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NEW MEN OF MACEDONIA

By

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(THESSOLONICA) GREECE

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A QUARTERLY



PRESIDENT WHITE

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Naturally some of the American missionaries, doctors and educators moved with their people. Americans, who respect the memory of Plymouth Rock Pilgrims, would not expect the Robinsons and Brewsters, the preachers and teachers, all to remain behind when the Pilgrim Fathers crossed the sea. About 16% of the resources of the American Board's Turkey Mission have been transferred to the Greek area. In 1922 the teachers of the American Collegiate Institute for Girls in Smyrna left the ashes of their buildings and moved with their girls to Athens. In 1923 the American Board School of Religion for training Christian workers, finding the situation impossible in Constantinople, removed to Athens. In 1924 Anatolia College, which had been closed in Asia Minor with tragedies enough, was authorized to open on a three year tentative plan in Salonica, where an American Board School for Girls and the Agricultural and Industrial Institute headed by Dr. John Henry House were already usefully established. The removal of American education from Asia Minor and its relocation on the other side of the Ægean Sea must be of divine providence for it is not the result of any planning of men.

THE NEW MEN

Let it be added here that the League of Nations intervened to complete an "exchange of populations" in the Near East. As the Armenians and Greeks have been compelled to leave Asia Minor, 400,000 Turks have been required to leave Macedonia and Macedonia is emptied of its Moslem population. The principle of "exchange" was carried further. Bulgarians and Greeks having lived for many generations jostling one another in regions where they overlapped, League of Nations Commissions have been established in each country to facilitate the removal of emigrants wishing to locate in the other. That is, if a Bulgarian living in Greek Macedonia wishes to locate in

Bulgaria, he is given certain facilities for his peaceful emigration; and if conversely a Greek dwelling in Bulgaria prefers to settle in Greece, he is given the corresponding facilities. Naturally those who decline to avail themselves of assistance in relocation should quietly accept citizenship in the country where they elect to remain. As a result, Greek Macedonia is more nearly homogeneous in population perhaps than it has been since the days of Philip, Alexander, Aristotle and Paul. Mr. Howland, the able American head of the Relief Settlement Commission, is quoted as authority for the statement that more than 90% of the population of Greek Macedonia is Greek.



ST. PAUL TRAVELED OVER THIS STONY WAY

There have been many solemn scenes of tragedy among these 1,500,000 refugees. It is to the abiding credit of the officials and citizens of Greece that they did so much for these pilgrims, with their broken families and their utter impoverishment. The Government issued rations, provided tents and barrack buildings left over from war time for shelter, made such grants of tools, stock and seed as its meager resources permitted; and through the Refugee Settlement Commission, headed at first by Mr. Morgan-

thau, has located about 800,000 settlers in Macedonia on lands which had been left by the departing Turks. Everyone holds that the refugees are to be an exceedingly valuable human element in years to come. Having lost everything, they are compelled to be thrifty, industrious and progressive to the utmost, as they begin life over again. The American Department of Commerce at Washington has already issued bulletins showing how the refugees are developing the culture of silk by raising mulberry trees, and have established the oriental rug weaving industry in the city of Athens.



NEW HOME OF REFUGEES IN ATHENS — COST \$20

A CRY FOR EDUCATION

Almost before the refugees could satisfy their hunger or secure shelter or clothing, medicine for the sick, or a living wage for their workers, they were planning education for their young people. Boys whose only home is under the stairway of a business building, or under a tent furnished by the government during the bleak winter season, or in the back yard of some kind-hearted citizen, may live as

street arabs today, and become highwaymen tomorrow. But boys who get a schooling today — and they take all their teachers give them — may be worth-while men and useful citizens tomorrow.

So as soon as the writer reached Macedonia, two years ago, and met the refugee ships coming in with their crowds who had belonged more or less definitely to the constituency of the College in the old home, he was immediately confronted with questions such as: "See this boy? His father studied in the College and we hoped to send him there; what about the College? Is it open? Is it going to be opened? Why not bring the College here? Dr. White bring the College to this country and give our boys a chance to go to school."

On the way out I had made it a point to see Mr. Venizelos in the city of Paris. The great statesman said: "We hope you will bring the College to our country, preferably to Macedonia. We will provide all the facilities we can, though we cannot give much money, for the people of our country are poor. But the great bane among the people of the Balkans has been their feeling of suspicion, fear and hate across racial and religious lines, breaking out at intervals into open warfare. If you will establish an American College of an international character in or near an international city like Salonica, you may do much to remove such feelings and establish instead a spirit of confidence, coöperation and good will." And later this outstanding Greek statesman sent a generous personal check for the College.

THE BEGINNINGS AT SALONICA

In a city half burned during the war and crowded with refugees we were fortunate in securing a new casino with more than three acres of ground furnishing a large athletic field which we could rent. It was supplied with good water, electric lights and tram service, and was in by all means

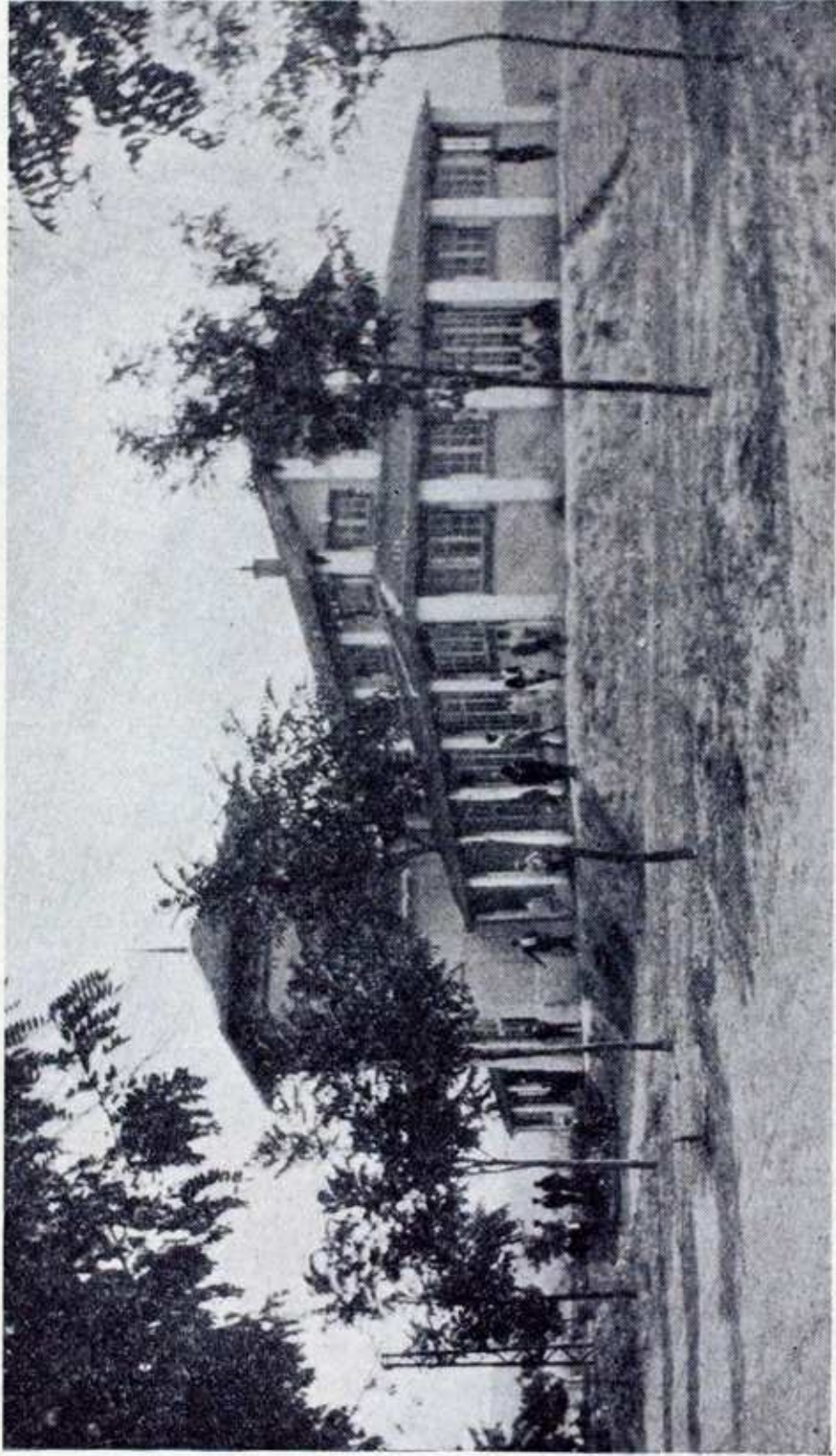
the best section of the city for our purposes. Two other buildings nearby, erected by the French as military hospital wards, we were able to rent for dining room, dormitory and industrial purposes. So we opened the Preparatory Department of the College in a tentative way, in accordance with the action of our Boston trustees, in Jan-



DEAN COMPTON AND HIS BASKET BALL TEAM — AMERICAN COLLEGE,
SALONICA, GREECE

uary, 1924, without a building of our own, without a book, a bench, a bed or even a bell.

During this interval we have had much to be thankful for. As soon as our School was fairly started, the attend-

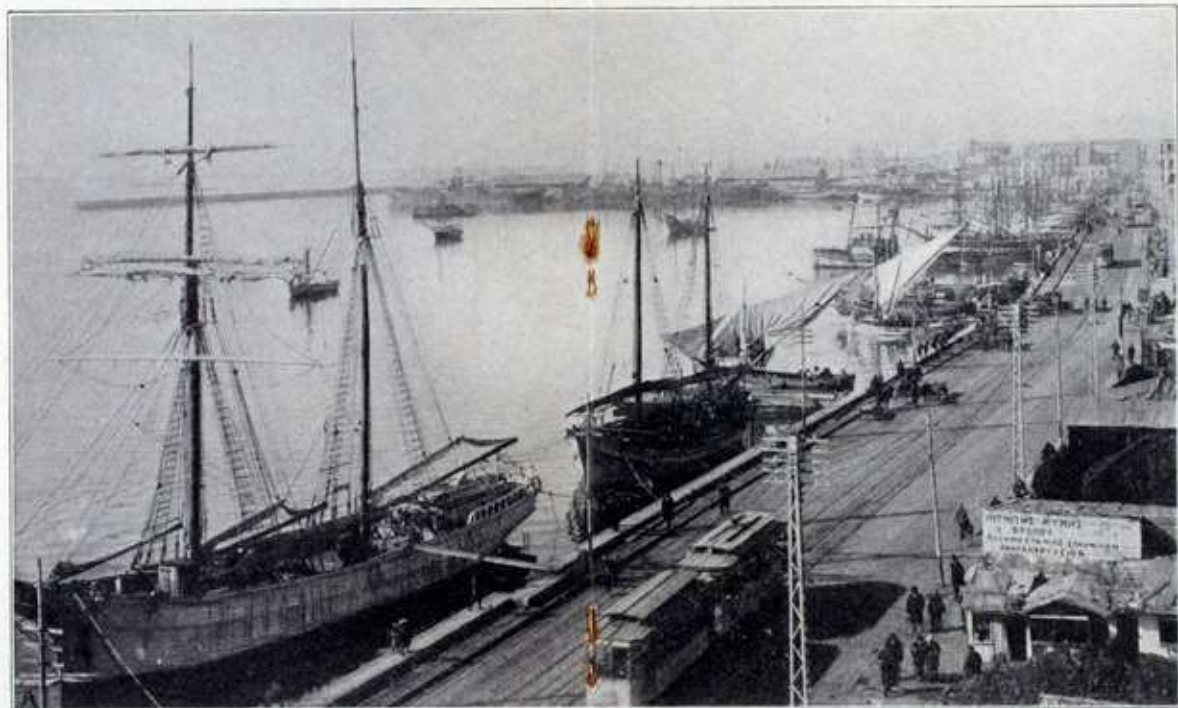


TRACY HALL, AMERICAN COLLEGE, SALONICA
This recitation and administration building, together with the "Iowa Quadrangle" and "London Lodge," form the plant of the new "Anatolia" in the city.

ance rose to 150, with another 100 excluded for lack of room. A good staff of teachers assembled, including seven Americans, four Greeks and two Armenians. Four classes were organized and seventeen fine young fellows, sixteen of them refugees, completed that department last June and formed the first freshman class in the new American College of Salonica, and included Greek, Armenian, Albanian, and Russian students. The whole round of college life in lessons, industries, athletics and religious interests is going forward in a gratifying and rewarding way. In 1924 we erected one small building of our own as a dormitory for 38 happy students, and it is named "London Lodge." In 1925 we have been able to add an "Iowa Quadrangle," reconstructed out of barracks buildings left over from the war and enabling us to increase our students by 50 and to raise our standard of instruction to include six classes for the current year. We approach, without quite reaching, the standard of an American high school and junior college.

True, our standard of instruction does not reach the higher classes — but you must begin with students where the need is; true, our table is plain — but almost all the students remember their experiences as refugees and no one complains; true, our library is small as yet — but there are students absorbing a book a week, besides all they get in their lessons; true, the students have little pocket money — but they gladly perform the labor assigned in the Industrial Department, which is required of every beneficiary.

It would be hard to find a group of schoolboys who sing our American hymns more sweetly, partly owing, no doubt, to the chastening experiences through which they have passed, and which are expressed in the voice. It would be hard, perhaps, to find a group of students more sincerely desirous of knowing and practicing the simple fundamentals of the Christian life. The character of students is made by the character of teachers, and it would be hard



SALONICA WATER FRONT. RAILROAD TERMINALS IN BACKGROUND.

to find a group of teachers more loyal, happy, or better suited for the requirements of a school in its days of pioneering.

THE ADVANTAGES OF GREECE

Meantime the Greek government has actually revised its national laws regarding education for the express purpose of welcoming American institutions to the country. A special permit, recognizing the College as entitled to operate under the general law, issued by the Ministry of Education at Athens, was publicly read by the Superintendent of Education for Macedonia at the College, in February, 1925. First among the guests to offer his congratulations and welcome was the representative of the Metropolitan Archbishop of the city. Another guest, also offering a welcome, was the minister of the Greek Evangelical Church, himself one of the students of the College at the old home.

In March the Prime Minister promised the free grant of a building site and permanent campus for the College on the hills back of the city, above the malaria, with the city and the sea in the foreground below and Mount Olympus rising across the bay. Last April the Prime Minister promised Dr. Peet, not only the free grant of building sites for American schools in the country, with favoring permits for carrying on, but exemption from taxes and from custom duties on building material.

In September Dr. Barton wrote: "It was my rare privilege in August this year to visit Salonica and personally inspect, under the leadership of Mr. Getchell and Mr. Compton, the plant of Anatolia College. Greek officials and others spoke in terms of rare appreciation of what the College did last year for young men, and pathetic appeals were made that the College might be strengthened and its work greatly enlarged."

Dr. Peet recently stated: "I was greatly impressed when

in Greece with these points: the extent far beyond my previous knowledge of the cultivable land and its fertility; the progressive character of its people; the fine element which the exchange of populations is bringing to them."

With the opening of the current school year, the Mission Boarding School for Girls, in Salonica, moved from its old inadequate quarters to occupy a large building with ample ground on the seashore, and teachers and students are

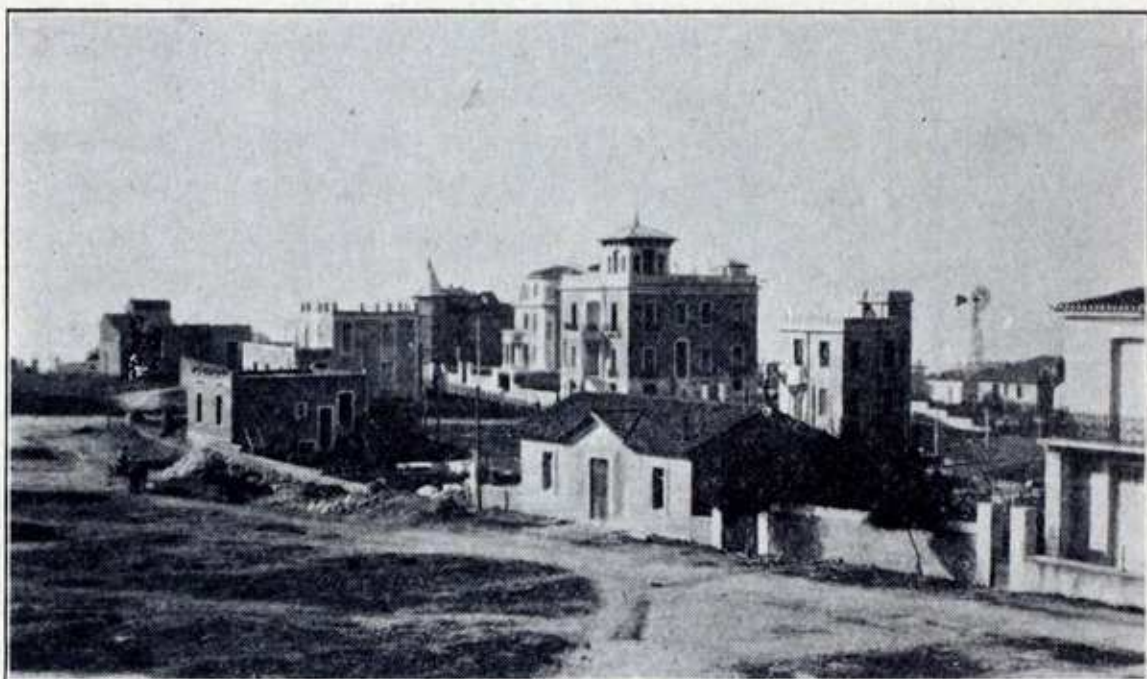


ATHENS HEADQUARTERS OF THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

happy as they face the opportunity of worth-while work in a worthy place. The old mission buildings are used as a school for refugee children.

Almost before people realized what was happening and almost before permission could be obtained from America, the Collegiate Institute for Girls, which had come from Smyrna, stepped into a strong position in the famous

Phaleron suburb of Athens. Not far from it is the School of the Prophets, the School of Religion, where a score or more of earnest young people represent nationalities and fields extending almost from the Morea to Moscow and from Buda-Pesth to Bagdad. It is interdenominational, international and co-educational and with the quiet and effective teaching of Dean Pye and his associates stands at the threshold of a promising career of usefulness.



AMERICAN JUNIOR COLLEGE FOR GIRLS, ATHENS. (W. B. M.)

A NON-SECTARIAN OUTREACH

Meantime instructions from headquarters in Boston require a modification of former methods. We are bidden to recognize Eastern Churches as members of the Church of Christ, and bidden to coöperate with their clergy and their people so far as we may find suitable ways of doing so, and we are glad. The College is directed to avoid sectarian or denominational propaganda or any constraint

upon those who may be our students or our fellow-workers, and this agrees with our conviction and our custom. There is a new key verse for the international Christian or Christian worker, written by Paul to Corinthian Greeks, when he spoke of himself and his associates as "not as having lordship over your faith but as helpers of your joy."

There is a new spirit of inquiry as of toleration and of aspiration in the Near East. The regard for America and Americans is enough to make us all very humble, very far from wishing to dictate, very desirous of offering the best that we have. The circulation of the Scriptures in the modern language, which was formerly prohibited, on the ground that all Greeks should use the original Greek wording of the New Testament, is now permitted, authorities conceding that while the New Testament should be used for purposes of study and worship in the exact wording of its writers, versions in the language of the common people may be usefully employed.

The constitution of the Republic of Greece in its article on religion states:

1. Liberty of Conscience is inviolable.
2. All religions may perform what pertains to their worship freely under the protection of the laws, except what is against public order and good morals.
3. Proselyting is forbidden.
Proselyting is legally defined as any attempt to make followers by gifts, promises or force.

Among the refugees who have found a home on the soil of Greece are some thousands of Greeks and Armenians who were of evangelical family and church connection in Asia Minor. These are allowed to continue in the practice of their worship according to the dictates of their own consciences. There are about as many Evangelical Christians in the Salonica field as there ever were in the Merzifoun field. And the Armenian Evangelical Churches, wherever found, and the Greek Evangelical Churches in Greece, ap-

proach a position comparable with that of Huguenots or Waldenses. In Catholic France the Huguenots form an important self-governing and self-supporting body, with a certain amount of friendly assistance from Evangelical Christians in other countries. In Italy the Waldenses similarly form a self-governing and self-supporting body in a Catholic country, again with assistance from Evangelical Christians in other countries. Evangelical Christians in the Near East are moving along a similar pathway, toward self-government and self-support, with the sympathy and friendliness of other Evangelical Christians.

It is interesting, in this connection, to note that Dr. Moschou, with a congregation of some 200 refugees principally from Smyrna, found the Protestant Church of Athens, with its congregation of 200 or more, filling its house of worship to the doors and having no place to accommodate a second congregation. The Greek government met the need by furnishing the Protestant chapel of ex-king George in the royal palace for the worship of the Protestant refugee Greeks. The Danish Lutheran King has gone with all his House, but the chapel remains and it is granted by State and Church for the service of the refugee congregation.

One of the most interesting places in the city of Salonica is the doorway of the Metropolitan Church over which appear two dates: 1430, in black figures, because in that year the city was conquered by Asiatic, Turkish, Moslem invaders who erected the tall minaret that still stands in the churchyard, and from which the Moslem call to prayer, with all that it signified, was given five times a day down the centuries until 1912. The other date, 1912, in figures of gold, records the year when the foreigner was dismissed with his whole administration, and St. Sophia in Salonica, which was built before St. Sophia in Constantinople, became a Christian Church again with all the possibilities signified thereby. I never heard the Gospel presented

more clearly or more strongly than by John R. Mott in that Church when he spoke at the invitation of the Archbishop to a packed house, including all the representative officials of the city.

If the Federal Council of Churches or other friendly Christian bodies of the West find ways of cultivating more intimate friendly and helpful relations with the great his-



AMERICAN WOMEN'S HOSPITAL, SALONICA, GREECE

toric Churches of the East, it will mean a marked advance. Please do not call them "Greek Catholic" or "Eastern Catholic." They do not like the word "Catholic" and do not want to be bracketed in the same class with the Roman Church. Recognize them, if you will, as "Eastern Christians" open to friendly influence from the West. Mr. Venizelos said that all the people of his country, including the clergy, had learned to trust Americans.

THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF SALONICA

The site of Salonica was formed by nature as a center for international trade and travel. Macedonia corresponds

in general to a strip of our Atlantic coast reaching from Philadelphia to Cape Cod. Salonica is at the point corresponding to New York where the coast of the Ægean Sea running north turns to the east. The Vardar River coming from the north fixes the natural route of trade and travel from Central and Western Europe. Belgrade, capital of Jugo-Slavia, on the Danube, with its river shipping, is the pivot of the territory tributary north and west, as Buffalo, with its lake transportation is the pivot north and west of New York City. When an American gets a little money ahead he is apt to buy a piece of land. When a Greek gets a little money a head he is quite sure to buy a boat, and if his money is enough, to buy a steamboat. The shipping of the Ægean, Black, Red, and Eastern Mediterranean Seas is largely carried in Greek bottoms, and much ocean-borne traffic also enters Greek ports. Jugo-Slavia has port rights in the magnificent harbor of Salonica and the Slav ploughman from the north meets the Greek sailor from the south with the Armenian, the Jew, and the Albanian sharing in the business of the busy commercial center.

Three rivers converge just outside the city of Salonica in an approach to the sea, and their waters spread out in a marshy area forming a vast delta with the tip turned inward. The spongy soil is practically useless. In these swamps mosquitoes breed and to the other trials of the refugees was added a severe scourge of malaria. But a project has recently been agreed on by the Greek authorities with a New York Company for the reclamation of this marsh area of nearly 1,000 square miles, which means the control of flood waters, their use for irrigation, turning the soil into a truck farming area right at the doors of a busy commercial city, and reducing mosquitoes and malaria to the vanishing point.

THE BECKONING HAND OF GOD

In such conditions where nothing is finished and everything is at the beginning, the establishment of American education, as said before, must be of overruling providence for it was never planned by any man. Representatives of the American Board seem to have had about as little choice as Paul had when he turned from work in Asia Minor where he was happy and seemed to be needed in response to the



MT. LYCABETTOS AND ATHENS FROM THE PARTHENON

The American Board works here through the School of Religion, and the Woman's Board through the American Junior College for Girls.

Macedonian call. May 26, 1925, the trustees of Anatolia College, after a thorough study of the situation, unanimously voted to proceed with the enterprise of establishing the transplanted College on the Macedonian hills, meantime strengthening the present school in the city of Salonica as much as possible in order to meet the appeal for Ameri-

can education during this period of crisis in the Near East. Of course ever since the days of Socrates and the Socratic method of instruction, of Plato and the "Republic," of Aristotle, "the best educated man that ever walked on the surface of the earth," of Paul and the Apostles who wrote the New Testament in the Greek language, the Greeks have claimed a foremost place in the science and practice of edu-



BOYS AND GIRLS OF THE W. B. M. I. SCHOOL IN SALONICA, GREECE

cation. Yet there is a strong and general desire for the American type of school, partly for the value of the English language and still more, perhaps, for the sake of the character believed to be fostered by American schools. American education which is without official restriction as to religious requirements, non-sectarian, broadly tolerant and in aim sincerely Christian, training useful and self-supporting men with the principle of helpful "extension" practised as fully as circumstances permit — these are the lines on which friendly Americans may perhaps best offer fraternal Christian assistance.

The College has lost all its large area of land, extensive buildings, furniture, apparatus, supplies and equipment, but these may be replaced in time and the human factors are always of more consequence than the material. Dr. James Orr, formerly Commissioner of Education for the State of Massachusetts, and now Y. M. C. A. specialist in education among 100,000,000 recently emancipated people in Europe writes: "This is the time of all times when Christian education is needed in Greece. That ancient land is now undergoing a veritable rebirth. The million or more refugees from Asia Minor are destined to become elements of strength in her economic and political life. But there is urgent need of the leaven of the Gospel and it is through such schools as Anatolia College that this leaven comes." And Dr. Mott, after laying the corner stone of a Y. M. C. A. building in Salonica, said of the College situation: "It looks to me like the beckoning hand of God."

