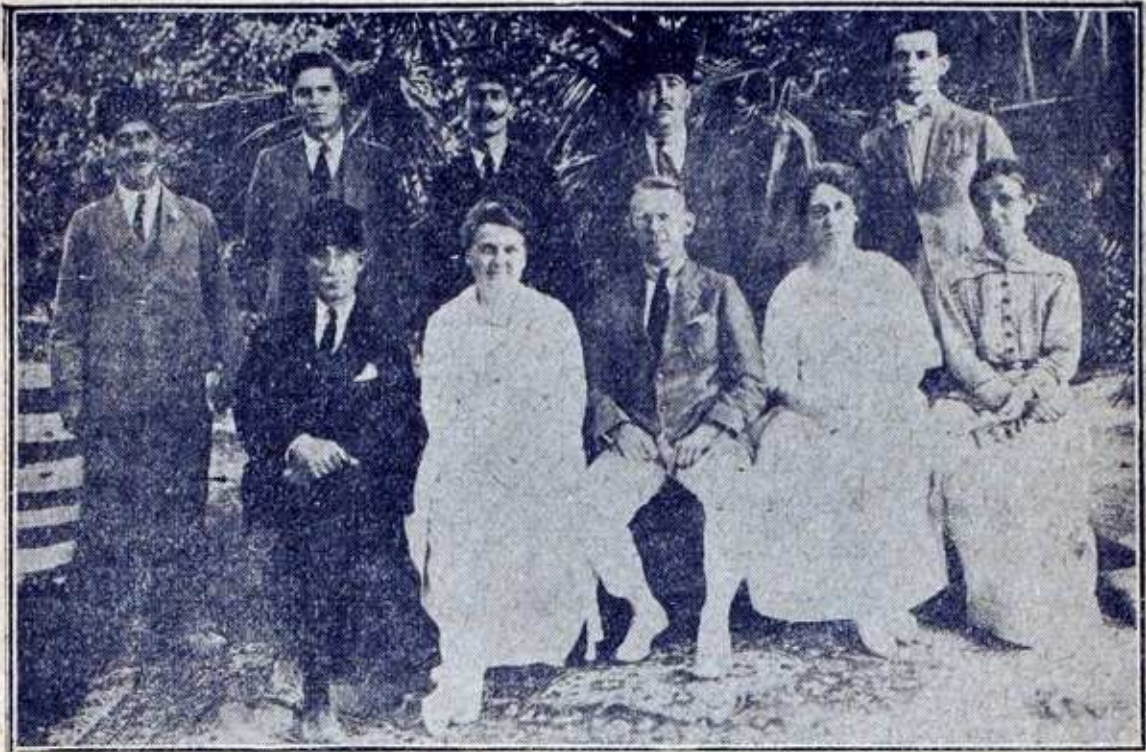
Gymnastic Class, Adana Girls School

cases were seen, as against 3027 last year. The year's income showed an increase of over 25⁰/₀.

Enrollment at the Girls' School was good. For the first time girls came from outside Adana. Government inspectors have made favorable reports of the school, which conforms in its courses to the Turkish school program. The lack of sufficient teachers holding recognized diplomas is so acute that our teachers have had to give a considerable part of their time to teaching in the Government Normal School. Rather extensive improvements to the school property during the year have made the buildings much more comfortable.

From May 1924 till March 1925 Tarsus College was closed by the local authorities. Even during this inflicted vacation the campus was alive with boys from the city, who came for football and other sports directed by one of the young Americans. Private lessons were given to a number of students, and the buildings received necessary attention. When after ten months the ban was lifted, in March, 1925, the college was regarded with more good will than ever by the people of Tarsus.

It has been most encouraging to watch the growing spirit



Tarsus College Faculty, 1924

of service and to be told appreciatively by many that they admire the idealistic aims of the work.

AINTAB.

Despite all handicaps the work of the Hospital and Dispensary has been maintained. The total of in-patients for the year has been 238, made up of 81 men, 106 women and 51 children. Two thousand two hundred and six new clinic cases were seen, with a total of 9,760 calls. The moral benefits gained by the patients were often as real as the cure of their bodies. Dr. Shepard is still refused a permit to practice, nor is he allowed to render any help whatever in the Hospital. New orders have still further restricted Dr. Hamilton's work among women. Yet she has been able to proceed with a series of simple and most necessary talks on personal and family hygiene to women of the better class, who are responding eagerly.

Questions of property have demanded much attention. A Government commission has been investigating all property and title deeds in Aintab and Mission titles have been questioned again and again. The property has all been reassessed at a very high rate.

Permission to reopen the Boys' School is steadily refused. Even were it granted there would be the greatest difficulty in securing suitable teachers. Meanwhile, quite a number of young men come for private lessons and young women take music lessons from the ladies. A gift of 300 dollars from a friend in America has made possible a demonstration of American methods of bee culture and has also permitted the placing out of several thousand pistachio trees and grape vines to show better methods of cultivation. The problem of flour-making in villages where no water-power can be had is being studied. These proofs of intelligent interest in the needs of their everyday life are winning many friends.

CESAREA, including TALAS

Cesarea and Talas were formerly among the most important stations of the American Board in Turkey. But the war brought great changes and mission work is beginning again at the pioneer stage.

The chief activities of this Station have been the community work in Cesarea and the medical work in Talas. It is over a year since application was made for permission to open a kindergarten in Cesarea, but the request has not yet been granted. In both Cesarea and Talas much time is given to establishing and cultivating friendly personal relations with the Turks, and the response to this form of approach is most encouraging.

Talas has neither native physician nor public dispensary. The town looks to the Mission hospital for all necessary medical services. To its clinics the sick often journey from long distances. Eighty patients were admitted to the hospital during the year and

33 operations performed. One thousand and seventeen new clinic cases were examined and two thousand treatments administered. Receipts from patients amounted to about two-thirds of the expenses.

MARASH

This station is now occupied by only three American missionaries. Two ladies of the German Hilfsbund are also here. There is some hope of seeing the joint German-American hospital and the American schools reopened. The Girls' College buildings are closed, while the Theological



Mission Buildings, Marash

Seminary buildings are occupied by several Armenian families. Here regular Sunday and midweek services are held for the 60 or 70 Christians still left in Marash. Two large orphanage buildings have been rented to Turkish parties.

Aside from the giving of private lessons in English and music the time of the missionaries is largely taken up with the making and receiving of calls and in otherwise cultivating friendly relations with the people of the city.

MERZIFOUN

The year has been one of active preparation to meet rapidly increasing opportunities. It is a deep joy to feel the response everywhere made to friendship. There have been many signs of good comradeship between the Americans and their Turkish neighbors, who show increasing appreciation of the service the

Americans are trying to render. Three hundred visitors a month come to the Mission compound.

A small but growing Girls' School has been the only institution in operation. The eight pupils of the previous year have increased to twenty-two, giving the Americans friendly access to a correspondingly greater number of homes. Much time has been devoted to repairs and improvements to the station property. The arrival of hoped-for additions to the American personnel has greatly heartened this Station.

An Armenian lady teacher, who for many years has been connected with the American work in Merzifoun, is now the only remaining Protestant evangelistic worker. As there is no ordained pastor or priest in the whole region, she conducts not only Sunday and week day services but administers the rites of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. She is a frequent visitor in Turkish homes and enjoys the sincere friendship of many of them.

Among the immediate needs of this Station are the reopening of the American Hospital, which is eagerly awaited and asked for by the people, the opening of a Kindergarten and a Boys' School and the addition of a boarding department to the Girls' School. Other demands hardly less pressing are for English and commercial courses, and for instruction in Western methods of agriculture and the care and repair of modern agricultural machinery. The station premises would be well adapted for the conduct of a summer playground during vacation months. In the Merzifoun district are many towns and villages where visits from American missionaries would be most welcome. Though a garrison city, Merzifoun possesses no places of public amusement. In co-operation with the officers, an American could do much for the welfare of the garrison.

SMYRNA

Throughout the dark events of recent years the work of this station has never been wholly interrupted. The changing needs

of the situation have been carefully studied and, as far as possible, met. The work has centered chiefly around two institutions.

In the suburb of Geuz Tepé the American Collegiate Institute possesses a beautiful site where building operations were about to commence when the events of 1922 intervened. The conflagration swept away the buildings then occupied by the school. The new school is being conducted under the greatest difficulties in a few small structures, including even the stable, on the Geuz Tepé site. Permission to commence the necessary buildings is anxiously awaited.

The attendance in 1923—4 was 81; in 1924—5 it rose to 135 and many applications from day pupils had to be refused for lack of room. None of the applications for boarding pupils could be considered as even the teachers have to endure many deprivations from the cramped accommodation. A fairly satisfactory staff has been secured and the school has gone on with notable success. The institution has the complete goodwill and confidence both of the people and the officials of Smyrna. When the building program has been achieved the success of the school would seem to be assured.

The International College has completed its 22nd year as a college. Attendance rose from 130 in 1923—4 to 237 the present year, in addition to which there were 54 students in other groups making the total attendance for the year 291. Of these 140 were boarders.

Athletics are popular and there is life and activity in class rooms and on the campus.

The Agricultural Department which is being developed is especially attractive and meets a widely felt need. Work is being done in dairying, poultry raising, bee culture and fruit, cereal and truck farming.

The new official recognition of the College by the Republic of Turkey was received in January 1925. The loyalty of friends outside Turkey has been another most encouraging feature. Dr.

Mott, after studying the situation, expressed himself as confident that the College is meeting one of the great world opportunities, and said in parting, «Light is the most penetrating force we know ; therefore shine on !»

CONSTANTINOPLE, including BROUSA

Constantinople is the only city in Turkey where a considerable native Christian population remains. Most of the members of the Station are either engaged in education work or are serving the entire Turkey Mission rather than any one Station.

Evangelistic Work.

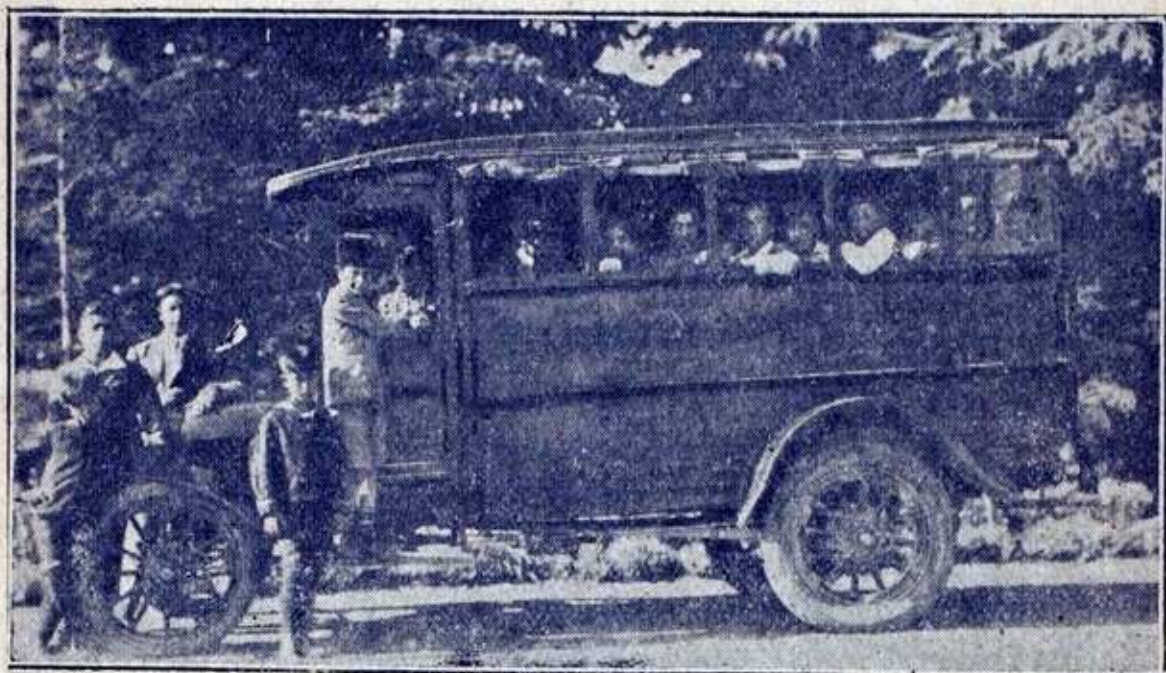
Regular preaching services, in Turkish, Greek, Armenian and English, are maintained at eleven different points in the city. Though their poverty has deepened and the proportion of refugees increased yet these congregations contributed dollars 1,410 for the year under review as against dollars 1,161 the previous year.

Sunday School work receives earnest attention. At the largest school, that of Gedik Pasha, the average attendance is 400.

Three Bible Women are employed. In addition to the ordinary work of visiting homes, teaching young women to read and holding meetings for prayer, these women have visited hospitals, established Sunday School classes in the refugee camps, and have brought messages of hope and comfort to hundreds of individuals.

Educational Work

The Educational institutions of the Constantinople Station are the Boys' High School at Geuz Tepé, the Gedik Pasha School for boys and girls, the American School for Girls at Scutari, and the schools in the nearby city of Brousa. In addition to these there is the Language School at which all new missionaries enjoy the advantage of a year of study.



Automobile Service, Geuz Tepé Boy's School

The Boys' High School has completed its fourth year in the present advantageous location at Geuz Tepé on the shore of the Marmora. The attendance this year was 160 as compared with 65 the previous year. Gratifying results have followed the granting of a certain measure of self-government to the students. The staff of American and native teachers is united and loyal. It is felt that by reason of recent developments in Turkey the school should have a larger proportion of American teachers than was previously the case. Increased accommodation is urgently needed.

The Gedik Pasha school for boys and girls is situated in the heart of old Stamboul. The attendance for the year 1924—5 was 123 boys and 126 girls, beside seven girls in the housekeeping class. There was no Kindergarten and in the two lower grades were only a couple of dozen pupils. This year these grades full but with pupils who, partly through lack of home training and partly from their lack of English, are less respon-

sive than formerly to the ideals that control the school. It is therefore increasingly important for the teachers to keep in close touch with the homes.

A neighboring house has been purchased and adapted for teaching domestic science under home conditions. Acknowledgements are made to the many friends who have sent books and other appreciated equipment.



Play Ground, Scutari Girls' School

At the American School for Girls, Scutari, the total registration for the year was 288 girls, of whom over 100 were boarding pupils. The work of the school continued, and in spite of a temporary interruption in the Spring of 1925, was successfully brought to a close in the early days of July. The graduating class of twenty girls was four times as large as those of the two previous years. A Department of Domestic Arts is being built

up, and it is believed that this course will become growingly popular as it meets a definite need. Extra-curriculum activities have included groups for Recreational Leaders, Girl Reserves, courses in Basketry, Home Nursing, etc.

Brousa

The work in Brousa comprises a girls' boarding school at Kaya Bashi, a school for refugee children and an industrial department at Sed Bashi. The total attendance in the two schools amounted to 150. In the Kaya Bashi school are 33 boarders and 67 day scholars. Self government seemed advisable in spite of the large proportion of younger children in the school, and with many of the girls has resulted in a noticeable growth in character, self control and fitness for responsibility. Relations with the local authorities have been marked by the greatest friendliness.

The industrial work was commenced with a capital of Ltq. 950 furnished for this undertaking by the Red Cross of Constantinople. Quite a number of poor women find employment, and the products of their looms have found ready sale in Constantinople and America. In eight months of operation the sales amounted to Ltq. 3,000.

LANGUAGE SCHOOL

The group at the Language School this year has included four married couples and two single ladies belonging to our Mission, besides three secretaries of the Y. M. and Y. W. C. A., Mr. Max Hoppe, a German missionary, and Mrs. Flint, both language student and manager of the Language School Hostel.

PUBLICATION DEPARTMENT

The Board has been engaged in Publication work in the Near East for one hundred and three years. Over 600,000,000 pages have been issued. In the year under review 25,000 free

tracts were circulated, 20,000 books sold. The catalogue lists 400 books, pamphlets, etc. 56 new titles, (7,501,480 pages) were added during the year.

Many gaps remain to be filled before the Mission can claim to have made anything like an adequate statement of its message, especially in Turkish. An illustrated Life of Christ must be provided; also Lives of the Old Testament Patriarchs, Prophets and Kings, and of the New Testament Apostles, and a History of the Apostolic Church. There is a demand for books on the Christian Mystics, for Commentaries on selected books of the Bible, for works on the various aspects of modern religious life, particularly in its practical relations.

The greatest demand is for clean, helpful fiction for old and young and for good up to date periodical literature.

The Publication Department asks for additional American personnel; at least one missionary family for general literary work and a woman to take charge of literature for women and children.

ATHENS

With the arrival in Greece of thousands of the Board's constituency from Asia Minor, stations of the American Board were opened at Athens and Salonica and are considered to be members of the Turkey Mission. The activities of the Mission in Athens center round the American College for Girls at Old Phaleron, the School of Religion lately moved from Constantinople, and Relief, Educational and Evangelistic work among the refugee villages.

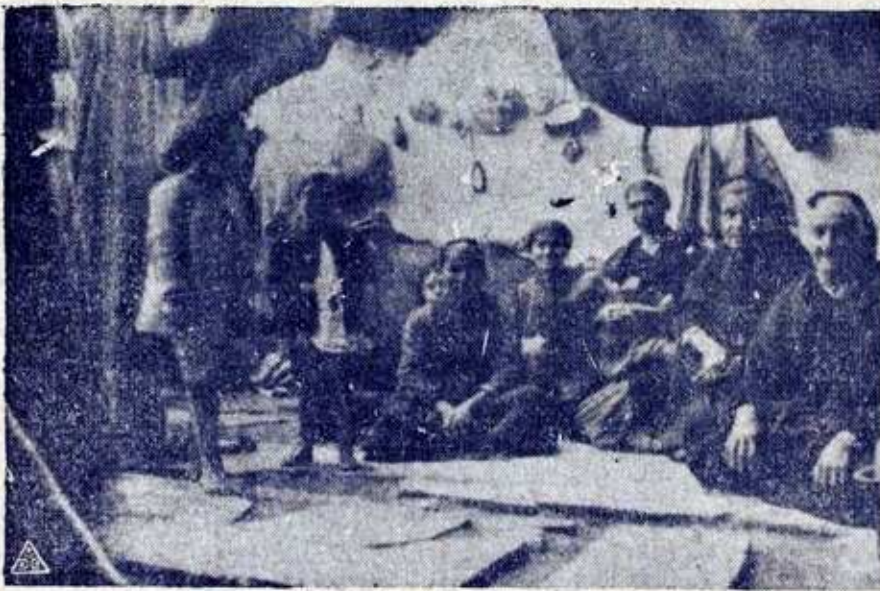
The American College for Girls, was opened at Old Phaleron in October 1923. The following year a second building was rented to accommodate increasing numbers, and in September 1925, further growth made it necessary to secure a third building. Eighty-nine students were enrolled the first year; 101 the second.

Of the latter number 63 were refugees from Asia Minor and 15 from Constantinople. For girls such as these it is necessary to raise many scholarships, as otherwise these keen students would be unable to attend.

The College has secured from the Hellenic Government a written permit and is thus officially recognized. The Archbishop of Syra has earnestly and repeatedly begged the Mission to establish a similar school in his diocese.

Refugee Work

Among refugees in the Athens area three schools are maintained with an attendance of from 500 to 600 pupils in all. The course of study conforms to that established in the Government



A Camp «Home,» Athens

schools. Though the charge for tuition is nominal, nearly 500 dollars was received during the first year. This figure is a remarkable indication of how eagerly these destitute refugees prize education. Experienced teachers receive 24 dollars a month and beginners half that sum. Such salaries are insufficient.

In addition to these there are two night schools for working boys. One school is exclusively for boot-blacks and had an enrollment of 92 the first year.

According to the Government reports there are in the vicinity of Athens 26,000 Armenian and 169,000 Greek refugees. The actual number is probably much larger. The aim of all relief work conducted by the Mission has been to enable the refugees to become self-supporting. During the first year 6,500 dollars were given for relief and last year 2,562 dollars.

Small gifts, averaging five or six dollars per person have been made for the purchase of tools with which to work, or goods to sell. Much of the money given out in loans has been returned and with care practically the whole amount lent out in this way will be repaid. Conditions are much better than in 1924.

Six centers of village evangelistic work have been maintained. In each of these Sunday Schools and preaching services have been regularly carried on. The attendance at the various meetings has been about 2,000 every Sunday and many meetings have been held also during the week.

Four Bible Women go about the refugee villages in special work for women and report most encouraging results. If salaries could be provided several more of these devoted workers would be sent out. There is a deep hunger among the refugees for the bread of life, and the devout preachers, Sunday School teachers, and other Christian workers are constantly encouraged by the eager response given to their message by young and old.

SCHOOL OF RELIGION

The School of Religion was divided during the first semester into two sections, one in Athens and the other in Constantinople. In January, 1925, the Government closed the Constantinople section and the staff and equipment were moved to Athens.

The Theological Course contemplates three full years of study, combined with practical work among orphans, refugees

and charitable institutions. Twenty-three students have attended, coming from Bulgaria, Turkey, Russia, Syria and Greece. The school has enjoyed the privilege of visits and lectures on practical subjects from many friends. The development of a reliable working library in the field of religion broadly interpreted is receiving all possible attention. During the summer vacation, the students give their entire time to enlarged programs of educational and social service in different areas of Greece.

SALONICA

The decision to locate the American College for young men in an important commercial center and port such as Salonica is



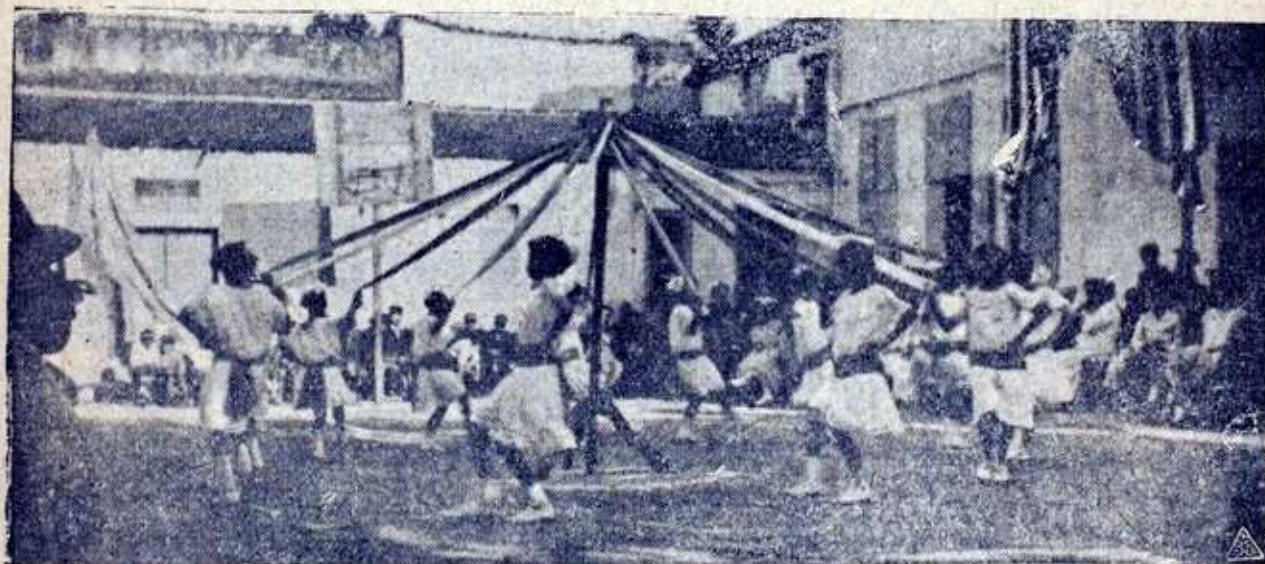
Faculty of American College, Salonica

already proving its wisdom. The Greek Government has granted full recognition to this College. A good staff of teachers has been secured and the attendance has increased from 60 the first year to 159 the second. At present the College has only rented

buildings. The moral and spiritual influence of this and the other Mission institutions in Salonica is increasingly evident.

In the Salonica district are gathered some 150,000 refugees of whom 9,500 are Armenians, and the rest Greeks. Consequently the efforts of the missionaries have been spent largely among these needy people. Employment has been given to an average of one hundred women and girls in weaving, lace making and embroidery. Small loans have helped many refugees to set up in business.

Dr. Ruth Parmelee of this station conducted a maternity hospital for refugees which was supported by the American Women's Hospitals. Here nearly 700 babies were born in seventeen months. Twenty girls, refugees from Asia Minor, received nursing instruction and left to serve in other places. This work has now been transferred to Athens.



May Pole Dance, Salonica Girls' School

The Girls' School at Salonica completed its eleventh year with an enrollment of 333 as against 325 the preceding year. In October, 1925, the former premises, long outgrown, were exchanged for a splendid and far more healthful location on the

bay. Attendance will have to be reduced until more buildings can be erected. The spirit of the school is admirable and the pupils are notably open-minded and appreciative.

Evangelistic work has been actively carried on both in Salonica and among the refugee towns. There are twelve places, widely scattered, in which regular services are held. In Salonica itself the Greek service is attended by an average of 200 and in one of the villages a thousand people gather when the weather is favorable. Sunday Schools flourish everywhere. Four day schools for refugee children have been a great source of satisfaction.

CONCLUSION

A few glimpses into the recent past have been given. What of the future? With adequate support from home, deepening devotion on the part of the Mission, the continued friendly co-operation of governments and people, encouraging extension and progressive consolidation in all departments may confidently be expected. There is room also for unexpected advance in fruitful service to various classes, especially to the young people, in the Near East.

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Miss H. Hotson
Miss J. E. Martin
Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Nute
Miss C. G. Towner
Miss M. G. Webb

AINTAB

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Rev. and Mrs. M. N. Isely
Miss T. B. Phelps
Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Shepard
Miss E. M. Trowbridge

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Miss E. McCallum
Miss M. B. Mills
Miss A. E. Pinneo
Rev. and Mrs. E. Pye
Miss N. E. Rice
Miss M. O. Shane

BROUSA

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Miss J. L. Jillson
Miss E. F. Parsons
Miss E. M. Sanderson

CESAREA & TALAS

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Miss A. S. Dwight
Rev. and Mrs. P. E. Nilson
Miss S. W. Orvis
Miss C. C. Richmond
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 Mr. & Mrs. A. MacLachlan
 Rev. & Mrs. H. A. Maynard
 Dr. & Mrs. C. A. Reed
 Rev. & Mrs. L. Vrooman

TARSUS

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 Mrs. E. R. Block

Loaned to

NEAR EAST RELIEF

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 Dr. and Mrs. J. K. Marden
 Rev. & Mrs. E. C. Partridge
 Miss C. Silliman
 Mrs. L. C. Sewny

Loaned to

AMERICAN WOMEN'S HOSPITALS

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 Mr. M. H. Bigelow, Salonica
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 Mr. Paul G. Roofe, Salonica
 Rev. E. M. Ross, Athens
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 Mr. C. Van Zanten, Smyrna
 Miss S. E. Watton, Salonica
 Mr. Samuel B. Williams, Smyrna
 Mr. F. N. Woodruff, Smyrna
 Miss E. Zbinden, Merzifoun



