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**CAIRO UNIVERSITY**

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SECRETARIES

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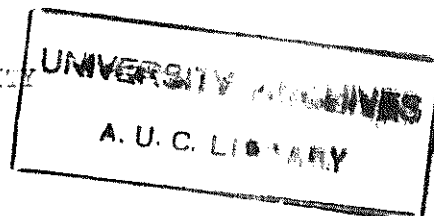
REPORT OF THE SECRETARIES

Mr. George Innes and Rev. Charles R. Watson

to the

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CAIRO UNIVERSITY

Nov. 1, 1915 to Oct. 31, 1916.



The last meeting of the Board of Trustees was held at Bronxville, October 30 to November 1, 1915. The Statutes adopted at that meeting call for regular meetings of the Board in April and October, but by unanimous consent, these meetings have been omitted for 1916, because it was found that no new developments had arisen requiring a formal meeting of the Board, while the committee organization perfected at Bronxville sufficed to care for the interests of Cairo University ad interim. The omission of these Board meetings make the present report by the Secretaries the more appropriate and interesting, that the members of the Board may be equally informed of the progress made, the success achieved and the difficulties encountered. At the conclusion of this report are certain recommendations which grow out of action taken at the Bronxville meeting but which perhaps should be formally voted upon by circular before the regular meeting in April 1917.

For the sake of clearness and convenience, the Report of the year's work will be discussed under the following topics:

(1) Membership of the Board: It is a pleasure to report that, since the last meeting of the Board, the Rev. W. I. Chamberlain, D. D., of New York City, President W. H. E. Demarest, of New Brunswick, N. J., and Mr. J. H. Lockhart, of Pittsburgh, Pa., have accepted the invitation extended to them to become members of the Board. Mr. H. P. Crowell felt unable to accept, although expressing deep

R E P O R TOF DR. CHARLES R. WATSON, AS PRESIDENTTo TheTRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AT CAIRO  
For the Year 1925-26.AUC LIBRARY  
UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES  
SPECIAL SERVICESIntroductory

The year 1925-26 has been a year of political calm in Egypt. Following the lawlessness and political unrest which culminated in the murder of the Sirdar, Great Britain took severe measures to suppress disorder. Shortly after, Lord Allenby resigned and Lord Lloyd was appointed High Commissioner. Bringing with him a reputation for severity based on his imprisonment of Gandhi in India, a feeling undoubtedly developed that Great Britain purposed to brook no political disorders and that even existing independence might be hanging in the balance. The country had been ruled during the period which followed the dissolution of Parliament, by a Cabinet selected by the King. This irregular and really unconstitutional situation finally came to an end this spring in the election of a new Parliament and the formation of a government based upon the returns of these elections. The returns once again were overwhelmingly in support of Egypt's national hero, Zaghloul Pasha. For reasons which seem to indicate some hidden influence and pressure, Zaghloul was not appointed Prime Minister but his prestige and influence were allowed to express themselves in his Presidency of the House of Deputies. A Cabinet made up of various political elements was selected with Adly Pasha as Prime Minister. The new Parliament has limited itself to reviewing the national budget and in this connection opportunity was afforded for a considerable expression of nationalism, but it must be confessed that on the whole the new government, though representative of the old Nationalistic Party, has displayed a degree of restraint and self-control that is surprising and has addressed itself in its discussion of the Budget to a serious consideration of many national problems in a way that is most gratifying. On the whole, the political situation during 1925-26 may be accounted as having been favorable to our work.

The intellectual awakening or stirring of national life in Egypt, reported in previous reports, continues. It is being furthered by an increasing amount of foreign travel on the part of Egyptians. This is very noticeable and cannot fail to broaden the horizons of Egyptians who thus touch other nations and civilizations. The stream of printed matter — journals, magazines and books — which flows through the country is constantly swelling. The launching of a national University during the past year, called the Egyptian University, is further proof of the educational interest of the country. Such a movement as this may well give pause to our own undertaking and such questions as these spring to one's lips: What is its character? Does it limit our opportunity? Does it call for any change in our plans and hopes? What should be our relationship to it? Detailed answers would lead us too far afield. Let the following brief statements, unguarded though they may be, suffice for the present. The Egyptian University scheme is still very immature. The future must determine its real significance. At present, it appears to be predominantly French in its linguistic and educational character. As such it leaves the English speaking field and indeed the Arabic speaking field of higher education largely unoccupied. As a token of educational interest, we can only rejoice in the

project. It will not satisfy the thirst for education. It will whet it. In due time, our institution must establish friendly, cooperative and mutually serviceable relationships with the Egyptian University.

Two additional items need to be noted. The past year has not been a very prosperous year economically in Egypt. The price of cotton has been low and many have felt financially straitened. The Caliphate Congress was finally held in Egypt. It proved futile. It merely declared itself insufficiently representative of the Moslem world to be able to select a Caliph and it contented itself with a definition of the qualifications required in a Caliph.

### I. College of Arts and Sciences

The Report of Dr. R. S. McClenahan will be found attached and merits careful study (see Schedule 1). There are a few main points which I wish to emphasize or amplify.

1. The Staff: At the close of the school year, a situation developed which has been overwhelmingly distressing. Dr. McClenahan's left eye became affected by a detachment of the retina, obscuring his vision. As this was his good eye, the right eye being affected by a cataract in process of formation, the situation was regarded as most serious. The best medical skill that Cairo afforded was enlisted. A consultation was ordered. For one month he was held in bed in rigid position. Then arrangements were made for his removal to England where he might consult Dr. MacCallan formerly of Egypt, a most renowned eye specialist. In London, Dr. MacCallan performed an operation of iridectomy which increased slightly the vision in the eye affected by cataract, but he declared this eye not ready for the main operation for cataract. Upon the other eye he operated, but the latest reports were that no assured results had been gained. The vision which was about one-fifth might or might not be permanent. The most hopeful project lies in the ripening of the cataract and an operation which, if successful, will restore entire vision in that eye. For the detached retina little can be done and that vision is not assured. It is difficult to express in words the anxiety and sorrow that this experience has brought to Dr. and Mrs. McClenahan and to our entire University circle. The one great comfort is that for the present there is enough vision to permit the seeing of objects in outline at a distance and in greater fulness near at hand. This eliminates that utter helplessness with reference to moving about which would belong to entire blindness; for this degree of sight we cannot be too grateful. With this, the possibility of continued activity remains, for Dr. McClenahan's assets in experience, knowledge of Arabic and acquaintance with Egyptians are very great. In addition, the future holds in its hand the possibility of restored vision in the eye affected by cataract. The Trustees will wish to express to him their sympathy and will wish to express to Mr. Galt their appreciation of his sacrificing offer to step into the breach and carry Dr. McClenahan's work until January at least.

Offsetting the limitation in staff resulting from Dr. McClenahan's illness, we are grateful to God for the good providence which brings to us Mr. Erdman Harris. When such dynamic personalities are added to our staff, there comes a feeling of exhilaration, which seems like a foretaste of triumph for our University undertaking. Mr. Harris comes to serve in a distinctive way, the religious, spiritual and moral side of our work. He has been referred to as College Pastor, but it was thought that a more academic and scholastic definition would be to connect him with a department of Moral and Religious Philosophy. Mr. Harris's first year has necessarily been one

devoted to language study and acquaintance with conditions in the Moslem world, but he has in addition simulated in a marked way the character influencing activities of the College, has aroused much interest and discussion and experimentation in all the moral and religious training and has outlined a very inspiring program for his department for 1926-27.

Other points relating to staff are covered by Dr. McClenahan's Report.

2. Enrolment: It was gratifying to note an increased enrolment of students during 1925-26. The total number enrolled was 184, with an average for the entire year of 163½.

It will be recalled that in 1923-24, the enrolment fell so low that I called special attention to the need of organizing a campaign for students. An Egyptian was engaged for several months to canvass for names of possible students. To these names and addresses, literature was sent by post. The increase in enrolment is believed to be due to these simple and elementary efforts to advertize the College.

I wish to emphasize, however, the need for much more heroic efforts to secure students. Students do not "happen along" any more than financial donors "happen along". They have to be "gone after", interviewed, educated, sought for. I do not regard our present enrolment as at all satisfactory. We should aim at an enrolment of not less than 350. Neither am I discouraged. It is no disproof of the educational opportunity in Egypt that we are not flooded with students. Here are some of the considerations that easily explain our present limited enrolment: (a) We are only six years old as an institution. It takes time for any institution to become widely known. A superficial acquaintance within the city of Cairo may result from a few years of activity, but it takes time to become more widely known in the towns and provinces from which we also wish to draw. (b) Only during the past year have we been able to establish an enviable reputation for scholarship in the Government examinations. (c) We are determined to work for Egyptian students. It would be easy to flood our classes with Armenian and foreign students, but we do not want them. We would miss our aim if we lost the bona fide Egyptian student. He is hard to get, but to get him is to truly influence Egypt and not merely to influence some individuals of foreign communities. (d) We hold to certain religious and moral objectives which make our task more difficult. We do not propose to give them up, but we must take full measure of the difficulties they develop. These four are among the reasonable explanations of our limited enrolment, but we must not forget that all these difficulties may be surmounted by a vigorous, worthy, sustained campaign for students. We have only made a beginning in this. We need to remember that Assiut has had across sixty years a vast advertising organization. Every missionary, every native pastor, every teacher in a mission school was a recruiting agent for Assiut. From Assuan to Alexandria extended this organization. The American University has no such outside agency to promote its enrolment and has hitherto scarcely lifted a hand to organize such a force of recruiters. I am urging on Dr. McClenahan that he or others of his Faculty take up this work, coordinate all the publicity of the College, visit neighboring towns, approach by letter and personal visits the homes reported by our present canvasser and that thus we build up an enrolment which will equal the capacity of our building, which will materially reduce our College expenses and which will enable us to exert a profounder influence upon the life of Egypt.



3. Curriculum: A most important decision by the College Faculty during the past year was that the time had come for the addition of another year to the existing College course, namely Junior Year. The amount of time required in committee and faculty meetings to work out the implications of this decision may well be imagined, for it is not a mere problem of taking over Western curricula but of building up a curriculum adapted to the needs of Egypt. This Junior Year is to be operated in 1926-27.

I would call attention to the significance of this decision. It is really the first venture of the College in respect to higher education. Previous work was fully matched by Assiut College. It was merely preparatory to the professional schools of Egypt, Beirut, Europe and America. While our previous Arts standards were reckoned as going one year beyond the Government Secondary Course and gave us, at Beirut at least, a preferred standing which put our students one year ahead of the Government student, still our work was generally regarded as only preparatory to professional schools — a Junior College. The addition of Junior Year now lifts our institution to a markedly higher level. Much of interest could be said of this venture, such as the effort to preserve in the new Junior Year something of the professional motive, so that one group of electives will lead to Medicine, another to Engineering, another to Public Service. Of course, the logic of the situation is that a Senior Year must be added in order to justify the giving of degrees. We await with much interest the operation of this course during 1926-27.

4. Scholarship: The effort to lift the standards of scholarship continues and the results are gratifying. In the Government section where our record had been most discouraging and where we had made heroic efforts to remedy the situation by securing the services of instructors particularly acquainted with the technique of Government examinations, we have had most gratifying results. Eleven out of seventeen passed the Baccalauria examinations of the Government and Dr. McClenahan reports that he does not know of any school save one in Cairo which had better results. Thus we are able to hold up high our standard and I hope this good record will yield a larger and a worthier enrolment of students on the Government side.

of Mr. act Training: While I have already referred to this subject when spoken on this is coming to us, I would also call attention to the hopeful each year we are met by Dr. McClenahan in his report. My own observation is their moral penetrating more deeply into the lives of the boys. We are dis- We have no spiritual needs and are ministering to those needs in a The more we penetrate into Moslem life the more we realize its spiritual barrenness and its moral indifference and the more persuaded we are that we have an indi mission to the Moslem student world in bearing to it the Gospel of

Needs and Problems: (a) If the College should add, as we expect or Year, there will need to be a slight enlargement of its operating e the present permanent staff will carry most of this advanced in- f will need to be given to them in the work they are now carrying des. There is strong hope however that an enlarged enrolment will this increased cost. (b) Dr. McClenahan has called attention to lified registrar. It is at this point that the greatest relief and e given Dr. McClenahan and this need should be carefully consid- o Dr. McClenahan's future limitations of eyesight. (c) Next among the

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September 3, 1919.

My dear Dr. Anderson:-

You will recall our conversation on the subject of whether the American University at Cairo should at the present time, or at any future time, receive direct appropriations from the Board of Foreign Missions, thus having its needs incorporated to a greater or lesser degree in the budget of the Board of Foreign Missions. I stated to you the policy we have followed hitherto and indicated that nevertheless the policy for the future was an open question with us. I believe we came to a common agreement as to the situation, but it seemed to me wise for purposes of record in your office and ours that I should commit some of our discussions to writing.

I pointed out that the policy for the development of the American University at Cairo was formulated some six or seven years ago. At that time the treasury of the Board of Foreign Missions was constantly depleted, its resources seemed limited, and on the other hand, the demand for advance in the regular work was very great. Those who were promoting the University project, Mr. Innes and myself in particular, felt that under such circumstances the University project ought not to be allowed at any point to draw upon these slender and insufficient resources of the Board of Foreign Missions. It was felt rather that the University project ought to develop its own constituency and establish its own machinery for appealing to the public. This thought was further advanced by the interdenominational character of the institution and the policy which was adopted that it should represent American Christendom as a whole and, therefore, have a right to appeal to any American community as such, without following denominational lines. ~~We have~~

We have adhered to this policy hitherto. We have not hesitated to speak ~~to any congregation~~ <sup>to any congregation</sup>, but the appeal was always general and there was no specific appeal for the University project. Denominational papers were also used for advertising purposes and articles in the body of such periodicals with a view to creating an acquaintance with our project and giving information as to its scope and aim. Here again the position taken was that the University project had every right which any cause, such as the Armenian and Syrian relief, or any hospital movement, or the Y.M.C.A. movement, would have in approaching the general community. We have not made use of Synods, Presbyteries, or congregations for the purpose of making a direct appeal for funds, although we have made use of all of these agencies for the purpose of acquainting the public with our movement and with the general opportunity in the Mohammedan world. We have hitherto made any request of the cooperating Boards of Foreign Missions for definite appropriations.

In following this policy, I pointed out that it was not due to any desire to cut ourselves off from the closest association with the cooperating denominations. On the contrary, it was only with a spirit of genuine self-sacrifice that we moved altogether away from those forms of appeal that were nearest at hand and most accessible to us because of our past contacts. Furthermore, we did not adopt this policy of independent appeal to a separate constituency because we wished to establish forever this policy as a principle. There are interdenominational institutions which do not follow this policy. For example, Nanking University derives the bulk of its current budget from definite appropriations made to it by the several Boards that are cooperating in its development. The privileges which they enjoy and the very great advantages which

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that policy involves, would, we feel, be open to us if at any time it seemed possible for the cooperating Boards to be generous after this fashion in making such appropriations.

I pointed out to you that there were certain recent developments that rather suggested a possible necessity of the University finding a measure of its support from the cooperating Boards. I did not say that the moment had actually arrived, but I simply pointed out that there were certain recent developments which suggested such a change of policy.

For example, there has developed within the United Presbyterian Church the movement which has been referred to as the Ten Million Dollar Movement, or the New World Movement. The fact that a movement is being launched which has so high a figure and which is rallying all of the agencies of the Church for one comprehensive financial appeal naturally is likely to leave more slender gleanings for such an independent movement as the University project. With such elaborate forces and agencies for publicity and canvass, such a movement is likely to draw upon all those independent resources within the Church which hitherto have been untouched and which have been the very ground for a separate cultivation such as that of the University project.

Another example is to be found in the InterChurch World Movement. All that has been said in the foregoing paragraph with reference to the higher standard of financial appeal and the more elaborate agency for publicity and canvass within the United Presbyterian Church, applies with double force to the Inter Church World Movement, which would coordinate the appeals of all the different denominations and not only canvass in a thorough-going way their entire denominational constituencies, but would also make it appeal likewise on a community basis to those who belong to no church whatever but who are interested in Christian activities in a general way. In proportion as such a movement is effective, the power of appeal of an independent project such as the University project becomes more difficult.

An additional difficulty has developed in the position taken by some denominations of declining to allow other than purely denominational appeals to have a part in the Inter Church World Movement. This policy has not been fully decided upon, but if it should be followed rigidly, there would be excluded from the general movement all of those union projects whose activities have, after all, been recognized as both legitimate and necessary, by the denominational agencies. As against an independent union project, an interdenominational project, such as our own, would have the right (under such circumstances) to ask its separate denominational cooperating agencies to incorporate in their respective budgets such a support as is reasonable in behalf of the interdenominational project to which they are severally committed. In this way, interdenominational work to which they have severally consented could find support by <sup>each</sup> ~~its~~ <sup>its</sup> ing its due proportion of the cost of the said work.

Now, the object of this letter is to set forth clearly the point to which I believe you heartily agreed, that the policy of the University project in making no appeal to a denominational treasury in past years does not involve the abandonment of the right to make such an appeal if the conditions should justify it, and thus to receive from cooperating Boards appropriations to its work which would thus strengthen the University in the very task which it is endeavoring to perform, on behalf of the denom-

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inations that are interested. At the same time, you pointed out, with reference to the existing United Presbyterian Movement, the terms under which it was launched were such as to exclude the University project from being brought in as one of the agencies to be benefited by the Movement, as the Movement is limited to the agencies under the direct control of the General Assembly.

I may point out in closing that the sympathy and support of cooperating Boards is shown not merely in appropriations to the budget of the University, but also by professors, mutually acceptable, ~~who~~ would be supported by the Board and loaned to the staff of the University.

Very sincerely,

P.S.-I am enclosing the Sudan Notes No. 16, issued by the Church Missionary Society which came to my office. I imagine that you will wish to pass them on to some of the Sudan missionaries if you have an extra copy for the office itself. The side-lights upon the work of the C.M.S. are interesting.

C.R.W.