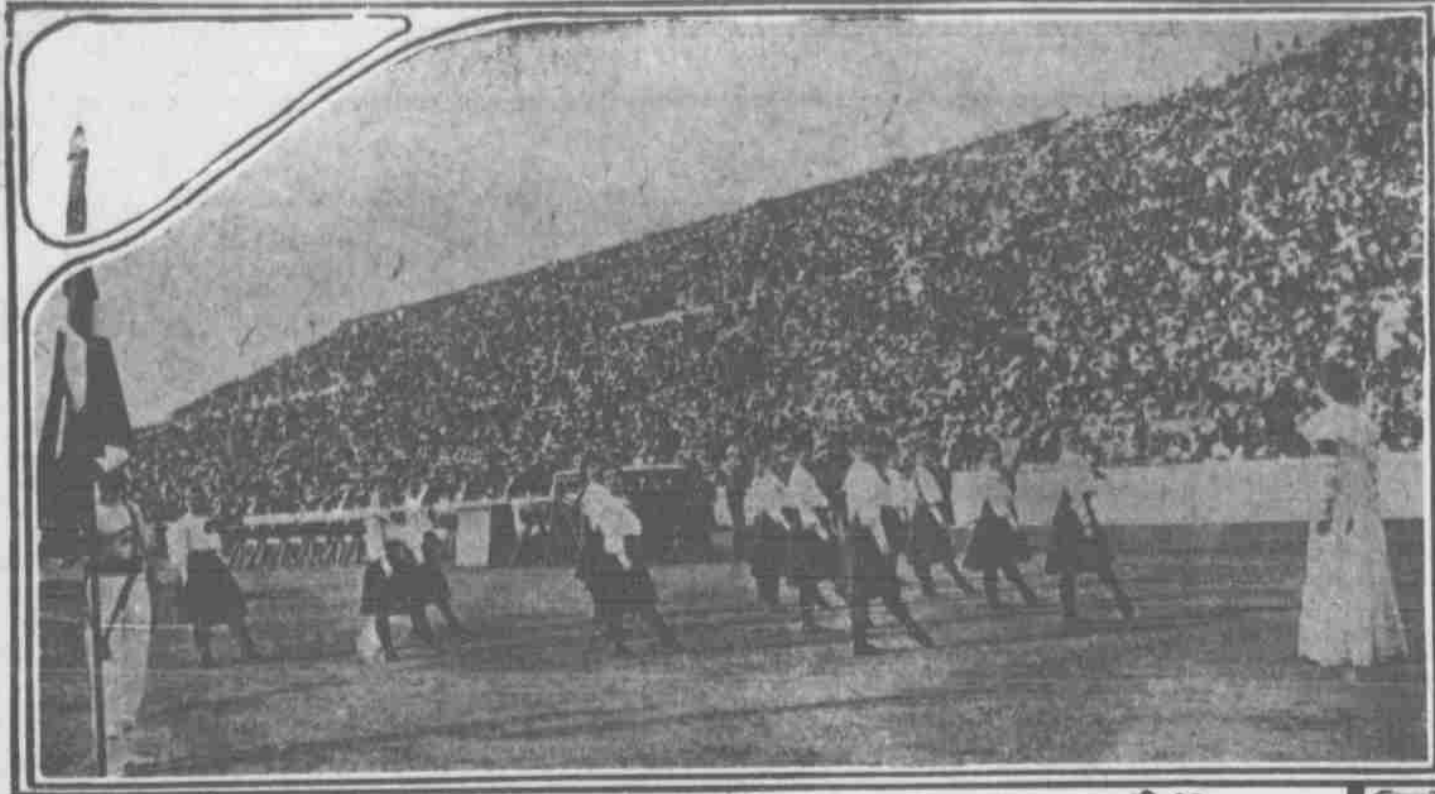
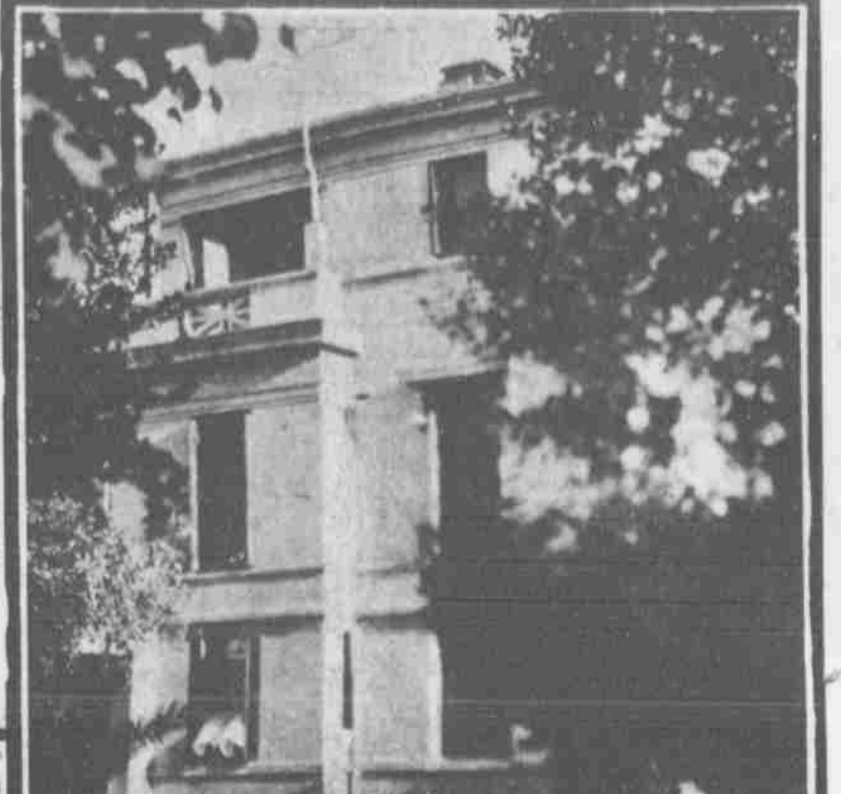


# Schools, Colleges and Gymnasiums of the Modern Athenians



GREEK COLLEGE GIRLS IN ATHLETICS

YOUNG GREECE AT SCHOOL



AMERICAN SCHOOL AT ATHENS

**A**THERNS—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The shoes of America are now largely blacked by young Greeks. Every town of any size in our country has its Greek bootblack establishment, and the work is done by boys who are shipped there by contract and whose wages are sent back home to their parents. In talking with these little fellows you will find them as bright as new dollars, and if you can speak Greek you will discover that almost all have had some education. Not a few have gone to school at the night schools at Athens and other Greek cities, and many have begun the study of the classics at home. Athens swarms with bootblacks and newsboys; they have come here from all over the country to earn their own living. I see them working at their books on the streets during their spare moments, and it is not an uncommon thing for a newsboy to practice writing in a copybook while waiting for the papers to come from the press.

eral as that for boys. Only about one-sixth of the primary schools are girls' schools, and the number who frequent them is under 40,000. The girls do not, as a rule, go to school with the boys, and each sex has its own school house. There are some advanced schools for females. The best is the Arsakeion, the head of which is here at Athens, with branches at Patras, Larissa and Corfu. The Arsakeion is the Smith, Vassar, Wellesley or Bryn Mawr of Greece. It has altogether about 2,000 students, of whom 1,200 are in the branch here at Athens. The number includes, however, the kindergarten and day scholars as well as those of the college proper.

During my stay I have gone through this institution. It is a training college for teachers as well, and it has a three-year normal course. One of the compulsory studies is music, as are also sewing and housework. The courses are so varied that a girl may go in at 6 years and graduate at something like 20, having a complete education according to the Greek standard. I am surprised at the knowledge of the classics shown by these girls. They are taught ancient Greek, and they can read fluently Homer, Plato and Xenophon. The older girls speak, read and write French, and not a few English.

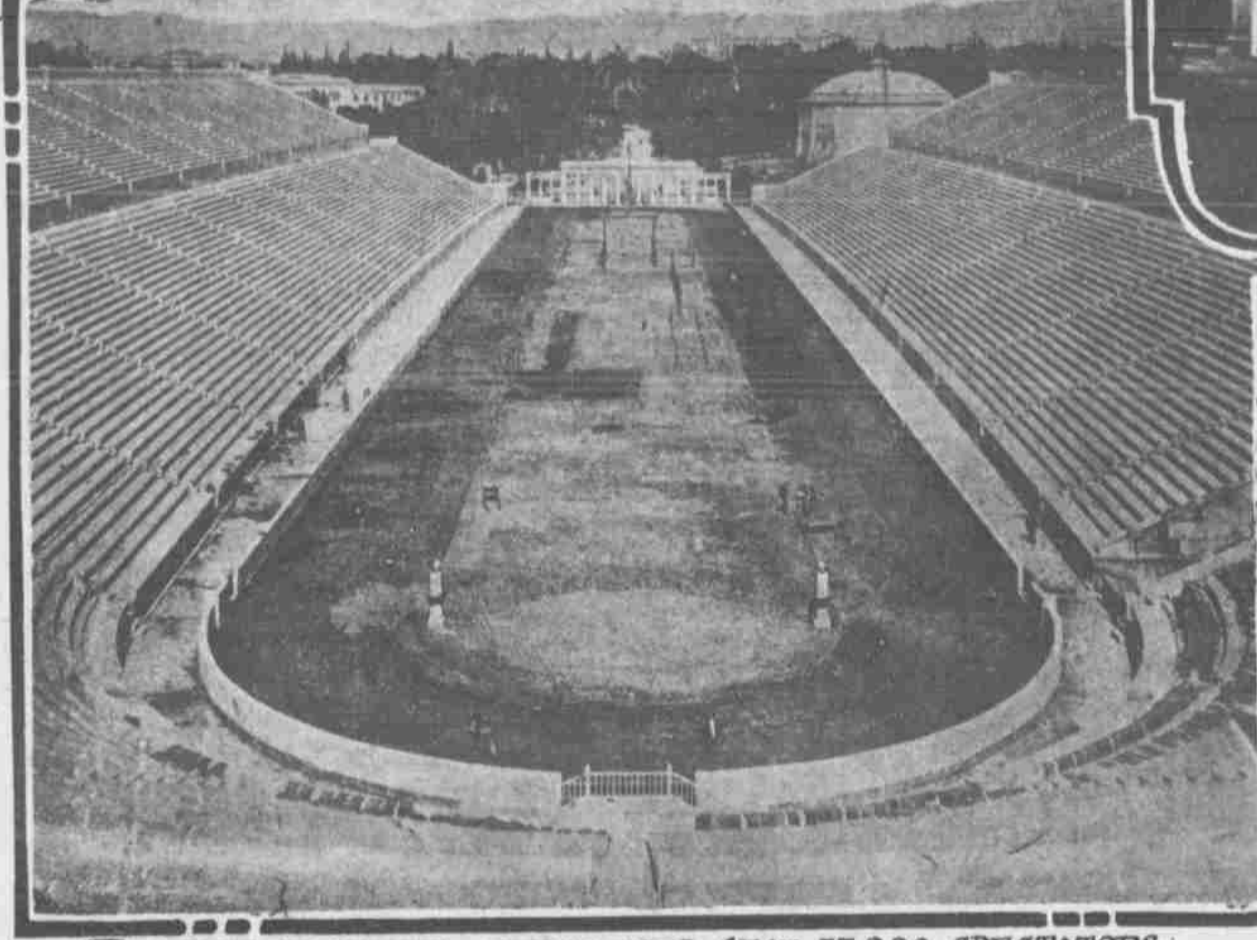
As to the fees of the Arsakeion, they are low. Day scholars pay from \$1 to \$5 a month, and boarders only \$20 a month, which includes everything, rooms, meals and even the books. I was taken through the school by the daughter of a directress, a beautiful girl of the Greek type.

**Thirteen Hundred Greek Maidens.**

I wish I could show you these 1,300 Grecian maidens whom I saw at this Vassar of Athens. The girls of this country are notably handsome, and those of the Arsakeion, coming out of the well-to-do classes of the people, would be esteemed fine-looking in any part of the world. They have fine forms, kept so by the compulsory gymnastics, rosy cheeks from the pure air of the Mediterranean, and features as classic as those of the ancient Greek statues. The girls speak a Greek which is more refined than the modern Greek heard on the streets. They read the classics at sight, and little ones of 12 and 13 mouth Herodotus and Homer. Indeed, the way the modern Greek girl talks strikes every stranger as somewhat uncanny. It makes one think of the remark of the American woman as to the precocity of the Parisian: "Why, in Paris, even the smallest children talk French."

**The Hill School for Girls.**

Another remarkable female school here at Athens was founded by an American missionary just about eighty years ago. This is the Hill School for Girls, one of the most popular in Greece and now under government regulations. It contains about 200 pupils, of whom more than one-third are boarders. The ages range from 6 to 17, and the students come from different parts of the country. All are taught modern Greek, French and English, and also the regular studies of our schools at home. The school does not proselytize nor interfere with the religion of the



STADIUM AT ATHENS—WHICH WILL SEAT 55,000 SPECTATORS

pupils. It has a Greek church connected with it, where a practical sermon is preached every Sunday.

**An American Archaeological School.**

It will surprise many to know that some of our leading colleges have had an archaeological school here for the last thirty years. Each of the colleges sends students to the school to spend a year in study and research concerning ancient Greece and Greek history. They make excavations and have certain territories allotted to them, where they dig over the ruins, finding statues, buildings and other relics of a time when Greece was at the height of its glory.

The colleges which support this school are Harvard, Yale, Brown, Amherst, Johns Hopkins, Columbia, the College of New Jersey, the College of the City of New York and Wesleyan, to which have been added Dartmouth and Cornell, and also the universities of Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia and California.

**The Greeks Friendly to Americans.**

This country has always been friendly to us, and Americans have been studying Greek here since our beginning as a nation. When Thomas Jefferson was president Nicholas Biddle visited Greece, and there was an American named Howe who was surgeon general of the Grecian fleet in the Greek war for independence. Henry M. Baird published a book on "Modern Greece" as far back as 1852, and Prof. Felton of Harvard, another American, wrote a volume entitled "Greece, Ancient and Modern." Charles K. Tucker-

man, who was our United States minister to Greece before 1870, gave us a work on "The Greeks of Today," and Bayard Taylor and others have described the country.

**What the Americans Are Doing.**

During my stay here I have called at the American school. It is now carried on in a building belonging to the institution, situated beyond the king's palace on the slope of the hill, facing Mount Hymettus. The house cost about \$40,000 and is surrounded by a beautiful garden. Entering a large hall, steps of Pentelic marble lead by easy flight to the second floor, where are the library of the school and the offices of the director. The library is one of the best equipped private ones of the kind in Athens, and it has, I should say, about 2,000 volumes. The present director of the school, Mr. Hill, is a graduate of the University of Vermont, and later on of Columbia, and he has with him eight other professors, who represent Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Princeton, Columbia and some other colleges. There is one woman among the graduate students, a Miss Stone, who is making a specialty of the topography of ancient Greece, and who has traveled extensively throughout the interior.

The director of the school tells me that its allowance is not sufficient to carry on a great archaeological work. It has something like \$2,000 a year and with this it is trying to excavate Old Corinth, which, when in its prime, held half a million, and was the largest city of Greece. The Americans have been working

there for more than ten years. After visiting the site I hope to describe what they have done.

In addition to the American school, a number of other nations have similar institutions. The French are spending eight or ten times as much as we are, and their archaeologists have laid out over \$160,000 in their works at Delphi. The Germans have an archaeological institute which has spent \$200,000 in digging up old Olympia, and the Austrians and Russians have recently entered this field.

**Modern Athletics in Greece.**

All the schools here are now teaching athletics. They have their regular gymnastic exercises daily, and this is so of those for both girls and boys. The students are required to take long walks, and every school must have a gymnasium, which is maintained at the cost of the state. All the schools near the sea teach swimming, and it is required that the intermediate schools practice rowing and shooting. During the last weeks of every Lent gymnastic competitions are held all over Greece, and the old sports are being revived. A school of gymnastics has been founded in Athens to teach the training masters of the various institutions, and female teachers are obliged to learn all about athletics.

Athens has two gymnastic clubs, one of which has a gymnasium to which any one can be admitted on the payment of 20 cents a month, and there is a special section for girls, who practice the Swedish movements under the direction of a committee of women. There are forty or more other clubs scattered over Greece, some of which are subsidized by the government, and every now and then games are held in the great new stadium, which has been erected by an Egyptian Greek named Averof.

**Athens' Great Athletic Field.**

This structure is one of the finest athletic grounds of the world. I went out to see it this afternoon. It is situated between Mount Lykabettos and the Acropolis, on the very site where was the great stadion of the past. It is of the same size and probably of the same character. Imagine a marble amphitheater which will seat 55,000 spectators and has an arena 600 feet long. The marble seats rise up the sides of a natural amphitheater made by the hills, and over it shines the blue sky of Greece. The arena itself is of the shape of a great horseshoe, with long ends. It is covered with black sand, and this forms a striking contrast to the silver white of the marble. It was here that the Olympic games of some years ago were run, and here will be held some of those of the future.

**A Talk With the Grand Chamberlain.**

The crown prince of Greece is at the head of national athletic matters. He is absent from Athens at this writing, but I have had a talk with his grand chamberlain, Count Mercati, as to what this country expects to do in the Olympic games of the future. He tells me that the government is rather hard up for money, but that it is anxious to have one of the great international athletic contests of the near future held here. Said he:

"Our people are liberal and without prejudice, and some of the nations feel that they are more sure of having a square deal at Athens than anywhere else. This is especially so of the Americans, who justly maintain that they were unfairly treated in London." I asked as to the accommodations and as to whether Athens could take care of the crowd that would come to such a competition.

Count Mercati replied: "At our last Olympic games we used the exposition hall in the palace grounds, almost adjoining the stadium, for the foreign athletes. This was made into a great dormitory, and it could be so used again. The hotels would take care of the strangers, and in addition the people of Athens, who are very hospitable, would open their houses to them. Yes, I think we can take care of all who may come."

**Can a Greek Win the Marathon?**

I asked the grand chamberlain some questions as to the possibility of the modern Greek in the ring and on the track.

He replied: "I think we have a fair chance at the Marathon and that we can hold our own in all sorts of wrestling. We are not the equals of the Greeks of the past, and we have not their harmonious physical development nor their staying powers. On short runs we are distanced by the athletes of some other nations. You must remember that we are not old as an independent government, and that for 400 years or more we were under the rule of the Turks, who frowned on all physical exercises and prohibited gymnastic training. Today we make as much of athletics as any other nation and we are especially rigid as to the athletic training of our schools. In the Greek colleges every student at the end of two years after admission undergoes a physical examination, and if he cannot show evidence of his gymnastic training he must remain where he is. I do not think that the case in any college of other countries."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

## Severe Punishment for Crime in Old England

**I**N THESE merciful days, when a man who publishes a cruel and malevolent libel on the king escapes with a few months' imprisonment, it seems scarcely credible that only forty-one years ago the punishment ordained by the law for high treason was that the offender should be drawn on a hurdle to the place of execution, and there should be hanged by the neck until he was dead; that then his head should be severed from his body; that the body be divided into four quarters and that his head and quarters be at the disposal of the crown.

Such was the punishment of high treason within the memory of the elderly man of today, says a London Tit-Bits. In earlier times the culprit did not escape so easily, for he was taken down from the gallows while still alive, disemboweled and his entrails burned before his eyes.

And this was by no means the worst fate that might befall a criminal in the so-called "good old days," as one John Roose, a cook of Henry VII's day, found to his cost. Roose was convicted of the heinous crime of putting poison in the broth intended for the family of no less reverend a personage than the bishop of Rochester. For such a crime hanging, drawing and quartering was too merciful a punishment. "Something lingering, with boiling oil," or at least water, was decided to be the punishment that best fitted the crime; and with this object a special act of Parliament was passed ordaining boiling alive as the punishment for this felony. John Roose expiated his sins in a cauldron of hot water, and a few years later, in 1542, one Margaret Davy met the same terrible fate at Smithfield.

So gravely was the crime of poisoning regarded in these days of old that, it is recorded, a Scotsman, one Thomas Bellie, and his son were banished for life for administering poison to a couple of noisy hens belonging to a neighbor.

These were indeed days when the man of violent temper or criminal tendencies must operate warily. If by any evil chance he came to blows and drew blood within the precincts of the king's palace he was inevitably condemned to lose his right hand; and a statute of 33 Henry VIII regulated the whole gruesome ceremony, with all its functionaries, from the surgeon who was to amputate the offending member to the individual who used the searing irons, the yeoman of

the scullery who made the irons red-hot at his fire, and the sergeant of the cellar, who was provided "with a pot of red wine to give the same party, after his hand is so stricken off and the stump seared."

Mutilation was a favorite form of punishment in those good old days, following, no doubt, the Scriptural penalty, "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." Thus the slanderer's tongue was pulled out, so that he could at least utter slander no more; the

adulterer's nose was cut off, and he who destroyed the sight of a one-eyed man lost both his own eyes.

By the Coventry act (23 and 24 Charles II, c.1) any person who shall maliciously put out eye, slit the nose or disable any limb of another, with intent to maim or disfigure him, was to pay for the wrong with his life. By another act the man who fought with weapons in a church had one of his ears cut off; if he had already lost both ears, as many a malefactor had, he was branded in the cheek with the letter "F."

By an act of Queen Elizabeth's reign the forger was condemned to stand in the pillory, to have his ears cut off by the common hangman, his nostrils slit up and seared and to be imprisoned for life; and by a statute of 21 James I an unfortunate bankrupt was nailed by an ear to the pillory for two hours and then his ear was cut off.

If an enterprising farmer was foolish enough to send any of his live sheep out of the country, he paid a terrible price for his rashness, for his goods were forfeited, he was sent to jail for twelve months, and on recovering his liberty his left hand was cut off in a public market and nailed up there as a warning against the danger of illicit exports. If he offended a second time he paid for his daring with his life. If he set covetous eyes on a neighbor's sheep and annexed one of them he was unceremoniously hanged by the neck until he was dead. Indeed, thousands of unfortunates paid with their lives for thefts much more insignificant.

In 1736 Edward Burnworth, a highwayman, refusing to plead, was loaded with boards and weights. For more than an hour he bore a mass of metal weighing nearly 400 weight, when human flesh could bear the agony no more, and he prayed to be put to the bar again. He pleaded "Not guilty," but was, nevertheless, found guilty, and ended his days on the scaffold. This cruel punishment survived to George II's time.

There were many other barbarous punishments, quaint and barbarous old-world punishments, from the 40-shilling fine inflicted in Scotland on the wicked player of foot ball and golf, and the imprisonment for a year for a third offense of using the Book of Common Prayer, to the ordeal of fire, in which Queen Emma, accused of a criminal intrigue with the bishop of Winchester, walked with bandaged eyes over nine red-hot plowshares to prove her innocence.

These results bore favorable comparison with the returns for most other countries.—London Post.

## Ireland's Population

**A** BLUE BOOK dealing with the vital statistics of Ireland shows that during 1909 the excess of births over deaths was 27,786, and that the loss by emigration amounted to 25,878, which was greater by 5,381 than in 1908, but less than the average number—37,141—for the previous ten years. There would, according to these figures, appear to have been a decrease of 890 persons in the population on December 31, 1909. The population of Ireland to the middle of the year was estimated at 4,371,570.

The marriages registered in Ireland during 1909 numbered 22,650, the births 102,759, and the deaths 74,973. The marriage rate was 5.18 a thousand of the estimated population, showing a decrease of .02 as compared with that for 1908, but an increase of .06 as compared with the average rate for the previous ten years; the birth rate was 23.5 a thousand, being .2 above that for the preceding year and .3 above the average for the previous ten years, while the death rate (17.2 a thousand) was .4 below the rate for the previous year and .6 below the average rate for the ten years ended 1908. Of the 22,650 men married during the year 379, or 1.67 per cent, were under age, while of the women married 1,550, or 6.84 per cent, were minors.

Of the 102,759 children whose births were registered in Ireland during the year 1909 99,997, or 97.3 per cent, were legitimate and 2,762, or 2.7 per cent, were illegitimate, the latter being .1 above the corresponding average percentage for the preceding ten years.

These results bore favorable comparison with the returns for most other countries.—London Post.

**The Night Schools of Athens.**  
I venture there is no nation whose children are so anxious for an education as this, and none where the people are more ready to give it. There are three night schools for poor boys in Athens alone, with branch schools in other towns throughout Greece. I went to a school last night which held 500 boys, ranging in ages from 10 to 14, and I saw one class of 150 going through gymnastic exercises and drill on the street outside. They had an excellent director. They were straight and well developed and they marched well, their shoulders thrown back.

Entering the buildings, I was taken from room to room, finding each filled with thirty or forty boys as bright as any to be found in America. My guide was a director of the Greek National bank, who devotes his evenings to this work. Each class stood up as we entered and they rose again as we left. In some rooms they were studying arithmetic, in others geography and in others how to read and write Greek. I was told that the school was attended by about 800 bootblacks each year.

**Taught to Save Money.**

These boys get an education at no cost to them except what they pay for their books. They are taught habits of thrift. The teachers have a savings bank and each boy can deposit and have his own bank account. The other day one of them left for America, taking along 3,200 francs, or \$240, which he had saved in this way.

I was surprised at the teaching and the high class of some of the studies. The ordinary branches are the same as those of our graded schools, but in addition they read the classics and many of them can quote Homer and Demosthenes. There is a map of Greece in every school room and the children are instructed in Greek history and they follow the newspapers more closely than our boys at home.

**The Greek Common School System.**

The Greeks are now spending a great deal on modern education. According to law all boys between the ages of 5 and 12 must attend school, and there are now primary schools, secondary schools and colleges almost everywhere. There are altogether 5,000 or 6,000 teachers, and the school children are numbered by the hundreds of thousands. There are private gymnasiums and commercial schools, normal schools and agricultural schools. There are trade schools at Athens and Patras run by the government, and there is a university here which has more than 2,500 students.

**No Civil Service for Teachers.**

One of the political jobs given out by the government is that of school teaching; this is not governed by civil service rules, and a new set of instructors is usually brought in with each change of government. The schools of each district are looked upon as a kind of a political perquisite of the ministry and they are farmed out for votes.

Another objection lies in the school books, which are changed every year or so, new books being written. There are annual competitions for the writing of school books and the publication of such books is so profitable that there is talk of making the business a state monopoly, the government fixing the price of each book.

**Teachers' Wages in Greece.**

The salaries of the school teachers here are exceedingly low, while the requirements as to their education are high. The director of a primary school now receives about \$30 a month, and if the director is a woman this sum is cut down to \$24. Women are not popular as school teachers, and the girl teacher loses social caste, as some of the Greeks look down on women who must work for their bread. As the schools rise the wages of teachers increase. Some receive \$40 and \$50 a month and the directors of the gymnasiums get from \$40 to \$70 a month. In the higher schools the expenses of students are very low. In the university the tuition for the four-year course is only \$123, with an examination fee of \$50 for the legal and medical branches. A diploma costs \$10, and one can, outside his living expenses, go through college for a total of about \$150. I am told that the education in the higher schools is excellent, and that it compares favorably with that of our own academies and colleges.

**Schools for Girls.**

As to the education of the girls, it is not so gen-