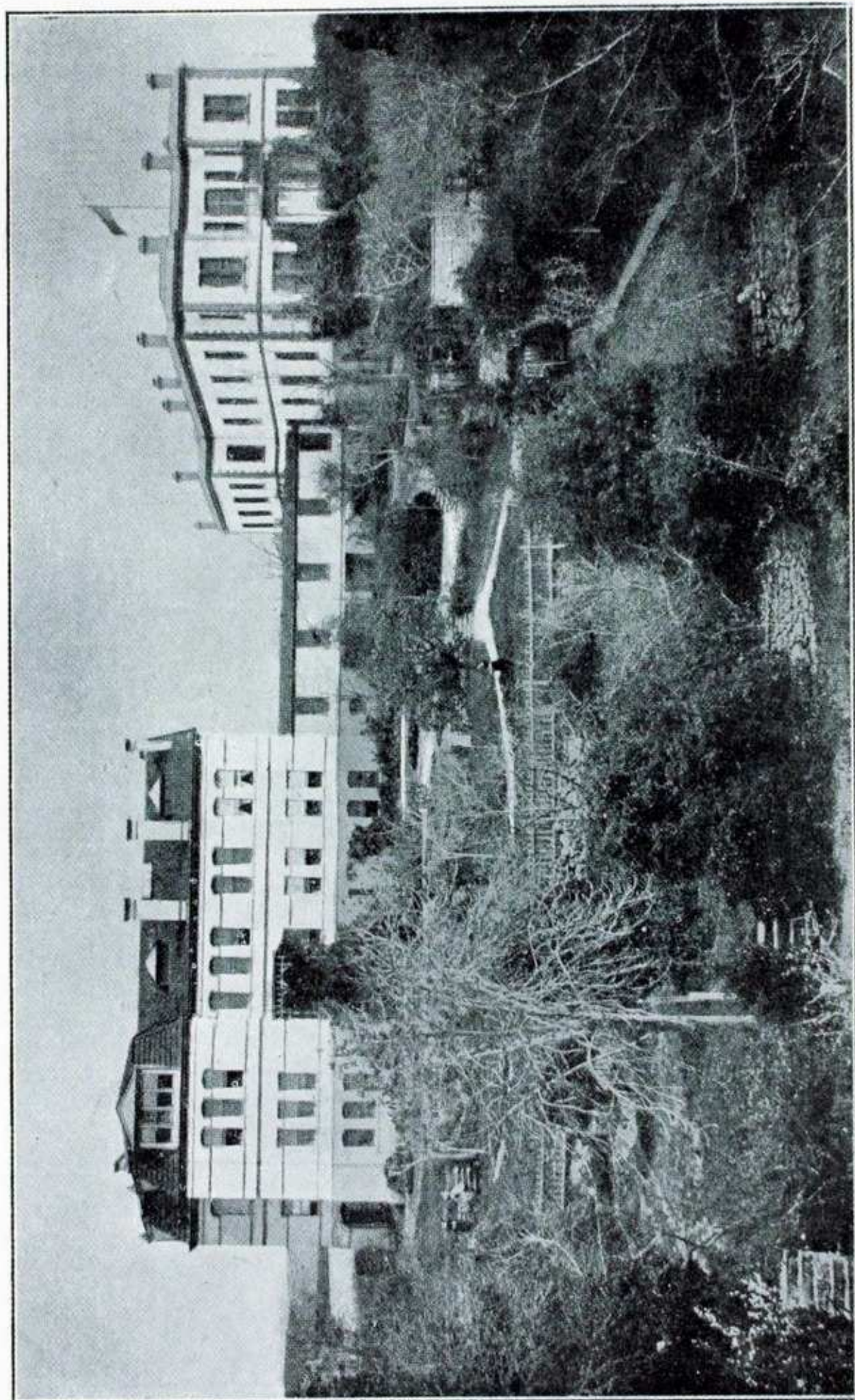


J. A. Bunge
May 1950

Missions
of the
A. B. C. F. M.
in
Turkey

Constantinople

1904



AMERICAN COLLEGE FOR GIRLS, CONSTANTINOPLE

MISSIONS OF A. B. C. F. M. IN TURKEY

THE FIELD AND THE WORKERS.

The mission work in the field now occupied by the American Board in the Turkish Empire began with the coming of Dr. & Mrs Goodell to Constantinople in 1831. Ten years earlier Pliny Fisk and Levi Parsons, the first missionaries sent by the Board to the Orient, established themselves at Smyrna, but their stay there was brief and the later date is more properly regarded as the birth year of our Mission. At present, aside from the Mission to European Turkey, which, because laboring among a distinct race and using a different language, has little connection with the others, the field is divided into three Missions, known respectively as the Western Turkey, Central Turkey, and Eastern Turkey Missions. With these are connected 44 men and 100 women, including a few now on furlough in America, but expecting to return to their work in the East.

This number is inadequate to care properly for the work in hand. In several stations over-taxed laborers are near the breaking down point, and in some places the falling out of a single worker would necessitate the suspension of important branches of the work. This is particularly true of the Eastern Turkey Mission, which, with an area equal to all New England together with New Jersey and Delaware, is cared for by thirteen men, of whom four are veterans with 35 or more years of missionary service behind them. Each of the stations of this Mission is from three to six hard days' journey from any other, and there is not a mile of railway in the Mission. The Secretary at Boston, who knows the field from years of labor in it, says in his last Report — "This state of things cannot long continue without grave disaster." One of the veterans of the Mission, who is left the only ordained man at his station by the death of a loved associate, writes in a private letter "Plowing is hard work when one side of the yoke is empty and the other is filled by only a small steer."

There are twenty cities in which missionary residences are established, and the evangelical communities with and for whom they labor are scattered through more than 250 cities and villages. In round numbers there are in these communities 49,000 enrolled Protestants, of whom nearly 14,000 are church members, and the average Sabbath congregations number over 39,000. That is, the attendance at church services is nearly three times as large as the number of church members, and this fact shows the churchgoing habit of our people. Associated with the missionaries in the care of the work is a large body of native laborers, including 69 ordained pastors, 98 licensed preachers and 686 teachers.

The work done in the Missions is of four kinds — evangelistic, educational, literary and medical. Though distinct, the ultimate aim of all is the same, the bringing of men to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and the building up of the kingdom of righteousness, peace and love in the land; and those whose time is mostly filled with the labor of some other department take part also in the evangelistic work so far as their strength allows.



EVANGELISTIC WORK.

The number of churches in the three Missions, according to the last Annual Report, is 120, and nine tenths of their membership is from the Armenian race. The trials to which this race has been subjected of late have prevented their reaching that degree of strength and independence which the previous rate of growth had led us to hope for. Here again the Eastern Turkey Mission has been the greatest sufferer. The Christian population of that part of the empire is almost exclusively Armenian, for the Mission includes within its bounds the home of their ancestors. As a consequence of recent events, the membership of the churches of the Mission, which in 1894 had reached 3107, was reduced by one fourth, and two years later was given as 2413. A missionary stationed at Harpoot, the largest and most important station of the Mission, stated that nearly one third of the church members of their field were lost. This was partly owing to an extensive emigration to America, and those who went were largely the better educated and wealthier members of the communities. For

example, two third of the survivors of the classes which were in Harpoot Theological Seminary from 30 to 35 years ago, have left the country. One fourth of the members of the Bitlis church and 200 from the congregation are in America. But the great loss thus met is being gradually repaired, and last year there were reported 2529 church members. The secretary of Harpoot station writes "There are in this field 25 regularly established churches and 15 branches, having in all a membership of over 1500. New members are being added at the rate of about 150 each year." This ten percent growth is nearly maintained throughout the Eastern Mission where the whole number of communicants is given as 2529, of whom 236 were added during the year. A like rate of growth would mean a yearly addition of over 100,000 to the Presbyterian Church North and of over 60,000 to the Congregational churches, of the United States. The Sunday Schools of the Mission report over 7500 pupils.

In the Western Mission, though the number received to membership was larger, the rate of growth was smaller, being only about five percent. Most of the sea coast provinces belong to this mission, and in all but one of its stations the Greeks largely outnumber the Armenians. The Evangelistic work among the Greek race has made slow progress, though we think there are valid grounds for taking a hopeful view of the future. Probably but a little more than one tenth of the 4427 church members in the Western Mission reported at the last Annual Meeting were Greeks, but some of the wisest, most earnest and most devoted members of our evangelical body are found in this little band. The field has suffered by the death of a large number of experienced and useful pastors in the last few years and their places have not been filled. Recently three new churches have been formed, and four young men ordained to the ministry.

Much the strongest Mission of our Board in the Empire is that known as the Central Turkey Mission. It is in the region of Cilicia, with missionaries resident at Aintab, Marash, Adana, Tarsus, Hajin and Ourfa. With regard to the work of the churches in this mission, the secretary, Mr. Macallum, writes.

"There are in the Mission 37 organized churches, and 20 other places where regular religious services are held. The total membership is about 6800 ; there are 19,000 adherents ; and average congregations every Sunday amount to 15,800.

Sunday School is held in the morning and attended by 12,000 pupils. The time of meeting varies according to the season of the year from 5 a. m. to 9 a. m. There is only one preaching service, held at nine o'clock in the afternoon, Turkish time, which means three hours before sunset, whenever that may be. Several of the congregations average over 1000, and 13 of the 37 churches are entirely self-supporting. The others receive more or less aid from the Mission, but an earnest effort is being made to bring all the churches to the point of supporting themselves. With this object in view, a Home Missionary Society was formed two years ago. The American Board was asked to give 400 liras and the native churches undertook to raise 100 liras a year. The plan is that each year the amount given by the Board shall be decreased by 25 liras. The churches will continue their contribution of 100 liras a year, and, at the same time, undertake to secure an advance in self-support of 25 liras per year throughout the Mission, thus reducing the amount needed from the Home Missionary Society in exact proportion to the yearly reduction in the grant-in-aid from the Board. In this way it is hoped that at the end of 16 years no further help will be required from outside. Of course new fields opened up during this period will have to be considered on a separate basis. An encouraging feature of this movement is that it has not been forced on the churches by the missionaries; on the contrary, it was proposed and urged by the representatives of the native churches themselves.

There is a strong organization embracing all the churches in the Mission, called the Cilicia Union. It has a yearly meeting, attended by the pastors and the delegates elected by the churches. This Union meets at the same time and place as the annual meeting of the missionaries, and a leading characteristic of this Mission is the harmony existing between these two bodies. This harmony finds expression in what is called the Conference, composed of all the members of the two bodies. As a rule, the Conference meets in the forenoon, and then in the afternoon the native Union and the missionaries each hold their separate sessions to consider matters of more private nature. The Colleges in Marash and Aintab, and the Theological Seminary, are under Boards of Managers composed of Natives and missionaries, and the members of these Boards are chosen at this time. The missionaries as well as the Natives on the Board of mana-

gers of the Seminary are appointed directly by the native Union. For the others,* the Union appoints the Native managers, the Mission, the missionary members.

The preachers and pastors and other native leaders compose as fine a body of Christian workers as one could hope to see anywhere. They are noble men, who know what it is to endure hardship in the service of Christ. With an unselfish devotion they work on quietly but faithfully, and will certainly have their reward. The missionaries feel it a privilege to be associated with such an able body of men.

Last year this Mission was visited by a revival of remarkable power. It was most manifest in Aintab, but in a large number of our churches the same results were produced, if on a smaller scale. Some features of this revival are (1) an impressive manifestation of divine power felt by all. It is not the work of men. (2) Human instruments used have been native rather than foreign. (3) Nominal Christians have been aroused and are now working for God. (4) Many have been converted, some of them men notoriously wicked. The total of such in Aintab alone is perhaps 800. A new church has to be built to accommodate the increased congregations. (5) The Gregorians were deeply affected and there are interesting movements in the old church looking towards a more evangelical Christianity. (6) The ministry of the laity had been emphasized both for men and women. (7) Christianity as generally conceived, was a new law, or a system of doctrine: now the people more clearly perceive that it is a life — an abundant life in Christ.

EDUCATION.

The time is past when the wisdom or fitness of including the establishment of schools and colleges in the legitimate work of the missionary is seriously called in question. To gather evangelical communities and then leave their children untaught, or taught by incompetent instructors, or to subject the parents to the temptation of sending their children to Jesuit schools because no other high schools are open to them, is not to provide for the permanency of the evangelical work. The first generation of converts soon passes away and those must be prepared who will take their places. The desire for an

education is intense among the young of our communities, and if this cannot be found under evangelical teachers, it will be sought elsewhere. And there is no more hopeful field of labor, no place where a college-bred man or woman can exert a greater influence in moulding the characters of the rising generation and exerting a power for good which shall be permanent in its influence, than in the class-room.

In 1902-3 the whole number under instruction in the three Missions was over 21,000. Most of these were in common schools, but over 2400 were in Colleges and High Schools and practically all of these come under the direct influence of the Missionaries. Every Station has a High School for Boys and another for Girls, and the influence exerted by them is an example of the power whose greatness is not suspected because it is silent. The amount of good done, for instance, by the Mt. Holyoke school for Girls at Bitles during the 35 years since the Misses Ely began their work there, cannot be computed.

The one College of the Eastern Mission is at Harpoot and all the children of that part of the city are connected with it from the Kindergarten up. With reference to the College Mr. Carey says: —

EUPHRATES COLLEGE.

"Euphrates College was founded in 1878, by Dr. C. H. Wheeler. In 1893 Dr. Gates was elected president. After he left to become the head of Robert College in Constantinople, Dr. Barnum filled the vacancy until Rev. Henry Riggs was elected in 1903. The first class was graduated from the male department in 1880, the first from the female department three years later. In the twenty four classes of young men graduated since that time, there have been 148 members. These have become leaders: 40 are teachers, 27 are ministers, 13 doctors, 25 are in business, 4 farmers, two surveyers, one lawyer. From the female department 21 classes have been graduated, with 93 members, of whom 87 have been teachers, and 30 are at present. Twenty two are the wives of preachers or teachers. In addition to these graduates there are, of course, a far larger number of men and women who have been under College influence for a part of the

course. The whole institution is under one management, but has several departments.

The figures for last year are as follows : —

College.	High School.	Grammar grade.	Primary, etc.	Total.
Male 65	124	172	179	540
Female 44	78	92	291	505
Whole Total				1045

It cost \$ 9826. 74 to run this great institution last year. Of this the pupils paid for tuition, board, music, etc. the sum total of \$ 7038.54. The course of study is suited to this country. Armenian, Turkish, English, French, Mathematics, History, and the Sciences are the principle subjects. A Christian Endeavor society, frequent prayer meetings, and systematic Bible study throughout the course make this a distinctively Christian school.



Though an offspring of our Missionary work, and though all three Presidents had been missionaries of the Board, Robert College has never had any organic connection with the Mission. The Colleges which are connected with the Western Turkey Mission are the American College for Girls at Scutari, Anatolia College at Marsovan and International College at Smyrna, the last two being for boys.

GIRLS' COLLEGE.

The American College at Constantinople is an outgrowth of the Home School, a High School which was founded by the Woman's Board of Boston in 1871. In 1890 a charter was obtained from the Legislature of Massachusetts which conferred upon it the recognition and privileges of a higher institution of learning under the name, "The American College for Girls at Constantinople." Its purpose is to give to the young women of the various nationalities of the East a liberal education in which Christian teaching and ethical instruction shall hold a prominent part.

In 1891 an Imperial Irade was granted the College by H. I. M. the Sultan of Turkey, thus ensuring its permanency in the Empire.

The Trustees of the College are a legally organized body of women, chosen from the Woman's Board and resident in or about Boston. An Advisory Board at Constantinople gives needed help in the

management of its affairs in Turkey. The Treasurer of the College is W. W. Peet.

The Faculty of the College is composed of Dr. Mary Mills Patrick, President,

Florence A. Fensham, Dean, and five American Professors.

There is also an able body of instructors of various nationalities supplementing the work of the Faculty.

There are two departments, the Preparatory Department, providing for five years of elementary work, and a College course of four years leading to the degree, B. A.

The language of the College is English. Instruction is given also in French, German, Latin, Ancient and Modern Greek, Ancient and Modern Armenian, Bulgarian, Slavic and Turkish.

The student body numbers 125 this present year, of whom 74 are boarding pupils and the remainder day pupils. In it are represented thirteen nationalities — Greek, Armenian, Bulgarian, German, Austrian, Hungarian, Turkish, Israelite, Arab, English, Albanian and Persian.

The College has an enthusiastic Alumnae Association of some 165 members, more than half of whom have been or are at present teachers. Many graduates are women of social power in Bulgaria and in the Orient.

The College depends for its support upon the Annual income from tuition, approximately, \$ 10,000, and upon help received from the Woman's Board of Boston to the extent of \$ 7,000.

There is also a nucleus of an endowment of \$ 100,000 the bequest of Charles Wilder Esq., late of Wellesley, Mass., which has been slightly increased by small gifts.

The pressing needs of the College are : —

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| (1) An Endowment Fund | \$250,000 |
| (2) Building for the Preparatory Department | \$ 30,000 |
| (3) Servants' Hall | \$ 2,000 |
| (4) Bathing accommodation & sanitation | \$ 5,000 |
| (5) Heating Apparatus | \$ 7,000 |
| (6) Endowment of chairs for President, Dean,
and Professors. | |
| (7) Endowed scholarships each | \$ 5,000 |

The buildings are now heated by 80 stoves in which for the most

part wood is burned. This is an inadequate and inefficient way of heating the College both in the matter of health and because of danger from fire. \$ 7,000 would furnish both buildings with hot water heating and bring untold comfort and help.

Up to this time there has never been any place but the kitchen where the servants, numbering 25, could sit after their work is done. \$ 2,000 would secure an addition built out from the servants' quarters which would enable them to have a place where they could rest and read when not on duty, and would tend to elevate their condition.

There is also great need of better arrangements for bathing. \$ 5,000 invested in a building connected with the College and heated so as to avoid the danger of exposure would do much for the College in raising its domestic department to the modern ideal of hygienic living.

Friends of the College who have not large sums to invest could help greatly by giving a scholarship \$ 160, or a half scholarship \$ 80, books for the Library, or a sum of money for apparatus in one of the various departments.

Further information may be secured at the College where all visitors will be most cordially welcomed at any time.



ANATOLIA AND INTERNATIONAL COLLEGES.

Anatolia College was founded in 1886 and has sent forth 238 graduates and over 800 other pupils who have not remained to complete the course. This year there are 240 pupils, of whom one third are Greeks and two thirds Armenians. There are three preparatory classes and four in the College. Connected with the college is an industrial Department in which book-binding, carpentering and cabinetmaking are taught, and about 30% of the students help pay their way by working at these trades. Religious services are conducted in the English, Turkish, Greek and Armenian languages.

Though not recognized as a part of the College, the Girls' Boarding school is also within the same Missionary compound and has 200 pupils and 14 teachers. It is a much older institution than the college, having been begun by Miss Fritcher 38 years ago, and the

number of its graduates is 160. Like the college, it has a seven years course of study.

Much the youngest of our colleges is the International College at Smyrna. It began as a High school in 1892 and ten years later advanced to the Collegiate rank with a teaching force of 22, including 5 Americans, though not all of the teachers give their whole time to the school. The number of pupils this year is 291 of whom 156 are in the College classes. Of the students 172 are of the Greek race, which constitutes the largest element in the vicinity, 91 Armenians and the rest of other nationalities. Unlike those in the other Missionary colleges, the students are mostly day pupils, the number of boarders being small. As at Marsovan, so at Smyrna, the Collegiate Institute for Girls is much older than the Boys' College. The Institute was founded in 1881 and last year had 221 pupils.

One missionary family resides at Bardezag, about 60 miles from the capital, in charge of an excellent High School for boys with over an hundred pupils, and a similar institution for girls, in charge of three American ladies who are aided by a native body of Trustees, is found at Adabazar, 80 miles from Constantinople.



EDUCATIONAL WORK IN THE CENTRAL MISSION.

With regard to the Educational work in the Central Mission Mr. Macallum writes: —

"In Turkey the schools for the Christian population are practically all church schools. In connection with our churches in this Mission, we have a complete school system, beginning with the kindergarten and going up through all the grades to the Colleges for young men and women, and the Theological Seminary. The lower grades are very largely supported by the people themselves: in the higher grades a considerable sum is needed from outside. We hope that some day wealthy men at home will consider the advantages of investing a few millions in the endowment of Colleges and Seminaries conducted by missionaries in foreign lands. In this Mission a comparatively small amount would satisfy us. The Girls' College in Marash should have \$ 45,000, the Theological Seminary \$ 30,000, and the men's College in Aintab \$ 75,000. These

endowments, amounting in all to only \$ 150,000, would make it possible to enlarge all these institutions, and place them on a permanent basis. Besides, the money now contributed by the Board for this work could be devoted, say, to the Publication Department, which serves the whole Empire, and is desperately in need of funds.

The total number of pupils under instruction is 6550. Of these, 1050 are in High Schools and Colleges.

For men we have now two Colleges in the Mission, one in Aintab, and the other in Tarsus. The latter, founded and endowed by the late Col. Shepard of New York, has recently been handed over to the American Board and will henceforth form an integral part of our educational system. This institution has been steadily growing in usefulness and reputation, and is especially strong in giving aid to poor and deserving students. More adequate buildings are sorely needed.

Aintab College has for many years been doing a splendid educational work. The President, Dr. Fuller, has been able to gather around him, and to retain in the service of the College a strong native faculty, and it is to this fact that the remarkable success of the College is largely to be attributed. This is in line with the whole policy of the Mission, which is that a missionary should do nothing a native of the country can be got to do with anything like hope of success. The missionary motto is, "We must decrease, but the native workers increase."

The Girls' College is in Marash. In Adana, Hajin and Aintab there are schools for girls which prepare their pupils to enter the Junior class in Marash. This arrangement is found to be economical and satisfactory. The standard in all these institutions is rising, and more thorough work is being done in all departments. It was a difficult matter at first to persuade parents to educate their girls: but now female education is quite popular and is growing more so. A new building is being erected for the Girls' College, which will relieve the intolerable pressure on the capacities of the old one. The latter, when built in 1882, was regarded as amply sufficient. Now the new building is to be larger than the old one. So rapidly has the work grown!

Each of the Missions has a Theological Seminary. That at Harpoot, started over 40 years ago, is temporarily suspended, chiefly

because the mission force is not sufficient to do the work of instruction in addition to all else that is required of it. The old Bebek Seminary at Constantinople was transferred to Marsovan in 1864. A class of six graduated from it last Spring, and a new class of nine entered in the Autumn. Of the Seminary at Marash Mr. Macallum, who is one of its Faculty, says : —

“The Theological Seminary supplies the churches of the Mission with preachers and pastors. The standard of the school has been raised from time to time, until today it occupies the first place in the Empire for schools of this kind. Only College graduates are admitted. The course covers three years, and includes all the branches taken up by the best Seminaries at home. It has been found possible in this way practically to stop the flow of educated young men to America, which has been so marked a feature of some other Missions. The attitude of many of the leading pastors in this respect has been most admirable. They say No, though we could easily go to America, we feel it is our duty to stay here and be with our people in all their trials

The Seminary is getting together a good library. It numbers now about 3000 volumes. Contributions are earnestly requested.”

No small portion of the time of some of our missionaries has been given, since 1895-6, to the care of orphans. Some 1200 were received to orphanages in the Harpoot field, over 500 at Van, and large numbers in Sivas, Marsovan, Marash, Ourfa, Hajin, Bardezag and other cities. But the number of children in the orphanages diminishes from year to year, and it is perhaps to be anticipated that after a few years more the missionaries will wholly withdraw from this work, though the institutions of the kind established within the bounds of our mission by German, Swiss and other friends may be permanent. It is believed that these children who from tender years have received loving care and have been taught Christian truth, will become a powerful element for good in the land. Their helpful influence is being already felt in some places, as at Van, where boys trained in the orphanage have been sent out as teachers to the village schools.



THE PUBLICATION WORK

The Publication Department for the three Missions is located at Constantinople. Its earliest home was at Smyrna, but it is more than half a century since the transfer to the capital was made. This Department was organized to supply another real need of the people. If they are educated they must have a literature, and this they cannot at first provide for themselves. In fact, this is perhaps the one thing in which they will longest need aid from abroad. It takes time to raise up able writers among a people which has newly awakened intellectually, and to create such a demand for their writings that they can live by their pens. And then there is a literature finding its way in considerable volume into the Oriental tongues, which is not elevating and not wholesome. By reading this, the taste of some is vitiated so that the literature they wish they do not need, and the literature they need they do not wish.

It is important, therefore, that there should be a Department whose members, by long contact, have learned to understand the Oriental mind, and who are able to present the best thoughts of the best minds on religious and other elevating truths in a form adapted to meet the needs of the readers. The value of this Department and the need of strengthening it have been forcibly expressed by the Missions. But there has not been a time within the memory of the oldest missionary when the equipment of the Department was so inadequate. Twenty years ago there were four missionaries engaged in the work of Publication, now there are but two, and one of these is taking a well-earned furlough — we can hardly say rest — in America. The amount of aid given by the Board to the work, aside from the salaries of its missionaries, has been cut down until it is now only two fifths of what it was twenty years ago. Add to this that, owing mainly to the falling off of sales during the following years 1895-6, while expenses remained the same, the Department incurred a considerable debt from which it is striving to free itself, and of which it has paid off over one third. But to accomplish this, it is limiting expenses, scarcely printing any new books or tracts, and gradually exhausting its stock on hand.

The one bright spot in the work of the Department is the con-

tinuation and increasing circulation of its periodicals. The weekly paper, which is published in both Armenian and Turkish, has a subscription list of about 2500, and the number of its readers it is safe to estimate as at least four times that number. That it is held in high esteem, and that it is a power for good, we have many assurances. We have also a monthly paper for the children, printed in the Armenian language only.

Dr. Herrick, the member of the Publication committee now in America, is doing his best, with the full approval of the executive officers of the Board, to raise money for this work.



MEDICAL WORK

During the past ten years both the Board and the workers abroad have come to feel more deeply the value of the missionary physician as an auxiliary of the missionary preacher, teacher and editor. As yet the Board has not thought it best to send physicians to the large sea-port cities where native and European physicians of considerable skill are found, but in nearly every interior station one member of the mission circle is a Doctor. His presence is a great comfort and help to the families of the station, but more important, perhaps, than what he does for its associates, is what he does for the people. He should be a man of more than usual ability as a physician or surgeon, one whose skill will cause him to be recognized as standing at the head of his profession in the place of his residence. He should also be a man with deep sympathy for the spiritual, as well as for the physical needs of his patients, and who will be anxious to lead them to the Great Physician of souls, and with these qualifications he should have a tact for so dealing with men that it will be evident that his medical help is not given as a bribe for accepting his religion, but rather that in both medical and spiritual service he is prompted by a feeling of love and sympathy.

Such missionary physicians we have. Some of them have newly come and are yet grappling with the language they are to use. Others have been here longer and have already established an enviable reputation. At Aintab there is a Hospital in charge of Dr. Shephard and his lady associate Dr. Hamilton. Mr. Macallum says: — "It has 33

beds: last year 178 in-patients were received, and 4400 outpatients were treated. A large number of surgical operations are performed each year and patients come from places hundreds of miles away for treatment. It is one of our most valuable missionary agencies."

At Marsovan the physician in charge is Dr. Carrington who is assisted by two native physicians and three trained nurses. There are 210 beds in the Hospital, and last year there were 292 surgical operations and 5010 dispensary cases. At Talas, near Cesarea, there is a fine hospital building in charge of Dr. Dodd who expects to be joined after a few months by an associate from America. There are also two American nurses and seven native nurses. Last year there were 285 in-patients and 4655 cases treated at the Dispensary and at private houses. The number of surgical operations performed was 407. After telling of prayers in the wards, the singing service accompanied by brief talk on Sunday, and the gift of a Bible or Testament to each in-patient when he leaves, Dr. Dodd says: "We aim to weave in evangelistic work with all the professional and philanthropic work done."



SELF-SUPPORT

To bring our churches and communities to the condition of pecuniary independence, when no money will be called for from America save that needed for the salaries of missionaries, is a goal which the whole missionary body is earnestly desiring to reach. The realization of this wish has been deferred by the events of recent years which greatly impoverished many of our communities. Whether it would have been better to start, as has been done in some more recently founded missions, with the principle of giving no pecuniary aid to native communities we cannot say. The pioneers who laid the foundations here were men of rare ability, and mission work was then in its infancy, when methods of working were yet to be tested. And it may be that what is the best policy in Uganda would not have proved best seventy years ago in Turkey. And when the plan of helping the weak churches financially, just as we help the weak churches in our Home Missionary field, was once introduced, the change to the other system could only be made gradually, and by educating

our churches and communities up to it. The extent to which this has been done in the Western Turkey Mission is shown by the fact that whereas the Board in 1883 gave \$ 54,585 for other objects than Missionary salaries, for the current year gives but \$ 19,000, — that is, it has diminished its aid by nearly two thirds. Some places with small Protestant communities have been left without preacher or teacher, and in other ways expenses have been diminished, but the amount cut off by the Board has, in considerable part, been made up by increased contributions from the people, who well understand that the Board is systematically diminishing its aid, and that they must contemplate complete pecuniary independence in the not distant future. What steps are being taken towards this end in the Central Mission Mr. Maccallum has shown in words already quoted. Of Harpoot Station in the Eastern Mission Mr. Carey says: "For the support of churches and pastors the Armenian Protestants give \$ 2000. To support their own schools they give another \$ 2000. For building and repairs they give \$ 500, and for "missions," another \$ 500. To this the Board adds \$ 1500 aid each year. Which is to say that the natives pay nearly five sixths of the expense for their religious and educational work."



FINANCIAL NEEDS.

While pressing upon our churches and communities the policy of self-support, and advancing in that direction as rapidly as is consistent with a wise regard for the financial ability of our people, we feel that a considerable addition to the regular appropriations made by the Board would be helpful to the best interests and the highest success of the Mission. But aside from this desirable increase there are three special objects for which money may be most profitably used.

1. The first is the building of chapels. It is right to demand that for this object the people should give generously, and they are ready to do so. But the sum required is large for a small community which is already doing what it can to support its preacher and teacher. The object is one for which help is needed once for all, or at most once in a generation, and gifts towards it will not demoralize by encouraging a dependent spirit, as might be the case were aid

given toward regular church expenses which, with proper selfdenial, the people could meet themselves. In the past, the brethren and sisters of many small communities have been greatly encouraged and cheered by such gifts, and they have been enabled by them to secure a more suitable place for Divine worship. And it should be known that in the Orient the school or parsonage is often under the same roof with the church.

2. The endowment of colleges. Of this we have already spoken. Several members of the Missions give much of their time and strength to teaching in the colleges, and it is not desirable that the efficiency of these institutions should be put in jeopardy by fluctuations in the receipts of the Board.

Gifts to colleges are among the more favorite forms of beneficence in America, and if some of these gifts were to come to the American colleges in this land, we believe it would be a wise use of the money. The Girls' college at Scutari has presented its needs on an earlier page. The President of the International College at Smyrna states that the Institution is in need of additional buildings, and should also have an endowment of \$ 100,000. An endowment of \$ 75,000 each for the colleges at Harpoot and Aintab would probably be ample.

3. The work of Publication. For this object, too, an endowment is most desirable. With a suitable endowment to put the Department on its feet, and with the continuance of the present assistance given by the Board, the work might be made self-perpetuating. In the earlier years, the object of the Department was to get its publications into the hands of the people, and the price at which they were sold was often considerably less than cost. That is, the work was conducted on a basis similar to that of the Bible and Tract Societies in England and America, where the contributions of the churches are expected to make good the losses on sales. Hereafter, the plan will be to conduct the work on a business basis, demanding for every book a price equal to the cost of preparation.

To do this, an endowment is needed with which to provide a stock of books for the start. The larger the endowment, the more the Department could accomplish, but a modest estimate of what is desirable would lead us to name \$ 50,000 as the sum to be aimed at. Yet any sum, however small, could be profitably used, and persons

who would be glad to see a special book, tract, or sermon put into one or more of the Oriental languages, could donate a sum equal to the cost of its preparation, and it would be most thankfully received.



THE EUROPEAN TURKEY MISSION.

Mr. Baird, the Secretary of this Mission, communicates the following.

Mission work among the Bulgarians north of the Balkans was begun by the Methodist Board, and is still maintained by that Society. Work south of the Balkans was begun in 1857 by the Western Turkey Mission. In 1870 the European Turkey Mission was organized, and the Bulgarian work was transferred to that body.

From the beginning till 1898 Constantinople was the station where tracts, books, and the Zornitsa, the Mission paper, were published. Since that time all our books and tracts have been printed on the small mission press connected with the Industrial Department of the Mission school in Samokov. A new press is on its way from America, and we need funds to enable us to greatly increase the volume of our publication work. Lack of funds compelled us to suspend for five years the publication of the Zornitsa. It was resumed in 1902 in Philippopolis, under the editorship of a competent Bulgarian. It is not as yet selfsustaining. It is doing an excellent work, and will do much more when it is allowed to go to the many Bulgarians living in Turkey. Let us hope that this is in the near future.

In Bulgaria we have two stations, Philippopolis and Samokov, having a population around them of nearly 1,000,000, of whom 819 are members of evangelical churches, and in European Turkey two stations, Monastir and Salonica, having together a field containing about 3,300,000 souls, but with as yet only 673 communicants in our evangelical churches. The number of Protestants is given in the last report as 3628.

Philippopolis and Salonica stations have large fields and are engaged mainly in evangelistic work. Their educational work is limited to primary schools in the outstations and in cooperation with the local evangelical communities. The missionaries have an oversight of these schools but do not teach in them. They are free to visit outsta-

tions, to meet the people in their homes, and to superintend all branches of the work, preaching as they find opportunity. The need in these fields for higher education is supplied, in a great measure, by the schools located in Samokov and Monastir, where education is a large part of the regular work of the station. The Albanian part of the work of Monastir station, though opening up quite hopefully, could not be developed because the Board could not find the funds necessary. Mr. and Mrs. Tsilka, after the latter was ransomed, left that work and went to America. The Kortcha School for Albanian girls, the only school ever opened for Albanian girls, has accomplished not a little and is now flourishing despite the threats of its enemies to close it.

In Monastir there is a boarding and day school for girls where English is the language of the school. It is under the care of two American ladies and has 53 pupils, 33 of whom are boarders, 10 of them orphans lately received. The tone of the school is decidedly spiritual and the predominating influence evangelical.

In Samokov the Girls' Boarding School has grown so that it has had to refuse pupils for lack of room. Enlarged accommodations are greatly needed.

The Collegiate and Theological Institute, the only Protestant boarding school for Bulgarian boys, is in Samokov. At present its accommodations are sufficient for the 65 students. It has a scientific course of six years. During the whole course there are two hours of Bible study per week. For those preparing to become preachers an additional year's study in theological subjects is given. This year there is no theological class. Our students come from all parts of our field, as well as from the Methodist field. Though quite a number of them come from families not evangelical, the tone of the school is good, and the last two years several have united with the church.

One reason for the comparatively small number of students in the boys' school is that the government does not recognize it, and a student presenting its diploma is not received into any government employ, even though he has had a better education than is given in the national schools. All our efforts to secure recognition have so far been fruitless.

This school needs funds for teachers, for additional apparatus in the departments of chemistry and of physics, and for the industrial

department where boys work at carpentry and printing. While paying for the work done enough to encourage the students, it is impossible to meet the expenses of the department out of the sales of the products. The money paid for work done has enabled many a poor boy to continue in the school till he graduated.

The number of places where there is regular preaching grows each year, particularly in the Philippopolis and the Salonica fields, and there is a constant increase in the number of communicants, despite the troublous times.

In nearly all the older outstations, as well as in many of the new, there are churches or chapels, plain but serviceable, for public worship. This is especially true of the Philippopolis field where work was first begun. In most instances these have been erected without aid from the funds of the Board. In Turkey, however, many of these places are old dwelling houses slightly altered, or old barns with a few windows put in. We have not as yet succeeded in securing permission to erect a building for Christian worship in Turkey.

Three of the preachers in the Salonica field, and many Protestants from the Razlog region, are refugees in Bulgaria. There is hope that refugees in Bulgaria will soon return to their villages. The financial ability of these communities has decreased greatly, and so church and school work suffers. Other communities have been spared so far any great disaster. They have not reached the position where they can wholly support their preachers and schools, and missionary funds to them are still necessary. These, for years, have not been adequate to the growing work.

In spite of the conditions around us, the prospects of the Mission are encouraging. The attendance on preaching in some places has greatly increased, and there is a greater readiness to listen to religious truth than heretofore. The distribution of relief sent from England and America has, in part at least, removed that hatred of all things Protestant so prevalent in the past. Two of our missionaries are now spending all their time in relief work, while nearly all are giving to it a part of their time.



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