

REPORT
OF
ST. PAUL'S INSTITUTE
TARSUS

1909.

REPORT OF SAINT PAUL'S INSTITUTE FOR THE TEN MONTHS ENDING APRIL 12, 1909.

SUMMARY:—18 teachers ; viz., four Americans, one Swiss, one Englishman, ten Armenians, and two Turks. 183 students ; viz., 93 in College, and 90 in Academy ; 140 are boarders, and 43 are day-pupils. They come from 47 towns and villages ; 157 are Armenians, 20 Greeks, three Syrians, and three Turks. In religion, 84 are Gregorians, 75 Protestants, 20 Orthodox, three Moslems, and one Jacobite. The average age in College is 20 years, in Academy nearly 16. We hope to graduate 12 men from the College in June. The course of study in the two schools covers nine years. The College Alumni number 100 ; of these, 56 have gone into the ministry or teaching, and 15 are physicians, a total of 71 in these three professions. *Needs* : two acres more of land, the finishing of the new building, apparatus and books, and an increase of endowment.

It is with deep gratitude to our Heavenly Father that we look back over the year now coming to a close. The proclamation of the Constitution in July last removed many obstacles and hindrances. Our teachers have been able to carry on their work almost without interruption from sickness ; and the students have shown themselves diligent, faithful, loyal, and obedient. Indeed, the relations between pupils and professors have never been better than they have been this year. A large proportion of the boys are boarders ; ten teachers, including the ladies, dwell in the same buildings with them, eat with them, play and pray with them ; the discipline is that of a Christian home. No doubt, these conditions and circumstances have something to do with the pleasant relations subsisting here between teachers and taught.

There has been an unusual amount of sickness this year ; some of the cases were very severe. But this has given opportunity both to teachers and to pupils to show great kindness to their comrades. Night after night, for many weeks, did the Seniors and others watch with the sick ; this good Christian conduct has helped in marked degree to draw closer the bonds of kindly fellowship. One of the sick boys died, sincerely mourned by us all, our dear Hagop Balian of Adana. This death, and some others in Tarsus, have left deep impressions in many a heart. We have had no great revival ; it is possible that untoward conditions in the local church have prevented this. But there has been deep thinking among us on the subject of our relations with God. The meetings for prayer have been well sustained, and in the main the

instruction given in the daily Bible-classes has been received in the right spirit. It is true that some of the advanced men have tried, occasionally, to pose as skeptics ; but their doing so seems to be mainly for the purpose of seeing what answers can be given to their questions and objections. On the whole, this has been a year of steady growth in Christian character among our students, a result of greater value than any other in a school.

THE FACULTY.

College and Academy began work on the 23rd of September. The writer returned from America in the end of August. From about the middle of October he was absent eight weeks in the Hadjin field, his place here being taken by Mr. and Mrs. Rogers. Their colleagues and the students remember their work with thankfulness. It continued about three months. In this way, instruction has been given by the three of us in the books of Job and the Apocalypse, in Ethics, Geology, Inductive Logic, and Pedagogy, together with some assistance in Political Economy. Mrs. Christie has trained men in English speaking, has had charge of household affairs and of the sick, and has given the Sunday-school lesson to the Seniors. Miss Brewer has taught the classes in Plane and Solid Geometry, Trigonometry, Mechanics, Astronomy, Shakspeare, Tennyson, Milton, Bacon's Essays, Silas Marner, and Rhetoric ; on Sunday, she has given the lesson to the Juniors. Mr. Imer, assisted by Mrs. Imer, has had charge of the instruction in French ; the Sub-Freshmen have been taught according to the Berlitz Method, the Freshmen have been practiced in reading, speaking, and writing, the Sophomores have gone through the "Morceaux Choisés," and have worked on the Grammar ; this class has been under his charge, also, in their Bible-work on weekdays and on Sundays. The care of the sick has fallen, in some degree, to Mrs. Imer ; her services in Music have been highly appreciated ; and we have to thank her for the founding of two French prizes in memory of her father. Rev. Herbert A. Gibbons and Mrs. Gibbons have been with us this year ; they have done work as follows :—lectures to the Juniors in the History of Philosophy and in Psychology, to the Sub-Freshmen on the fundamental principles of Rhetoric, to the Seniors on the development of doctrine in Genesis, and on the teachings of Christ concerning His Person and Kingdom ; they have had the Sub-Freshmen in Jones' Reader, and the "Hamburger" class in the Academy ; Mr. Gibbons has had the Freshmen on Sundays, has taught Political Economy to the Seniors, and the Greek of Sophocles to some advanced men. His wife has prepared a number of men for English declamation. Mr. Gould had charge of the Industrial Department ; he left us recent-

ly for New Zealand. Rev. Mr. Melconian has had the Seniors in the Evidences of Christianity, and the Sub-Freshmen, the Fourth, and the Second Forms in English ; during the week he has taught the Juniors the History and Geography of the Holy Land, and has given the lesson on Sundays to the Sub-Freshmen ; the general charge of the Academy has been in his hands, as for many years past. He travelled quite extensively the past summer in the eastern part of our Mission, preaching and doing other good work. During the winter he has visited Kozolook twice, to administer the communion and baptisms, and to perform marriage ceremonies.

Mr. Keupelian has gone through the Epistle to the Hebrews with the Freshmen, has given the Seniors instruction in the History of Civilization, Deductive Logic, International and Commercial Law ; to the Juniors he has lectured on Criminal Law, and to the Sophomores on Civil Law ; the Freshmen have had Ancient, Mediæval, and Modern History under him ; he has had the Sub-Freshmen and one Academy class in Turkish ; his Sunday-school work has been done in the church. Mr. Kaloosdian is in charge of instruction in Armenian. He has taught the language to seven classes this year ; with some of the Sub-Freshmen he has gone through the Epistle to the Romans, and on Sundays has taught the Freshmen. We were all made happy, last fall, by his marriage with Miss Samoorkashian, a graduate of the Girls' Seminary in Adana. Mr. Baghdikian has had some of the Freshmen in the study of Romans, the Seniors in Biology and Mineralogy, the Juniors in Chemistry and Zoölogy, and the Third Form in Physics ; his Sunday-school work has been in the church. Mr. Yesayan has taken the Fourth Form through the book of Acts, has taught Algebra to the two sections of the Freshmen, also to the Fourth Form ; the Armenian of the Second Form, and instruction in the writing of that language, have been in his hands ; he has also taught a class in our Sunday-school. Dr. Bohchalian has been assiduous in his care of the sick, and has lectured to the Juniors on Physiology ; his marriage this year brought an estimable young lady from Mersine into our circle. Mr. Hadjinlian has as usual done excellent work with the orchestra, and has taught Arithmetic in the Academy ; the Second Form has had the Parables with him ; he has taught Vocal Music in the Academy, and a class in the Sunday-school. We have valued highly the services of Rev. Benjamin Gaidzakian in the training of our college choir. Mr. Damlamaian has taught one of the English classes in the Academy, also Book-keeping, English hand-writing, and the Parables (to the First Form ; these boys have been under his charge on Sundays also) ; the library, and a portion of the ac-

counts, as well as some oversight of the Industrial Department, have also fallen to him. Mr. Nessib Keupelian has taught Turkish, Gymnastics, and (to the Third Form) the daily Bible-lesson.

The increased importance now given, all over the Empire, to the study of Turkish has led us to appoint two additional teachers this year in that department. These are Hidayet and Hakku Effendis. As their names show, they are Turks ; but they love the Christians and the work of Christian education. They have given us efficient service. I trust I shall be pardoned for giving all these details ; they will assist in the understanding of the work that is done here.

OUR ALUMNI.

Between 1893, when our first College class graduated, and June 1908, one hundred men have received our diploma. Of these, 56 have chosen the ministry or teaching as their life work ; 15 have become physicians ; one is the Bible-agent for this Province ; one is studying in the Imperial School in Constantinople, expecting, as he says, to be a Vali some day ; one is in a position of influence in far-off Abyssinia ; one is an honored instructor in the Sheffield Scientific school at Yale ; the others are merchants or civil engineers. So of this, as of all our mission-schools, it may with joy be said, "How far that little candle sends its beams !" It is cheering to see the love and loyalty of the Alumni for their Alma Mater. They have established prizes and scholarships, and intend to establish others. They are now as an association raising money with which to present something substantial to the school at its 25th anniversary, in 1913. We shall all be glad to have them take, in the near future, an active part in the administration of the Institute. It is noticeable that, with the exception of the foreign teachers and professors Keupelian and Bohchalian, all the teachers are our own graduates. Three are graduates of the Theological Seminary at Marash ; counting them, six members of Faculty have received theological training.

MEETINGS.

For various reasons, not necessary to be given here, the Y.M.C.A. work of the College has not prospered this year as in other years. The recent visits of Mr. Lawson Chambers, and of Col. Fermaud of Geneva were productive of good to all our young men. We shall be glad to have Mr. Chambers spend some weeks with us, in the near future. The Sunday-school is full of interest ; and each session sees nearly a dollar taken up as a contribution for the religious and educational work in the mountain village of

Kozolook. In the afternoon of the Lord's Day all of us attend the service in the Protestant church of Tarsus. In the evening there is an English service in the College. It is gratifying to see the interest that is taken in this. Our Wednesday evening prayer-meeting has already been mentioned. There is a half-hour of instruction in the Scriptures five mornings in the week, each teacher with his class in his own recitation-room. Morning prayers, during the 15 minutes preceding this lesson, are conducted in the Academy in Armenian; in the College in English, save that the prayer is often in Turkish; the responsive reading of the English Bible at this service is greatly enjoyed, as is the singing of our noble English hymns.

INDUSTRIAL WORK.

Wages are paid to only five servants, two of them being women and one our night-watchman. All the rest of the work required is done by the students themselves. This not only enables them to earn a portion of their expenses; it also gives them useful experience, and is an excellent test of character. We thoroughly believe in the system. May we call attention here to the fact that we have never had a destructive fire on the premises? Our wall is defective. But the watchman, and often some of the students, walk about the buildings all night, guarding against accident and sinister attempts; the expense thus incurred is light, compared with that required for rebuilding.

VISITORS.

Some of these have been already mentioned. In June, 1908, Messrs. Olmstead and Wrench, of the Cornell Expedition, were here. Also Captain Noel of Bombay. In August, Rev. Mr. Hart and other missionaries from Egypt. Also Dr. and Mrs. Dodd, Miss Orvis, and Miss North, of Talas. In September, some officers of the Turkish army in Macedonia, who made stirring addresses to the school in favor of the new Régime. In October, Captain Howland, correspondent of the London Times; he talked most sympathetically and wisely to the boys. Miss Stowell and three other missionaries from the Lebanon spent some delightful weeks with us in Namroon in the summer, weeks delightful at least to us; such visits of Christian friends are like a drink from the brook by the way; they make us lift up the head. In March, Messrs. Dawkins and Thompson, of Cambridge and Oxford, and fresh from the British school in Athens, came to see Tarsus; the founding of a prize for work in Modern Greek was one of the results. Then came four interesting Mormons from Salt Lake

City. And, as if to take any bad taste out of our mouths, the celebrated and most excellent Prof. Diestmann and his three companions, teachers and students in German universities, looked in upon us.

MISCELLANEOUS.

It may be mentioned that Miss Brewer is keeping, this year, a careful meteorological record. This is to go, by request, to Euphrates College. She has had charge, also, of the paper published in English and French. Another paper has come out regularly in Armenian; and a third in Arabo-Turkish. These have given the boys good practice in writing, in various languages. They show what we could do if we had here a small printing-press. Such a gift would be most acceptable. Two of the Seniors have issued volumes of poems during the year. The poems of Mr. Kaloosdian are well-known. We are justified in expecting that Tarsus is again, as in ancient times, to become an important center of literary work.

OUR NEEDS.

1. The new building ought to be finished without delay. We hear recitations and hold Commencement exercises out under the trees; we have no chapel, no laboratories, no gymnasium; several students are sleeping in tents. The walls, irons, and timbers of the building have been exposed to the heavy rains of two winters, and have suffered in consequence.

2. More land is needed. We have only three acres, for school buildings, campus, and Mission residences. Considering the number of our teachers and students in College and Academy, and all the work that is done here, we feel that two acres should be added to our present three.

3. An increase of endowment is urgently required. Some of us are so occupied with efforts for the raising of money, that there is not the time nor the strength left for the teaching and other work that ought to be done. Surely, the service that Tarsus has rendered to the Christian world in times past, and that which she is giving now, might well stir the hearts of those who have wealth to set this missionary College fairly on its feet.

4. Money is wanted for books, for apparatus to help in teaching Physics and Chemistry, for a bath-house, a bakery; and for other things that are indispensable to a school of this grade. The College, indeed, has never been properly equipped. We have worked, from the very beginning, to build it up from the inside; having always in mind President Garfield's description of a true University, "Dr. Mark Hopkins and his pupils sitting on a log in

the woods." But it seems now as if a little more attention should be given here to the providing of those material helps without which College or Academy cannot do their best work.

Approved by the Faculty.

THOMAS D. CHRISTIE,

Tarsus, April 12, 1909.

President.

POSTSCRIPT, APRIL 27.

The above Report was to have been read in the Annual Meeting of the Mission on Wednesday, April 14. While other reports were being heard that forenoon the firing began. Details have been already given of the events following. For fifty-six hours, day and night, street-fighting, massacre, looting, and burnings continued all around us. On Thursday, brothers Rogers and Maurer were killed. On that and the previous day at least twenty-two pastors and five delegates, on the road to the Meeting, were brutally murdered. By the noon of Friday, fifteen thousand Christians had been slain in our Province. Whole villages were wiped out. The dead were heaped into carts in the Adana streets, taken to the river and thrown in; they are now floating by hundreds in the sea, all along our coast. Fire and pillage gutted Adana. It seemed indeed as if all hell had vomited its devils out upon the earth. We in the smitten city, mourning over our dead, and working day and night to save life and property, were wholly cut off for three days from communication with our dear ones in Tarsus. On Saturday morning two of us reached them by a special train, guarded by soldiers. We found Mr. Imer, Mrs. Christie, and all the other ladies safe; and four thousand poor refugees in our buildings and grounds. Eight hundred houses belonging to Christians had been burned the day before, and many murders had taken place; the loss of life, however, was not so great here as in Adana. Six of our students, home for the Easter holidays, have been killed. This sudden blow has come like a bolt from the blue; no one could have foreseen it. As word comes to us from Constantinople, however, a connection is seen between these extensive massacres and the temporary triumph of the reactionary party there. At the present writing it looks as if the men who are for Unity and Progress are again in power; if this is the case we may expect better days here. In Adana, murders and burnings have taken place again during the last two days, after we thought that everything was over. But in Tarsus, 380 soldiers are carefully guarding us and the refugees, so we have no fear. Friends, pray for us and for this sorely smitten people.

T. D. C.