



THE HISTORY CLASS (SCHOOL OF RELIGION) FINISHES ITS GREEK PERIOD
WITH A VISIT TO THE PARTHENON, ATHENS

GREAT LITTLE GREECE



SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM THE REFUGEE CAMPS HAVING EYE EXAMINATION AND TREATMENT BY THE OPHTHALMOLOGIST IN THE A.W.H. EYE CLINIC.

GREAT LITTLE GREECE

By ISABEL B. ROSE

Greece is a republic, headed by the indefatigable Prime Minister Venizelos who has guided the ship of state through many perilous waters, and has pled the cause of Greece before the nations of the world. Her finance is stabilized. Her credit is good. Road-making, bridge-building, and other public works are in full swing. Athens is taking her place as a European capital and is linked to the rest of Europe by a daily Simplon-Orient Express train. Piraeus, the port of Athens, is growing apace; is crowded with vessels from all over the world; and now ranks second among Mediterranean ports.

The exiles to whom Greece, bankrupt and bowed down after ten years of warfare, offered a welcome with a generosity unparalleled in history, have contributed new life and new ambition, and have thus brought a richly deserved reward. Everywhere there is an air of optimism, of lively hope and expectation, of building for the future. The miracle of a friendly pact with Turkey would seem to have removed Greece's most serious external menace, and she herself is genuinely anxious for a long period of peace. More and more visitors of various nationalities are finding Greece on their itinerary. They bring money and goodwill to the country, and they carry away indelible impressions, not only of famous ruins and art treasures, of glorious seascapes and landscapes, but of a vivacious, friendly, and hospitable people, forging ahead with indomitable courage, and shaping with enthusiasm the better and still greater little Greece that is to be.



A TYPICAL REFUGEE CHILD—WITH PERHAPS A HINT OF MELANCHOLY IN HER MAKE-UP, BUT KEEN AND ALERT, AND AWFULLY EAGER FOR THE CHANCE OF EDUCATION WHICH THE AMERICAN BOARD SCHOOLS IN THE REFUGEE CAMPS CAN GIVE HER.

THE REFUGEE PROBLEM

The refugee problem in Greece is unique. Other countries have had whirlwind incursions of immigrants, but never in such conditions, or with such lightning rapidity. Can you imagine

America—wealthy as she is—admitting, feeding, clothing, housing, employing, and absorbing 30,000,000 unexpected guests, over 80 per cent of whom were women and children, and practically all of whom were homeless and penniless? Yet that is proportionately what Greece has done, for her refugees numbered almost one to three of her population in 1922.

For the first year or more the problem was an emergency one. If human life was to be salvaged at all, there must be free assistance. A Greek society—the Refugee Treasury Fund—was at once formed, and it and many private agencies set about the task of serving and conserving. The flight had been so precipitate that thousands of human beings had been herded like cattle on tiny boats, in some cases without either food or water for several days. They were dumped at many ports, hungry, heartbroken, and ready victims of sinister disease. Tuberculosis took a deadly toll, and is still doing so. Tents and huts were hastily put up; soup kitchens and employment bureaus were opened; hospitals and clinics were established; schools were set a-going; small rug factories were equipped with hand looms. Families and individuals were lodged in any kind of building—warehouses, sheds, barracks, schools, private homes,

and even the Grand Opera House of Athens, which has not yet returned to its pristine beauty or its original use!

But living conditions are gradually improving. Green-painted shutters, and spotless hand-embroidered curtains, window boxes of gay flowers, and jaunty balconies—these all show that the pressure is slackening. And whole cities of uniform houses, not particularly artistic, but eminently practical and inexpensive, are rising here and there as permanent homes for the exiles.

REFUGEE EVANGELICAL CHURCHES AND SCHOOLS

Each community reconstructed as far as possible its old community life, in many cases finding its own priest or pastor from Asia Minor, and sometimes giving its new home an old name. As America has its New York, its Plymouth, its Boston, so Greece boasts refugee settlements called New Smyrna, New Ionia, New Philadelphia; and motor buses are christened Adana, Tarsus, and so on. There was and is homesickness for their own vine and fig tree. Refugees from Pontus, who had gathered walnuts there every fall since they were born, were seen searching disconsolately for walnuts underneath the oaks of Macedonia! And one jitney that plies between Athens and a refugee camp bears the significant title "Nostalgia."

But the amazing thing has been their adaptability, their courage in making an entirely new start, and their success in digging in. The first thought of many of the refugees was to prepare a place where they might worship God and educate their children. While still living in tents, while even their scanty food and clothing were uncertain quantities, they formed congregations. Each church was a tent, into which so many people crowded that the flaps bulged to tearing point, and they had to obey literally the injunction, "strengthen your stakes and lengthen your cords." The audience was composed not only of church members but of weary outsiders who were hungry for spiritual comfort and reassurance.

Later on, by financial help from outside, by their own scraping and pinching and saving, and—most remarkable of all—largely by their own hand labor—they have managed to put up permanent or semi-permanent buildings which serve as church, Sunday School, day-

school and community center. These "churches" are so constantly used that the caretakers are seldom left in peace to do their cleaning.

Greek Evangelicals are organized under a Synod which is responsible for all Evangelical work among Greeks in Greece. In Athens, besides the large Greek Evangelical Church which was founded over 70 years ago, there is the "Second" Church, a successor to the Greek Evangelical Church of Smyrna and served by the same pastor who served it there. At Katerina is the largest Greek Evangelical Church in the world—successor to the Ordou Church, Asia Minor. After much self-sacrifice the members had succeeded in building a church, but very soon after the opening it was burned. Incendiarism was suspected, and it has taken a long time to get the insurance money. Meanwhile, the dauntless members enlarged the Y.M.C.A. hall and worshipped in that during the winter and in their roofless relic of a church in the summer. The pastor is a graduate of the School of Religion; and a woman graduate of this summer who has helped the church in her previous summer "vacations" has been invited to go as pastor's assistant and as supervisor of religious education and young people's work. Besides the original Greek church in Athens and its seven daughter churches all over Greece, and the three large Greek Churches from Turkey which have re-rooted themselves as distinct units, there are other Asiatic Evangelical Greeks scattered in small groups in thirteen places on the mainland of Greece and on various islands.

In Saloniki there is a large Evangelical Armenian Church caring specially for the refugees. It has no building of its own yet, but uses that of the Greek Evangelical Church there. In the refugee camps near Athens there are four organized Evangelical Armenian Churches. One of the pastors has been with his flock over thirty years; has suffered four deportations with them; has traveled hundreds of miles during months of hardship—but always with them; and is now settled down, with the remnant, on the outskirts of Athens. His tiny wooden church is filled to overflowing, both on Sundays and week days, and his modest two-roomed, low-ceilinged hut is still the beloved parsonage to which his members go for counsel and comfort. A fine hall has been built in Kokkinia, partly

THE PASTOR WHO HAS SUFFERED FOUR EVACUATIONS AND HAS TRAVELED HUNDREDS OF MILES UNDER HARDSHIP CONDITIONS—BUT ALWAYS WITH HIS FLOCK, WHO STILL COME TO HIM FOR COMFORT AND COUNSEL IN HIS MODEST LITTLE PARSONAGE IN A REFUGEE CAMP.

by American and partly by Armenian funds. The Church here is served by a blind pastor who took his full theological course at the School of Religion. All these churches are under the supervision of the Rev. Garabed Stambollian, a graduate of our American institutions in Turkey and a man of great insight and spiritual power.

Connected with these four refugee churches are day schools caring for over 700 children, the great majority of whom would otherwise be on the streets, for the Greek schools have not yet room enough even for the Greek refugee children. Miss Nina E. Rice, for many years in Sivas, Turkey, has the general direction of these schools, and is nobly aided by a staff of teachers who are all earnest Christian men and women, and most of whom are the product of our American schools and colleges. Their salaries average \$13 a month, and many of them, having three or four or more mouths to feed, are hampered by anxiety. All of them do much more than merely classroom work. They are the friends of their pupils, they visit their homes, and they take them for walks and excursions.

The pupils come almost entirely from very poor homes. Many of them are undernourished, and the American Women's Hospital and the Near East Foundation help by free medical examination and treatment, and by free milk distribution. The equipment is lamentably poor, but enthusiasm accomplishes wonders with roughly made desks and benches, mud walls, tar paper roofs, and a playground the size of a pocket handkerchief. The children pay a few cents per



week for tuition, and pay it gladly, and the very poor are sometimes helped by the not-quite-so-poor. But many promising youngsters have to stop short in their education, for want of a few dollars per year. The great majority leave school as soon as possible, in order to help the family income; and only the lucky few go on to high schools and colleges at Old Phaleron or at Saloniki.

THE AMERICAN WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

The Kokkinia Hospital offers a unique field for practical work as it stands right in the midst of the vast refugee settlement, and serves all kinds and conditions of men, women, and children. Ten years ago this district was a bare and unattractive, vacant area. Now it is a city. Some exiles have got so well on their feet that they have been able to build themselves brick or stone houses. Others still occupy ramshackle wooden houses that are cold in winter and hot in summer; and some have not progressed beyond the rough-and-tumble huts made of boards and oil cans hastily nailed together. The hospital is in line with its modest environment, for it is housed in a barracks building, and the quarters are cramped and inadequate. But an addition was built last year which gives the nurses a proper dining room, and also relieves their old dining room for use as a diet kitchen.

The patients are mostly the poorest of the poor. Seventy per cent of them are free, and the rest pay about one third of their board. Naturally, a highly important part of the hospital work is the maternity clinic and baby welfare center. In 1930 the births averaged almost one per day, and thousands of visits were paid to homes of mothers and babies. Besides attending to the routine work of the hospital, the staff also carry out the physical examination of school children, and treat their eyes, tonsils, and adenoids. It also does much to cure and to stamp out ophthalmia which is too common in Greece, especially among the refugees.

The American Board coöperates in the work of the A.W.H., by lending the services of the Director, Dr. Ruth A. Parmelee, formerly of Harpoot, Turkey, but associated with the work of the A.W.H. since 1922.

THE THESSALONICA AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

Dr. John Henry House was sent out as a missionary of the American Board. While serving the Balkans for thirty years in various locations and in various capacities, he became increasingly convinced that the spiritual welfare of the people could best be served by practical guidance in their everyday needs. Scanty water supply; scattered fields which were often far from the nearest village; primitive villages with few community advantages; almost no adequate communication by roads; odd-fashioned tools and run-down live stock—these were the conditions prevailing throughout vast tracts in Macedonia and Thrace, and still to be found in many parts. Dr. House and his colleague, Dr. Haskell (now of the Folk School, Pordim, Bulgaria), conceived the idea of a farm school which would include the training of the heart, head, and hand; for true wisdom, they held, ought to be knowledge in action.

Now the plant consists of a farm of over 200 acres, including orchards, vineyards, gardens; dairy cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry; a powerhouse for the generation of electricity and the supplying of water; a dairy barn and other farm buildings; sewage disposal plant; athletic field; electric laundry; transportation service; and besides all these, there are classrooms, dormitories, library, museum, dispensary, infirmary, rooms for social, club, and athletic gatherings, and residences for the staff.

That the Greek Government is fully alive to this is shown by the gratifying fact that it has promised to send 100 boys on Government Scholarships for a full four-years course. This was on the initiative of that veteran statesman, Prime Minister Venizelos, who visited the school and was highly appreciative of its usefulness. These boys are to come in groups of 25 each year, and for the first 25 scholarships offered this year, there were 110 applicants. Of those who applied for the ordinary openings 60 had to be refused.

In 1904 the school was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York as "The Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute," and has a Board of Trustees, including three distinguished Greek citizens.



BEFORE THE CONTEST,
THE COMPETITORS TAKE
THE SAME ATHLETIC
OATH TO PLAY FAIR
AND SQUARE AS THE
ATHLETES AT THE
OLYMPIAN GAMES 2600
YEARS AGO.

ANATOLIA COLLEGE, SALONIKI

Anatolia College, a child of the American Board, has now grown up and is being sent out into independent existence. It has its Board of Trustees in America, and its Board of Managers in Saloniki. Dr. George E. White, the President in Merzifon days, continues as President, and is assisted by a staff of more than thirty. Of these twelve are Americans, but the great majority are Greek, and include men trained in Athens University as well as in our American institutions. That the Greek Government has faith in us and welcomes this educational effort is witnessed by the fact that special privileges have been granted in the way of importing building equipment free of duty, and by the fact that the Ministry of Education is assisting the College towards full recognition accorded Greek private schools.

The students are a choice group. Two-thirds of them are Greek, and of these, most were born elsewhere than Greece, as were practically all the Armenians, which means that they came in with the tide of exiles. Some of our boys are orphans and unable to trace a relative in the whole world. Our self-help department makes it possible for about seventy boys to pay their partial support through school and college.

MISS MARY S. HILL OF
CARLETON, MINNESOTA,
WITH HER DOMESTIC
SCIENCE CLASS.



THE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, SALONIKI

In 1925 the school moved out of its cramped quarters and undesirable environment into a beautiful big building, the home of a Turkish pasha, on the shore of the blue-green bay of Saloniki.

There are at present 94 Greeks, 15 Armenians, 7 Jewesses, and 4 Albanians, of whom 41 are boarders. They have a happy school life and many extra-curricular activities, such as athletics, dramatics, glee club, and a Christian Efforts Club—similar to a Y.W.C.A.—which does much for the still serious refugee needs. Miss Bertha Morley, the Principal, formerly of Merzifon, Turkey, is assisted by three Americans and ten others of various nationalities, mostly Greeks. The head of the Greek department is a professor justly famous throughout that region for his erudition; the piano teacher is a musician who, with her gifted husband, is working in the conservatories of Saloniki to build up a high standard of musical taste in the city; and the director of Physical Education, who has made a study of ancient Greek games and dances, had an important share in the Delphic Festival last year, in planning and exhibiting martial contests and Pyrrhic dances.

Although still a project of the American Board, the school is officially affiliated with Anatolia College, and is under the same Board of Managers.



ARMENIAN MAIDENS IN
ANCIENT NATIONAL
COSTUME, IN FRONT OF
ONE OF THE RENTED
HOUSES WHICH SERVE
AS SCHOOL AT PRESENT.

THE AMERICAN JUNIOR COLLEGE FOR GIRLS, OLD PHALERON, NEAR ATHENS

The school is now housed in four rented buildings in Old Phaleron, and attracts girls not only from Athens and the refugee camps near by, but from all parts of Greece, from the islands, and even from Albania. Of the present enrollment of 177, seventy per cent are refugees. The national groups are Greeks, Armenians, Americans, British and Russian.

As already pointed out, the aim of our American schools in Greece is coöperation with the Greek government, a fitting into and supplementing of the Greek system of education. This school therefore provides one intensive preparatory year of English, four years of high school, and two of college, so that graduates can enter the junior year in American colleges.

It is going to be still pleasanter and more efficient; for the Refugee Settlement Commission, with the knowledge and warm consent of the Government, has granted at nominal cost a beautiful stretch of 37 acres at Ellenico, four miles east of Old Phaleron, and practically on the seashore. With the island of Aegina looming in pastel shades of lilac and blue in front, and with purple-hued, honey-bearing Hymettus far-flung to north and to east of us, surely we can boast a more romantic setting than any other college campus in the whole wide world.

Ellenico, March 1, 1931: Blue skies flecked with white clouds, and blue seas flecked with white caps make a suitable setting for the blue flag of Greece with its white cross on a blue background, as it flies beside the Stars and Stripes. On a platform are gathered many of the most distinguished figures in the Greece of today—the President of the Greek Republic himself, His Beatitude the Metropolitan of Athens, the Assistant Prime Minister. These and a host of other Greek and American wellwishers stand beside our own particular friend, Mr. Skinner, America's minister to Greece, and beside Miss Emily McCallum who has devoted 36 years to the school, and Dr. Minnie B. Mills, its present principal, who is carrying on its old traditions, yet launching out into new fields of service. It is a proud experience for all there when the various speeches of both Greek and American friends refer to the bonds that unite the two countries—the debt which America owes to the philosophy, art, and literature of Greece, and the debt which Greece owes America for emergency aid in war and evacuation days, and for her continued coöperation in educational lines. The religious ceremony of blessing the breaking of the ground is then carried out by a priest of the Greek Orthodox Church clad in vestments of gold cloth.

Greek, French, and English newspapers, commenting with cordiality on this function, all agreed in observing that, although Greece cannot welcome all kinds of foreign schools, she does want and welcome American schools, because of their loyalty and because of their emphasis on character building.

That the school has made a great contribution both in pre-war and post-war days is witnessed by the fact that graduates now hold positions of trust and of prestige in many lands.



THIS GRADUATE OF THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION IS NOW PASTOR AT BEREÄ, AND IS LITERALLY FOLLOWING IN PAUL'S FOOTSTEPS, FOR THESE STONE STEPS INSIDE THE RAILING ARE REPUTED TO HAVE BEEN USED BY PAUL.

THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION, OLD PHALERON

From the very first, the object of the school has been the training of earnest Christian workers. Its graduates were called to the pastorates of both the Greek and the Armenian Evangelical Churches in Asia Minor, and many of their names ennoble the long martyr roll. A four-year course in theology is offered, and three-year courses in religious education and in social service.

The real service of the school is seen by the work its graduates are doing. One of them is pastor of the large Armenian Church in Cairo. He was granted a year's leave of absence to take a post-graduate year in Oberlin, and another graduate filled his place temporarily, and was then called to the large Armenian Church in Saloniki. Another is pastor in Berea—literally following in Paul's footsteps, for there are still, at Berea, a few stone steps reputed to have been used by Paul. Another is pastor of the Greek Evangelical Church at Katerina—the largest in the world. Other recent graduates are pastors, pastors' assistants, social service workers, religious educators in Greece, Syria, Bulgaria, and Constantinople and Marseilles. All six students who graduated last month have important positions awaiting them.

The present student body of 21 includes 11 Armenians, 4 Greeks, 4 Bulgarians, 1 Assyrian, 1 Russian. Other years we have had Turkish, Chinese, and Hungarian nationals.

Classwork and private study, strenuous though they are, are only part of each student's training. The refugee camps afford an unparalleled laboratory for practical work. Our students conduct Sunday Schools, Bible classes, Christian Endeavor Societies, Boys' Clubs, Girls' Clubs, and other similar activities, throughout the eight months of the school year. Then in summer they take up intensive service. In the camps of Athens and Piraeus and Saloniki, and scattering as far afield as outlying parts of Greece, Cyprus, Syria, Bulgaria, they conduct Daily Vacation Bible Schools, and undertake social service and evangelistic touring among both Christians and Moslems.

What a background of history is theirs because of the environment! Not only can the history class finish its Greek period with a visit to the Parthenon and the Archaeological Museum; but the school goes as a family each year for an extended outing. Last April they were enabled by the generosity of several friends to have three glorious days in God's open air. They visited the pre-historic sites of Tiryns and Mycenae; the classical ruins at Epidaurus and Eleusis; the Byzantine Church at Daphne; and, most thrilling of all for the students of a School of Religion, Corinth. In old Corinth they stood under the pillars of the Temple of Apollo, six hundred years old in Paul's time, and after strolling through the streets and market-place and trying to picture them as Paul must have seen them, they gathered in the ruined church and sang "Faith of our Fathers."

GREECE IS FRIENDLY TO AMERICANS

Wherever one travels in Greece, one is amazed and gratified by the friendliness immediately exhibited when it is discovered that one is an American. Even in remote mountain villages one almost inevitably runs into at least one Greek-American or American-Greek, as the case may be, who asks after the old country, tells you where he has lived in it, and bemoans the fact that he happened to be over the seas when the new immigration laws were passed which now shut him out. Many Greeks have made their fortune in America, and have thus been able to assist their relatives in Greece. Others, returning and settling down here, have devoted their money to charity or to

useful public works. During the wars and the evacuations, thousands of dollars were sent by Greeks in America for relief work here.

But America has done and is still doing much more than the emergency measures begun ten years ago by the American Red Cross, the Near East Relief, and many other agencies. She made a big contribution in the Refugee Settlement Commission. This has now gradually handed over the results of its eight years' efforts to the Greek Government. The Near East Relief, which specialized in the care of orphans, and has equipped and sent out into the world thousands of destitute children, has handed over valuable plants to the Government. The Near East Relief, dying as such, but rising Phoenix-like as the Near East Foundation, still maintains seven American workers in Greece.

In the line of education, a splendid college for boys has been founded (1925) in a suburb of Athens, and is one of the six Near East Colleges of which America has reason to be proud. It is under an American Board of Trustees in New York, and a Greek Board of Directors in Athens, and has an American Director and a Greek Co-Director. Greek money furnishes the buildings, and American money the operating expenses not covered by students' fees. There are at present 131 day students, and 120 boarders, many applicants having to be refused for want of room. Ninety per cent of the boys are Greeks. The others include Armenians, Jews, Russians, Americans, and Greeks with American or Canadian citizenship. The staff of Greeks and Americans aim at combining the best educational methods of both countries; and the school badge is a combination of the Stars and Stripes and the White Cross of Greece on its sky-blue background.

AMERICAN BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

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