

REPORT

of Charles R. Watson, as President,  
to the

TRUSTEES OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AT CAIRO

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In reviewing the year a sharp and curious contrast is felt between the calm and quiet, the normality and serenity of our educational activities in Egypt and the sense of strain and anxiety which has marked the entire year in our promotional activities in America. This is due to the fact that our Trustees and other generous friends in America have stood as a protecting wall preventing the ravages of the economic depression from overturning the program of activities in Egypt. They have promised to do this even for the year 1931-32, but have issued warning that unless our money raising activities during 1931-32 are successful the educational program for 1932-33 will have to be markedly curtailed. For past protection we are deeply grateful and for future financial success we earnestly pray.

The political situation in Egypt is much as I described it a year ago, save that the party in power, led by Sidky Pasha as Prime Minister, has greatly strengthened its position with the lapse of time and has regularized its claims to leadership by electing a Parliament which will carry out its wishes. The Wafdist Party, of course, scoffs at all this, claiming (probably with entire justification) that the overwhelming majority of Egyptians are at heart loyal to it, and that the Sidky Party has elected its Parliament by enforcing the unfair provisions of a new and illegal Constitution, by taking full advantage of the Wafdists' refusal to join in any election and by a further use of force where Wafdists ventured to show their hand.

Meanwhile the economic depression in Egypt has weighed more and more cruelly upon the life of the entire population, so that a general apathy has developed in respect to all idealism whether economic or political or religious.

Unusual opportunities for contact with Egyptian official life presented themselves during the year. Just before leaving Egypt in January, I had the privilege of an audience with His Majesty, King Fuad. It was the most intimate, most informal and most sympathetic I have ever had with him. An interesting invitation also came to me during the year to serve on a general committee appointed by the Ministry of Education for the study of a national program of education. Enlisting the help of my staff in the formulating of a series of educational recommendations, I have hopes that the American contribution was a worth while one. The appointment of non-Egyptians and even of non-officials on such a Government committee marks a departure from past traditions which is most significant and encouraging. To all this should be added many important contacts effected by my associates, Dean McClanahan, Dean Galt and Director Cleland. It is by such contacts that the University is able to render a unique service to the national life of Egypt.

I now pass to a review of the work of the year by Departments following the outline of past years. I wish however to call attention to a plan evolved a few years ago which has had to be modified. My first reports to the Trustees carried no supporting Departmental Reports but undertook to be all inclusive. It then occurred to me that it might prove a wise provision for the long future and especially for occasions of honest and natural divergence of opinions, if the Departmental heads were to be given a direct access to the Trustees for the expression of their views or to special emphasis on matters in which they had a special concern, by having their Departmental Reports attached to the President's Report. This plan was followed for several years until, with the growth of the work, the entire body of Reports proved too voluminous for typing and even for reading. I have found it necessary therefore to place a stringent limitation on the length of the Reports to be appended while at the same time asking for the

fullest possible Departmental Reports for my own study and reading. In some cases the Department heads have left it to the President to abbreviate their longer reports to him, but the door is always left open for them to express forcefully and directly to the Trustees any views which they wish to stress.

## I. THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dean Galt describes the year as one of normality after two years of hectic experiences with teachers jumping contracts or demoralizing illnesses in the staff or high public feeling as in the Fakhry case.

Contrary to expectations, the economic depression did not affect seriously the College enrolment and indeed the second term enrolment proved to be the highest we have ever had. The total enrolment this year was 355 as against 369 for the previous year. Of these, 281 paid full tuition fees. By departments, the enrolment was as follows: Government, 192; Preparatory, 85; College, 78. Of the total number enrolled, 203 were Moslems or 59 per cent; 84 were Copts, 38 Protestants, 13 Catholics; 11 Jews and one a Bahai. Racially the students were distributed as follows: 265 Egyptians; 28 Palestinians, 15 Armenians; 12 Syrians; 11 Greeks; 3 Americans; 3 Arabs; 3 Italians; 2 Moroccans; 2 Persians; 2 Sumatrans; 2 Malayans; and one each of the following types; Hadramouti, Mesopotamian, Javanese, Russian, British, Albanian, Zanzibarian.

The academic record of the year is more difficult to present, but proofs of its satisfactory character are not lacking. In the Government examinations, the College had 72 per cent passes in the Kafaa grade and 75 per cent in the