

# The Orient.

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## THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OF THE NEAR EAST RELIEF

(Lecture before Scutari Language School by  
Rev. E. W. RIGGS.)

(Conclusion)

Certain problems have come to the fore as the plans have been worked out which are most interesting. The first one to note is regarding the study of English. Shall we have it in the curriculum? The children and teachers are, for the most part, eager for it. If they are ever to learn English the time when they are in the orphanage is the golden opportunity. If they get enough of it it will put them into touch with the currents of American and English thought, which will be a constant uplift to them. If they plan to go to America later or enter work with Americans or English in this part of the world, it will be a great advantage. But on the other hand, as we expect all of these children to be given the best possible training for the life to which we hope to have them go, namely the trade and agriculture of the Near East, English would hardly seem to be necessary. On the contrary, if they spend too much time in the study of English they will fail to find sufficient time for the mastery of their own language and of Arithmetic and Geography to fit them for this specific work. It would seem, therefore, that the study of English, though not to be regarded as an evil in itself, is not a necessity but a luxury. As such its place will be a secondary one in the curriculum, and it will be given large place only for those pupils who have already a pretty good start in their own language.

The trades to be taught to the children in the orphanages require equipment and teachers, both hard to obtain. Carpentry and shoe-making are perhaps the most common. A mistake has been made in some places through the ambition of the trade teacher to make a good show. Fine furniture and European shoes look well, but they are not the articles which the orphan can best learn to make by himself in a village. To teach the boys the simplest forms of their trade, not requiring very great skill nor elaborate tools, is the most important part of the work of the trade teacher. Tin-smithing offers good opportunities along this line. Book-binding will occupy a few boys whose homes are in cities where they can find work later on. Weaving, especially the weaving of carpets, does not so easily lend itself to our purpose. The materials and looms are expensive, the return on the money invested is slow and the market is not so easy to find.

Where the orphanage is in or near a city it is proposed to apprentice boys to merchants of character, where they wish them, at no cost to the merchant at first, in order that the boy may strike root in the business of the city. The same may be done for the trades where tradesmen of good character can be found who are willing to undertake the teaching of the boys in return for their services.

This emphasis on character is the first one in choosing the teachers for the trades in the orphanage and suggests another problem. For many orphanages it is simply impossible to find men who are really fitted to mould the characters of the boys as they teach them to work. It has been proposed, therefore, to choose older orphans or young men outside the orphanages altogether, who can be picked for their character first; and then send them to the large and splendidly equipped Schneller orphanage in Jerusalem for their technical training. Other orphanage leaders and teachers may well be sent there also to get the help that a first hand working acquaintance with the old and complete orphanage would give them.

For the girls the problem of industries is not so acute. Upon them devolves more of the house work and consequently they have less time for learning a trade. Of more importance, however, is the fact that the girl who will support herself after she leaves the orphanage by plying a trade is the very unique exception. We must take it for granted that the normal life of the girls is to be in the home, and to that end they will be prepared for usefulness in the domestic arts rather than in any independent trade. Following the customs of the country, every girl should know how to cook, to sew, to keep her house clean and neat and to knit, crochet and do fine needle-work of various kinds. This latter occupation may, under necessity, serve as an independent trade for the girls who fail to find mates upon leaving the orphanage.

In some orphanages girls are given careful personal training by the head of the orphanage and go out to be splendid servants in refined homes. It is not well, however, to make too much of this, for there is serious danger lest girls be taken into homes and treated as little slaves by their new mistresses. A contract, calling for definite care of, and responsibility for, the orphan for a definite period of time, with a provision for the orphan to return for a visit to the orphanage at stated intervals, should be signed by every employer.

Happy are the orphans, whether boys or girls, whose orphanage is in the open country where they have a chance to run and play in the fields. A farm ought to be attached to every boys' orphanage and at least a truck garden to every

one for the girls. Given plenty of broad outdoors and the problem of recreation solves itself. But where the walls are narrow and the doors kept shut, most careful attention has to be paid to the exercise and play of the children. Fortunately the Y.M.C.A. and the Y.W.C.A. have come to our aid in this matter and where they have been able, have actually supervised the recreation of the children. In other places we have been largely helped by their experience and suggestions.

There remains the most important and most difficult part of our problem. How are the orphans to be brought up into a wholesome, practical and vital religious life? In most orphanages several different creeds are represented, and in some they are widely different. Moslem, Christian, Jew and Druze are all together in Syria. What kind of religious training can we give them? We must remember in this that the Near East Relief has received large aid from the Red Cross, which is non-sectarian, and that some of its prominent leaders have been Jews and Catholics. The many missionaries of the various Boards have to be on their guard, therefore, lest they should give too much ground for criticism.

Let us remember first, however, that an increasingly large number of orphans are being taken care of by institutions directly under some religious direction. There is no law against Near East Relief funds being given, as they have been here in Constantinople, to help Moslem, Jewish, Catholic, Gregorian, Orthodox and Protestant institutions. Where there is no independent religious organization everything depends on the religious attitude and stand of the workers themselves. In general there seems good reason and no risk in suggesting that simple morning prayers, with a song, a story from the Bible and a prayer, be conducted in every orphanage. On Sunday there should be a wholesome Sunday morning address, and where there is a neighboring place of worship of the faith of some of the children these children should be conducted there for worship on Friday or Saturday or Sunday according to which day is observed by them. While no effort to persuade the children to change their religious adherence should be made, every effort should be made to make their religious faith fresh and vital. The most potent influence in this is the personal example of the workers themselves. In precept and example individual prayer, family worship and attendance on public worship on Sunday cannot meet any reasonable objection. Beyond this the personal effort of the orphanage workers is required and it calls for all the tact and devotion of the very best workers, and the inspiration of God's Spirit every moment.

Before closing I must add a word regarding the large number of children outside of the orphanages who are still under care of the Near East Relief. There are those who receive a meal a day, there are those who have been placed out with relatives or friends, there are those whose families receive some sort of aid through the Near East Relief, but all are living in conditions less ideal and less under direct supervision than the children in our regular orphanages. Through the visits of qualified agents these scattered little ones should be linked up, wherever possible, with some

school. Where this is not possible their apprenticeship should be looked after, so that they may not remain in the streets nor as mere slaves in a house that might be a home in America, but which has no such name in the East.

It is for you, in the deeper work to which you are called and for which you are preparing, to make over these scattered houses of suffering and crushing poverty into real homes of love. Then there will be no doubt of the advantage a child has at home over the child in the institution. The task is a stupendous one. There are so many hopeless mothers, so many scars marking wounds that have cut through flesh and blood into the soul of the little children. And for all these the message of the Master is the one that is most needed, the message of love, of forgiveness and of hope.

### AMERICAN COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE HAPPENINGS

February first, Miss Teresa Leshner of New York and Miss Helen Crosby of Buffalo arrived in Smyrna, to work in the American Collegiate Institute and International College respectively. We have looked forward to their arrival for some time and are very glad to have them with us.

January twenty-seventh, the first committee meeting for the Conference was held at A.C.I. The subject for this year will be "The Victorious Personality." The Conference will be in the Easter vacation.

Our Y.W.C.A. has chosen the delegates to the Constantinople Conference. They are Miss Eucharis H. Andoniou, president, Miss Polyxeni Kambourpoulou, vice-president, Miss Pinneo, advisory officer, and Miss Hosrophouhi Arista-gessian.

The social service committee of the Y.W.C.A. is collecting money this week. They entertain a group of orphans every Saturday from both Greek and Armenian orphanages. Their annual Christmas tree at the Bairakli orphanage was especially joyous this year. Each child had a gift, candy and fruits. At the end of a jolly afternoon the girls returned to town leaving behind them two hundred and fifty happy children to be tucked into bed with a tightly clasped toy in their arms.

Miss Grohe, who arrived from America in October to assist Miss Greene in the Turkish branch school at Salahané, has opened a Sunday school which has grown by leaps and bounds until the school is hard put to accommodate them all within its walls. Warm weather arrives soon, so they are planning to use the garden as the attendance increases. The pupils are from four nationalities. The teachers are students or graduates of A.C.I.

In the upper school and the three preparatory departments we have over three hundred pupils this year.

R. A. P.

### THE DEEPER LIFE AT SUK-EL-GHARB

The Universal week of prayer was observed in the Suk-el-Gharb Protestant church with special services each day of the week, except Saturday. The services were well attended and were very helpful. One practical result of the meetings is the opening of a church Sunday School, to be conducted by the session of the church, with classes for adults of both sexes. One feature of the school is the class for the church session. Most of the Sunday Schools of Syria are attended almost entirely by the children of the village day school. There is no such day school in Suk-el-Gharb, but the church has decided that there should be a church Sunday School even if the number of children to attend is small. The session of the church is assuming increased responsibility for the general conduct of the church and the church activities. A recent innovation is the introduction of the weekly envelope system for contributions. Receipts have more than doubled in the three months during which the plan has been followed. The church at its next communion service is to make use of individual cups for the wine.

Following the week of prayer in the church in Suk-el-Gharb, special services were held each day during the week in the Lebanon Boys' School. The principal spoke to the students each morning at morning prayers, and at a short meeting directly after supper. The general theme of the week was, "Association with Jesus Changes Lives." Examples of this fact were Peter, John, Bartimaeus, the Gadarene Demoniac, and Judas Iscariot, - for the change may be for the better, or the worse. On the Sunday closing the week, the talk was from the two questions, "Who then is this?" and "What then shall I do with Jesus, who is called Christ?" Fourteen of the students in the Senior department signed the following promise, "I promise that I will become a disciple of Jesus Christ, and that I will trust him to save me from my sin. I will do my best to follow him, wherever he leads me." During the hour of the evening meeting, the young women of the Missionary Training School met together for prayer for definite results from the meetings, and the young men of the school during the day spoke with the boys personally and individually. A Young Men's Christian Association, with a definite pledge of loyalty to Christ, is now being organized in the school.

Recently the attention of the students of the Lebanon Boys' School was called to the present famine conditions in China, and they immediately decided to take an offering for famine relief. Altogether they and the teachers raised nearly \$50. The Protestant church in Suk-el-Gharb added \$13, and the staff and students of the Missionary Training School \$73. This money has been sent direct to China to a missionary of the Presbyterian Board to administer.

G. H. S.

Mr. Ward, of the Y.M.C.A., who has been working for a year past with the Greek army in Athens and vicinity, is visiting Constantinople before returning to America.

### AMERICAN SAILORS' CLUB

The Pathé Man, the Valentine party and the numerous Queens of Hearts and dainty costumes, and dominoes, the party on the U.S.S. "St. Louis," the proposed joy ride to Egypt, the turkey dinner for the U.S.S. "Tracy," greeting of shipmates on the destroyers just in port, "Smith Thompson," "Edwards," "Tracy," "Overton," - all topics fade into insignificance when compared with the fire which all but destroyed the Club. And it was only the stick-to-itiveness of the American Sailor that saved it. They sat on the edge of the roof, and from every window, pouring water on the building even when it was so hot that the water went up in steam, they stuck to their task, and as one boy said, "when the pressure went down and the cornice blazed we were sure that we were goners - *but we kept at it,*" and then the fire was controlled. All belongings were packed and carried to the lower floor. We are glad the building was saved but - the Vandals had a chance at us.

Program for the week

#### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24th

- 4-5 French classes on ships.
- 8:30 American movies and music.

#### FRIDAY

- 10:45 Selamluk and Dervishes.
- 8:30 Fudge and Stunt party.

#### SATURDAY

- 10:45 Shopping and Sight seeing, Stamboul
- 8:30 Dance in honor of "Overton."

#### SUNDAY

- 10:45 Church party for Dutch Chapel, and St. Marys.
- 1:30 Trip to Sweet Waters of Asia.
- 8:30 Sunday Sing and Service in the charge of Sailors' Committee.

#### MONDAY

- 4-5 French classes on ships.
- 8:30 American Movies and Music.

#### TUESDAY

- 8:30 Usual dance.

#### WEDNESDAY

- 1:30 Sight seeing party.
- 8:00 Pop corn party.

### NOTICE

A lecture will be given at Constantinople College by General Marlborough Churchill Wednesday afternoon, March 2, at 3:15. His Subject is "The Military Intelligence Division of the General Staff of the United States Army."

The public are cordially invited to attend.

### SUK-EL-GHARB TRAINING SCHOOL

In March of this year the Missionary Training School in Suk-el-Gharb, Mount Lebanon, Syria, will complete its second year. This school was established and is conducted by the Syria Mission of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, but it is serving all the Missions of Syria and Palestine. In these two years there have been enrolled more than twenty five students, representing five American, two British, and one Danish mission.

Suk-el-Gharb is an ideal location for the school. It is a mountain village situated fourteen miles from Beirut, at an elevation of over 2000 feet. Its climate is temperate, cool in summer, and not too cold in winter, so that it is very suitable for foreigners coming from America and Great Britain, from countries so much colder than Syria. Here they can gradually become accustomed to the warmer weather of this land.

Until January 1, 1921, its Director was Rev. George H. Scherer. Since that date Rev. W. G. Greenslade has been in charge. He has returned from America at the direct invitation of the Syria Mission to take charge of this work. He is most ably assisted by Mr. Habib Hitti, M. A., who has been Associate Director of the School from the beginning.

The course of study covers a period of two years. During the first year the emphasis is placed upon the learning of the colloquial, during the second year upon the literary Arabic. It has long been felt by missionaries studying Arabic that a text book was much needed to help in acquiring the colloquial. Such a book has been prepared, containing forty lessons, and numerous exercises and questions. Many new missionaries not able to come to Suk-el-Gharb itself for study, have found the book a great help to them in their study in their own stations.

In addition to the study of the Arabic language, the curriculum includes studies in the religions of Syria and Palestine, the history of missions in the two countries, and the social customs and usages of the Orient. During the summer session of 1920 weekly lectures were given by missionaries of various societies on problems connected with mission work. These lectures proved to be one the most valuable features of the work.

At present there are ten students in the school, representing two American and one British society. Students are registering already for the spring quarter beginning after Easter.

G. H. S.

### THE LOCAL PRESS

The Armenian daily *Djagadamard* says:—"Apparently the Republican party in the United States will hold rigidly to the policy of isolation, and avoid mixing up with the crises that disturb Europe. The boldness of President Wilson has been without result. The present tendency is to limit the foreign policy to the realms of economics and humanitarianism. This is the tendency also in regard to the Eastern question. The United States Government maintains its

benevolent attitude toward Armenia, but does not wish to assume any political or military responsibilities. So that the mission confided to Mr. Wilson by the League of Nations remains as merely an academic decision. Anyhow, the time for mediation has passed, for the Turks have already invaded Armenia. It is true that Mr. Morgenthau, the plenipotentiary appointed by President Wilson, keeps his position, but he has no effectual method of acting. Meanwhile the London Conference is to meet, at which America is not to participate officially, though she may yet offer suggestions or advice. This policy of reserve and isolation has a deep influence on international policy."

The Greek daily *Proia* comments thus on a statement in a Turkish contemporary: "The *Aksham*, in speaking in its issue of two days ago about the step taken by the Ecumenical Patriarchate and the despatch of a memorial to the Conference at London, said that the Greeks, having drawn up this document, had begun to evince their joy, just as the famous Nasreddin Hodja, when he had found a horse-shoe, rejoiced at the thought that he now had only to find three more and the beast itself, and he need no longer walk at all. We may be allowed to recall to the Turkish newspaper from across the Bridge another story which is also attributed to this good and brave Nasreddin Hodja. As he was filing off a key to a house he wanted to enter, somebody asked him what he was doing. 'I am playing a violin,' said the Hodja. 'But I don't hear the sound of such an instrument.' 'Oh,' replied Nasreddin, 'you will hear the sound tomorrow.' The *Aksham* would do well to remember this tale."

The Turkish daily *Ihdam* says:—"The case to be settled at London has been born out of the actual and judicial situation created in our country by the Treaty of Sèvres. In view of the impossibility, for a number of causes, of putting this treaty in operation, it has been recognized that some modifications are necessary. This decision has made necessary a new conference in London. If the Sèvres Treaty is impracticable, it is because attention has not been paid in it to the rights of the Turkish majority, and to the conditions of viability and independence for Turkey. This is the case which the London Conference will have to examine and decide. It is a question of the rights of the Turkish majority, and of Turkish independence, and not at all, — as the Patriarchate pretends, — a question of the 'unredeemed' Greeks, that is, of the Greek minorities, in Turkey. The latter question has definitely been settled."

### LECTURES AT THE LANGUAGE SCHOOL, SCUTARI

- Feb. 24, 3:00 P.M. — Mr. Luther Fowle: "Business is Business."  
 March 2, 10 A.M. — Jenab Shahabeddin Bey: "History of Turkish Literature, I."  
 March 3, 3:00 P.M. — Rev. C. T. Riggs: "The Balkan States and their Quarrels."  
 March 3, 3 P.M. — At Y. W. C. A. Personal House, Taxim Square, Pera — Dr. C. F. Gates, President of Robert College: "The Vital Forces of Islam. The Koran."

**THE ORIENT**

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**Charles T. Riggs**

Bible House, Constantinople

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## EDITORIAL SECTION

It is well to remind our subscribers again, especially those in America, that payment may be made for subscriptions by check on any Bank, and that the arrangements for the international postal money order service have not as yet been renewed. Money can be sent from England to the British Post Office here by postal order. For any in America who find it more convenient, the \$2.50 can be sent through Treasurer Gaskins of the American Board, 14 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.

Do not forget the Christian Association Conference which begins Friday evening of this week at Constantinople College, and is continued till Monday evening, the last two days at Robert College. All who are interested will be welcomed at the general sessions. The gathering promises to be not only interesting but productive of good results. Let us all at least help by our earnest prayers for the Divine blessing on delegates and the institutions they represent.

The lecture before the Language School by President E. W. Riggs of Euphrates College, which appears in this and last week's issue, is an illustration of the very practical nature of the lectures being given before the School this year. The purpose of these is to put these new recruits in touch with the live problems and situations of the day in this complex country. The management has been very successful in securing lecturers who are specialists in the fields they represent, not by their own assertions but by reason of their long residence and contact with these fields. While the School is primarily intended for the study of the languages of the country, and while the linguistic teaching is of a very high order, this other branch of instruction is by no means less important and effective. Occasionally others besides the members of the School have availed themselves of the oppor-

tunity to hear these lectures; and if more were enterprising enough to make the long and perilous pilgrimage to Scutari, they too would feel repaid for the effort they make, and would be welcomed at the School. No other institution in Constantinople that we know of offers a course of three lectures per week on subjects of timely value, free of charge to the public. The notices given in these pages week by week of the lectures for the following week should be carefully read and then acted upon.

This lecture also brings vividly before us one of the great unsolved problems before the Near East Relief. To what extent has it a responsibility toward the future of the Armenian and other races of this country? Is it merely an organization for the temporary relief of hunger and nakedness, or, having once accepted the responsibility of caring for tens of thousands of orphan children and aiding in their training in other institutions, must it go on and fit them for self-support? The purpose of an orphanage is usually not fulfilled until its inmates are ready to take care of themselves. And the donors who have for several years past been contributing month by month to the Near East Relief for the support of orphans have done so in most instances with the set purpose of keeping up their gifts till their wards shall be able to shift for themselves. The step which has now been taken, of definitely entering on a ten-year program, acknowledges such a responsibility, and will go far toward placing the gifts from friends in America on a permanent basis. When such donors see that the job is being thoroughly done, in a far-sighted way, they are far more likely to cooperate by putting their gifts on a business basis. It therefore remains for the program on this side the ocean to be worked out systematically with the help of all who have these orphanages in charge. A practical education which will train body, mind and spirit, and make of these children whose past has been so tragic the substantial citizens of the future, is being arranged on the basis of experience, and will run no risk of training them out of their environment, but will at the same time secure the domination of business ability by sound character based on religious and moral training. If in the past it has taken nine tailors to make one man, the aim of these trade schools will be to make each tailor the equivalent of nine ordinary men in unimpeachable character and reliability. This can be done only when morality is founded on the conviction of personal responsibility to God,—when each tailor and carpenter and smith and shoemaker recognizes his moral obligation to live up to the highest standards. When this has been inculcated, then the donors in America or England or Switzerland or elsewhere will indeed feel that their money has been well spent and that they have had a share in the rehabilitation of a nation. Comparatively few of these fifty or more thousands of boys and girls will be trained to be teachers or will go into the learned professions; but every one of them has a right to the highest possible training in standards of right living. And in this, all those who support the Near East Relief, be they Christian, Jew or pagan, will agree.

ADDRESSES ON EDUCATIONAL WORK  
IN CONSTANTINOPLE  
AT CONSTANTINOPLE COLLEGE

Fourth Session, Feb, 16, 1921

The Educational Work of the Young Women's Christian  
Association in Constantinople

MISS MARGARET WHITE

Let me say frankly, first of all, that the Young Women's Christian Association of Constantinople is not a school. Our ultimate purpose is to bring the abundant life to a girl through the development of herself along physical, mental, social and spiritual lines. But one very important line of opportunity to the member is such educational work as can be offered in the Service Center, Young Women's Christian Association. The demand on the part of the girls and young women of Constantinople for educational work has been splendid. It often seems as though our opportunities along educational lines were hindered only by our handicaps in equipment, the need of an adequate building and the lack of funds.

I wish to present to you first some of the principles in educational work, which have been found most enduring and practical in the work of the Association in the United States. These serve as a guide or an ideal in the beginnings, which are being made in the Constantinople Service Center, Y.W.C.A.

We find that when the first association was organized in Boston in 1866 one of the first activities to be started was a singing class! They soon organized classes in astronomy, botany, physiology, penmanship and bookkeeping. This association is also famous for its early opening of a cooking school for domestics and "ladies' cooking classes" as they were called. Educational work has thus for many years had its place in the program of the Association. Further study of the educational program reveals the pioneer character of this educational work. In starting classes in domestic science or arts, in training for commercial work, etc., the Association dared to have a vision of future needs of young women. Furthermore, the needs of the particular community to be served, and of the different types of girls in the association are considered in the making of the program, in order to serve the girl whether she be in school, in industry, in business or at home. Among the variety of classes offered, the following general subjects may be discovered.

1. There are the many forms of work in *citizenship*. This may mean a simple class in English, or current events, or a reading club which is studying questions of importance to women in their social responsibilities as citizens.

2. Various courses in *vocational lines* are offered. These may be commercial courses; courses for trained attendants, for home nursing or individual practical use; courses in costume designing, trade millinery and dressmaking, mechanical drawing and tracing, automobile mechanics, salesmanship, etc.

3. *Household arts*, including millinery, sewing, foods and cookery, as well as household management and planning of budgets, are always found of interest in the education of young women.

4. For the girl who for one reason or another has lost the opportunity to complete the regular school curriculum, the association sometimes is able to offer further training in *common school subjects* to small groups. This is of importance to girls who have left school with insufficient preparation for business or industry.

5. To many girls the only door to an *appreciation of the beautiful* in art, music, drama and literature is opened by the education advantages of the Young Women's Christian Association.

6. *Social education*. To quote an association principle, "It is the business of the association's department of social education to convince women that health is a practical norm to be secured and maintained as a social duty, and that illness is made possible, first by our unsocial practices, second by ignoring nature's defenses, and third by a wrong attitude of mind as to personal responsibility for being at our mental and physical best." Lectures on social standards must be supplemented by definite programs of activities. Gymnasium and recreation work not only train and develop the body but also develop such moral qualities as persistence, faithfulness, enthusiasm, self control, self forgetfulness, the capacity for play, team work or training in the social sense, etc. "The standard of the Association's educational work is not impersonally austere, but an honest attempt to meet human need on a personal basis."

How much of this goal has the Constantinople Service Center been able to realize? In the short year and a half since the opening of our work, much of our activity has been merely learning what lines of work were of interest to the girls of Constantinople. Much has been per force experimental.

The chief demand on the part of our membership has been for English classes. We have English classes at low fees all the way from beginners to a group who are studying poems, simple literature and composition. In French and Russian there are several classes. Our Education Committee, realizing the lack of a good common school education among many of our members, offered this fall classes in Armenian, Greek and Turkish. With reluctance this plan had to be given up, as no young woman felt the need of studying her own mother tongue. Through our Commercial Course we are trying to train young women for business positions. The course includes typewriting by the "touch system," a review of English grammar, commercial English, and French and Stenography as electives. Suggestions on office system and business etiquette are instilled into the girls as is possible during the short course.

The very important line of physical education has been much handicapped by lack of a suitable building with gymnasium accommodations. Through the courtesy of the Greek Girls' School of Pera an attractive room was secured for these classes this fall. To teach the girls correct postures, development of their bodies and the love of play has been

the attempted task of our physical directors. Classes are offered during the fall and winter months; recreation is planned every week, and tennis, hikes and picnics during the summer months.

Many of our fourteen clubs, groups of girls who have gotten together for a special interest, have chosen some line of educational work for their particular activity. This work has to be simple in order to have the girls really understand, but we can see progress in their work. For example, a group of girls who got together last spring as a Reading Club, are this winter studying current events. The Dramatic Club has presented creditably two little English plays; the Chorus practices weekly, the Reading Club is finding practice for hearing and telling stories; the Home Making Club is giving special study to house furnishing and the care of the home; still another club studies Shakespeare, while two others take up First Aid to the Injured. The business girls gather one evening a week to hear speakers on topics of importance to the young woman in business.

The general interest in educational lines is stimulated also by our inadequate library, which should be much enlarged with good readable books in many languages. We are trying also to bring before the young women certain lecturers who bring a message on subjects of value to the girls. Just now for example Dr. Graff of the Near East Relief is giving a series of six lectures on health and hygiene.

There is no doubt about the opportunities for training young women, even if they do not acknowledge their own needs. Our task must be to interpret various possibilities to them in terms which they can understand. The demand even for work seemingly unnecessary at present may be created. For the young women in business in particular the Y.W.C.A. Service Center offers a useful place for continuing educational work in night classes. We shall hope to be able to increase our educational program in languages and literature, perhaps in some of the common school subjects, and particularly in the much needed lines of citizenship, household arts, vocational training, and in social and physical education.

## THE FRENCH AND ITALIAN SCHOOL SYSTEMS

(Prof. GIOVANNI BIANCO)

In the days of the Genoese and Venetian conquests, the Italian language had a hold in the Orient which it lost as a result of political vicissitudes, but which it is slowly regaining, owing to the efforts of the Italian government and of Italian individuals to spread the Italian language and Italian culture abroad. It must be borne in mind, however, that schools do not create commerce, but commerce creates schools. And when a sound financial and commercial policy is adopted abroad, the schools will not lack pupils.

No comparison is possible between the French government system for schools established abroad and that adopted by the Italian government. The Italian government establishes abroad, when the occasion presents itself, lycées and institutes patterned after those in the Kingdom, without any

modification or adaptation whatever. It is thus possible, in the middle of the school year and with no other formality than the presentation of a certificate, for the student who leaves an Italian school abroad to enter the corresponding class of the school at home. For the programme of the schools is elaborated by the Italian Ministry of Public Instruction and is rigorously uniform, so that a student loses no time by changing schools. The teachers of Italian schools abroad themselves must have their diplomas from the Italian Ministry of Public Instruction and can teach in Italian schools at home if they so desire. This uniformity of programme for Italian schools at home and abroad is of little practical value since barely one or two percent of the students abroad go to Italy to continue their studies.

The system has, on the other hand, serious drawbacks. Chief of these is the fact of imposing a system of studies and of school regulations on schools abroad without consideration of local conditions. Thus the study of the classics in the Italian schools of Constantinople is very perfunctory, for few of the students intend to go to college and consequently few of them are interested in the study of literary and classical subjects. The great demand is for practical subjects and business courses. But no variation is allowed in the programmes of the Italian schools to meet the popular demand.

The French school system abroad is entirely different. None of these schools are under the direct control of the government. The diploma of the Galata Serai Lycée, where instruction is carried on in Turkish and French, is indeed recognized by the French universities; but all other French schools and lycées are required to send their students to take the examinations conducted at the French Embassy or under a commission presided by a professor of the Institut des Beaux Arts at Athens. To those successful in passing these examinations the French government issues the following certificates:

Certificat d'Etudes

Brévet élémentaire et brevet supérieur, admitting to commercial colleges;

Baccalauréat ès lettres and baccalauréat ès sciences, admitting to the universities.

But what is most admirable is that the universities give in France diplomas: *Valables pour l'étranger*.

Thus the French schools have imposed on them no uniformly obligatory programme of classes, except for the half dozen students who each year present themselves for the teacher's degree. The liberty enjoyed by the directors and the teachers of the local French schools to determine for themselves the conditions of passing from one class to another gives them a veritable superiority over the Italian state teachers who are compelled to abide by draconian regulations. In the Orient there are few students who have not changed schools at least once, and without an elastic system of classification and studies you are bound to have in the same class students of varying age and training. The elastic system of the French schools is the key to their success.

There are the following Italian schools in Constantinople:

Elementary school for boys, 4 classes, with government instructors,	370
Elementary school for girls, taught by the Religious Sisters of Ivrea	230
Preparatory courses, with government instructors	156
Technical course, I. and II. degree	75
Total number of pupils	831

A society organized for the propagation of the Italian language and culture abroad is the Dante Alighieri Society, the Constantinople branch of which has an activemembership of eight hundred or more, and which has instituted four free courses in the Italian language and literature, with over 250 students. Membership in this society is not restricted to Italians, but is open to all who are interested in its activity.

Higher education in Italian is, however, impossible here owing to the fact not only that there is no Italian university here, but also to the difficulty of establishing a university in a city where so many different languages are spoken. For the present the Italian schools must be content to train good business employés and merchants.

One of the most important considerations for education is the salaries paid to teachers which are generally less than the wages of laborers. This does not accord with the important rôle played by the teacher in society. For it is in the hands of their teachers that the future of the nations lies; it is the educators who are to instil into the minds of the young the ideas of obedience and discipline and of respect for order which are essential conditions for human progress and peace.

The next session will be held on Wednesday, March 16th, at 3:15 p.m., and addresses will be given on Jewish schools in the city and the educational work of the Y.M.C.A. Everybody cordially invited.

## NOTES

### CONSTANTINOPLE

A serious fire in Pera came dangerously near the American Sailors' Club last Saturday night. The building was saved, but in the confusion attendant on removing property from the threatened premises, some \$500 worth of the belongings of the Club were lost. Eight buildings were burned, unfortunately with the loss of four lives,—three children and the mother of one of them.

A legacy of \$10,000 has been left to the Great National School of the Greeks at Phanar, on the Golden Horn, by a former student, Demetrius Demetriades, who made his fortune in America and recently died there.

The first reinforced concrete boat ever built on the shores of the Bosphorus was successfully launched at Bebek last Saturday. It will be used to carry a floating crane.

Beginning with March 1st, the Bosphorus Steamer Company has decided to raise its rates for tickets, to approximately 50% higher than they have thus far been. The municipal authorities have given their consent.

Colonel Olds, the head of the American Red Cross in Europe, is in Constantinople on a short visit. A tea in his honor was given at the N.E.R. Headquarters in Rue Taxim, Pera, on Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Alice Peloubet Norton, M.A., arrived at Constantinople College on Thursday, February 17, and will be at the head of a department in the College of Home Economics.

Mrs. Norton is the Editor of the Journal of Home Economics. She was also professor of Household Administration in the University of Chicago for twelve years and an Alumnae Trustee of Smith College.

Mrs. Norton is the daughter of Dr. F. N. Peloubet, who for many years prepared the notes on the International Sunday School lessons.

Mrs. Norton plans to organize and develop the department of Home Economics in the College, which will include child care, home sanitation, and the study of food as well as other subjects that have to do with the management of the home. She is the author of Food and Dietetics, and of several pamphlets and magazine articles on different phases of her subject.

Charles E. Hughes has been offered by President-elect Harding the post of Secretary of State, and has accepted the honor.

### THE NEAR EAST

The Conference on the Near Eastern question was opened on Monday, the 21st, with a meeting of the representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan. It was expected that a full meeting could be held yesterday, at which the delegates of Turkey and Greece would be present to set forth their views.

Marchese Niccolo degli Albizzi, of the Italian Mission to Georgia, with his wife who was Miss Mary Kifer of the "Leviathan" party of the Near East Relief, and who spent some time in the Caucasus, passed through Constantinople the past week on their return to Tiflis by Italian steamer.

A census of Athens has just been taken by the Hellenic Government, showing a population of 287,407, in addition to which the Piræus has 128,339 inhabitants. This indicates an increase of nearly 54% for the two cities in twenty years.



## OTHER LANDS

King Albert of Belgium has offered a cup for an international transatlantic yacht race, open to any yacht of any size or rig, the race to be between Sandy Hook, N.J., and Ostend, to start July 4th, whatever the weather.

Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan has offered his house in London as a residence for the American Ambassador, and the offer has been accepted by the House of Representatives, which has also appropriated \$50,000 for the purchase of an American Embassy building in Paris.

The famous Skoda works in Pilsen, Czecho-Slovakia, which furnished so many of the big guns of the late war, are now employing 10,000 men in the manufacture of locomotives, automobiles and motors, and 3,400 in that of munitions and guns.

According to the official German reports, of the 86 Zeppelins operated during the war, 34 were brought down by the Allies, 15 were accidentally burned, 10 were wrecked while making landings, 4 were lost through accidents to the engines, 2 were demolished as they went in or out of the hangars, and one each fell into the North Sea, was struck by lightning, and drifted off after breaking its moorings.

President Masaryk of Czecho-Slovakia has been given by the French Government the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor.

A recent number of *Art and Archaeology*, the monthly organ of the Archaeological Institute of America, has a very appreciative article on the exhibition of paintings by the Armenian-American artist Hovsep Pushman, of Chicago, shown in the Macbeth Galleries, New York. These twenty paintings are described as making a genuine appeal to the aesthetic feelings.

*The New York Times* says of "Riviera Towns," by Herbert Adams Gibbons, formerly Professor at Robert College, which has just been issued from the press of Robert McBride & Co., New York, "Among the travel volumes of the year, 'Riviera Towns,' by Herbert Adams Gibbons, claims a conspicuous place. It represents the best type of its class of literature, written, as it is, in a delightfully informal and intimate mood, with description and anecdote blended with a rare felicity."

Ignace Paderewski the distinguished Polish pianist, has gone to America and is making a tour from New York to his ranch in California.

## PERSONAL

Rev. H. A. Maynard and family arrived in Constantinople from the Caucasus on Friday last. With them came Messrs. White and Richardson of the Near East Relief.

Major Davis of the American Red Cross mission in the Near East, and Professor Golder of Stanford University returned last Friday from a trip to Batoum, Tiflis, Sokhoum and Poti in the Caucasus.

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**SUNDAY SERVICES February 27, 1921**

DUTCH CHAPEL,	11 a.m. Cap. Houston.
ROBERT COLLEGE,	11 a.m. Rev. Ernest W. Riggs
CONS/PLE COLLEGE	11 a.m.
MEMORIALCHURCH	10.15 a.m. Rev. R. F. Borough

**FOREIGN EXCHANGE, February 22nd**

(Values in paper liras)

Dollar . . . . .	1.48	20 leva . . . . .	0.36 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pound sterling . . . . .	5.85	20 marks . . . . .	0.49 $\frac{3}{4}$
20 francs . . . . .	2.20	20 kronen . . . . .	0.05 $\frac{1}{4}$
20 lire . . . . .	1.11	Gold lira . . . . .	6.13
20 drachmas . . . . .	2.50		

**LATEST NEWS**

To meet the demand which our customers have placed on our *Tailoring Department* we have had to move the same to the 4th floor.

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