

R E P O R TofDR. CHARLES R. WATSON, PRESIDENTto theTRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AT CAIROFOR THE YEAR 1929 - 1930

The year 1929 - 1930 has been on the whole a year of marked and wholesome progress in the life of the American University at Cairo, as will be seen when the activities of the year are reviewed in detail. On the horizon has been the inspiring program of a campaign for endowment which would lay a foundation of security for the future of the University in so far as it has been developed and would prepare the way also for the realization of other long awaited units of the University program. The year has also been, in general, one of unity and harmony in the institution's internal life, though one of storm and stress in its external relations. If I may judge the spiritual life of the institution by the warm hearted atmosphere of the staff prayermeetings during the period that I was in Egypt, I should set the year down as above the average, although this is not meant to bespeak any spirit of self satisfaction nor to indicate that there is not much to be both added and eliminated if the institution is to realize its highest ideals as a driving moral force and Christian agency in a non-Christian world.

The storm of Moslem criticism in the press and the judicial steps taken by the Government in bringing Dr. Fakhry, one of the University's Extension lecturers, to trial, have already been reported to the Trustees. While Fakhry was acquitted at his first trial, the Public Prosecutor has appealed the case and a further trial is scheduled for November. The total effect of the agitation is hard to appraise. It laid an enormous burden upon the Extension administration in interviewing, explaining, placating, defending, while it also placed a strain upon all of the institutions relations with the public, particularly the Moslem public. A disturber of the peace is rarely popular even if the cause is so just a cause as that of liberty of speech and the objective so worthy an objective as the emancipation of womanhood. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the agitation has registered the institution in many quarters as an agency of progress and has given it a wide spread reputation for fearless utterance on questions of public interest.

The political situation in Egypt at the present moment can only be described as one of unstable equilibrium. Since my last Report, extended negotiations have taken place in political circles looking toward the drawing up of a Treaty between Egypt and Great Britain, which would lead to the withdrawal of British forces from Egypt and the conferring of complete independence upon Egypt. These negotiations failed owing to Egypt's insistence upon a recognition of Egypt's sovereign in the Sudan. Following the failure of these negotiations, the Egyptian Ministry fell.

In July, 1930, Mahas Pasha, head of the Wafd (Nationalist) Party and Prime Minister, tendered his resignation owing to a disagreement between him and the King. Since no other Wafdist could or would undertake to form a Ministry, since the Chief of this Party had by his resignation determined the Wafd attitude, the King turned to a non-Wafdist, Sidky Pasha, to form a Cabinet. Thus developed the present situation in which the existing Ministry enjoys no parliamentary support. Technically, there has been as yet no violation of the Egyptian Constitution, for Parliament being adjourned for the summer, no open conflict between Parliament and Ministry can express itself. What will happen in November when Parliament is scheduled to reassemble is a matter of conjecture. To a detached observer surveying the situation as a mere incident in the ten year experiment of Egypt with parliamentary government, it would appear that we are merely witnessing a phase of national development, where a nation - too illiterate for intelligent popular government, too accustomed to autocracy to understand how to function democratically and too unorganized as to true political party life, is trying to put on a parliamentary coat that does not fit it and endeavoring to drive a Western democratic machine which is aggravatingly complicated. It is not to be wondered at if the parliamentary coat that irks is removed at given periods, or if the democratic machine develops hot boxes occasionally. Meanwhile, the Nation is learning, the population is becoming better educated, leadership is becoming sobered, the rules of the game are being mastered. The need is for patience, and hope. As with a child, nations may be born in a day, but not in a day are they developed. We pass now to a review of the year's work by departments.

1. THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The past year was one of unusual strain owing to the absence on furlough of three experienced permanent men, the illnesses of three other members of the staff and the unwarranted withdrawal of an Egyptian teacher, Zayyat, head of the Arabic Language Group, just at the beginning of the year. While every voyage may have its storms, the annual crossing of the past year has appeared exceptionally difficult and credit is to be given to Dean Galt for steadying the College organization under these trying conditions.

Once again, a numerical gain in enrolment can be reported: 369 as against 354 the previous year. Of these, 350 paid full tuition fees. The enrolment distributed by departments, was: Government course 165; Preparatory Department 123; College 82. Of the total number, 216 were Moslems or 58 percent., 67 were Copts, 37 Protestants, 12 Catholics, 7 Jews and 27 Greek Orthodox, and 2 of other faiths. Racially the students were distributed as follows: Egyptians, 271; Palestinian, 33; Armenian, 19; Syrian, 16; Greek, 9; American, 3; Arab, 2; French, 2; Moroccan, 2; Persian, 2; Shantrun, 2; British, 1; Indian, 1; Javanese, 1; Tripolitan, 1; Russian, 1; Turkish, 1; Yemeni, 1; Iraqi, 1.

Last year, I placed considerable emphasis on the need for giving more thought and sympathy, as well as a stronger personnel, to the Government course which represents the system of education that is basic in the Egyptian Government's educa-