

Dear Friends:-

Mrs. Paul E. Nilson has arrived as expected, from Talas to spend part of the New Year and Bayram holidays with her youngest daughter Dorothy at the Bible House. Miss Parsons of Smyrna has also come to Stamboul for the vacation.

Mr. John Stene of Tarsus came up last week on his vacation, and has gone to Smyrna for an excursion with Miss Fletcher and Miss Perry of Scutari Academy.

Mrs. Leslie will think twice before trying to visit Smyrna in stormy weather again! Shortly after she arrived there, torrential rains caused floods in the region, which in turn interrupted the train service between Smyrna and Bandirma, part of the track being washed away. When she was finally assured of a train, she boarded it only to find there would be no connecting boat for Stamboul. So she went back to her daughter's home, and had better luck the next day, reaching here without incident, on New Year's night.

Mr. Charles House, of the Farm School at Thessaloniki, has been appointed as Director for the whole of Greece for the American Red Cross, during their war relief work. This will necessitate his transferring his headquarters to Athens, leaving others to carry on at the School. But he was able to spend Christmas with his family.

President Ernest W. Riggs of Anatolia College has been appointed on the local Thessaloniki Committee for handling funds from the Greek American Relief Association, which is the fund that Vanderbilt is handling. Their effort is to find work for those ^{who} can work, thus making the money do double duty.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry H. Riggs are trying to make definite plans for returning from their furlough in America to Beirut. Steamers are apparently somewhat like hen's teeth; and the first definite possibility seems to be a Dutch steamer sailing for Calcutta early in February. Meanwhile both of them are having speaking appointments in New England very frequently. They have recently visited also the Walter Wiley family in Pittsfield, and the Leslie Adkins family in Beverly.

A belated letter from Claremont, California, tells of a visit there from Mrs. Marjory Carrington Burbidge, with her husband and seven-year-old daughter Barbara, who were on a short trip to the United States from the Philippines. Many will recognize Mrs. Burbidge as the daughter of Mrs. T. S. Carrington, formerly of Merzifon. Mrs. Carrington lives with her daughter in Manila, and was staying there keeping house for Marjory's son, who is a Junior in High School.

From an article in a Bulgarian paper, it would appear that there are in that country about 94,000 Bulgarian Mohammedans, or Pomaks, most of whom accepted the new faith in the 17th century, during the reign of Mohammed IV. They are found mostly in the Rhodope region.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, January 11, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

Miss Parsons is leaving Stamboul tomorrow on her return to the Smyrna School. Miss Woodward remains here for some weeks more of vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. John Seager and their baby girl arrived here from Smyrna on Wednesday last, taking advantage of the Bayram recess to make the visit. Mrs. Seager may remain a while with her mother, Mrs. Leslie, when her husband has to return to his work.

Among other kurban Bayram visitors to this city are Mr. and Mrs. S.P. Clark of Adana, who are here for a few days only.

The party of skiers who took their vacation from Robert College for winter sports on Ulu Dagh (Mt. Olympus), are back again, well satisfied with their recreation.

The Princeton Alumni Weekly informs us that Mr. Caleb F. Gates Jr., youngest son of former President Gates of Robert College, has accepted the post of Chancellor of Denver University, Colorado. He goes there early this year as Vice-Chancellor, and in the fall will become Chancellor. Mr. Gates graduated at Princeton in 1925, since when he has been a Rhodes scholar at Oxford for three years, and on the teaching staff of Robert College for three more. Since 1932 he has been first instructor and then assistant Dean at his alma mater, being wholly in administrative work since 1937. He is thirty-six years old, which is pretty young for such a responsible post.

By clearing out the big Library room, Anatolia College has made space for forty more beds in the military hospital which now occupies their main buildings. The ladies of the College staff are busy making bandages and other supplies for the wounded. On Christmas Eve, the children of the staff families have a Nativity pageant four times in the different wards and buildings, the chaplain, who has a magnificent voice, reading the Scripture portion before each scene. It was most impressive, and was deeply appreciated.

President Ismet Inönü has just returned to Stamboul after a tour of inspection through the regions of Thrace recently flooded by the rising of the Maritsa and other rivers.

In the latest letter received from the Board in Boston, the Board expresses its hearty thanks to the missionary staff of the American Academy for Girls at Scutari, and also to that of the American Collegiate Institute at Smyrna, for the careful financial management which has made it possible for each of these schools to assume the salaries of some of the American members of the staff.

Regarding travel conditions, the same letter says:-"It has seemed best to await developments in the next few weeks before again considering whether any of the persons now detained here should try to reach the field via the Pacific or South Africa."

Yours very cordially,
Charles R. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, January 18, 1941,

Dear Friends:-

Rev. and Mrs. James H. Nicol of Beirut are expecting to start from Beirut on Wednesday next, Jan. 22nd, for Baghdad on their way for a well-earned furlough in America.

Word comes from Miss Sheldon from Auburndale that Mr. and Mrs. Oscar S. Heizer, formerly of the Treasury Department of our Mission, have been making a visit to friends in Auburndale. They were also expecting to stop at Chattanooga and make his uncle, Dr. Peet, a visit on their return to their home in Florida.

Miss S. Evelyn Woodward started back for Smyrna on Thursday last, and will be resuming her work after her furlough, on Monday next. In leaving Stamboul, she sends the following message to her many friends in Stamboul and in Athens :- "Some people may pity me and think I have had a poor furlough; but I have not. Friendship is part of the Greatest Thing in the World, and that has been shown to me abundantly by my Canadian, American, Turkish and English friends here. In saying good-bye, I salute you and thank you."

Professor Levonian of the Near East School of Theology has sent out a list of the Armenian graduates of the School of Religion at Athens from 1922 to 1932, and from the N.E.S.T. at Beirut since that date, showing that a total of 42 have been graduated during that period, of whom 33 are men and 9 women. Of the women, six are in school work and two have married pastors. Of the men, ten are ordained ministers in Evangelical churches, one an ordained priest in the Gregorian Church, 19 are engaged in various forms of church and school work; one is in clerical work, and one in business, while one is deceased. These are located in twelve different countries, thirty of them being in Syria, Lebanon, Greece and Bulgaria.

The Scutari Academy teachers who went off for the winter vacation, Misses Perry, Anscombe and Fletcher, have all returned, as well as all those from the two Colleges; and schools have all resumed their work for the drab period between now and Easter.

Mrs. H. H. Kreider and her four children are hoping to get the necessary visas for the journey via Geneva and Lisbon to America, so that they may be able to go in company with Consul-General Palmer of Beirut and Mrs. Palmer, who are due to leave Stamboul tonight by train. Mr. Kreider remains at his post in Robert College.

The schools connected with the Presbyterian Mission in Syria are reported by the Beirut News Letter to include this year a total of 3835 students, exclusive of the three schools that are cooperatively managed with our Near East Mission. Of these, 709 are from Roman Catholic families, 1331 from Orthodox groups, 718 Protestants, and 1077 non-Christians. The boys number 2087, the girls 1748.

The President of the Turkish Republic returned last Monday to Angora after his visit to Stamboul and to Thrace.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. ...

Dear Friends:-

Two of the statements in our last issue need modification, in these uncertain days. Rev. and Mrs. James H. Nicol of Beirut started from there for America a week earlier than they had intended, owing to a modification in the steamer schedule. Also, Mrs. Kreider and four children are still in our city, waiting for the necessary visas on their passport.

Our readers will many of them be interested in the fact that Mr. Cornelius Van Hamert Engert, who was connected with the American Consulate-General here some twenty-five years ago, has gone to Beirut as Consul-General there, in succession to Mr. Palmer whose return to America we announced last week.

Mrs. Elizabeth Leslie Seager and her baby girl left yesterday by Bandirma, on their way back to Smyrna, in company with Mr. Lawrence Brown of that city.

A letter from Miss Mabel Long, of Pierce College, Elleniko, Greece, says that she was hoping to arrive in Stamboul today, on her way to Aleppo to help out in the teaching of English at Aleppo College. She will be a great help to an overworked staff when she gets there.

The annual dance for the benefit of the American Hospital in this city will be held in the Pera Palace Hotel on Saturday evening, February 15th.

A cable from the United States went astray somewhere in Stamboul a while ago, being handled by a clerk who did not recognize the cable address "Robcol" as meaning Robert College. Apparently it has been partly communicated to its rightful recipient, and while as yet lacking confirmation, seems to indicate the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Huntington Damon, about three weeks ago. The hopeful grandmother (?) in Hissar is impatiently waiting for more news.

Many of our friends in the United States, and presumably others in various parts of Turkey, will be interested to know that there is a semi-weekly broadcast in English from Angora to America, reaching America over the Columbia and National Broadcasting networks on Mondays and Thursdays at 6:45 to 7:20 p.m., Eastern Standard Time. The usual broadcaster is our friend Farnsworth Fowle; and the time at Angora is six hours earlier, owing to summer time in Turkey.

The semi-annual meetings of the Boards of Managers of Aleppo College and of the Near East School of Theology will probably be held about the end of March, the exact date to be worked out to suit circumstances.

It is announced that there will be a further experiment on air-raid precautions at Stamboul some day between January 28th and 31st; the city awaits further notice of the day to be chosen.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, February 1, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

A letter from California received this week but dated October first, tells of the death, from cerebral hemorrhage, of Mrs. George L. Marsh, who, with her husband, spent four years from 1925 till 1929 with the School of Religion in Athens. After their return to America, Mrs. Marsh taught for several years in the Claremont, California, elementary school, and then at Ojai, Calif., where the interment took place. Rev. Ralph B. Larkin, formerly of Mardin Station, assisted in the service. Miss Anna Marsh, sister of Rev. George L. Marsh, lives in Claremont.

The latest word from Rev. and Mrs. Henry H. Riggs states that tentative reservations have been made for them on a steamer leaving an American port February 25th, and due to reach Bombay April 20th, on their return to Beirut. That means at least that they are not likely to start earlier than that.

Mr. H. H. Riggs speaks of having attended interesting meetings at Hartford and at Springfield, the last of November and the first of December. At Hartford the occasion was a conference of missionaries and Board Secretaries interested primarily in Moslem lands, at which among others present were Dr. and Mrs. Goodsell, Miss Emerson, Dr. J. E. Merrill, - who gave a very stimulating address, - Dr. S. M. Zwemer, and many others. He also mentions seeing at these places Mrs. Helen Scott, formerly of Scutari, Miss Gertrude Rogers of Van, Rev. Charles Tracy of Smyrna, Dr. Robbins Barstow of Mardin, and Mrs. Erdman and Mr. White of Syria.

Miss Ruth Parmelee, M.D., of our Athens Station, has been travelling around Greece as representative of the American Women's Hospitals, - which is continuing her support, - as well as of the Central Committee of the Greco-American Relief Association. She made a much appreciated visit to Anatolia College, Thessaloniki.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles House, of Thessaloniki Farm School, have taken an apartment in Athens, where they will keep house as long as he is at the head of the American Red Cross work in Greece.

President Ernest Riggs of Anatolia College has begun an extended service in showing motion pictures in the wards of several military hospitals in the city of Thessaloniki. These are much appreciated.

Miss Mabel E. Long of Pierce College, Athens, arrived in Stamboul yesterday afternoon, on her way to Aleppo to help out in the teaching at Aleppo College while her own institution is closed.

Mr. Luther Fowle has gone down to Smyrna for a short visit, hoping to aid the ladies of the school there in securing official action on several matters.

The practice alert given for this city on Thursday last, while not very exciting to the inhabitants, was considered by the city authorities as eminently successful. All the theoretical crises, both by day and by night, were successfully met and overcome.

Yours very cordially
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, Feb. 8, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

We are grateful that our friend and colleague Miss Emily McCallum escaped worse injury when on January 20th she fell on the steps of a neighbor's staircase, and broke her collarbone, and injured her hip. She was taken to a Red Cross Hospital in Athens, where she is having excellent care and making a good recovery.

Miss Mabel Long, of Pierce College, has been detained in Stamboul longer than she had expected, but expects now to be starting for Aleppo on Monday next, arriving there Tuesday evening.

Treasurer Fowle has gone to Angora on business for a few days.

Influenza seems to be quite prevalent in Sofia, Bulgaria, just now. Miss Clarke is reported as one of those to succumb, but otherwise our mission staff is untouched.

The Service Center in Stamboul is rejoicing in the successful completion of its annual membership campaign, the financial result of which exceeded their expectations.

Mrs. E. W. Riggs and the families of the staff at Anatolia College have been so successful in devising inexpensive editions of popular games, for the use of the soldiers in the military hospital there, that the Red Cross people have taken up the idea and are duplicating them on a larger scale. The latest gadget is a red cross of cardboard, cut into six pieces, to be put together. It is not too hard a puzzle, and is very popular. Another is a puppet, in the shape of an Abyssinian with a grass skirt, suspended on a long stick, and made to dance on the end of a long shingle.

The Beirut News Letter reports the arrival of Miss Alison Lanckton, in Ithaca, N.Y., born on Monday, January 20th, to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. (Katherine Nicol) Lanckton, whom many of our readers knew in Stamboul a few years ago. Mr. Lanckton is still in Thessaloniki.

The same Letter says:-"The registration at the American University of Beirut has reached the number of 1941 in all departments. This is the largest registration in the history of the University, the second largest being in 1938-39, when the number was 1938." This all seems to show that the University keeps up with the times, at least as far as the numerals of the years go!

President Ismet Inönü has been making a journey of investigation through the Vilayets of Sivas, Erzerum, Erzinjan, Diyarbakir, El Aziz and Malatia; he returned to Angora two days ago.

Torrential rains in the regions east and northeast of Smyrna have caused much flooding and some property losses, though no loss of life is yet reported. In the regions of Manisa, Eudemish, Bavindir, Menemen, and Eski Shehir, damage has been done, and the Bandurma railroad line is out of commission for the time being.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends:-

With apologies for the imperfect condition of the statistics, we give a summary of attendance figures for the various American schools and colleges in this region for the current school year. It must be borne in mind that the schools in Greece have all been closed as a result of war conditions; so that the figures given for Anatolia College are simply those with which the College made its auspicious start.

| <u>A.B.C.F.M.</u> | <u>Totals</u> | <u>College</u> | <u>Preparatory</u> | <u>Men</u> | <u>Women</u> | <u>Boarders</u> | |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <u>Higher Schools</u> | | | | | | | |
| Aleppo College | 349 | 40 | 309 | 349 | | 113 | |
| Anatolia, Boys | 226 | | | | | 70 | |
| Girls | 100 | | | | | 52 | |
| N.E.S.T., Beirut | 26 | | | 19 | 7 | | |
| <u>Boarding Schools</u> | | | | | | | |
| | | <u>Lise</u> | <u>Orta</u> | <u>Special</u> | <u>Boys</u> | <u>Girls</u> | <u>Boarders</u> |
| Scutari | 310 | 84 | 116 | 108 | | 310 | 138 |
| Smyrna | 208 | | | | | 208 | |
| Talas | 35 | | 35 | | 35 | | |
| Tarsus | 142 | 22 | 79 | 41 | 142 | | 66 |
| <u>Near East Colleges</u> | | | | | | | |
| | | <u>Graduate</u> | <u>College</u> | <u>Prepar.</u> | <u>Men</u> | <u>Women</u> | <u>Boarders</u> |
| Am. Coll. for Girls | 444 | | 145 | 299 | | 444 | 236 |
| Beirut Univ. | 1941 | 286 | 679 | 976 | | | 713 |
| Robert College | 825 | 258 | 133 | 431 | 825 | | 342 |
| Sofia College | 479 | | 294 | 185 | 265 | 214 | 469 |

In the Beirut University, as graduate students are listed 115 in the School of Medicine, 53 in that of Pharmacy, 61 in that of Nursing, and 57 in the Institute of Music. The graduate students at Robert College are those in the School of Engineering.

We are delighted to learn from Boston that Mrs. Lorrin Shepard and Miss Manwell, the new nurse for the American Hospital in Stamboul, sailed February 1st, and are coming via Calcutta and Bombay, and should be here some time in April.

The benefit dance for the American Hospital is being held this evening at the Pera Palace Hotel. Among those coming here to attend are Miss Erma Carl, of the A.C.I., Smyrna, and Mr. Lawrence Brown of Smyrna.

Mr. George D. White, formerly of Anatolia College, writes from Cyprus that the Cyprus Mines Corporation has been obliged to discharge its personnel temporarily, owing to the impossibility of shipping the ore; but that it is keeping up and even increasing the social welfare work which Mr. and Mrs. White are carrying on among the 5000 or so workers of the Company who are now without active duties. So they are very busy.

Dr. D. A. Davis of Geneva is at the head of the War Prisoners' Aid, under the World's Alliance of Y.M.C.A.s, which has many people working among the prisoners on both sides, by an arrangement with the Governments, in supplying books, games, musical instruments, opportunities for study, and communication with their families. Stirring and deeply interesting religious services are also held.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

Miss Diantha L. Dewey writes from Mardin February 15th:-

"We had a terrible storm the night of the ninth. I felt like Job the next day. One after another reports came of what had happened. Three outside walls down, biggest trees uprooted, and, worst of all, the roof of the addition which Miss F. built just before I came, was lifted straight up, over the big roof, and electric lines, and dumped in our barley-field to the northwest. Windows were broken, storm door thrown down. At the same time we had three days of rain. Now for four days we have quiet and are getting into shape again."

Among the evacuees from Rumania who arrived in Stamboul on Sunday last with Sir Reginald Hoare and the members of the British Legation, were three members of the Church Mission to the Jews who have been working in Bucharest, - Rev. Roger G. Allison, secretary of the Mission, and Miss E. I. M. Boyd, who has been in charge of a large school of girls, with a normal attendance of four hundred, and Miss Simon, of the same school. They stayed at the Bible House apartment while here, and left yesterday morning by train on their way to Jerusalem, where they expect to be in the work of the same organization. At the Station meeting on Thursday, Miss Boyd gave an interesting account of the work the Mission has been doing in Bucharest, and its recent experiences.

Mrs. H. H. Kreider and the four children plan to leave for Beirut on Wednesday next, to remain at all events till summer, the children studying in the Community School there. Mr. Kreider remains at his post in Robert College Bursar's office.

The annual spring meeting of the Board of Managers of the Near East School of Religion at Beirut has been set for March 27th.

The dance for the benefit of the American Hospital in Nishantash, held at the Pera Palace Hotel last Saturday, was most successful and enjoyable in every way. It was unusually well attended; and dancing kept up to an advanced hour.

This being Washington's Birthday, Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Richardson of the American Embassy are holding an afternoon tea for the members of the American community.

A short time ago a group of students from the Medical Department of the University went to the Yeshilkeuy aerodrome, and were taken up for brief rides in the airplane D 4, constructed in this city in the workshops of Bay Nouri Demirdagh. It is a significant day in Turkish annals, when a machine made by a Turk carries air-passengers about over the city.

Some of our readers will be interested in the starting of a new series of broadcasts by the B. B. C., London, begun last Wednesday morning with an opening address by His Grace the Archbishop of York, Dr. William Temple. These will be given once a month, on Wednesdays at 7 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time, or 10 a.m., Stamboul daylight-saving time.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, March 1, 1941,

No. 837

Dear Friends:-

Mrs. Herman Kreider and the four children left as planned, on Wednesday last, for Beirut. The two boys and two girls will continue their studies there as best they can, for the rest of the school year.

A letter from Dr. J. K. Marden of Old Phaleron says that Miss Emily McCallum is making rapid progress after her serious fall, and it is hoped she may be able to leave the hospital before long. He adds that Pierce College has not yet been occupied.

Our old friend Dr. D. Alton Davis, of the International Y.M. C.A. at Geneva, writes:- "I have just returned from two weeks in Berlin, where I had a good opportunity to confer with our secretaries who are visiting various camps there. Our work has been very much complicated due to the arrangements which have been made between France and Germany in regard to prisoners of war, but we are still permitted to go full steam ahead in our work for British, Belgian and Polish soldiers; and we can give every kind of service to the French which can be rendered without personal visits."

In connection with this, we may add that Dr. Davis is asking for help in finding the right man to undertake similar welfare work among prisoners of war in Greece, preferably an American, or perhaps better, a man from some other neutral country. They are hoping soon to undertake work also among prisoners in Italy.

The latest word from Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Riggs is to the effect that they have booked passage for Syria early in March, or, as another version has it, to sail from New York February 28th. They were planning to come on a sister ship of the S.S. "NIL", of the National Egyptian Line, going via South America and Africa to Suez. Their elder daughter, Ruth, is in Oberlin College, while the younger, Helen, is in Newton High School and lives at the Auburndale Home.

We are delighted to learn that the damage done to the ancient church of Saint Sophia at Thessaloniki was not greater than has proved true. In fact, none of the mosaics are hurt; and the magnificent solidity of the big piers which support the dome defied the terrific explosion which blew to bits the lighter portion outside.

The Beirut News Letter reports that registrations for the new semester at the American University of Beirut have brought the total number for the year to 1976, which surpasses all previous records.

Mrs. Shepard cabled on Tuesday last from Manila, asking the consent of the American Hospital to herself and Miss Manwell proceeding by airplane from Penang to Baghdad, which would save some weeks' time in getting here. The consent was immediately cabled back on Wednesday by Dr. Shepard. They are on the S.S. "President Madison" as far as Penang, but it is not known when the ship is due there.

Among other recent interesting visitors to our city is Rev. Mr. Thompson, some time rector of the Church of England church in Oslo, and Chaplain to Queen Maud, who escaped several months ago into Sweden, and flew thence to Russia, coming here from Odessa last Sunday. He has been staying at the Bible House apartment, and started yesterday morning on his way to India.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, March 8, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

Mrs. Sarah Anderson Moore (Mrs. L.S. Moore) and Miss Helen Shedden of Sofia College, arrived Wednesday evening from Bulraria, and are making a brief stay in Stamboul. The American College at Sofia is still open, and running with a somewhat reduced staff but with good attendance.

Tarsus College reports that their Turkish teacher of history, geography and civics left them the middle of January to accept work in the Department of Justice, which is his own line; and that now, after having three substitutes, they have secured a lady graduate of the Faculty of Literature at Ankara as teacher in his place. She has been teaching in Stamboul and seems well qualified.

We have received supplementary statistics for two of our Girls' Schools since the publication of a list three weeks ago. From Aleppo Miss Silliman writes that the American High School has 101 girls in the High School Department, while in the Primary there are 58 girls and 72 boys, the latter for the most part inherited from the College when it moved out to its new site. Total attendance, 231.

Miss Parsons gives us the revised figures for the Smyrna School as follows :- Total registration, 227, of whom four have left; in the lise grades, 27; in ota grades, 113, and 83 ihsari or special training class. Of these, 28 are boarders at the school, and six other out-of-town girls are in a little "yurt" run by one of the Turkish teachers.

Recently a number of air-mail letters from America have arrived in Stamboul, dating from the last of December up to Jan, 29th; and some of these report the arrival of air-mail letters sent from here in early December. The way seems therefore to be working. Ordinary mail letters are said to go from here via Russia and Siberia several times per week; and the receipt of these has also been reported from America, in from two to three months. Most regular mail from America appears to come via Egypt, having taken the voyage around the Cape of Good Hope. Ordinary letters for Greece and Bulgaria are stated to be despatched from New York to Lisbon.

Rev. Ernest W. Riggs reports from Thessaloniki that on Washington's Birthday, the Americans of Macedonia and Thrace gave a small ambulance to the Greek Red Cross in that city, largely as the result of the efforts of Mr. Charles House. The Red Cross was very much pleased over the gift. At about the same time there arrived a gift from the Turkish Red Crescent of three big ambulances, - a fine demonstration of practical friendship.

Turkey missionaries seem to make good after they retire to America, if one can judge from the Pilgrim Place representatives. Mrs. Dana K. Getchell has just been elected President of the Women's Union of the Claremont, California, church, and Mrs. Lillian C. Sewny, Vice-President.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, March 15, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

A telegram from Mrs. Lorain Shepard from Penang, Straits Settlements, gives word that she and Miss Maxwell were taking the Dutch plane from there on March 10th for Baghdad, due at the latter city two days ago. If they succeeded in getting accommodation on an early train, they ought to be in Stamboul next week.

Just after the British Minister from Sofia arrived at the Pera Palace Hotel on Tuesday evening last, a time-bomb which had been secreted among the luggage of the party exploded with terrific force. Two of the stenographers of the party and two Turkish policemen were killed, as was also a chauffeur from Bebek; and more than twenty others were injured, most of them employees of the hotel. Mr. Payton, British Consul-General at Stamboul, and Mr. Page, Vice-Consul, were both among the injured. The building was badly damaged.

The buildings of Pierce College, Ellleniko, Greece, which were offered to the Greek army authorities some time ago, have at last been occupied as a military hospital. The officials have been very courteous and considerate.

The observances in connection with Charter Day at the American College for Girls, Arnaoutkuy, will be held on Thursday next, March 20th, beginning at five o'clock.

The annual celebration of Founders' Day at Robert College is to take place on Saturday, March 22nd, with an address and other exercises in Albert Long Hall at two o'clock, a gymnastic exhibition in the Gymnasium at three, and a reception in Henrietta Washburn Hall at four. The annual Alumni Dinner will take place at half-past seven in the evening.

The Beirut News Letter reports word from Rev. and Mrs. J.H. Nicol from Bombay, dated Feb. 13, and saying they were expecting to arrive in New York about the last of March.

Dr. Bennett Avery, for seventeen years Professor of Anatomy at Beirut University, has been appointed Dean of Medicine at Boston University, and will not return to Beirut.

The arrangement between the American Board and the American Women's Hospitals for a half-and-half sharing of the support of Dr. Ruth Parmelee in Athens, has been continued for another year, and perhaps longer.

Bay Fethi Okyar, Minister of Justice, has handed in his resignation from that post, on account of poor health; and in his place Bay Hassan Menemendjiohlou has been appointed to that portfolio.

The spring Meeting of the Board of Managers of Aleppo College has been fixed for April 2nd, at the College.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

Mrs. Lorrin Shepard and Miss Flora Maxwell arrived as expected on Monday last, the train from Baghdad being right on the dot. Dr. Shepard and Miss Shank went as far as Biledjik to meet them and escort them here in style. They left San Francisco February 1st, and came by steamer to Manila and Penang, thence by K.L.M. plane to Baghdad, and right on from there. All five Shepard children are now in America for their schooling.

On the same day, Mrs. Laurence Moore and Miss Shedden of Sofia College left Stamboul for Beirut, on their way to America. Just how soon they may move on from Beirut is as yet uncertain.

Miss Belle Harley, of Harpout, Scutari and Thessaloniki, had an ugly fall on the icy street in Auburndale, on Feb. 8th, and sustained a badly broken right wrist. She stopped for a few days with the Compton family, at the Howard House, Auburndale, before returning to her home in Pawtucket, R.I.

The Board Secretaries inform us of the death of Miss Susan W. Orvis, formerly of Talas Station, at Earlville, Iowa, January 10th after a long illness. Several months ago Miss Orvis had a severe cerebral hemorrhage, from which she made only a partial recovery. Her sister, Mrs. Cook, a trained nurse, with whom she had made her home for some time, took care of her. Miss Orvis was born in Atlanta, Illinois, Dec. 20, 1873, and was graduated at Iowa College, Grinnell, 1900. In September, 1902, she sailed for Talas, and was associated with Miss Dwight and Miss Loughridge in the care of the Girls' School. In the fall of 1914, she returned to America, and took a course in Chicago University, securing the M.A. degree in 1915. In July of 1917, she sailed from San Francisco for China, and spent a couple of years in relief work in Tiflis and in Peking. Returning in 1920 to Talas, she was there till December 1922, when she returned to America, and worked for a time in Tabor College, Iowa. In September 1926 she responded to a call to go to Adana Girls' School; and she was there till 1930, when her health necessitated visits in Vienna and Egypt. In the spring of 1931 she went to Mardin, but was compelled by her state of health to return in October of 1932 to the United States and retire. She took courses in Oberlin Theological School and in 1939 received the B.D. degree there.

A wire from Athens reports the passing of Rev. Hovsep Djedjizian, at Kokkinia, on March 14th, at the age of 77. Mr. Djedjizian was pastor at Gedik-Pasha, in this city, from 1911 till 1927, having served in that way at Adebazar from 1896 till 1911. His father was pastor at Adebazar for many years before that. Since 1922 he has been in Greece, assisting Miss Burgess in her effective work among the Armenian refugees, first in Corfu and later in Piraeus. For the past few years he has been physically incapacitated, but has still preached often and with deep spiritual effect. His preparation was at Robert College and in Edinburgh.

Another friend has passed to her reward, - Miss Annie L. Strong, sister of Secretary William E. Strong and daughter of Secretary Elnathan E. Strong, who died in Auburndale Jan. 15, after long months of invalidism. The letter from Boston says: "The memory of her radiant Christian life will be an inspiration to us all."

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

Mrs. Richard Maynard has come up from Tarsus to Stamboul for some needed dentistry. Mr. John Burns has also made use of his spring holiday at Tarsus to see some of the sights of the big city. They start back tomorrow.

We regret to learn that Mr. Frederick P. Latimer, Jr., for the past four years Consul in charge at the American Consulate-General here, has been transferred to Johannesburg, South Africa, and will be leaving us in three or four weeks for his new post. He has endeared himself to the Americans of this district while here, and he will be much missed. His family expects to join him at his new home, returning from America.

The annual celebrations of Charter Day at the Girls' College and of Founders' Day at Robert College were of the same order as on preceding anniversaries, the former on Thursday last, March 20th, and the latter on Saturday the 22nd, a day early. The attendance at the annual alumni dinner at Robert College was almost the largest on record, being exceeded only on the 75th anniversary, when Dr. Gates was guest of honor.

On Wednesday last, Mrs. Theron J. Damon and her daughter Miss Caroline Damon, together with Dr. Hans, to whom Miss Caroline Damon's engagement has just been made public, left by rail on their way south to Palestine, expecting to go thence via India to America. The wedding will probably take place in Palestine.

The American community has been invited to attend the wedding of Miss Edith Dodd Carter and Mr. Gardiner Bennett, both of Robert College, on Saturday afternoon next, at Kennedy Lodge. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. W. Clark Kerr, their pastor.

Our hearts go out in sympathy with Mrs. Herman Kreider, over the cabled news of the death of her mother, Mrs. Shoup, in America on March 13th. Funeral was on March 16th.

The buildings of Anatolia College, which were being used as military hospital, have been evacuated of hospital cases and turned back to President Riggs, who is now superintending the job of getting them into shape again for use when the time for reopening the College comes. Meanwhile the local Relief Committee from its headquarters in the National Bank building, is trying to meet some of the needs of twenty thousand families in Thessaloniki.

The Near East Fellowship of Southern California held a luncheon on February 15th at Whittier, at which Miss Alice Lindsley of Scutari and Mr. A. L. Dakin, formerly of Robert College, were the speakers. About forty people attended. Mr. Dakin is now bursar and business manager for the Claremont Colleges. Miss Lindsley is making investigations as to how to get back to Stamboul, this summer.

After a series of disappointments as to starting back to Beirut, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Riggs are now hoping to make arrangements to sail on a Dutch steamer from San Francisco for Calcutta April 3rd.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, April 5, 1941

Dear Friends:-

Another of the saints has gone over to the other side. Miss Cornelia Porter Dwight, daughter of Rev. H. G. O. Dwight, D. D. passed away in Boston March 31st, in her ninety-fifth year, after some three weeks of illness. She was born in Constantinople November 12, 1846, and was the sister of Mrs. Edward Riggs and of Dr. Henry O. Dwight, both of whom, like herself, were missionaries later. After teaching for a time at Westerley, R. I., she came out to Sivas in the spring of 1871 to teach; but the climate proved unsuited to her health, and she was transferred to the Home School at Scutari in 1876. There she remained but one year, and was forced to return to America. She taught for many years at Olivet College, Michigan, and then at Elimra College, New York, retiring at about the age of seventy. She was an inspiring teacher of mathematics, and had also a strong Christian influence on a very large number of girls. Since her retirement she has lived most of the time in the Boston vicinity. On the death of Dr. J. K. Browne, ^{two years ago} she became the oldest of the retired members of our Turkey Missions. Miss Mary W. Riggs, formerly of Adabazar, Harpoot, and Scutari, has been living with her for many years.

The going of Miss Dwight leaves as the oldest living ex-member of this Mission, Mrs. John Henry House, formerly of Thessaloniki, now in her ninety-first year. Dr. Peet comes a close second, followed by Mrs. Emma R. Hubbard, of Sivas, and Mrs. E. D. Marden, of Constantinople.

Mrs. W. S. Woolworth of Tarsus spent a few days in Beirut during the spring recess of the Tarsus School, and acted as substitute for G. T. Riggs at the meeting of the Board of Managers of the Near East School of Theology. She was accompanied by her son Robert.

According to the local papers, the secondary, normal, and foreign schools and all the lycees have been ordered to end up their term's lessons by April 16th, and to arrange their examinations so as to be all completed by May 14th. The dates for the primary schools have not yet been fixed. We understand that this applies to the schools in Stamboul only.

President Carleton and Dean Dorman of Aleppo College are being congratulated on the way they handled a recent student strike which closed up all schools in Aleppo. The real causes and purposes of this demonstration do not seem clear; but after three days of strike, in other schools, the American College was the only boys' school running normally. The students of the higher classes then came to the directors and respectfully asked permission to be absent for two days as a mark of sympathy for their fellows in other schools, Thursday and Friday were granted them, on the condition that there was to be no violence nor participation in any demonstration; and on Saturday morning, March 15th, all the students were back and work went on normally.

Special Lenten services are being conducted in connection with the Union Evangelical Church of Pera. Weekly meetings have been held during the past five weeks; and next week on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday there will be services in the Dutch Chapel at five o'clock, and on Good Friday at ten thirty in the morning.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends;-

We regret our failure to send out an issue last week; circumstances seemed to make this unavoidable.

It was the plan of Mrs. Block to send the four Nilson children back to Talas today for a holiday with their parents; but unfortunately measles has interfered with that plan completely. The quartet are over the worst of it and are making good progress toward health; but for the present they are not able to travel, owing to quarantine.

A letter from Miss Diantha Dewey in Mardin makes an earnest appeal to friends to come and visit her, during the coming summer; she is of opinion that this will be easier to do now than for some time past; and it would delight her to see her friends.

As people are considering travel toward America this summer, three ways seem to be open;- one via Russia and the Trans-Siberian railroad; a second via Egypt and by steamer to Bombay, transshipping there for New York or San Francisco; and with the opening of the Red Sea to American ships, it is expected that there will be American boats calling at Suez or Ismailya by the end of May or in June.

Dr. and Mrs. Nute have written from Talas that they are planning to spend a month or so of vacation, probably in July and August, at their old camping-place at Namrun, in the Taurus mountains; and that they would be glad to have as paying guests members of the Mission circle who might care to join them. Further details can be secured by writing to Mr. Fowle at the Bible House.

Our Consul, Mr. Frederick P. Latimer, has had to postpone his departure for Johannesburg, owing to the inability of his successor to arrive here from Rome. Fortunately he was able to send word to his wife before she actually left America, and prevent her starting yet to meet him there. The American Colony here sympathizes with them both, but is glad to have him stay on.

As far as is known, it is believed that Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Riggs left San Francisco April 3rd for Calcutta on their return journey to Beirut. On the other hand, word has come through the Beirut News Letter that Mr. and Mrs. James Nicol, who left Beirut for America the middle of January, arrived in America March 31st, after a fine journey.

A long and cheery Christmas letter from Professor & Mrs. Elmer Leslie and their son Jim has been received, giving a graphic account of their year of travel and sending greetings to the friends they met on the way.

A wire through the American Consulate brings word that President and Mrs. Ernest W. Riggs have left Thessaloniki and are safe and well in Athens.

The early closing of schools is being applied not only in Stamboul, as we indicated a fortnight ago, but all through the country. Some have ended their year already; and May 14th is the limit.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, April 26, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

A telegram received three days ago tells of the arrival in Cairo of Dr. and Mrs. F. W. MacCallum, Miss Emily McCallum, Miss Glennie, and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest W. Riggs, all coming from Greece. No letter has yet arrived to give any particulars regarding these colleagues, but we are told they may be addressed care of President Watson of the American University, Cairo.

We have telegraphic word from Dr. Marden from Athens, indicating that he and his family are still there. Since no contrary news has reached us, we suppose that Miss Mills and her associates are also there. The Brewsters are of course on furlough; their son Daniel is at the American Consulate in Athens.

Mrs. E. C. Blake of Smyrna came up to Stamboul last Saturday and returned Monday; she was making arrangements to start with her three children on May 6th for Syria. Mr. Blake remains in Smyrna.

As the school vacations begin early this year, many of our colleagues from Stamboul are making their plans to take a long recess in other parts of Turkey. Miss Fletcher, Miss Barker and Miss Ingle and perhaps others will be going to Gaziantep; Miss Lucas is making plans to visit in Alexandretta; Mrs. Block and the Nilson children will be going back to Talas. Miss Martin is planning to start for her year of furlough on May 14th, going via Beirut and Cairo.

Mrs. Duncan Thomson and her daughter, of the Socony-Vacuum Company, have gone to Talas for a vacation, as guests of the Nilson family.

A delightful double wedding took place at the Catholic Church in Bebek on Saturday last, when the two younger daughters of Mrs. Tubini and the late Professor Bernard Tubini were married to two of the instructors at Robert College. Miss Rosemary Tubini was married to Mr. William Parquette, while Miss Jocelyn Tubini was married to Mr. Pond. The church was crowded with friends, and tastefully decorated with flowers. A reception for the newly wedded couples was held later at Kennedy Lodge, Robert College. Mr. Parquette will be teaching next year in the Philippine Islands, and Mr. Pond at Columbia University, New York.

At Robert College, while the College classes close their examinations May 14th, the Engineering course is to keep on till the end of May, and Commencement and graduation exercises will take place June 4th.

The Egyptian Bazaar in Stamboul, often called the Spice Bazaar, is being vacated of its present shops so that it may be transformed into a produce bazaar for fruits and vegetables.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs.

Bible House, Stamboul, May 3, 1941.

Dear Friends;-

A correction is needed in one item of last week's issue. Mr. Pond of Robert College was reported as to teach at Columbia next year; it is not Columbia, but Yale University where he is to be.

Mr. Arthur Lanckton, of the Socony-Vacuum staff at Thessaloniki, arrived in Stamboul on Tuesday last, having come across from Athens to Smyrna by sailing vessel and from there here. He reports Mr. and Mrs. Charles House as staying at the Farm School in Thessaloniki still.

A cable from Boston announces that the plans of Rev. and Mrs. Henry H. Riggs have again been interfered with, and they are detained in California, the permit to travel to Syria via India having been cancelled. Presumably they are staying with his sister, Mrs. Getchell, and Mr. Getchell at Claremont, California for the present.

Dr. Dan Dorman, brother of Rev. Harry Dorman of Aleppo College and his wife, who was Dorothy Merrill, are living in Philadelphia, where he is working in a hospital, while she teaches part time in a school.

A large party is now expecting to start off May 17th by way of Odessa and Moscow and the Trans-Siberian Railroad and across the Pacific to America. Mrs. Eula B. Lee is joining this party, which is mostly made up of Robert College personnel.

In addition to the persons whose vacation plans we spoke of last week, others will most likely be going to Gaziantep, including Mrs. Elizabeth Leslie Seager and baby and Miss DeRemer from Smyrna, and possibly Miss Mary Ward; while Talas is likely to be the choice of Miss Hinman and Miss Carl from Smyrna, and Miss Greene for a month or so, Miss Woodward is planning to stay at Smyrna with the British pastor, Rev. Mr. Westcott and his wife. The two younger Nilson girls left yesterday for Talas, while the others go later.

Mr. Ray Pearson from Talas and Mr. John Stene from Tarsus are trying to make arrangements to return to the United States by way of India, if connections can be secured.

Work on the new Turkish Bible is progressing. The Old Testament printing is complete, and work has begun on the printing of the New.

Commencement season is beginning early this year. The closing exercises at the American Academy at Scutari are taking place this afternoon, while the two Colleges have theirs somewhat later.

The first bound volume of the reduced Missionary Herald, - Vol. 136, including from September, 1931, till December, 1940, - has been received from Boston for the Mission Library. It makes a neat volume, about the size of the International Critical Commentary series.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends:-

Some air-mail letters have been arriving this week from America, among them one from Rev. Henry H. Riggs dated April 13, telling of their being delayed in California by the cancelling of their U. S. permit to sail; also telling of his having thus had opportunities to visit the Armenian churches in Los Angeles, Fresno, San Francisco and Oakland, meeting many old friends.

A telegram has come from Mrs. T. J. Damon in Jerusalem, with the news that Miss Caroline Damon and Dr. Hans Ungher were married on Wednesday, May 7th, at the Y.M.C.A. building in Jerusalem. They are hoping to arrange to go on thence in the near future to America.

The Woolworths and younger Maynards, and possibly the elder Maynards, of Beirut, also Mrs. Haas, are planning to spend a summer vacation at Gözne. Mr. Woolworth and Mr. Richard Maynard taking turns in having charge of the premises at Tarsus. Dr. and Mrs. Nute are holding to their plan of summering in Namrun.

Mrs. E. C. Blake and her children started out from Smyrna on May 6th for Beirut. Several of the ladies from the Smyrna school are expecting to go to Gaziantep for the summer.

Messrs. John Bliss and Forrest Crawford of Robert College and Mr. Van Nice who has been making an architectural study of St. Sophia, left Stamboul yesterday morning for Beirut, where their families have been for some time.

It now seems certain that the Annual Meeting of the Near East Mission will not be held this year at the usual time. Possibly a smaller meeting may assemble later on in the summer, when probabilities about the reopening of schools in the fall can be more confidently forecast.

President İsmet İnönü, who has been making a tour of inspection in the western vilayets, and was in Stamboul for a few days last week, returned to Ankara on Wednesday noon.

The graduation exercises of the American Academy at Scutari were held on Saturday last, when ten young ladies received their diplomas. Three of them were to have had the essay honors; but since the date for the closing exercises was put earlier, they were unable to get their essays ready for delivery. The honor is theirs, in any case. Bay Ekrem Tur, head of the Halk Evi in Pera, made a brief address, and Miss Martin spoke the farewell words to the graduating class. Examinations for the under classes came after the Commencement, but are all over now, and the students have returned to their homes.

The Beirut News Letter tells us that a joint committee meeting was held in Beirut a short time ago, to take the place of the Annual Meeting of the Armenian Evangelical Union. Great courage was shown in deciding to increase by fifty per cent the contribution of the churches to the work of Home Missions, in spite of difficult economic conditions. The committees also replied favorably to an invitation to participate in the support and management of the Near East School of Theology.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends:-

A happy letter from Dr. W. W. Peet acknowledges the ninetieth birthday greetings of the Near East Mission associates, and tells of the many other remembrances he received on that day, - St. Valentine's Day, with many beautiful flowers. His son William was able to get off from college work to be with him and make the day still more of a success.

Miss A. M. Barker and Miss Mary Ingle reached Gaziantep in the evening of May 6th, in very comfortable shape, and are located in the Clark home. Possibly they will later be joined by Mrs. Helen Haight Orhan from Angora. Miss Fletcher went this week from Scutari to Gaziantep also, while Miss Gladys Lucas went to join the Guthrie family at Alexandretta.

Miss Hinman and Miss Carl from Smyrna expect to leave on Monday next for Talas; and Miss Woodward and Miss Ward will probably go there later on, Miss Parsons has decided to remain in Smyrna for another year.

Word has been received by Mr. and Mrs. Fowle that their son Curtis and Miss Jean Smith are to be married in New York City today: His younger brother James is to be the best man, while his sister Joy is maid of honor. Our best wishes go across the seas to them.

Another engagement has just been announced, of interest to Constantinopolitans, - that of Mr. Victor Binns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert Binns of Bebek, to Miss Joan La Fontaine, of Moda, both of them being now in Egypt.

A wire from Beirut states that arrangements were in progress for securing passage from Egypt to America for Mrs. Blake and children of Smyrna, Mrs. Kreider and children of Robert College, and others as soon as feasible.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred W. Sellar left yesterday for Talas, to be guests of the Nute family for the summer. Today Mr. Harvey Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Parquette of Robert College are due to leave for Odessa and Moscow on their way to Vladivostok and Japan, Mr. Hall joining his family in America, and the Parquettes going to their new position in the Philippines.

The Commencement exercises of the American College for Girls took place very quietly at Arnavoutkeuy on Thursday of this week, when a large class of young ladies received their diplomas. Addresses were given by Bay Abeddin Daver and President Wright.

The latest letter from the American Board reports that the income from all sources for the first six months of the present fiscal year showed an increase of \$5,191.00 over last year, since the month of February brought in a total income of \$11,700.00 more than the corresponding month last year. Unusual expenses for travel may exhaust all the extra income.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Bible House, Stamboul, May 24, 1941.

Dear Friends;-

Miss Jessie E. Martin of Scutari Academy, Mr. Field of Robert College, and a large party of British subjects left Haydar Pasha Monday morning on their way to Palestine and beyond. A telegram has arrived telling of their safe arrival at Haifa. Miss Martin is on her furlough for a year.

Word has arrived that Mrs. E. C. Blake and her children have returned from Beirut as far as Adana; but we have no particulars as yet regarding her future plans.

A telegram from Beirut received two days ago states that Mrs. H. H. Kreider and her children were leaving there that day for Talas; and Mr. Kreider is hoping to join them there shortly after the close of the Robert College term. It also states that Mr. and Mrs. Bliss and baby of Robert College had gone on to Palestine, but that Mr. and Mrs. Crawford and their boys were waiting still in Beirut.

Miss Edith F. Parsons of Smyrna arrived in Stamboul a couple of days ago, for a brief stay, and is a guest at the Fowle house.

The new church buildings at Ainjar, Bas, and Ras-ul-Ain, in Syria, built for the refugee Armenians from the Hatay region, have been finished, and there is no debt on any one of them. The last two mentioned were dedicated on the first Sunday in May, and the occasion was a most happy one. Miss Frearson, Miss Davies, and Professor Levonian were among those present.

The Commencement exercises of the Near East School of Theology were held at the beginning of this week, in Beirut. A class of six received their certificates, four of them Armenians, two men and two women. They all have open centers of work for the coming year.

Mr. Ray Pearson of Talas, and Mr. John Stone of Tarsus arrived in Stamboul on Monday last, and are going through the process of getting their visas for going across Siberia and Japan to the United States.

Aleppo College has decided to close its year of work on May 30th instead of June 17th as previously planned. The final examinations are now in progress. Mr. Bertel Budtz has been appointed by the Managers as Assistant Director of the College.

The Missionary Herald for April has just brought us the word of the death, on December 4th last, of Miss Gertrude C. Grohe, who from 1920 to 1922 was connected with the American Collegiate Institute at Smyrna. She passed away at Melrose, Massachusetts. Miss Grohe came out a term worker, but her work was cut short by the terrible disaster that destroyed the buildings of the School in September, 1922, and she reached America in November of that year.

Mrs. Block and May and Paul Nilson have returned to Talas at the close of school terms in this city; the two younger children went back home some time earlier.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends:-

Mrs. H. H. Kreider and children, who had gone to Beirut, reached Talas this week, and are staying in the Mission buildings. Mrs. E. C. Blake and children, who had also gone to Beirut, have returned to Tarsus and may very possibly spend a part of the summer in Namrun, with the Woolworths and Maynards.

We are glad to learn that Mr. Gardiner Howland Shaw, whom so many of us happily remember as Secretary and later Counsellor of the American Embassy here, and who has lately been Chief of the Near East Division in the Department of State at Washington, has been raised to the post of Assistant Secretary of State under Cordell Hull. This is a timely and deserved recognition.

The Socony-Vacuum Company has removed its general administrative offices from Stamboul to Konia; and simply a skeleton staff remains here to carry on the distribution department. We are authorized to state that there is no truth whatever in the rumor that the name of Konia is to be changed to Sokonia, in recognition of the new colony.

Among those who have left here at the close of the school year, Miss Elizabeth Burnham was not mentioned; she has been here since the end of October, and has been helping out in the Scutari Academy and in the Service Center; she now returns to the United States. She went to Palestine with Miss Jessie Martin, having preceded her for a few days' visit in Angora, on the way.

Among the new books recently added to the Mission Library are the following:-

- No Less Honor: The Biography of William W. Peet, 1939 (1940)
 Islam and Christianity: Studies in the Relationship between; by L. Levonian,
 History of the Expansion of Christianity; Vol. IV., The Great Century,
 1800-1914; by K. S. Latourette, 1941
 Doctor in Arabia; by Paul Harrison, M. D., 1940
 Not to Me Only: Autobiography of Rev. C. F. Gates, D.D., 1940
 Adventuring with Anatolia College; by Rev. George E. White, D.D., 1940
 I Remember; by Abraham Flexner, an Autobiography; 1940
 Living Religions and a World Faith; by William E. Hocking, D.D., 1940
 The Mongol Empire, its Rise and Legacy; by Michael Prawdin; 1940
 This Amazing Plante; by Roy Chapman Andrews, 1940
 The Bridge of Caravans; by Frances Jenkins Olcott, 1940
 Basilissa; A Tale of the Empress Theodora, by John Masefield, 1940
 The Hazen Books on Religion:-
 Christianity and Our World, by John C. Bennett, 1936
 Jesus, by Mary Ely Lyman, 1937
 Religious Living, by Georgia Harkness, 1937
 Toward a World Christian Fellowship, by K. S. Latourette, 1938
 Prayer and Worship, by Douglas V. Steere, 1938
 The Church, by George Stewart, 1938
 Christians in an Unchristian Society, by Ernest F. Tittle, 1939
 Christian Faith and Democracy, by Gregory Vlastos, 1939

These books may be loaned out, or sent by mail, on the usual terms, to those of our readers desiring to borrow them during the summer.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends;-

The Commencement exercises of the Smyrna Girls' School were successfully held May 17th, many graduates and friends being present. Five girls received their diplomas, and the program included two addresses and some music. That evening, for the first time there was held an alumnae dinner, with about twenty-five graduates present, some of them with their husbands.

The wedding date of Miss Ruth Barnum, daughter of Mrs. Harry H. Barnum, to Rev. John Coburn, it is learned was to be May 26th, at Danbury, Connecticut.

The death is announced, about two months ago, of Miss Hester Donaldson Jenkins, in New York City. Dr. Jenkins was for several years on the Faculty of the American College for Girls here, before the War of 1914-1918.

Professor and Mrs. F. W. Kunick of Robert College left for Germany on May 29th.

Miss Hinman and Miss Carl of the Smyrna School have gone to Talas for the summer; and Miss Ward has gone to Gaziantep after spending Sunday, May 25th, in Angora with former pupils.

The Commencement exercises of Robert College took place on Wednesday last, June 4th; and four young men graduated from the Arts and Sciences course, and twenty-two from the School of Engineering, of whom seven each took diplomas in Civil Engineering and Electrical Engineering, and eight in Mechanical Engineering. Addresses were given in Turkish by Bay Selim Sirri Tarcan, Deputy for Ordu, and in English by President Wright.

Mrs. Paul E. Nilson and her daughter May arrived from Talas several days ago; the former for dental work, the latter to take the London Board examinations given in connection with the English High School for Girls.

Mr. Ray Pearson, who has completed his three years as tutor in Talas School, has accepted an appointment as instructor in the Engineering Department at Robert College for the ensuing year, and is also teaching there for a part of this summer.

A telegram has been received from Dr. and Mrs. MacCallum from Bombay, where they arrived two days ago. They expect to remain in India for some time.

The Beirut News Letter of May 30th reports that Miss Agnes Fenenga is remaining in charge of the Girls' School at Sidon. Dr. Alford Carleton has taken his wife and children to Jerusalem; and Dean Dorman and Mrs. Dorman of the Aleppo College are also in Jerusalem. Miss Silliman and Miss Norton of Aleppo are reported as visiting Miss Webb at Beirut.

Mr. Herman H. Kreider of Robert College has left for Talas to make a brief stay, expecting to return here for some needed business before taking his vacation with them later.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs.

Bible House, Stamboul, June 14, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

Latest word from Miss Jessie Martin is, that she went to Suez, Egypt, to try to make arrangements for a trip to America, and is now again in Jerusalem. Miss Burnham has found temporary work in connection with the Y.W.C.A. in the latter city.

Miss Gladys Perry left on Tuesday of this week for a visit in Namrun, where the Blake family have also gone.

Mr. Herman Kreider returned to Robert College from his brief visit to his family at Talas, on Thursday last. With him came Mr. Alfred Sellar on urgent business; he expects to return to Talas on next Tuesday. There seems to be a strong possibility that at least a part of the American property at Talas may be requisitioned by the military for use for an army hospital. Arrangements are not yet reported in full.

Both the doorkeeper and the assistant doorkeeper of the Bible House have been drafted into the army, making necessary the employing of substitute help.

The local dailies have been stating that there would soon be a Turkish cargo-steamer starting from Stamboul for America with a full cargo of merchandise; it has also been rumored in more or less informed circles that an arrangement was to be made for a large group of government students wishing to study in America to go by a Turkish steamer through the Mediterranean, under international guarantee. Both these rumors need confirmation, and appear to be premature.

The Beirut News Letter of June 4 reports that Miss Norton and Miss Silliman, who have been staying with Miss Webb in Beirut, expect later to occupy part of the Bell house at Shimlan.

During the past week very much needed and beneficial showers have fallen in many places in Anatolia. In some places the Turkish population had been out praying for rain.

All the Dewey and Isely children having left Gaziantep for America, the only child in that Station now is Fay Seager, granddaughter of our Mrs. Leslie.

Mr. Farnsworth Fowle has gone down from Angora to Iskenderun, where he was expecting to meet Mr. Arthur Lanckton, of the Socony-Vacuum Company.

Beginning with Monday next, the American Hospital of Stamboul is giving a short course to a group of twelve volunteer nurses, for special work in connection with the present mobilization. Similar groups are studying in other hospitals also. The course lasts ten weeks.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs.

Bible House, Stamboul, June 21, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

According to a letter from the Secretaries in Boston dated May 23, Rev. J. Riggs Brewster had left Boston to join Mrs. Brewster in Minnesota. He will be doing some work this summer in church conferences in that region.

Rev. E. C. Blake has gone from Smyrna to join his wife and children in Tarsus, and they are now in Namrun. Mr. Blake expects to return to Smyrna about July 10th. Miss Perry is with the Blakes, as stated in our last issue.

Mr. Alfred W. Sellar returned to Talas after a stay in Bebek of only a few days. He and Mrs. Sellar plan to stay two months there.

Miss McElroy of Pierce College, Athens, is still working in her campaign to raise funds for that College; several moderate gifts have come in. Present governmental restrictions in the United States make it difficult to get permission to transfer money to Greece.

Our most recent information regarding Board personnel in Syria and Palestine is, that Miss Fenenga was still at Sidon; Miss Webb and Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Maynard at Beirut; Miss Silliman and Miss Norton at Shimlan; Dr. and Mrs. Carleton and children at Jerusalem; Miss Burnham also at Jerusalem. Miss Jessie Martin at Tel Aviv near Jaffa. Miss Martin was making efforts to secure permission to leave for America.

A letter from Dr. Greenslade at Beirut dated June 7th states that a party of perhaps twenty Americans was expecting to start during that week or the next for America via Egypt and India, and that the Dewey and Isely children from Aintab would be in this party.

Miss Edith Parsons, who has been in Stamboul for the past four weeks, left on Tuesday last for Smyrna on a visit of about three weeks.

Mr. John Burns, of Tarsus College, is spending his summer vacation at Talas, and hopes to climb Mt. Argaeus before its close.

The local newspapers print the statement that the Minister of Commerce has arranged for a direct freight service between Turkey and the United States, using three of the larger Turkish cargo steamers, the "Demir", "Bakir", and "Krom", which are to touch at Smyrna and Mersin and then go through the Suez Canal and around the Cape of Good Hope. The first of these steamers is stated to be starting in about ten days. We understand that no passengers will be carried.

A geographical congress, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Public Instruction, began its sessions at Angora on Thursday last and was to continue several days.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Bible House, Stamboul, July 5, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

Unfortunately there was not enough printable news last week to make it worth while to inflict a News Sheet on a longsuffering public.

During the past two weeks there has been a group of mountain climbers up at Ulu Dagh (the Bithynian Olympus), including Miss E.W. Putney, Miss Olive Greene, Miss Blatter, Messrs. MacCallum, Pearson and Stene, Miss Zabel of Scutari School, and Mr. and Mrs. Catt. Despite some poor weather, they seem to have had a glorious time, and are due back today or to-morrow. Miss Greene expects to spend a short time at Susurluk on her way back to Smyrna.

Mrs. E. T. Leslie is starting out to-morrow by train for Diyarbakir, hoping to be allowed to go on to Mardin also: she will no doubt find a way of getting to see that grandchild in Gaziantep before she returns from her vacation trip.

A party of seven Robert College people, after a long wait, have just received their permits to travel across Russia on their way back to the United States. These include Mr. and Mrs. Sensemann, formerly of Anatolia College, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Pond, and Mr. McCarthy. They are now expecting to leave today, going by rail to Erzurum, thence by a narrow-gauge railroad to Tiflis, then on to Baku, and north to join the Trans-siberian railroad and ultimately go via Japan.

Miss Grace Towner and Mr. John Burns of Tarsus College have been spending a part of their vacation with our group of friends at Gaziantep.

The forty-fifth anniversary of the service of Mr. Zakar D.S. Papazian with the Treasury Department at the Bible House was happily observed by a tea given at the Bible House yesterday afternoon in his honor. Mr. Papazian is also celebrating his seventy-fifth birthday this month. Apparently the age-limit does not apply to a person so essential to the business of the Mission.

Commander Hall, the new American Naval attaché to the Embassy in Turkey, arrived here a few days ago, having flown from America in nine days and a half, - rather speedy for these days!

Another recent arrival here was Major Kraw, the Military Attaché to the American Legation in Athens, who came by way of Sofia.

A wire from our patriotic British member, Miss Gladys Lucas, brought Fourth-of-July greetings to her fellow-members of Stamboul Station from her summering resort at Soukoluk, Hatay. Unfortunately this could not keep the rains from spoiling the projected baseball game at Robert College; but the American community had a pleasant tea indoors there. In the evening there was a benefit dance at the Fowle House, both as a get-together, and to secure some funds for charity.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends:-

The party from Ulu Dagh returned this past week to our city, well content with their grand time on the mountain.

On July 7th a party of thirty-three from Talas climbed to the top of Mt. Argaeus, making the whole trip there and back in one day. Among those who reached the top out of 37 who started, were Sylvia Nilson, the youngest girl to have made the top (twelve), and Lincoln Blake, the youngest boy (eight); also John Burns, Miss Irma Carl, M. Maurice Beguin, May and Paul Nilson, and Messrs. Blake and Nilson.

Word has been received of the death, the last of June, at Jerusalem, of Mrs. Howard Bliss, widow of the former President of Beirut University. She was eighty years old. She was the daughter of Eliphalet W. Blatchford of Chicago, and was married to Dr. Bliss in 1889, and came with him to Beirut University when he became President, in 1902. Her three daughters, Mrs. Bayard Dodge, Mrs. Byron Smith, and Mrs. Leslie Leavitt, had been with her in Beirut; while a son, Huntington Bliss, is on the faculty of Sofia College.

We have also just learned of the death, on February 19, of Rev. Dr. Robert Frew, in Gothenburg, Sweden, where for some years he had been rector of St. Andrews Church. Dr. Frew will be remembered by many of our readers as the pastor of the Union Church of Pera for some time before and during the previous world war.

On Monday last Badveli Giragos Selverian, formerly for sixty years teacher and preacher in the Caesarea-Talas field, passed to his reward at Gedik Pasha. Interment was in Ferikeuy on Tuesday. He was in the vicinity of ninety, but had lost the record of his exact age. His last preaching-place was in Talas, from 1919 till 1933, when he retired and came to Stamboul to live. He leaves a wife and daughter here, a married daughter in Caesarea, and three daughters and a son in America.

The Woolworth family, Mrs. Haas and Mrs. Maynard went up to Gbzne on the Fourth of July; Mr. Woolworth expects to stay there during July, and then go back to Tarsus to relieve Mr. Richard Maynard who will take his turn on the mountain.

On Thursday of this week, the first bound volumes of the new Turkish translation of the entire Bible were delivered at the Bible House. This marks the successful conclusion of the task begun by Dr. MacCallum in the fall of 1928, and financed jointly by the two great Bible Societies, the American and the British and Foreign.

A telegram from Mrs. Leslie reports her safe arrival in Mardin on Wednesday afternoon last. Her visit will be a great comfort to Miss Diantha Dewey, who has been there alone for so long.

Letters dated up to June 23rd from Athens show that Dr. and Mrs. Marden, Miss Morley, Miss Mills, Miss Pinneo, Miss Rowlands, and presumably Dr. Parmelee were still in Athens, and occupying one of the buildings on the Girls' College grounds, the other buildings being a German military hospital; but all of these colleagues were hoping to get off soon for America, as was also Daniel Brewster from the American Consulate.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Bible House, Stamboul, July 18, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

Miss Grace Towner and Mr. John Burns of the Tarsus College and Mrs. S. P. Clark, whose husband is the cotton expert for the Turkish Government at Adana, came up this week for a short vacation in our city.

Miss Gladys Perry is back again at Scutari School after interesting trips to Namrun and Talas, and a thrilling visit to the cave-dwellers of Cappadocia at Urgup.

Letters from America report that Robert Shepard, son of our Dr. and Mrs. Lorrin Shepard, graduated from Deerfield Academy in June last with a cum laude grade and the French award.

Mrs. Eula B. Lee is back again at her home in Hissar, after a short stay in the American Hospital with a troublesome case of shingles.

Quite a group of Robert College people, and others, have gone up to the little lake above Bolu where several had a pleasant vacation last summer. They include President Wright, Dean Scipio, Dr. Post, Consul Latimer, Professor Collins, and others.

The Beirut News Letter reports that Professor Levonian and family, of the Near East School of Theology, is spending the summer at Brummana, in the Lebanon Mountains.

Mr. Duncan Thomson and the rest of the staff of the Socony-Vacuum Company have returned from Konia to Stamboul and have reunited their offices in the same old place. Mrs. Thomson and Margaret remain for the present at Talas.

The engagement is announced of Mr. John Orr, formerly of Aleppo College, and Miss Vera Zwierschowski, of Bebek, who graduated at the American College for Girls this last June.

By the new schedule of steamers sailing from Stamboul for points on the Turkish shores of the Black Sea, there are two departures weekly, leaving on Thursdays and Mondays, each taking sixteen or seventeen days for the round trip as far as Rize and Hopa.

The newspapers assure us that we shall soon have plenty of coffee in town, since a new shipment of 20,000 sacks of coffee is being unloaded at Iskenderoun. Recently the distribution has been only by ticket.

Ordinary bread is henceforth to be composed of 60% wheat flour and 40% barley; while the "franbola" or white bread is to be sold only to persons medically certified to be of weak digestion.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, July 26, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

Word has come from Beirut that Miss Jessie Martin and the Dewey and Isely children had gone to Egypt and were sailing from Suez for Australia not later than July 11th. The Beirut News Letter does not mention Miss Burnham as being with them. Another party were to sail from Suez for South Africa and New York, but apparently none of the American Board personnel was in that party.

Dr. Alford Carleton had started at last accounts for Aleppo, leaving Mrs. Carleton and the children for the present at Jerusalem, where were also Mr. and Mrs. Dorman of Aleppo College, and Miss Mabel Long. Mrs. Laird, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. MacCallum, was also mentioned as staying in Jerusalem.

Last week our colleagues in Talas received a summons from the Ministry of National Defence to hand over nearly all of the Mission buildings for use as a military hospital. Dr. Nute and Mr. Fowle went to the Capital to see what could be done to get exceptions made for the Boys' School building and the Nute house, in addition to the clinic building; and there seems good hope that this may be successful, though a definite reply has not yet come.

On June 14th, Mr. Alden Hoover Ryan, son of our former colleague, Mrs. Arthur C. Ryan, was married at Wilkinsburg, Penna., to Miss Sarah Mildred Haines.

According to the latest news from Boston, it seemed probable that Rev. and Mrs. Henry H. Riggs, of Beirut, would return from California to Auburndale, Mass., since there seemed no probability of their being able to return at present to Syria.

Dr. Albert Dewey writes that the Gaziantep Hospital has been running very full, with 49 and even at times 51 in-patients, and with many operations. Dr. Dewey has had to increase the fees in his private clinic from a lira to two liras, so as to limit somewhat the crowds.

The Beirut News Letter tells us that of our Aleppo ladies, Miss Fenenga is still at Sidon, and Miss Norton and Miss Silliman in Shemlan. During the capture of Sidon by the British, some damage was done to buildings of the Presbyterian Mission, but there were no personal injuries.

Mrs. Paul Nilson has gone on a visit to Smyrna; and with Miss Irma Carl she was to take a trip to Egridir and the big lake there.

Miss Olive Greene of Smyrna arrived in Stamboul Wednesday, for a brief stay in this city, after a delightful visit in Susurluk.

There was another ascent of Mt. Argaeus on July 15, when May, Sylvia and Paul Nilson, with M. Maurice Beguin of Smyrna, Miss Henni and Herr Aulich of Stamboul, went to the top, and had a wearying walk of about eighteen hours on the return to Talas. Meanwhile Mr. Nilson and the two Blake boys, the two Kreider boys, Dorothy Nilson and Margaret Thomson, who had gone as far up as Tekir, 2000 metres high, returned to Talas by another route, stopping several times in the tents of nomads.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, August 1, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

A letter dated July 5 has come from Mrs. F. W. MacCallum from Satara, India, where she and Dr. MacCallum, Miss Emily McCallum and Miss Glennie went up the first of July, and where the change of climate was doing them all good. Miss McCallum was able to walk three steps at a time three times a day. Satara is in the hills southeast of Bombay.

President Wright of Robert College, accompanied by Mr. Arthur Lanckton of the Socony-Vacuum Company, left by Taurus Express on Monday last. Dr. Wright expects to go from Baghdad to Singapore by airplane, and perhaps all the way on to America by air. Mr. Lanckton was planning to go to Cairo and take steamer from Suez for New York. Dr. Wright hopes to be back for the opening of colleges in September.

Miss Parsons and Miss De Remer are due today from Smyrna for a vacation stay in our city. Miss Dwight from Talas expects to join them next week.

Miss Agnes Baird is taking her vacation in Kustendil, Bulgaria and Miss Clarke and Miss Douglass at Cham Korla.

Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Bennett of Robert College are making a trip through Anatolia, visiting particularly places such as Merzifon, Talas, Konia, etc., connected with the Dodd family, relatives of Mrs. Bennett.

Mr. John Stone, for the past three years teacher at Tarsus College, has accepted a position at Robert College for this coming year.

Arrangements have been made for a resumption of air-mail service to the United States from Stamboul via Lisbon, the rate now being 75 piastres for ten grammes.

Mr. Harry T. Baker, formerly of the Y.M.C.A. here, is now Field Supervisor for the Y.M.C.A. Army and Navy Work in seven Southern States, with headquarters at Atlanta, Ga. Mrs. Baker remains with her father in Johnstown, N. Y., at least until next fall. Mr. Baker sends word that Miss Mary Gleason, whom many will remember as having been out here, is now working in the Russell Sage Foundation in New York.

Dr. W. L. Nute writes that on July 25th Mrs. Nute joined him in Angora for a short vacation from their work in Talas.

Dr. Katherine L. McElroy, President-elect of Pierce College, Athens, is to be teaching this next year at Bryn Mawr College while waiting for the chance to return to Athens.

Professor Levonian writes from Syria that all of the Armenian churches in Syria as well as their ministers came through the recent hostilities without any damage, although some of the Syrian Evangelical churches in the southern part were damaged.

Miss Elizabeth Webb, who remained in Beirut until July 20th, is now in Shimlan, according to the Beirut News Letter.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

Mrs. E. T. Leslie got back to the Treasury Office on Tuesday last, after her successful trip to Mardin to see Miss Dewev, and to Gaziantep to see the many friends there, especially her daughter, Mrs. Seager, and the incomparable granddaughter. Mrs. Leslie was gone almost exactly a month. Mrs. Seager and her daughter are now on their return to Smyrna via Angora.

Dr. W. L. Nute arrived in Stamboul from Talas and Angora on Saturday last, for a short stay.

Rev. Mr. Norberg, a Swedish missionary from the Bombay district of India, with his wife and two daughters and a single lady missionary, passed through here recently, spending a couple of weeks at the Bible House. They left on their way to Sweden via Germany, a week ago. Mr. Norberg preached at the Bible House the Sunday he was here, a very impressive and helpful sermon.

Mrs. Nilson and Miss Erma Carl are back again in Talas after a happy trip to Lake Egridir, and a three-day araba ride to the Phrygian monuments in the Afion Kara Hissar region.

Miss Mary Ingle, of Thessaloniki and Scutari, has gone from Gaziantep for a visit with Miss Gladys Lucas at Sogukoluk in the Hatay hills.

Two of the professors from the Botany and Zoology departments of Stamboul University, together with ten others from those departments, spent a week with the Nilsons at Talas, and collected on the slopes of Ali Dag and Argaeus some four hundred specimens of flowers, even in this comparatively dry season of the year. They went on thence to the troglodyte region of Urgup.

Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Clark of Gaziantep went this week from Gaziantep to Talas for their vacation, staying perhaps a month.

Miss Adelaide Dwight and Miss Sylvia Eddy are spending a week's vacation on a trip to Erzroum. Miss Dwight expects to come later to Stamboul.

Letters from Rev. Ernest Riggs indicate that he and Mrs. Riggs sailed from Suez about June 18th, making several stops on the run from there to Durban, Natal. Thence they went overland to Cape Town, stopping at various mission stations to see friends; and finally secured a sailing earlier than they had been led to expect, for Trinidad and New York, being due at the last-named port today. Mr. and Mrs. Gardner, of the Farm School at Thessaloniki, were with them for part of this journey.

Mr. John Orr, formerly of Aleppo College, now of Robert College, and Miss Vera Zwierschowska of Bebek, were married on Wednesday last at the Dutch Chapel by Rev. W. C. Kerr. Mr. Ray Pearson, formerly of Talas, was best man.

Mr. George D. White writes from Nicosia, Cyprus, that the Mines Corporation is financing road works and other improvements, as a relief measure, keeping 500 to 800 working most of the time. Mrs. White is superintending spinning, weaving and knitting for the women, so that both of them keep busier than ever. The copper mines are working at about half capacity.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

We are glad to report recent word from our friends in Greece, who have for so long not been able to communicate with us. A letter from Switzerland dated August 6th quotes one received from Miss Morley from Rome, stating that the Americans were being evacuated by the Italian authorities from Greece as fast as airplane accommodation could be secured. Dr. and Mrs. J. K. Marden, Miss Bertha Morley, Dr. Ruth Parmelee, and Miss Willms had arrived in Rome, while President and Mrs. Homer Davis, of Athens College, had already reached Lisbon. Nothing is said about Misses Mills, Pinneo, and Rowlands of the Pierce College staff, nor about Mr. and Mrs. Charles House, but it is implied that they were awaiting their turn for the journey. All are presumably well.

On August 8th, the American Embassy in Angora was able to wire Mr. Nilson at Talas that the Ministry of National Defence had sent instructions to the Kayseri officials to dispense with all the buildings of the American Mission at Talas if possible, but if not, then to take over only three, thus leaving the Boys' School building free for the re-opening of the school next month. This is good news, and we felicitate our colleagues on being able to continue their work.

Miss Grace Towner left yesterday on her return to her post in Tarsus, but will make a short stay in Talas on the way. With her went Miss Dorothy Blatter of Scutari, and Miss Manwell of the American Hospital, on their way for a visit of a fortnight or so at Gaziantep.

Word has been received by wire from the party of nine that left here from Robert College early in July to go to America via Moscow and Vladivostok; they telegraph from Vladivostok, whence they were about to take steamer for Japan. These include Mr. and Mrs. Sensemann, formerly of Anatolia College, also the Rogers and Pond families and Messrs. Hanna, McCarthy, and Clinton. Another cable has come from Bombay, telling of the arrival of the other party from the Colleges which started about the same time via Persia: this included Dr. and Mrs. Fox, Mrs. Potts, and Miss Williamson; they spoke of having two weeks to wait in Bombay, and this would indicate that they had found passage for America thence.

President Alford Carleton, who had been back in Aleppo for a while getting things ready for the opening of the new College term, went back last week to Jerusalem to bring home his family: but the day he arrived, the doctors had diagnosed Mrs. Carleton's illness as diphtheria. Providentially it is a very light case; so Dr. Carleton took the children back with him, but had to leave his wife for three weeks of isolationward treatment. He hopes to be back with her about the first week in September.

The week which Misses Dwight and Eddy has expected to spend in Erzroum dwindled down to one day, or the major part thereof: for they found they had been allowed to blunder into a forbidden zone, and were hurriedly sent back. Two Robert College teachers were also refused permission to go to Erzroum.

Miss Gladys Lucas returned to Scutari the beginning of this week, after a fine vacation stay in Sogukoluk, Hatay. Miss Fletcher is expected back in a few days from Gaziantep.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Rivers.

Dear Friends:-

Further word has come from our Athens friends who have now gone on their way toward the United States. It seems that in addition to Dr. and Mrs. Marden, Dr. Parmelee, Miss Willms and Miss Morley, as reported in our last number, Miss Mills and Miss Rowlands were of the party; they went by air to Rome, and thence proceeded by rail through Geneva on their way to Lisbon. Letters have come from Dr. Marden and Dr. Mills on the way. It seems that all are in good health; and that Miss Pinneo elected to stay in Athens, in her own house, hoping to be able to do much service to the friends remaining there. The various pastors and Bible Women were continuing their work in Athens.

A cable from America has announced the arrival of Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Riggs on August 8th, as had been expected, going by way of Cape Town and Trinidad.

Miss Hinman and Miss Carl returned last week from Talas to the Smyrna Girls' School. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sellar have returned also from Talas to their home in Bebek.

Miss Fletcher returned last week from her visit in Gaziantep to the Scutari School; and with her came Miss Theda Bell Phelps for a short vacation visit in Stamboul. The Hospital in Gaziantep continues very full and busy. Dr. and Mrs. Clark are having a brief rest in Talas.

Miss Adelaide Dwight has arrived in Stamboul, to pass her furlough year here, with Miss Parsons, in rented rooms in the Bayazid district.

Arrangement have been made for the holding of an enlarged Committee and Interim meeting, taking the place of the usual Annual Meeting; it is to take place next week Thursday and Friday, the first day being taken up largely with hearing reports of the past year from the various Stations, and the second day with the transaction of routine business. Each Station has been asked to have one representative present; but some of them will apparently not be able to do so. Quite possibly none of the Stations outside of Turkey will send delegates.

The engagement is announced of Miss Eleanor Barnum, daughter of our late friend Prof. H. H. Barnum of Robert College and Mrs. Barnum; but by some chance the name of the fortunate young man has not yet reached us.

The successor of Consul Frederick P. Latimer Jr., at the U. S. Consulate-General in this city is to be Mr. Samuel William Honaker, a graduate of the University of Virginia; he is expected to arrive during September. Mr. Honaker was for a time Consul in Smyrna and is known to many of our readers.

Dr. and Mrs. Lorrin Shepard have gone up to Ulu Dagh, or Mt. Olympus, above Brousa, for a week or so of tenting life as a complete change and vacation. Thus far the weather has been ideal for them.

Dr. Nute has returned to Talas from his vacation in Stamboul and has taken with him Richardson Fowle, for a few weeks' visit in the home of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Dr. Nute hopes to go later to join his wife in Namrun for real rest.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends:-

The enlarged Committee and Interim meeting which takes the place of the Annual Meeting of the Mission for this year, is being held at the Bible House, yesterday and today. Each Station was asked to send one delegate to sit with the Committee at this time; but not all of the Stations were able to do so. Neither of the two Stations in Greece, and neither of the two in Syria was represented, nor was Sofia; so that it resolved itself largely into a Turkey gathering. The delegates from other places were:- Miss Parsons from Smyrna, Miss Phelps from Gaziantep, Mr. Nilson and Miss Dwight from Talas, and Mr. Richard Maynard from Tarsus.

Yesterday morning was taken up with the hearing of reports from Adana-Tarsus, Aleppo, Gaziantep, Smyrna, Sofia, Stamboul and Talas and a brief statement regarding some of the work in Mardin, together with the reports of the Treasury and Publication Departments of the Mission and the Library. Many of these were briefer than usual; so that the whole list was completed in the morning session. In the afternoon the financial items on the docket were cleared off; and one of the educational problems was also discussed. It is expected that the remainder of the docket will be cleared up today. Most if not all the delegates will remain over the Sabbath, and there is a devotional gathering planned for that evening.

On Sunday August 31st, at the Dutch Legation Chapel, the service of the Union Church of Pera will take partly the form of a joint observance with the Dutch Community of the city, of the birthday anniversary of the Queen of Holland.

Mrs. Emily Block of Talas and Miss Grace Towner of Tarsus went this week from Talas to Adana and Tarsus for a visit.

U. S. Income Tax blanks for report on the calendar year 1940 have now arrived at the Consulate, and may be had on application. Single persons with gross income of \$800. and married couples with gross income of \$2000. are required to make returns.

Dr. and Mrs. Lorrin Shepard have returned from their camping trip to Ulu Dagh, having been summoned back earlier than they had hoped, by the needs of the Hospital.

Professor Charles S. MacNeal of Robert College returned last week Friday from a month's railroad tour through Anatolia. Although prevented from going to Diyarbakir, Erzroum and Erzinjan as being in military zones, he succeeded in the rest of his itinerary, which included Kutahya, Eski Shehir, Konya, Adana, Tarsus, Mersin, Iskenderun, Antioch, Sogukoluk, Malatya, Ankara, Isparta, Denizli, Aydin, and Smyrna, returning from there via Bandirma. Everywhere he found unexpected objects of interest, and everywhere the delightful companionship of new friends.

Word comes from Miss Agnes Baird that there is every prospect of schools in Sofia opening as usual next month; this includes the Grade School, etc. at the Community Center, as well as the American College.

Miss Eleanor De Remer, who has been spending some days in Stamboul, is expecting to return to Smyrna now within a few days. Miss Olive Greene, who was also here last week, has already returned to the Smyrna School. Miss Woodward is expected back there early in September having been recently to Namrun from Talas.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, September 5, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

A letter from Mrs. Mary Whittle Monedjicoff tells us that the American College in Sofia is expecting to open on Tuesday next, Sept. 9th, with approximately 440 students. The summer vacation is being thus shortened because they are to have the whole month of January free, which will mean a great saving in coal, electricity, and vegetables. All are well at the College, but little Joan Bliss had to have a serious operation for appendicitis about the middle of August, from which she is making a remarkable recovery.

Word coming from Lisbon dated August 21st tells of the arrival there of the party from Athens, after a rather uncomfortable journey from Geneva. This party included Dr. and Mrs. Marden, Miss Mills, Miss Morley, Miss Rowlands, and presumably Miss Willms. Dr. Parmelee had gone there earlier by air from Roms.

Rev. Henry H. Riggs writes that both he and Mrs. Riggs have been helping out in the Board's Office in Boston. They have found a home in the upper floor of a two-story house, at 29 Rowe Street, Auburndale, Mass., and their daughter Helen is living with them while attending Newton High School. Rev. and Mrs. Ernest W. Riggs are also living in Auburndale for the present.

Mrs. Lillian C. Sewny is making a visit to Boston and vicinity, expecting to remain there till about the middle of September before returning to Claremont, California.

The Beirut News-Letter informs us that plans are being made for the opening of the Near East School of Theology on October first. It has been decided not to admit a beginning class, because the more advanced students will need all the available time of the faculty.

A letter from Mr. Harold Hackett, of the American Board Mission in Japan, states that there were on July 4th only nine active American Board missionaries left in Japan. Kobe College carried through its work till summer without interruption.

Miss Mary W. Riggs has made arrangements to move her residence from Brookline, Mass., to Porter Hall, Pilgrim Place, Claremont, California; but no word has reached us of the date of this proposed move.

Miss Mary Ward has returned from Gaziantep to Smyrna to be on hand for the opening of the Girls' School. Miss Eleanor De Remer has also gone back from Stamboul to Smyrna; and yesterday Mr. Richard Maynard left Stamboul for Tarsus.

Dr. Albert W. Dewey arrived yesterday evening from Gaziantep, and is hoping to go up on Ulu Dagh with some others for a mountain outing.

The gathering on Sunday last of the mission members present in this city, held at the Fowle house in Hissar, proved to be a surprise party in honor of the three-score-years-and-ten of the undersigned, who was presented on behalf of the Mission with some old Greek manuscripts in a suitable cover, and had to cut a birthday cake. There was also some piano music by Professor MacNeal of Robert College; and the evening closed with a devotional service conducted by the Mission pastor.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Dear Friends:-

Dr. and Mrs. Charles E. Clark have returned from Talas to the Gaziantep Hospital; and Miss Theda Bell Phelps has also returned there after her brief visit in Stamboul.

Last Saturday a party consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Fowle, Dr. and Mrs. Shepard, Dr. A. W. Dewey of Aintab, and Mr. Lyman MacCallum left Stamboul for a week's camping on Ulu Dagh. By great good fortune they found a bus that afternoon at Brousa which whisked them up to their camping ground just below the Hotel. They report glorious weather with frosty nights and clear days.

When Dr. Dewey returns to our city he expects to go on to Sogukoluk, in Hatay, to join Mr. and Mrs. Isely who went there last week on their vacation from Gaziantep.

Word was received last week from Lisbon that the Marden party had sailed from America by American Export steamer on August 22nd; and yesterday came a cable from Boston reporting the arrival of the party in America on September 2nd.

It is learned that Mr. and Mrs. Charles House have remained in Thessaloniki, at the Farm School. No particulars have as yet come to hand.

Word has come of the death, on March 15th, of Rev. Samuel A. Harlow, father of Rev. S. Ralph Harlow, formerly of Smyrna. He was eighty-four years old, and had been a Congregational minister for fifty-three years. His daughter Anna was Mrs. John Kingsley Birge, who passed away in 1925.

Miss Agnes Fenenga left Sidon on Tuesday, Sept. 2nd. She expects to be in Shimlan until Sept. 20th, when she plans to return to Aleppo. --Beirut News Letter.

Mr. and Mrs. Harrison R. Maynard are reported to have gone up to the neighborhood of Ain Zahalta, in the Lebanon, to remain until about September 26th.

Dr. and Mrs. Alford Carleton were due back in Aleppo on Saturday last from Jerusalem, where Mrs. Carleton has been recuperating.

President Ismet Inönü has arrived here after his visit to Brousa, and is staying at Florya.

Mr. Maurice Beguin, who has been spending the summer in Talas and who is to be teaching French in the Smyrna Girls' School this coming year, is passing through our city, staying a few days.

Presumably Mrs. Blake and the children returned to Smyrna from Talas just a week ago and rejoined Mr. Blake there, though word has not yet come through of this event.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

Miss Sylvia Eddy of Talas, who had been in Stamboul with Miss Dwight for a brief stay, left today on her return to her post.

Mrs. W. L. Nute of Talas was also in Stamboul for a very few days, after having accompanied Miss Woodward back to Smyrna after her summer vacation. Mrs. Nute went back early this week to Talas.

Mr. Daniel Brewster, son of our colleagues of Athens Station, who has been till recently connected with the American Consulate at Athens, is in this city at present, on his way to join the staff of the American Embassy at Angora.

Miss Annie M. Barker and Miss Mary Ingle arrived in Stamboul on Wednesday last, returning from a very pleasant summer in Gaziantep.

Mrs. Alice Seymour Browne Frame, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. J. K. Browne of Harpout, died in Cambridge, Mass., Saturday, August 16th, of cancer. Alice Browne was born in Harpout, Oct. 19, 1879, and after studying at Cambridge Latin School, graduated in 1900 from Mt. Holyoke College; she then took the full course at Hartford Theological Seminary and a post-graduate course at the Hartford School of Religious Pedagogy. In 1903 she became Secretary for Young People's Work in the Woman's Board of Missions; and two years later was appointed to the North China Mission, and went out to Peking into educational work. In 1913 she was married to Rev. Murray S. Frame, and was thenceforward located in Tung-chow. A short time ago she returned to America for treatment.

President Wright has cabled from America that he expects several new teachers for the two Colleges to come out this fall to Stamboul. Dr. Wright himself has been granted leave of absence till January that he may help in the Near East Information service of the State Department at Washington.

A letter from the Board in Boston states that Rev. Carl Compton of Thessaloniki has accepted a position for the ensuing school year at Mt. Hermon School, Mass. As already announced, Miss McElroy of Athens Junior College (Pierce College) will be teaching in Bryn Mawr College, pending the opportunity to return to Greece.

The name of the young man who is to marry Miss Eleanor Barnum, as referred to four weeks ago, is Franklin Gardiner; and he is a graduate of Mass. Institute of Technology.

Summer time is to be ended tomorrow, and standard time resumed all over this country.

A Turkish Government loan of 25,000,000 liras, covered by savings bonds, has been entirely taken up within a period of two months.

Rev. W. Clark Kerr will preach his farewell sermon in the Union Church, Pera, on Sunday next, and expects to leave during the following week for his new post at Haifa. A reception in his honor was given yesterday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kreider in Hissar; and this was followed by a farewell supper for him at the Birge home, given by the personnel of the American Board Mission. Today another reception is being given in Pera.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

The camping party from Ulu Dagh returned a week ago Tuesday, after a delightful ten days. Dr. Dewey who was of the party, started right off for the other part of his vacation, which he has been taking at Sogukoluk, in the Hatay, with the Iselys.

Richardson Fowle, with May and Paul Nilson, came here from Talas early this week; May is to be a boarder at the American College for Girls, while Paul will be at the English High School for Boys.

The two American Colleges and the American Academy at Scutari are opening yesterday and today, with very full registration. The total registered at Robert College will probably exceed nine hundred,- the highest record in its long history.

Rev. W. Clark Kerr preached his last sermon in the Union Church of Pera last Sunday, and on Monday started out on his way to his new post at Haifa, Palestine. The church will look long before it finds a pastor as useful and inspiring as Mr. Kerr.

Miss Mabel Long, of Pierce College, Athens, who spent part of the past year teaching in Aleppo College, is to have charge of the mathematics at Tarsus College this coming year.

Mr. William Norman Fraleigh is the new Vice Consul of the United States at Stamboul. He comes here from Athens, via Rome, having been attached to the Consulate at Athens for about a year, following his first appointment which was at Naples.

Sofia American College, and we understand all other schools in Sofia, were prevented from opening in the middle of September as they had expected to do, owing to an outbreak of infantile paralysis. This is characterized as an epidemic; but we are not informed what proportions it may have taken. However, the present expectation is that schools will be opening on October first.

The first five hundred copies of the new Turkish translation of the Bible have been practically all sold out already; and another consignment of a thousand have been bound up and put on sale. The binding proposition is difficult now because of lack of needed materials.

Word has been received that the date for the marriage of Miss Eleanor Barnum and Mr. Franklin Gardiner was August 30th.

Dr. Forrest Crawford returned this past week to Robert College after his summer in Palestine and Syria. His wife and children are remaining in Syria, and expect to proceed to America when a good opportunity comes.

The Greek Patriarchate building at Fanar on the Golden Horn was almost entirely destroyed by fire in the early morning hours on Sunday last, as well as ninety-four houses between that and the Sultan Selim mosque, eighty-four of them Moslem homes. The fire was started by a short-circuit in the Patriarchate, and was fanned by an unusually high wind, making the work of the fire department quite difficult.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

A letter from Mrs. F. W. MacCallum in India reports the recent death in America of Mrs. Thomas B. Scott, sister of Dr. MacCallum. Dr. and Mrs. (Mary E.) Scott were in Ceylon as missionaries of our Board from 1893 till 1913, and thereafter for some year were in charge of the Walker Missionary Home in Auburndale, Mass.

Colleges and schools are in full session again, -very full in fact. The official figures for registration at Robert College up till September 30th were as follows, though there have been others to register in the past two days:- College Dept., 171 (14 new); Engineering, 206 (12 new); Academy, 413 (156 new); Military, 125 (32 new). Of this number, 329 are boarders, - also a new record, - and 584 day students. This makes a total of 913 so far.

A commission of several members has arrived in Stamboul from Greece, appealing for speedy aid from this country to alleviate the starvation conditions of that unhappy country. After speaking of the highest salaries of government officials as being in the neighborhood of 5,000 to 6,000 drachmas per month, - or about fifty to sixty liras at present exchange rates, - they go on to say that, with fabulous prices now ruling, such as 320 drachmas for an oke of beans, 500 drachmas for an oke of olive oil, and 1000 drachmas for an oke of poor butter, a man's monthly salary will hardly last him five days, just for food, for himself and family. The Red Crescent Society has made an appropriation of quite a quantity of food, to be sent over to Greece as soon as possible; and the steamer "Kurtulus" is now loading up. It has been decorated with several prominent red crescents on its sides, and we are assured the consent of the governments concerned have been obtained for its safe passage, and for the distribution of the food-stuffs it will carry. With the aid of the British Red Cross as well, it is stated that food to the amount of 50,000 tons will eventually be sent across for the starving Greeks.

The Smyrna Girls' School has opened with a larger attendance than last year. It had been hoped that the numbers might be kept a little lower, for the school was overcrowded; but pupils will not be denied, it seems.

The Convocation Service of the Near East School of Theology was to be held, says the Beirut News Letter, on Sept. 30th at 5 p. m.

Letters have been received in Aintab from the Dewey-Isely children, from Mombasa, Kenya, on their long voyage to New York, which by now ought to be nearly over.

Owing to the postponement of the opening of schools in Bulgaria, Miss Douglass went back again to her villa in Cham Koris. Vitosha has already had a snowfall, writes Mr. Stoltzfus, but the weather seemed to be turning warmer again.

The registration at Scutari Academy thus far is reported as 315; and there have been more than two hundred girls refused admission.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, October 10, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

A daughter, Mary Caroline, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Maynard, son of Mr. & Mrs. Harrison Maynard, on August 29th.

A cable from Boston informs us that the Dewey and Isely children arrived in New York on October 6th, coming from Syria. The Beirut News Letter tells us that the party from Beirut which went to Australia sailed for America September 17th. We presume that this included Miss Jessie Martin and Miss Burnham also.

The party from Robert College which left here three months ago and went across Persia by motor car and via Bombay, arrived in New York on Saturday, October 4th; this consisted of Dr. and Mrs. Robert Fox, Mrs. Potts, and Miss Williamson, and they crossed the ocean on the S.S. President Grant.

Miss Harriet Hallett, formerly of Adana and Thessalonica, is having a six months' leave of absence from her work in Wichita, Kansas, and is attending the Department of Social Work at Denver University. She is living at 2171 South Columbine, Denver, Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Clark, for so many years at Adana, left there September 27th for America, going via Beirut and Bombay. Their permanent address in America is c/o Southern Arizona Bank, Tucson, Arizona.

Beirut University opened its doors October first to a large attendance of students. The opening assembly, on Friday, October 3rd, as we are informed by the Beirut News Letter, was to be a service in honor of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the University.

The Near East School of Theology was expecting at last accounts some seventeen or eighteen students, including two from Palestine, one from Bulgaria, and one from Cyprus, the rest being from Syria. No new class was being taken this year.

A cable from New York to Beirut brings word that Rev. James H. Nicol sailed September 26th via the Pacific on his return from his brief visit in the United States to his post in Beirut.

The relief supply ship "Kurtulus" which is being loaded up for Athens has not yet sailed, though it is hoped it may do so in a few days.

The University of Istanbul is to open for the new year on the last day of October.

Scutari Academy has been rejoicing over the granting at last, after years of waiting and effort, of the official permission for the rebuilding of the burned portion of Barton Hall. This rebuilding will not be possible just at present, because of the impossibility of securing certain materials, and of the exorbitant cost of such operations. But as soon as necessary arrangements can be made, the restoration will greatly relieve the present congestion of accommodations at the School.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, Oct. 17, 1941

Dear Friends:-

Mr. Isely writes from Gaziantep that despite the fact that they were in the middle of Ramazan, the in-patients have kept above 40, and more often up around 45; this portends a busy year, fuller than any past year.

There has now been a cable received from the party which left early in July to travel to America via Siberia. After several difficulties, they appear to have gone from Japan via Shanghai, and the message was from Honolulu, indicating that they were there on October 15th on their way to California. This includes among others, Mr. and Mrs. Sensemann, formerly of Anatolia College, Thessaloniki, Mr. and Mrs. Pond of Robert College, etc.

The American College for Girls at Arnavoutkey is very crowded, as are all our schools; there are 465 young ladies in all, 151 of whom are in the College Department and 314 in the Preparatory; of the total, 258, or more than half, are boarders, which is also a record.

A letter from President C. R. Watson states that the registration at the American University of Cairo also breaks all records this year.

A cable received in Beirut October 8th, according to the Beirut News Letter, reports the safe arrival in America of all the party from Syria which traveled by way of Australia, though it is understood that they did not all secure passage by the same steamer from Australia. Presumably this includes Miss Jessie Martin and Miss Burnham from Scutari Academy.

Mrs. Forrest Crawford of Robert College and her children are reported to be leaving Beirut October 27th for the United States via Basra and Bombay and the President Line.

The demand for the Book of Job in Turkish is so great that the last edition is exhausted and another one is now being printed. The Turks seem to be very fond of this book.

To-morrow evening comes the Night of Power; and Ramazan is to end on Tuesday, and the festival of Bayram begins Wednesday, when all schools have a vacation. This year this so nearly coincides with the National Republic Day that the American schools secure a vacation of twelve days.

Dr. Caroline Hamilton and Miss Elizabeth Trowbridge, formerly of Aintab, have moved to West Newton, near Auburndale, and were living at last accounts at 500 Crafts Street, although possibly this may not be their permanent address. Both are reported fairly well.

The S.S. "Kurtulush" with a load of relief food for the suffering population of Athens, left Stamboul harbor Monday evening. The idea is that she will return immediately, on discharging her cargo, and take on another similar load for the Greeks. The Red Crescent Society is in charge.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, October 24, 1941

Dear Friends:-

The Bayram holidays and Republic Day coming so close together this year has given a good chance for a lengthened school vacation; and May and Paul Nilson have gone back to their Talas home for it. On the same train went Mr. Duncan Thomson, of the Socony-Vacuum Company, to have a brief visit with his wife and daughter in Talas, where Mrs. Thomson is helping with the teaching at the Talas School.

Miss Rowlands, of Pierce College, Athens, has accepted a position in Wisconsin to teach during this present school year.

The Annual Meeting of the American Board will be held in Springfield, Mass., November 4 to 6; and among those who will attend will be Rev. and Mrs. Ernest W. Riggs, Dr. Minnie Mills and Dr. Ruth Parmelee, of the Greece Area of our own Mission, and doubtless others also.

A late letter from Boston from the Board Secretaries states that the financial year of the Board closed with a gratifying surplus of \$24,979.75, and this in spite of the unforeseen special travel expenses incurred in the repatriation of many missionaries. Economies account for much of the balance in hand, though there was also an increase in gifts from individuals.

The same letter states that Mrs. Carl Compton was making a good recovery from a major operation, but does not state where.

Miss Alice Lindsley of Scutari is teaching Home Economics in Pleasant Hill Academy, Tennessee, this year, - the same school where Miss Edith Cold and her sister taught for some time.

Word from Beirut states that attendance at the American University this year is above all previous records, with over 1900 students registered within the first week of the term. Here also is the familiar problem of a much reduced teaching staff.

The annual Conference of returned missionaries with the Secretaries and other officials of our Board was held in Auburndale as usual, from September 12th to 14th, and was deeply appreciated by the large number present.

Miss Mary W. Riggs, formerly of Adabazar and Harpout, started from Brookline, Mass., for Claremont, California, on Sept. 26th, going as far as Illinois with her brother Rev. Ernest Riggs, who was going there on speaking appointments.

Prof. Loutfi Levonian, of the School of Religion, has sent us some statistics showing the present distribution of the Armenian graduates of the School since 1922. There were 21 graduates from Athens, and 27 are now ordained ministers in the Protestant churches, and one in the Gregorian Church; 20 are engaged in various kinds of church and school work, and three are in business or clerical work; one has died. Of the women, two are married to pastors, 8 are in school work, and one has married outside. Of the total, 29 are in Syria and Lebanon, 5 in Greece, 3 in the United States, 2 in Bulgaria.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, October 31, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

Miss Mary Ward and Mrs. Elizabeth Leslie Seager arrived here from Smyrna last week for a little holiday. Mrs. Seager returned on Monday, and Miss Ward leaves today, going via Bandurma.

We learn from Sofia that Prof. Laurence Moore has received news by cable from America of the safe arrival of his wife in California.

News has also come by cable of the final arrival of the party of nine that left Robert College for America nearly four months ago, going through Siberia and Japan. This includes Mr. and Mrs. Sensemann, formerly of Anatolia College, Mr. and Mrs. Pond, Mr. and Mrs. Rogers, and Messrs. McCarthy, Hanna, and Clinton.

Tarsus American College opened its year September 25th. The total enrollment thus far has been 165, as compared with 141 last year. For the entering class applications were recorded until the end of July, and then out of about 115 applicants, the thirty who had had the best grades in primary school were selected for admission. The teachers are all pleased at the difference in ability.

Miss Long arrived during the make-up examination period, and so was able to carry on her work from the very beginning of the year. Her music is greatly appreciated.

The Turkish director of the College has his release papers from the army, and is awaiting the officer who is to take his place. It is hoped he may be in Tarsus by November 1st. Eleven hours of Turkish teaching lack a teacher, but one has been nominated and is awaiting Ankara approval shortly.

The books ordered for Tarsus from India arrived at the beginning of the year; and just before Sheker Bayram, 32 packages of books from America arrived, adding to the celebration.

Dorothy Woolworth is again at the Beirut Community School, being one of three in the eleventh class.

In transmitting the above news, Mr. Woolworth adds:- "We have snow on our mountains, so the weather tends to be cool; but we still sit with open windows during the day.

Miss Silliman writes from Aleppo; "Both schools here feel like 'the old woman who lived in a shoe'". We suggest looking up the measures which the "old woman" adopted to solve her economic and disciplinary problems.
--Beirut News Letter.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

The Talas School is going on very well; there are forty-one boys, of whom all but one are boarders. Mrs. Thomson, Nilufer Hanım and Madame Bonnal are all working in well as teachers. The school is looking for the return of Tahsin Bey also very soon. The students took part in the local celebration of Republic Day in Talas, and also made and deposited a wreath in Kayseri at the celebration there.

Dr. and Mrs. Nute keep very busy in the Talas clinic; during the Bayram holiday they went off for a two-day horseback vacation trip to some of the villages; but we wager it was not all vacation.

Word has come of the marriage of Miss Constance, youngest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. C. E. Clark of Aintab, in Michigan, on June 22nd, to Mr. Kenneth Pfister, who is this year finishing his senior year in the Veterinary course at Michigan State University. Mrs. Constance is to continue teaching Home Economics in the same school in Reading, Mich., where she has been teaching for the past two years.

A very interesting report has come to hand of the activities of our colleague Mr. E. C. Blake of Smyrna, on a committee to distribute aid to some 600 Greek refugees settled in the towns of Aydin, Denizli, and Nazilli, east of Smyrna. He was asked by Ambassador MacMurray to act on this committee and the other members were Father George, a Greek priest, and Hashim Bey of the Red Crescent Society, with two assistants from the Greek Consulate in Smyrna. They visited these in October, and gave out to 638 refugees money given under the auspices of the Vanderbilt Committee of New York, to the extent of nearly 5000 liras; also 600 blankets, and 240 cans of powdered milk. Mr. Blake speaks most appreciatively of the cordial cooperation of all the government authorities, and of the fine qualities of his associates. Living conditions were found to be fairly comfortable in most cases, though there is great over-crowding. If these refugees are to spend the winter there, they will need more bedding, for very few families have any sort of mattress. Twenty-nine reed mats were provided to the most needy. Help is also needed to provide heating, and quinine for those suffering from malaria. Clothing and shoes have been sent in small quantities by the Greek Union of Stamboul. Mr. Blake is to take similar trips each month at least till the end of the year. It should be added that the blankets and the milk were a contribution of the Beirut branch of the American Red Cross.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Van Nice, who left Stamboul this summer for America, have settled down at 355 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass.

From Aleppo via Beirut comes the word that Aleppo College has an enrolment to date of 416 students, with a very long waiting-list for the boarding department.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

The annual gathering of friends of the American Hospital in Nishantash was held last Saturday afternoon at the Hospital building, and was a great success. A large number were present and enjoyed the refreshments served by the nurses and student nurses under the direction of Miss Shank and Miss Manwell. Dr. Shepard gave a brief statement of the history of the American Hospital, ending with figures as to the work of this year which showed that it has been and is the best year of all, in the number of patients as well as in the number of operations performed. The business of the session consisted in electing three members to the Board of Managers, to replace the three whose term expires; and Miss Clary, Dr. Wright and Mr. Fowle were re-elected for a further period of three years.

Mr. Honaker, the new Consul in charge of the American Consulate-General here, arrived last week, and has taken over the work from Mr. Frederick P. Latimer, to whom his many friends were sorry to say good-bye when he left on Saturday last for America. Mr. Latimer has greatly endeared himself to the American Colony in Stamboul since his arrival here.

The latest word from Rev. James H. Nicol of Beirut is that he was expected at Lydda airport from Batavia, on Thursday, November 6th, a week ago yesterday, and was coming thence to Beirut, probably by the end of last week. He sailed from San Francisco Sept. 26th.

The Beirut News Letter, which gives us this information, says also that Rev. W. A. Stoltzfus of Beirut, brother of Mr. Stoltzfus of Sofia College, was planning to leave on Tuesday last, Nov. 11th, for Palestine and thence by air to India where he would sail for New York on the President Line. Mrs. Stoltzfus arrived in San Francisco October 26th.

The enrollment at Aleppo College has reached 436, this year, and scores were turned away for lack of room. The Board of Managers of the College held its Fall meeting at the College a week ago.

In the Manual Training class at the Talas Boys' School, the boys are making skis, for future work on Ali Dagh or Argaeus snows.

The Proclamation by President Roosevelt setting aside next Thursday, November 20th, as Thanksgiving Day, has been loyally accepted by the American residents of Stamboul, and will be generally observed, though the convenience of some families has led to supplementary celebrations on the last Thursday of the month.

It is announced that the Prime Minister, Dr. Refik Saydam, has been granted a month's leave of absence from his post, and will probably spend this time either in Yalova or in Mersin, in recovering his health. There have also been two changes in the personnel of the Cabinet:- Bay Safet Arıkan, Minister of National Defence, and Bay Djevdet Kerim İndjedayi, Minister of Communications, have resigned, and in their places have been appointed two retired officers, Gen. Ali Rıza Artunkal, and Admiral Fahri Engin.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

It appears from letters arriving from America that the two parties which left Syria for America quite close together last July, - the one containing the Dewey and Isely children from Gaziantep, which went by way of South Africa and the Atlantic, and the other containing Miss Jessie Martin, Miss Burnham, Mr. and Mrs. (Elsa Reckman) Kerr, and others, which went by way of Australia and the Pacific, reached America on the same day, October 6th.

Miss Norton writes from Aleppo that the registration of pupils in the Aleppo Girls' School has nearly reached the 300 mark and others were still coming after that had been going for six weeks.

Mr. Knabenshue, son of the former American Consul-General at Beirut, has arrived in Stamboul this week, and has taken up his duties as a member of the English staff of Robert College.

The latest word from Rev. and Mrs. Ernest W. Riggs of Anatolia College, dated October 4th, said that he was visiting churches in Montana and that region in the interests of the Board, while she was doing a similar job in Illinois and Missouri; after which they hoped to meet at Omaha for the meeting of the Midwest Regional Council, where he was booked to speak on October 28th; they were then getting back to New England for the Board's Annual Meeting at Springfield, Nov. 4 to 6.

The Beirut News Letter tells us that Mr. Arthur Lanckton, formerly of Robert College and later of the Standard Oil Co. staff in Thessaloniki, who arrived in America in late September after many adventures, has a position in Washington, D. C.

Letters have come telling of the wedding of Ruth, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. S. Ralph Harlow, formerly of Smyrna, at Northampton, Mass. on June 10th; Mr. Kingsley Birge was best man. Miss Betty Harlow also is engaged, but is not to change her name, for she marries Mr. Hal Harlow. Professor Harlow is still connected with Smith College, and is very busy with constant trips to conferences, student gatherings, etc. This coming January he and Mrs. Harlow expect to spend some time in Florida, where he is on a Forum circuit for eight days.

Owing to the increasing infirmities of their years, Mrs. Caroline Hemphill and Dr. W. W. Peet decided this spring to discontinue their home in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and go to be with their children. Mrs. Hemphill went to the home of her eldest son, in Knoxville, Tenn., but with the expectation of moving soon to Omaha, Nebr.; and in June Dr. Peet went to live with his son William who has recently built a new home at 2833 Ross Avenue, Ames, Iowa. Mrs. Hemphill may be reached in care of Wayne G. Hemphill, 4115 Thirty-eighth Ave., Omaha, Nebr.

May we remind our readers that in several cases their annual subscription for this News Sheet is due, and may be sent, either in dollars to Treasurer H. B. Belcher, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, or in liras to the undersigned at the Bible House, Stamboul. \$1.25 per year outside of Turkey, or Ltq. 1.25 inside of Turkey. Your subscription is paid till

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs.

Bible House, Stamboul, December 5, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

We regret that circumstances made it impossible to get out any issue last week.

A letter from Dr. Nute at Talas dated Nov. 23rd confirms the good news contained in a Boston cable of Nov. 14th, of a pine-pound daughter born to Dr. and Mrs. Miner Rogers. Congratulations are due the grandparents as well as the parents!

We regret to report that a sailing vessel of some 300 tons, with motor auxiliary, laden with food-stuffs for Athens, and containing among others a parcel sent for our colleague Miss Pinneo there, is reported wrecked and sunk by a severe storm off the island of Imbros on its way. No word has yet reached us as to the crew.

A telegram has been received from the New York Committee for the Stamboul Dershane, stating that Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Young are sailing for India some time toward the end of December, where it is understood that they will visit Lahore; and that they will be proceeding to Stamboul as soon as the United States Government allows them to do so. Mr. Young will be remembered as having been from 1930 till 1933 at Adana in playground and social service work. Mrs. Young was Miss Jessamine Gray, of Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Young is to take the place left vacant by the withdrawal of Mr. Harry T. Baker in charge of the Dershane.

President Carleton's report to the recent meeting of the Aleppo College Board of Managers states that, to take care of the record number of 445 students, they have secured, in place of last year's nine part-time and twenty-two full-time teachers, twenty-nine full-time and only two part-time teachers. He goes on to say:- "The College has reached a degree of stabilization after these years of rapid growth and dramatic change. It finds itself suddenly the most prominent educational institution in North Syria; and it is doing its best to behave with the dignity and efficiency that such a position demands. A letter from the first Prime Minister of Independent Syria expresses our highest hopes in the words:- We shall keep in mind your good will and we shall remember with much appreciation the services rendered by your College in educating the new Syrian generation in character, patriotism, and idealism."

Another interesting tribute to the worth of Aleppo College comes in a statement quoted in the Dean's report from the Mufti of Aleppo, whose young grandson is a student there:- "Before my grandson went to the College, he used to care for nothing serious, but simply wandered around with his friends in the streets, and was interested only in his clothes, and in the cinema. But now he is becoming a very serious young man; he is interested in serious things; he fasts in Ramazan, and he prays at the right times. This is all due to the influence of the College."

Some sixteen friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Riggs on the evening of December 2nd, to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Mrs. Alice W. Manning of Robert College. Since the death of Professor Manning in 1914, Mrs. Manning has devoted herself with tireless energy and great efficiency to her work of humane education and to caring for her animal hospital.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

Word has been received of the marriage of Mr. John Whiting Scott, who taught at Tarsus College from 1937 to 1940, to Miss Gwendolyn Stinger, at Minneapolis, Minn., on June 14th last.

Consul Frederick P. Latimer, whose departure from Stamboul was announced some time ago, went overland to Lisbon, and took steamer from there, and is presumed to have reached America already.

Ambassador J. V. A. MacMurray has also returned to America, for a three-months leave, going by air via Cairo and across Africa and by South America to New York.

Mr. Richard Smith, formerly of Talas, is now teaching in the Gorham, Maine, Normal School, having transferred thither with Mrs. (Caroline Goodsell) Smith from Bellows Falls, Vermont.

Miss J. L. Jillson writes us from Claremont, California, that Mrs. Alexander MacLachlan, formerly of Smyrna, is spending the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Cass Arthur Reed, and Dr. Reed, at Panama, Calif.

Older residents of Stamboul will be grieved to learn of the death this past week in England of Mr. Robert Rowell, formerly of Bebek, brother of Mrs. Alfred W. Sellar of our city. He was seventy-one years of age.

Mr. Hans Huntington Palmer, husband of Caroline Damon, has given up the position he had in Williamstown, Mass., to accept a better position with the Parker Wire Co., of Worcester, Mass. Mr. and Mrs. Palmer have taken a house in the latter city.

The Metropolitan Tunnel, between Galata and Pera, which has been closed down since July waiting for a new cable, has resumed its operations, and this eases down considerably on the congestion of traffic between those two points by trolley.

Stamboul has been having a visit from M. Ramseyer, a Swiss gentleman connected with the International Red Cross, who leaves soon on his way back to Geneva via Athens, to urge immediate and effective action on starvation relief in Athens and vicinity.

Principal Wm. Sage Woolworth, Jr., of Tarsus, has a one-column poem in Turkish in the October number of the monthly "Icel" of Mersin.

Two cables have just been sent by the Committee ad Interim to the Boston office, the one bearing Christmas greetings to all relatives, friends and supporters of all members of our Mission; the other being an urgent request that every effort be made by our Board to urge the American Red Cross to take steps toward getting more efficient aid to the starving Greeks immediately.

Yours very cordially,

Charles T. Riggs

Dear Friends:-

The breaking off of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and the United States, due to the declaration of war by the former, brings about apparently the necessity of all Americans withdrawing from Bulgaria. A wire from President Black of the American College informs us that the American members of the staff expect to leave Sofia Sunday night, arriving in Stamboul probably Tuesday morning. Whether the five ladies of our Mission from there are to be with them, we are not yet informed, - Miss Baird, Miss Clarke, Miss Douglass, Miss Haskell, and Mrs. Woodruff, - but the party seems to include Pres. and Mrs. Black, Mr. and Mrs. Stoltzfus and one child, Mr. and Mrs. Huntington Bliss and three children, Mr. Laurence Moore, Miss Steele, and Mrs. Mary Whittle Monedjicoff. Later word however states that no Americans are being allowed to leave for the present. We understand that the members of the American Diplomatic and Consular force are arranging to come out soon.

A letter from Gaziantep dated December 6th tells of snow and cold weather there, and says the ice was thicker that day than it was at any time during last winter. The Azariah Smith Memorial Hospital is hard put to it for staff, since five of their hospital workers have been called for military service, including the "Responsible Director."

We learn through correspondence that Mr. Elbert Stevens, formerly of the Y.M.C.A. Staff in Stamboul, is happily busy at Balboa, in the Canal Zone; and that John, who is now married, and Leslie both have jobs there.

Mr. Harold Seager, who in 1927-28 was assisting in the Treasury Department at the Bible House, has arrived in town on his way to Adana having been appointed as Vice-Consul in the British Consulate there.

A small steamer flying the Panama flag arrived in the Bosphorus Wednesday last with some 700 or 750 Jewish refugees on board, expelled from Bulgaria. Efforts are being made to get some of them off here; but we understand they are mainly destined elsewhere, though the accommodations were never intended for so many.

Preparations are going on for the celebration of Christmas; and since this year Christmas Day and Kurban Bayram fall so near together, the winter vacations of our schools and colleges are arranged to include both dates. A special chorus will render some Christmas carols at the service on Sunday next at the Dutch Chapel. In the afternoon there will be a Vesper Organ Recital at Robert College, though this is not of a Christmas character.

Attendance at the American University of Beirut this year has mounted to more than 2,100, with an increase of over 100 in the Preparatory Department. On the other hand, the Community School has fallen to 29, only half what it was last year, and much smaller than ordinary.

News comes through Mr. Kerr of the death in Scotland of Rev. Dr. Macdonald Webster, one of the officials of the Church of Scotland, on Nov. 25th; and that this will almost certainly mean that Rev. Mr. Macanna, formerly at the head of the Scotch Mission to the Jews in Stamboul, and pastor of the Union Church, will become Secretary of the Jewish Mission Committee in his place.

The N.B.C. of New York has arranged for a broadcast in Turkish daily except Saturdays and Sundays, from 6-30 to 7: Stamboul Time, in the 19-metre band (19.08m.). Friends may be glad to listen in.

Yours very cordially,
Charles T. Riggs

Bible House, Stamboul, December 26, 1941.

Dear Friends:-

The undersigned would like to wish all his friends a Happy and blessed New Year; and trusts their Christmas season was happy also.

KIM ?

Latest word from Bulgaria is to the effect that President and Mrs. Black, Professor Moore and Mrs. Monedjicoff have been allowed to remain at the College in Simeonova, suburb of Sofia; and that the rest of the Americans will be coming out to Stamboul as soon as they can get their permits to travel. In writing about this, Miss Baird mentions Miss Douglass and Mrs. Woodruff, but does not mention Miss Clarke and Miss Haskell; so we are left to wonder whether those two will stay also.

Mrs. E. T. Leslie has gone to Smyrna to spend the Christmas holidays with her daughter, Mrs. Seager. Mr. John Seager was in Stamboul a few days last week to see his brother Harold on the way through here.

May and Paul Nilson and also Mr. Duncan Thomson have gone to Talas to join their families for the winter vacation.

We regret to report that Miss Katherine Fletcher of Scutari had an ugly fall while leaving the American Hospital on Wednesday last, and had the misfortune to break her nose. Fortunately she was right at the Hospital, and was given prompt and loving attention, and will be there for a while till she can return to the school.

Professor Lootfy Levonian writes from the Near East School of Religion, Beirut; "Our Armenian churches did something unique this year. They devoted Sunday, Nov. 2nd, to the Near East School of Theology: told the people of its services, prayed for its graduates and teachers, and made a gift of money to show their gratitude for it. Almost all the churches, even the Refugee churches, took part; and they made a free-will offering of over one hundred Syrian pounds, which was handed to the School authorities. Principal Greenslade was so much impressed by this act of appreciation and expression of gratitude, that he wrote about it to the Syrian Church."

A letter from Athens dated Nov. 9, states that in the Classical Gymnasium which is the continuation of Pierce College, twenty of the Greek teachers, together with the secretary and the treasurer of the College are carrying on, with a hundred and twenty of the students.

A Christmas service in the French language was held at the Union Church of Pera on Christmas morning, and conducted by Dr. B.v.D. Post of Robert College. There were nearly seventy present, and it was greatly enjoyed.

Stamboul Station entertained the Hissar Community last Saturday at a Christmas celebration at the Fowle House, when the children presented the Nativity story in pageant form, and there was carol singing in this connection. Later the members of the Station took supper together at the Birge home, a score or more being present.

Rev. W. Clark Kerr was installed as pastor of the Scotch Church in Haifa on Wednesday, December 11th.

Yours very Cordially,
Charles T. Riggs