



*Medieval  
Turkish  
Stronghold  
near grounds of  
Robert College,  
Constantinople.*

# The Only Way

*"Education is the foundation upon which to build an ultimate solution of the troubles in the Near East. This is the great opportunity America has to serve humanity."—From a recent statement by Rear Admiral Mark L. Bristol, American High Commissioner at Constantinople.*

*Chapel of  
Syrian  
Protestant  
College at  
Beirut.*





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# The Only Way to Peace and Enlightenment

“**P**ILLARS of cloud by day and of fire by night,” guiding the youth of the Near East to high levels of Christian manhood and useful citizenship, two American institutions in this troubled quarter of the earth are performing a glorious service for humanity.

Robert College at Constantinople, and the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, during their unbroken careers of nearly sixty years, and especially during the past five years, when they heroically withstood, in an alien community, the hazards of a world war, have proved that though governments rise or fall, boundaries change, dynasties pass away, or whole nations perish, yet character endures forever.

These institutions were founded upon Christian character. While throwing open their doors to “all classes of men, without reference to color, nationality, race or religion,” it was at the same time clearly stated, in the words of one of the founders, that “it will be impossible for anyone to continue with us long without knowing what we believe to be the truth.”

These colleges, therefore, from the very beginning, have co-operated in a spirit of fraternal harmony with American missionary activities in the Near East. In fact, they serve largely to supplement and carry forward these splendid Christian enterprises.

As a result, the graduates go forth, inspired by the loftiest ideals of manly conduct and enlightened citizenship, to serve as leaders among their people, not only in the industrial and commercial life of their respective communities, but in the more enduring processes of social and spiritual regeneration.

In the past, this leadership has proved its leavening power. In the future, with so many vital problems of physical reconstruction and national rehabilitation to be solved, its influence is needed as never before. In it lies the surest hope of the Near East.

And through such institutions as Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College the American people can continue to exercise that commanding influence for good which has made the name America, throughout the Near East, a synonym for unselfish service on behalf of peace and enlightenment.

It is the one and only way.



Tablet erected at Bangor Seminary, Maine, by Armenians in America, to the memory of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, founder of Robert College, Constantinople.

## Inception and Development

**B**OTH colleges were chartered by the State of New York in 1863. It is peculiarly gratifying to recall that, despite the distractions of Civil War, America was still able and willing to discharge its duty to humanity.

The vision was as vivid then as now.

The colleges operate under the jurisdiction of the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. Each has its own Board of Trustees in America, exactly the same as any privately organized college or university here.

A joint office is established at 18 East 41st Street, New York City, where the business affairs of both colleges are administered under the direction of an executive secretary, Mr. Albert W. Staub, who was prominently identified with Red Cross work during the war. During his recent tour of all the American educational institutions in the Near East, Mr. Staub made a special study of the work at Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College.

The English language is the chief medium of instruction in the two colleges.



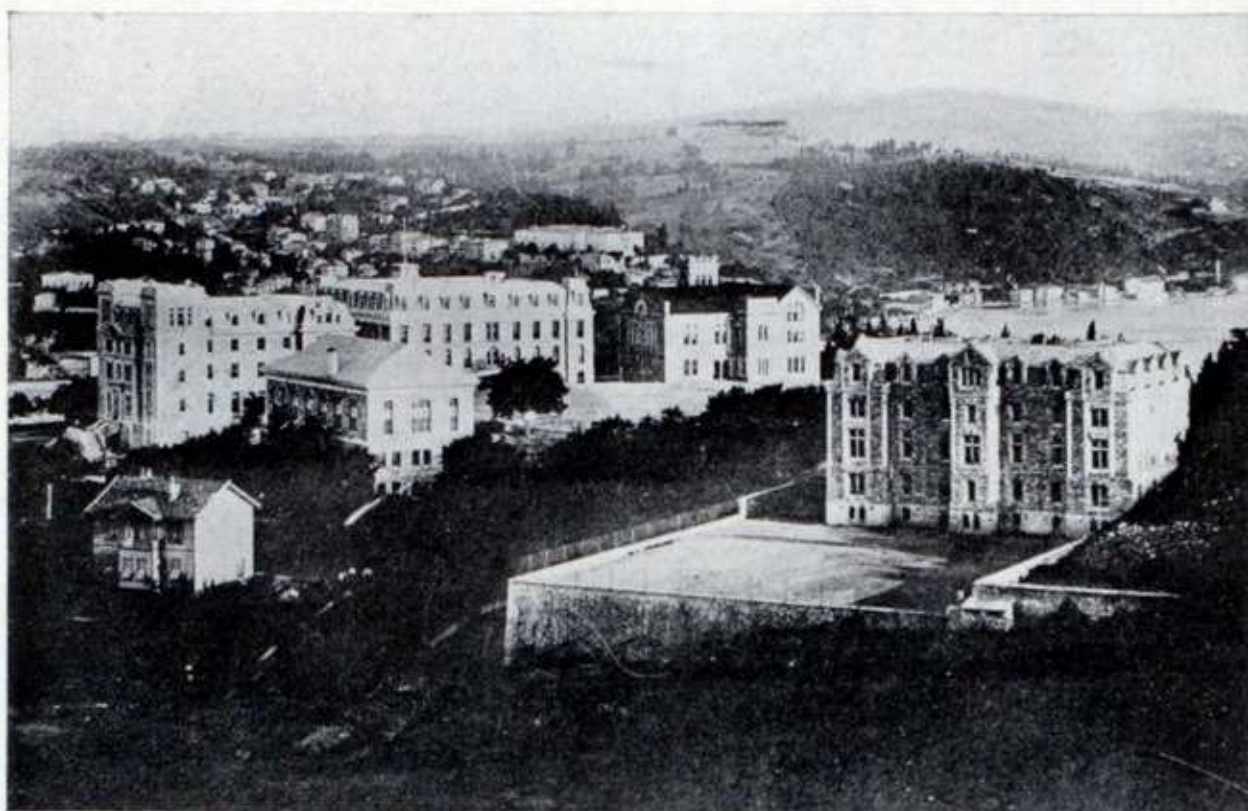
*Erected to the memory of Daniel Bliss, D.D., founder of the Syrian Protestant College of Beirut, by students of the college in Egypt and the Soudan*

## Robert College at Constantinople

**R**OBERT COLLEGE is the realization of the dream of Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, a Maine farmer boy, whose genius along varied lines as much as his unconquerable courage, made success possible where less great men might have failed. As a young missionary worker, assigned to education, Dr. Hamlin conceived the idea of a great American College on a site he had in mind along the Bosphorus. The Dwight brothers also had cherished the idea of an American college in Turkey, but it remained for the valiant Dr. Hamlin to carry the plan through to success.

Illustrating the difficulties he finally surmounted, the story is told of how, after repeated rebuffs from the Turkish Government, Dr. Hamlin, finally, through a harmless little stratagem, succeeded in gaining the consent of the Turks.

When Admiral Farragut, at the close of the Civil War, took the Union fleet on a tour of European waters, he anchored in the Bosphorus, as part of his itinerary.



*Main buildings at Robert College, showing playgrounds in foreground, and residence of Rev. George H. Huntington, vice-president, at left. (See also panoramic view, Pages 8 and 9, for identification of main buildings.)*

Characteristically, Turkish officials imagined that there was some grave ulterior purpose in the Admiral's visit. An Armenian friend of Dr. Hamlin's, knowing the suspicious nature of the Turks, suggested to the teacher-missionary that he take advantage of it. Admiral Farragut readily consented to forward the scheme.

Accordingly, at a banquet given in his honor by Turkish officials, the American Admiral turned to the Grand Vizier, and quite innocently remarked: "Why is permission to build the American college refused?" That was all, and it was enough. The Turks thought they had discovered the real purpose of the Admiral's visit. A few weeks later an Imperial iradé gave to Dr. Hamlin permission to found an American College on the shore of the Bosphorus.

The College could never have started, however, without the practical help given by Christopher R. Robert, a New York merchant, whose name it bears.

From a school of four students in 1863, Robert College has developed until the last graduating class numbered 34, and the student attendance reached 632, with hundreds more unable to gain admittance. The Faculty Staff now numbers 71, made up about equally of Americans and native teachers.

The College plant has grown into a score of substantial modern buildings, equipped with every necessary facility.

# Syrian Protestant College

**T**O Dr. Daniel Bliss, whose son, Dr. Howard S. Bliss, is now President of the Syrian Protestant College, largely belongs the credit for establishing this magnificent institution in Syria.

Early American missionaries were amazed at the ignorance of both Moslems and Christians in Syria. Dr. Bliss, when he arrived on the field, decided that the best promise for the reclamation of these backward people lay in education.

Starting with sixteen students in a rented house, the institution at first was more like a small private school than anything else. With infinite patience and faith, however, Dr. Bliss worked on until when he died in 1916, he was able to look down from the balcony of his house and to see, stretching along the Mediterranean coast for almost a mile, twenty-six college buildings, all of modern construction and ideally adapted for their work. The campus now comprises forty-seven acres. A College hospital of 150 beds has been found inadequate to overtake the people's needs.

More than 900 students are now enrolled there, and about as many more were denied admittance at the beginning of the 1919-20 term because of lack of accommodations. The teaching staff numbers 86, of whom 46 are natives. In the period of its existence, the Syrian Protestant College has graduated 2,860 young men.

Fifty-three per cent of the students are Jewish, Moslem, Druze, or Bahai, while the remaining forty-seven per cent are Catholic, Orthodox or Protestant Christian.



*New Buildings of Preparatory Department of the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut. This department accommodates 503 students. In addition, there is a day school for poor boys, accommodating 125 students.*

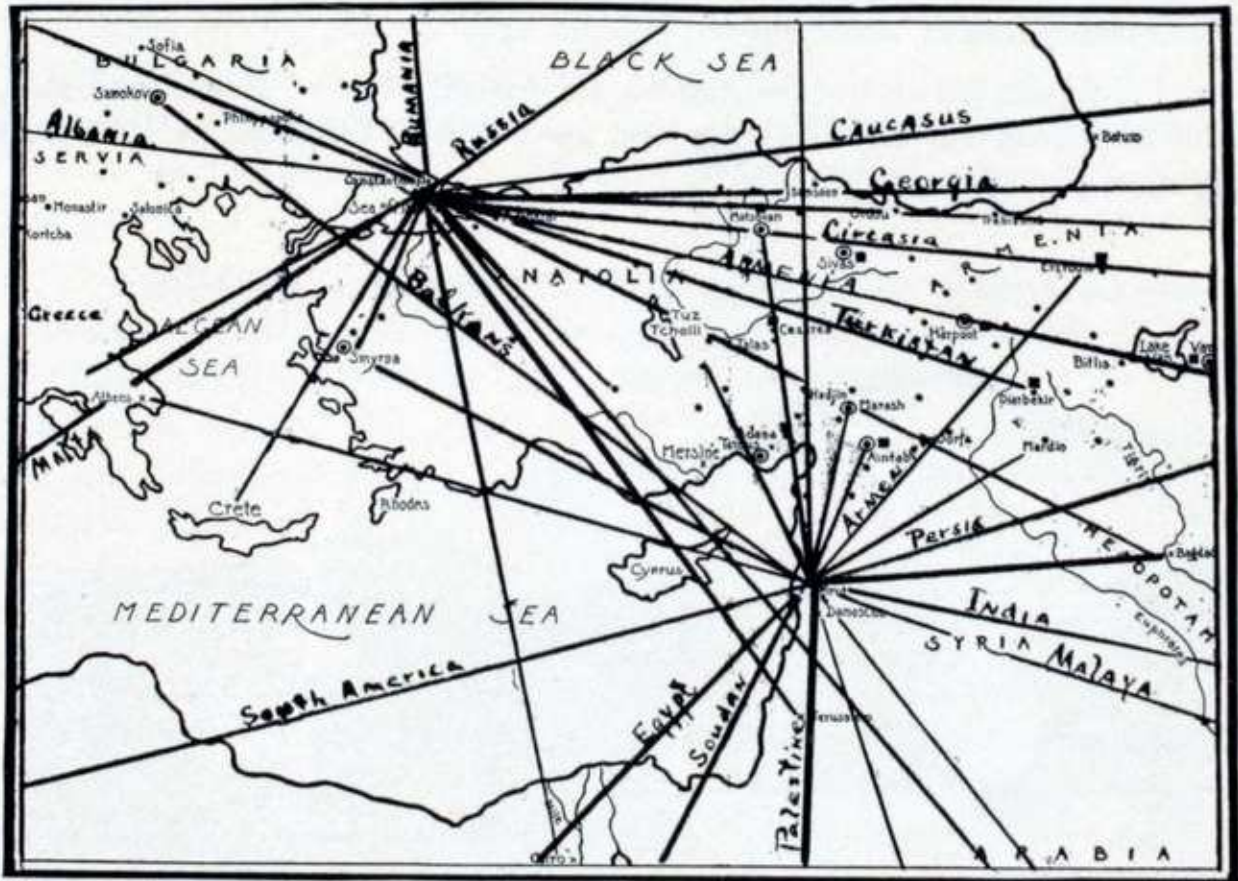
# Scope of the Work

**B**OTH institutions have courses leading to the degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Sciences and Master of Arts. In addition, Robert College confers degrees in Mechanical, Civil and Electrical Engineering, and is giving courses in Mining Engineering. The American University of Beirut confers degrees in Commerce, Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry, and issues certificates for Nurses Training and Pedagogy.

These degrees are recognized by Colleges and Universities generally, in Europe and America.

At the present time, the large Preparatory School for five hundred boys is conducted in conjunction with the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, and until the governments of the Near East are able to furnish means for preparatory education, the College must continue to carry this burden. Probably the most popular of the professional schools have been those for Medicine, Pharmacy, and Dentistry. In this respect alone, these Colleges have performed an invaluable service for the Near East.

Though English is the language used in instruction, both colleges have had a great influence in purifying the native languages.



Map of the Near East, showing strategic positions held by Robert College at Constantinople, and the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, the lines indicating the territory from which the student body is drawn. Students have been enrolled from points in South America, where families of Near East origin have preferred to send their youth to these American Colleges, whose work they know so well, rather than to schools nearer by.



# Prestige in the Near East

**R**OBERT COLLEGE and the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut form the "Melting Pot" of the Near East, in the same sense that America is the "Melting Pot" of the world. On the roster of American educational institutions practically every race there, numbering over thirty, is represented.

Chiefly because of racial antipathies and national cross currents, the Near East today presents to statesmen, a problem of even more serious menace to the peace of the world than do the Balkans. The territory, moreover, is a hot-bed of religious feeling.

Notwithstanding this, however, so effectively do these colleges reflect the American spirit of democracy and goodwill that the college campus has become a sort of neutral zone, whose influence not only governs the student during his college career, but remains with him for life.

In this process of democratization, American sports play an important part. Baseball, football, hockey, cross-country running and other sports which are popular in America, are regular features of student life in the colleges. Field Days are gala occasions. Moslem and Christian vie with each other in the best of spirit in these contests.

The colleges offer prizes in the form of medals, and in every other way seek to encourage and develop the spirit of good-natured rivalry which is characteristic of American sports.

Strategically, the colleges are ideally located, each having its home in a large center of social and commercial activities, drawing their students from all parts of a vast area, and from all classes of people. The colleges are probably the most cosmopolitan in the world. The students learn to know that the common denominator of humanity is man. The reputation of both institutions for broad-minded tolerance extends throughout the Near East, and does much towards developing the international mind, which is so greatly needed in the world today.

Each college is strictly non-sectarian.

## THE NEAR EAST "MELTING POT"

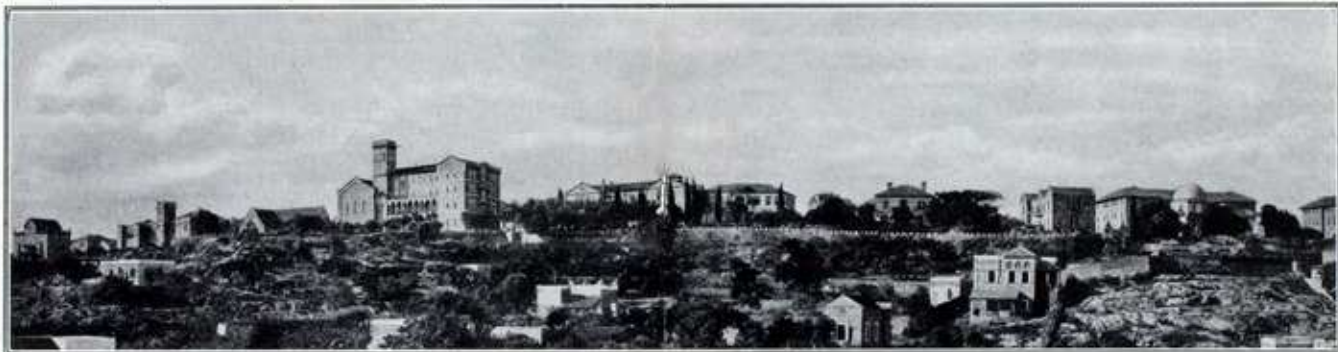
It is generally computed that in America there are about 48 racial groups, but the most important of the races are 32 in number. On the rolls of Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, more than 30 races are represented. The suggestion of the "melting pot" is obvious.

Following are the important races represented in these two colleges:

Abyssinian	Jugo-Slav
Albanian	Kurd
American	Malayan
Arab	Maltese
Armenian	Moroccan
British	Persian
Bulgarian	Polish
Chaldean	Roumanian
Circassian	Russian
Egyptian	Serbian
French	South American
Greek	Swiss
Hebrew	Syrian
Indian	Tartar
Italian	Turk

## Panoramic Views of Robert College at Constantinople, and the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



SYRIAN PROTESTANT COLLEGE ON THE MEDITERRANEAN COAST, ITS CAMPUS EXTENDING FOR A MILE.

1—School of Medicine, Schools of Dentistry and Pharmacy, Hospitals and Clinics in the background, 2—Laboratories and Museums, 3—Chapel, 4—School of Arts and Sciences and Library, 5—Administration Building and Dining Hall, 6—President's House, with Y. M. C. A. in background, 7—Dormitory for medical students, 8—School of Commerce

with Hocken Field in front, 9—Observatory, 10—Freshmen Building, with Preparatory Department and main Athletic Field in the background. (See Page 2 for group of new Preparatory Buildings erected in this part of the College campus.)

1 2 - 3 - 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



ROBERT COLLEGE ON THE SHORE OF THE BOSPHORUS, AT CONSTANTINOPLE, FLANKED BY MEDIEVAL STRONGHOLDS OF THE TURKS.

1-3-5—Homes of the members of the Faculty, under the shadows of the Towers of Mohammed the Conqueror, erected when he crossed the Bosphorus from Asia in 1453, 2—Kennedy Lodge, President's Residence, 4—Gymnasium and Social Hall, 7—Administration, Museum and College classrooms, 8—Preparatory Department; Incubatory and classrooms, with playground at left, 9—College Dormitory and Dining Room, 10—Chapel, Library and Science Laboratories, (Anderson Hall, for Intermediate Department dormitories and classrooms, shown in another picture on Page 16, was erected after the above picture was taken, and now stands in the large field in the right foreground. The Engineering College and the Infirmary are on extreme right below the level of the campus.

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## Love for Alma Mater

**G**RADUATES and former students of Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, are prominent in every line of useful activity throughout the Near East. They occupy responsible positions as doctors, pharmacists, dentists, engineers, editors, pastors, teachers, directors of schools, government executives, and in every line of business and industry. They are the real leaders.

The loyalty of the graduates to their alma mater is only one of many proofs of the permanence of the college influence. Alumni organizations are to be found in Cairo, Jerusalem, Damascus, Haifa, Jaffa, Beirut, Constantinople, Sophia, Athens, and even far-away New York City.



*Field Day at Robert College. The American flag and the Star and Crescent of Turkey hanging from Anderson Hall, add a significant touch of internationalism to the picture. American sports are an important factor in creating a democratic atmosphere.*

## Not "In the Name of Charity"

**T**HE value of the two college properties is \$2,119,137.46; the endowment fund is \$2,762,873.68.

But it is the income from student fees which is most significant as indicating the wise policy of American humanitarians at these colleges. The spirit which prompted the establishment of the colleges and which continues to maintain them, is something more than mere charity. It is philanthropy in the highly altruistic sense that America, in this way, strives to help less fortunate peoples to a place where ultimately they will be able to help themselves.



President Bliss and Mrs. Dale, superintendent of the hospitals at the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, with a graduating class of nurses.

The students at both colleges are required to pay tuition fees, and the stimulating effect of this policy, not only on the students, but on the people in general, proves the soundness of the principle. A limited number of students are assisted with scholarships, but, under normal conditions, the income from students' fees meets more than two-thirds of the operating expenses of the colleges.

## To Hold What We Have

**D**UE to abnormal conditions created by the war—conditions which still affect the Near East more critically than any other part of the world—the work of Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College cannot be carried on with the income from present resources. Even though enrollment of students be limited to the pre-war status, it would still be necessary to secure additional funds to carry on the work. Students' fees have already been increased to the maximum, and, because of the hardships of war, much less dependence can now be placed on this resource than formerly.

The question is not one of expansion of the work of these institutions, but, rather, of *saving what has been accomplished.*

## Organized Support is Needed

**T**HE Trustees estimate that a minimum of \$100,000 is required immediately to preserve the work of these institutions. To the end that the work itself shall become more widely known and appreciated, and to afford an opportunity of service to a larger number of people, it has been decided, in procuring this fund, to recruit a special body of contributors rather than to rely upon the generosity of a few wealthy individuals.

With this in mind, therefore, 1,000 persons are being asked to contribute \$100 each. This plan, it is thought, also, is more in keeping with the democratic principles of the two colleges. The work they have been doing forms one of the most glorious



The faculty, including instructors, at the Syrian Protestant College.



Three glimpses of student life at the Syrian Protestant College.



chapters in American achievement, and it is time that the American public generally should become more familiar with it. Through this larger constituency of contributors, it is hoped this condition can be brought about.

From time to time, informative bulletins will be issued to contributors, to keep them in touch with the progress of the work.

The present movement may be said to be the beginning of the nationalization of American interest in

non-sectarian educational work, in conjunction with native government effort, in the Near East. This special constituency will, it is hoped, form the nucleus of, and supply the leaders for, a great permanent organization.

## Wanted—New Friends

**T**HE Trustees of Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College realize that to build up this new body of supporters, it will be necessary for those already interested to assist in every possible way, particularly by supplying the names of others whose sympathies may

likewise be depended upon.

Wherever possible, on request, speakers will be sent to address meetings.

It is also important that committees be formed in the various communities. Such

### FACULTY AT BOTH COLLEGES

The following table indicates how successfully teachers have been developed from native talent:

	Robert College		Syrian Protestant College	
	American	Native	American	Native
Professors .....	18	5	20	8
Instructors and Assistants	12	35	14	35
Ladies of the Hospital.	1	..	6	3
	—	—	—	—
	31	40	40	46
Total .....	71		86	

committees have already been organized in Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburgh, Cleveland and Chicago. In these and other cities, public-spirited men and women who feel the need of some form of public service to take the place of the work they did during the war, have already joined this movement for the educational emancipation of the peoples of the Near East, a part of the world to which we are drawn by a thousand ties of religious and historic sentiment.

Dr. Bliss, the founder of the Syrian Protestant College, and Dr. Hamlin, the builder of Robert College, in common with all others of that noble band of missionary workers who served and sacrificed there, realized that the only way to the permanent upbuilding of the civilization of the Near East was by the road to universal education.

## DIVISION OF COURSES

Showing the character of instruction at Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, the following summary is presented:

### Robert College

Engineering..	{ mechanical	
	{ civil	
	{ electrical.....	45
Arts and Sciences.....		220
Preparatory .....		367
		<hr/>
		632

### Syrian Protestant College

Medicine .....	107
Pharmacy .....	25
Dentistry .....	25
Nursing .....	28
Commercial (closed during the war)	
Arts and Sciences.....	217
Preparatory .....	503
	<hr/>
	905
Day school for poor boys....	120



Shopwork in the Engineering department of Robert College.



diverse races and different forms of religion, Greek, Armenian, and Protestant," and had "everywhere been struck with the marvelous way in which a certain uniform type, direct, simple, honest, and lofty in



And America, acting through such institutions as Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College, offers the only gateway to that road.

Sir William Mitchell Ramsey, the great British scientist and traveller, said that he "had come in contact with men educated in Robert College in widely separated parts of the country, men of

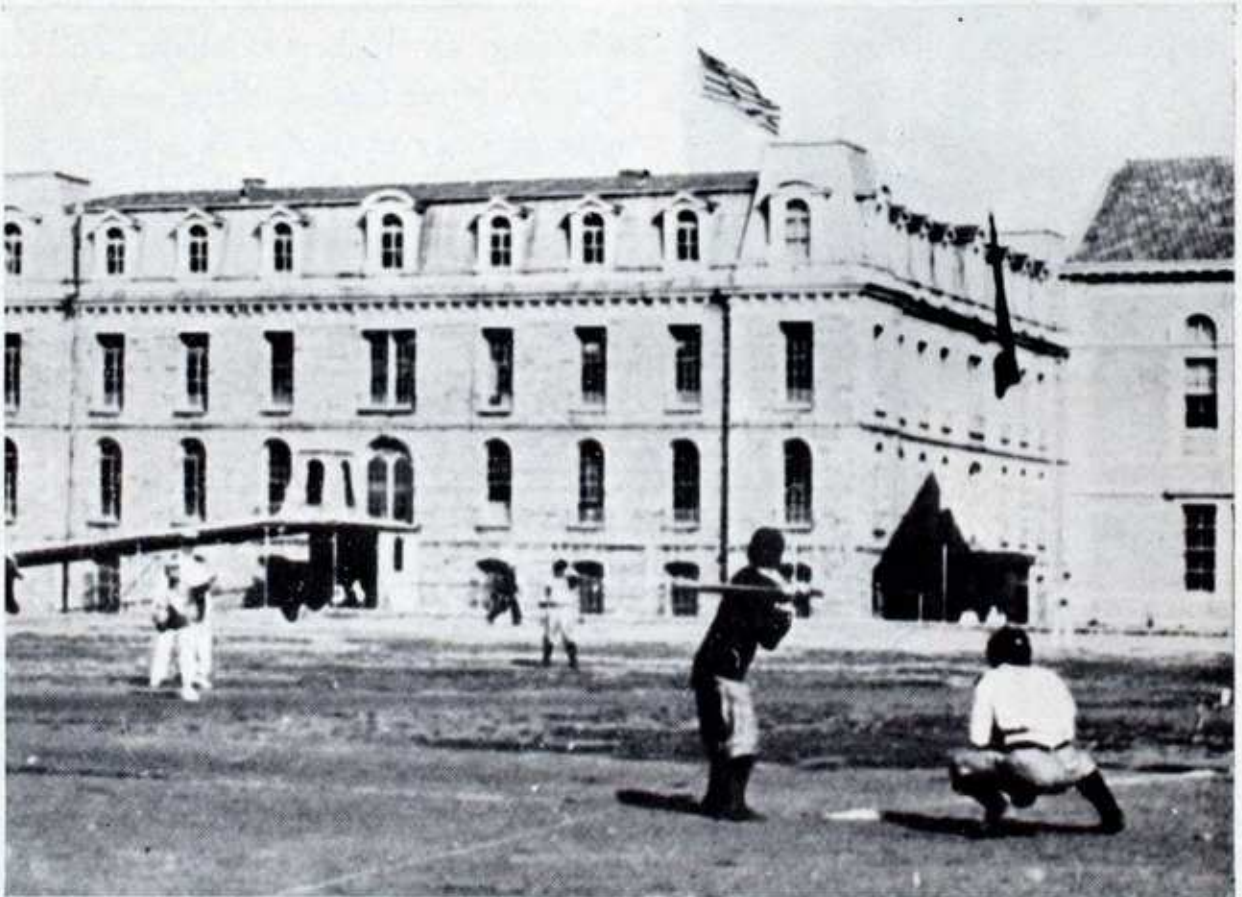
tone, has been impressed upon them." This, he added was "diametrically opposite to the type produced by growth under the ordinary conditions of Turkish life."

This testimony is repeated by all observers of conditions in the Near East.

The American schoolhouse there did this, and can do still more, if you and your friends will only help.

For the convenience of those who wish to join this movement, a blank form is provided on the succeeding page.

## ONE REASON WHY "THE MELTING POT" KEEPS BOILING



*Baseball and other American sports are popular at the two colleges, and to them is attributed much of the success of the institutions in inculcating democratic ideals.*

PLEASE FILL IN, CUT OUT, AND MAIL

LEOLIN H. KEENEY, Asst. Treasurer

Trustees { Robert College, Constantinople  
          { Syrian Protestant College at Beirut.

Room 505, 18 East 41st Street, New York City

Date .....

Please find enclosed \$....., for the maintenance of the work of Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College.

Signed .....

Address .....

.....

(Although large contributions have never been more needed than at the present time, it is the desire of the Trustees to interest a great number of people; therefore, even small gifts will be very much appreciated.)

**Please make checks payable to Mr. Keeney.**

NAMES OF INTERESTED FRIENDS

Name .....

Address .....

Name .....

Address .....

Name .....

Address .....

Name .....

Address .....

Name .....

Address .....

Name .....

Address .....





## BY PRESIDENT GATES

of Robert College

"There is a tradition in Robert College that no matter what the conditions outside, within they shall live as brothers; and these students, coming from nations hostile to one another, come together in the class-rooms, sleep together in the dormitories, meet at the table, work together over their class plays and representations, play on the same college team to uphold the honor of the class in football, basketball and baseball, meet together in chapel and hear the same Scripture and the same teachings as to the fear of God and the service of their fellow men. When they go out from the college they can never think the same way as their peoples think. One great work of the college is to break down those barriers and to help men to see their fellow men as men and not merely as foreigners."

## BY A PROMINENT GRADUATE

"Many are the changes which have taken place in the East since Robert College was founded, and to some of these it has more or less contributed. Still greater changes are impending there in our own days, when most probably, Robert College, as well as other similar American institutions in the Near East, will be called upon to display greater and wider activities. The people will welcome and appreciate in the future, as they have done in the past, this influence, for they realize that it will be exerted, without any ulterior motives, for their intellectual, moral, and social uplift and progress."

## BY PRESIDENT BLISS

of the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut

"They are coming from all parts of the Near East. It is a wonderful sight. More than half of them belong to non-Christian faiths—Moslems, Jews, Druzes, and Bahai. Very few of them are Protestant. We are not there to force religion down their throats. But we believe profoundly in religion. We are there to make them feel a sense of hunger and thirst for the deepest and most beautiful things in all the world. This is the missionary enterprise, as we conceive it, to exchange the best things that we have for the best things that the Orient has; for the Occident still needs the Orient. We believe the whole world needs the whole world, and we are there to give the best we have and to receive the best that that part of the world has to exchange with us. And, put in that way, we have had no difficulty during these fifty years in conducting a missionary enterprise."

Dr. John H. Finley, Commissioner of Education for New York State, speaks of Robert College and the Syrian Protestant College (New York's "illustrious corporate children," as he calls them), with triple authority as head of the Board of Regents which chartered the two institutions nearly sixty



years ago, as a traveller who, on Red Cross missions during the war, studied conditions in Near Eastern countries, and, what is even more impressive, as a great educator who ideally combines a knowledge of the science of practical pedagogy with warm-hearted interest in human welfare everywhere.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY  
AND COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION  
ALBANY

IN MY RECENT TRAVELS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE, NORTHERN AFRICA AND WESTERN ASIA, I CAME EVERYWHERE UPON GRADUATES AND FORMER STUDENTS OF THESE COLLEGES; AND ALWAYS WITH SATISFACTION, FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM WAS CARRYING SOMETHING OF THAT WHICH OUR YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN GET IN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HERE IN AMERICA, BACK INTO THE DAILY LIFE OF THE PEOPLES WHO DWELL IN THE ANCIENT HOMELANDS OF THE RACE, — THE FAR PLACES OF OUR HERITAGE. "THE GOOD OPINION IN WHICH AMERICA WAS HELD (AND I HOPE IS STILL HELD) IN ALL THAT REGION WAS DUE PRIMARILY AND CHIEFLY TO THE WHOLESOME, BENEFICENT, DISINTERESTED SERVICE AND INFLUENCE OF THESE AND SISTER INSTITUTIONS: THE ONE OF THESE TWO STANDING ON THE FARTHER VERGE OF EUROPE (THE CAMPUS OF ROBERT COLLEGE LIES IN EUROPE BUT LOOKS ACROSS THE BOSPHORUS INTO ASIA) AND THE OTHER ON THE COAST OF ASIA (NOT FAR FROM THE "BORERS OF TYRE AND SIDON") LOOKING TOWARD EUROPE AND AMERICA. AND IT IS THROUGH THE CONTINUING AND STRENGTHENING OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS "AND THESE ESPECIALLY THAT AMERICA IS TO PAY HER INESTIMABLE MORAL AND SPIRITUAL DEBT FOR WHAT HAS COME TO HER OUT FROM THESE COASTS AND THE LANDS THAT LIE BACK OF THEM.

May 1, 1920

*John H. Finley*