

REPORT
OF
ST. PAUL'S INSTITUTE
TARSUS

SEPT., 1904--JUNE, 1905



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This year, the Seventeenth of the Institute's life, has been an eventful one; we recognize with gratitude the Hand of our Heavenly Father in all its history. Thirty-seven (37) towns and villages sent us nearly two hundred (200) students. The process of selection reduced them to one hundred and sixty-six (166) at Easter. Of these, 136 were boarders, and 30 day-pupils. After filling every bed in the dormitories, we were obliged to send about twenty (20) boys to the church parsonage, this year vacant.

STATISTICS OF THE 166.

Seniors in College, 9; Junior, 1 (his classmates being out for one year teaching, or in the employ of merchants); Sophomores, 15; Freshmen, 11; Sub-freshmen, 23; Specials, 4; total in College, 63. In the Academy, 103.

RACE.—Armenians, 139; Greeks, 24; Syrians, 3.

RELIGION.—Gregorians, 73; Protestants, 71; Orthodox, 21; Catholic, 1.

The men of all these races and communions have learned to love each other and to love the School. The events marking the year deepened this affection. The standard of scholarship has been maintained; with scarcely an exception, all the students have devoted themselves earnestly to their studies. An unusually large number of good books have been read, outside of the text-books. One young man, a Senior, took written examinations in Hamilton's two large works on Logic and Metaphysics; besides distinguishing himself by extra work in Geology. The four "newspapers" have been better this year than ever before, giving good practice in writing. The one in Armenian, conducted by Krikor Hoja Kalousdian, has appeared every fortnight; the others, once a month; namely, English and French, Miss Brewer, Editor; Turkish, Hovagim Hoja Kayayan, Editor; and Greek, Dimitri Hoja Theokharides, Editor.

Among the influences making for high scholarship we ought to reckon the example of H. M. Dadourian (one of our graduates) at Yale. He has taken many honors in the Sheffield Scientific School; and has now been appointed Instructor of the Senior Class in Electrical Engineering. He came to us a few years ago, a poor but earnest boy from Everek, in the heart of Asia Minor. In

the Medical School of the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut the students are graded as of rank *A*, *B*, or *C*, the result of the severe written examinations. It is a testimony to the kind of material that we have at Tarsus, and the thoroughness of the work done in this College, that *all* our graduates studying at Beirut this year are in rank *A*.

Another element, and a most important one, which makes for good scholarship among us, is the character of the teachers; Miss Brewer (sister of Justice David J. Brewer of Washington), in English and Mathematics; Mr. Imer in French; Simon Kupelian in Turkish; Rev. Samuel Melkonyan as head of the Academy and teacher of English; Krikor Kalousdian in Armenian; Aram Baghdikian in the Natural Sciences; Hovagim Kayayan in Turkish and other teaching; and Dimitri Theokharides in Greek,—these deserve all credit for zeal and efficiency. The last-named has gone this summer at his own expense to Athens for further study and practice of the Greek. Mrs. Christie, as usual, has had charge of the Domestic Department, and of the boys when ill. It should be mentioned here also, that she and Miss Brewer have done much visiting among the sick and the poor of the city. Three of our teachers, with the President, have had all the pastoral and preaching work of the Tarsus church to attend to this year. To Mr. Imer, after seven years of faithful service, a vacation of six months was given; we expect his return in the end of September. A book of religious poems in Armenian, written by Krikor Hoja Kalousdian, is now printing in Constantinople. The excellent service of Toros Hoja Yesayan, as head of the Industrial Department, and steward, ought also here to be mentioned.

Like a big shell bursting in a casemate came the rebellion of December. Forty men went out. They lived for several days in a khan. The ringleaders were refused re-admittance to the School. Lighter punishments were dealt out to some of the others. Through the efforts of the teachers, of Rev. Bedros Topalian, and of Hojas Sisak and Istilianos of Adana, nearly all the men returned, having learned a valuable lesson. The whole business was a case of "sympathetic strike." A few men were displeased with one of the teachers, and they influenced all the rest. The writer has seen three or four College rebellions; but never one with a flimsier pretext than this. This experience, and a very painful one later in the year, made us resolve to be more careful in the matter of receiving candidates for study here. The work of the Gospel is newer in this end of the Mission than it is in Aintab and Marash; and so we often have to take boys from homes knowing very little of Christian training. This makes more imperative the daily lessons that are given from the Bible, the frequent religious addresses,

the prayer meetings, and the vigilant care of the boys' morals that we are enabled to exercise by our actually living among them.

That month of December was a dark one for us all. There was great searching of heart among both teachers and pupils. The bonds of trust and affection had been loosened by the rebellion, with all its painful incidents. The feelings of many had been greatly hurt.

But we see now that all this was God's plowing and harrowing, that prepared the soil for the good seed sown with many tears. In January the glorious harvest came. All through the Week of Prayer the interest deepened. Then, two of our Seniors took their stand for Christ. Just as in the Aintab Seminary, the whole Senior Class was gathered in. They worked nobly through the rest of the year; and as they are nine strong men they had great influence.

As illustrating the change in them, I may quote what one of them said in meeting. "Nine years ago I saw two of my dearest friends slaughtered in cold blood before my eyes. Ever since that time I have lived for revenge. I have longed, day and night, for the time to come when I should literally wash my hands in the hearts' blood of the murderers and of those who instigated them. But now all is changed! I cannot recognize myself as the same man. Instead of hatred there is pity. I desire with all my heart the conversion and the eternal bliss of those men and of all their race. I say with my Lord, 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they did!' I feel myself called to work for their salvation. I know it is the spirit of Christ that has wrought this change. And I know that this new life is eternal."

The limits of this paper will not permit the story of the revival to be told. Enough to say that it made our whole School over new. Perfect harmony was restored. Every boy set himself to the study, for himself, of the Word of Life. A hundred and thirty-seven Bibles and Testaments in Armenian, Turkish and Greek were bought within two weeks. Every evening, before study began, we had three-quarters of an hour of prayer, praise, and testimony. An early morning meeting of 15 minutes was started in our parlor. But it soon overflowed those limits; so *six* separate meetings in the dormitories were substituted for it. These were continued, and were fresh, interesting, and good, down to the very last day of the school-year. The readings of the "Morning Watch" were used in these Meetings.

There was much conversation with individuals during the rest of the year, from January on. There was much earnest practical teaching. The regular morning Bible lessons took on a new tone, a spiritual depth and power that would not brook frivolous dis-

cussions and debates. Every hour of the day *we felt that God was with us*; it was the first thought when we awakened in the morning, a thought of marvellous sweetness and power. All hearts were very tender; the burden of souls was upon us.

The divine influence affected the Gregorian and Greek students fully as much as the Protestants. Every department of our school life was touched and changed. As one of the Seniors said, "if you want proof of the genuineness of the revival, come to the playing-field and notice the spirit reigning there!"

There was no fanaticism. No long and exhausting meetings were allowed, though it was sometimes very hard to close promptly on time. When what seemed to us to be unhealthy notions of the Christian life began to show themselves, the Biblical view (which is the common-sense view), was at once presented, explained, and enforced from the desk. This led to friendly talks with individuals; and to everybody's continuing to pull straight together in the harness.

All spiritual impressions were deepened, intensified and made more permanent by the first death of a student in term-time that the Institute has ever known. Theophilos Papadopoulos of Maden had been with us five years, and was the leader of the Sophomore Class. A manly, straightforward, hard-working youth; our best athlete as well as scholar, and a universal favorite. I wish all our friends could see the four memorial "newspapers" that appeared after his death! They show what a place he occupied in all hearts.

A slight wound on his heel, received when jumping, ended in lockjaw; and after sixteen days of great suffering, in death. Mrs. Christie, Miss Brewer, his classmates (both Greek and Armenian), and many other students did all for him that love, skill, and care could do.....but all in vain! It was the Father's will to take him up to higher service.

The conversion of this dear young man was one of the marked incidents of the revival. For three nights he could sleep but little, so great was his distress over his sins. We remember well his first public prayer; it was like the cry of a bird escaping from a cage. As soon as he gave his heart to Christ he began to labor for the conversion of his Greek fellow-students. I was present several times in the meetings where Greek was used, and heard his earnest exhortations. If spared he would have been an efficient worker for his people. But it is a joy to think of a young man like him in Heaven.

The commencement exercises took place in the first week of June, in the open air, as we have no room large enough; the College Prize Speaking and the addresses of our nine Seniors on the 2nd; and similar exercises for the Academy on the 6th. The

presence of many friends from Adana added to the interest of the services. They and we noted with pleasure the genuine *Christian* spirit of many of the addresses. Both Orchestra and Choir did their best in the entertainment. Seven of the nine graduates from the College hope to give their lives to the work of the ministry or to teaching.

The writer went to Constantinople in April to attend a conference of Christian workers. There were a series of stimulating and helpful meetings. All the workers received great benefit, also, from the sermons of the Rev. John McNeil. The visit was marked by the announcement of two much-needed gifts to the Institute. One was the promise of the salary of our new American teacher, Mr. Marriott of this year's graduating Class at Beloit College. Our ever kind friend, Mrs William Jay Schieffelin of New York City, daughter of our Founder, is the one to whom we owe hearty thanks for this. The other was of money sufficient to erect a new College building, to contain a chapel, a laboratory, a library-room, a room for faculty-meetings, and eight or ten good recitation-rooms. No gift could have been more timely than this. The donors are two friends who visited us in Tarsus this spring, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Vanderpoel of Orange, New Jersey. We hope that after this year it will no longer be necessary for us to have recitations and public exercises outside under the trees. Praise to God for His great goodness! The congratulations that have poured in on us show what a deep hold the College and the Academy have taken of the hearts of missionary and native friends.

Even after the new building for which we are so grateful is erected, there will still remain three urgent wants unsupplied. *First*, a *missionary residence*; *second*, a suitable *sick-room*; and lastly, a *bath-house*. This last will be comparatively inexpensive, since we have now on the premises a full supply of water, brought in iron pipes from the Cydnus.

A *fourth* very desirable thing should be mentioned also; the purchase of a lot joining us on the North-West, and containing about two acres. This would give us five (5) acres of ground, quite sufficient for our needs at present.

With the help of the Institute evangelistic and teaching work has been carried on this year (as for many years past) in the mountain town of Kozolook. Our new Catalogue will show how many of our graduates are engaged in the same good service in different parts of the world; and how many are (or are preparing to be) Christian physicians.

The visits of several friends from America, England, and even from oppressed Finland, have greatly cheered and encouraged us this year. Christian love and sympathy are world-wide; they

know no boundaries. Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable Gift ; and for our unity in Him !

There are many students in the College and in the Academy who are working their way through by manual labor in our Industrial Department. If help can be given them *without diminishing contributions to other missionary work*, such help will be most gratefully accepted. *Forty Dollars* will carry a man through a year of study. The Treasurer of the American Board, F. H. Wiggin, Esq., 14 Beacon Street, Boston, will receive and transmit all such contributions. They should be designated "for help of students in St. Paul's Institute, Tarsus." We hereby renew our heartfelt thanks to all the good friends who have assisted us in this way in the past.

Elliott F. Shepard of New York City will ever be remembered as the Founder of this Christian College in the great plain of Cilicia. He cherished far-reaching hopes for its future. He desired it to be "a worthy Memorial of the great Apostle to the Gentiles, in the city of his birth and early training."

Had our Founder lived to this day, we doubt not he would have rejoiced with all the friends of the School in the good work it has already done ; in its widely extended and constantly extending sphere of influence ; in the place it has already taken in the affections of the people ; in the enthusiastic devotion to their Alma Mater of its graduates and students ; above all, in the repeated tokens of God's favor that have marked its history.

The past, at least, is secure. Let the workers here, and all who love the work done and attempted here, turn their faces hopefully and courageously toward the future ; in the earnest and prayerful endeavor to make this center of saving and uplifting influences all that its Christian Founder planned that it should be. We serve the Lord Jesus Christ ; we labor for the extension of His Kingdom of Love, Joy, and Peace ; His Spirit is ever with us. Our covenant-keeping God will never leave us nor forsake us. In His loving and almighty Hand we leave the future of this dear Missionary College.

In behalf of the Faculty,

THOMAS DAVIDSON CHRISTIE,

President.

Tarsus, June, 1905.