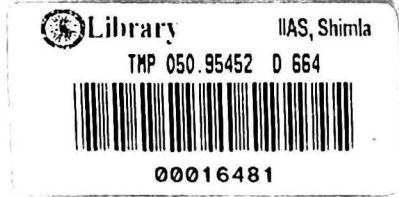


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ARAB PROGRESS INSPIRED BY INDEPENDENCE

By BAYARD DODGE, D.D., LL.D.

Lecture given on September 14, 1948, Sir Kinahan Cornwallis, G.C.M.G., C.B.E., D.S.O., in the Chair.

The CHAIRMAN: It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Dodge this afternoon. As no doubt most of you are aware, the University of Beirut owes its foundation and its progress largely to members of the family of Dr. Dodge and of Mrs. Dodge, whose grandfather, Dr. Bliss, was the first President. Dr. Dodge himself first went there as a member of the Faculty in 1913. In 1923 he became President, and it was only two months ago that he relinquished that position. He has therefore seen the Arab world pass from the dominion of the Turks through, in some cases, a period of mandatory control, to complete independence and by reason of the fact that his University attracts students from all over the Middle East, many of whom now hold high positions in their own countries, he has been able to keep in touch with the development of regions far beyond the confines of the Lebanon. His University has exercised a most important influence on its students during the last thirty years. I could tell you something of how, in spite of many difficulties, it has grown under his wise guidance, but our time is short, and I will only say that there is no foreigner who is more loved and respected in the Middle East than Dr. Dodge. We are indeed fortunate to have such a distinguished and sympathetic authority to speak to us on the subject of Arab progress inspired by independence.

Dr. Dodge then delivered his lecture as follows:

WHEN I first visited the Near East in 1910, the Ottoman régime was nearing its end. The Arabs were still a subject people, mostly dormant because of the intellectual and social stagnation of the mediæval system in which they lived. But even at that time the Arab Awakening had begun in Egypt and Lebanon, which had become autonomous enough to form contacts with the West.

At the close of the First World War this awakening gained force, as the Arabs became the neighbours of an amazingly progressive Turkish Republic, instead of the subjects of a decadent empire. Then, as most of the Arab lands fell under European control, they were flooded by new ideas from the West, which were social and intellectual, as well as political.

As long as the Arabs remained under foreign rule these modern ideas formed only a veneer of progress and did not become indigenous among the people as a whole. Although there was a great deal of nationalistic ferment, there was very little feeling of public responsibility, as everything that went wrong was placed on the shoulders of the foreign officials.

The British officials organized many good secondary schools, in which science and laboratory work were well taught. They also organized efficient departments of public health and tried to interest the people in improved methods of agriculture. But, for the most part, the influential people felt that these measures were foreign innovations, so that they failed to appreciate them and to make sacrifices to supplement the reforms which the foreign officials were introducing.

In the same way, there was very little municipal pride, when the European officials tried to improve the towns. Too often the people felt that the improvements were being superimposed upon them by foreigners, rather than inspired in a spontaneous way for their own national benefit.

Lack of sympathy for the Jews also prevented the Arabs from profiting by the progressive methods which were introduced into Palestine.

Industry was largely given over to foreign concessions and, at least in Syria and Lebanon, competition with European companies was discouraged.

Thus, there was a very limited amount of progress in Arab lands as long as the Ottomans remained in power, and even during the past quarter-century the new reforms were largely on the surface and did not go deep into the roots of national life.

But the post-war policy of withdrawing troops and granting independence has created a new spirit of initiative and public service. The development is especially striking, because it comes simultaneously with a widespread movement of renaissance.

The situation reminds one of what happened three centuries before the time of Christ. When Alexander the Great overthrew the Persian Empire, there occurred in the Middle East a great awakening, which took the form of copying everything Greek. Municipal plans followed those of the Piræus: Greek education, art, and philosophy became popular, while European modes, sports, and amusements rapidly grew fashionable. In the same way, the Arabs to-day are copying Western architecture, organizing their schools along European lines, and adopting foreign manners. They are delighting in the cinemas and cabarets, as well as in bathing, tennis, skiing, and all sorts of athletic games.

The first important step forward, inspired by independence, has been the formation of the Arab League. This is a true innovation in the Arab World. In the past, unity has occasionally been accomplished under the influence of the Islamic Caliphate and by means of feudal alliances. But the Arab League is not based on either religion or feudalism, as several of the member states are republics and at least one of them is as much Christian as Muslim. The League has so far been somewhat successful, not so much because of encouragement from abroad, as of a spontaneous desire for team-work and self-defence.

Another indication of progress is the fact that so many of the Arab states have been able to hold elections, carry out Cabinet changes and handle minority problems, without suffering from revolution. So far they have achieved more stability of government than has been possible in many of the Latin-American republics. There are many problems still to be solved in connection with currency, customs, passports, pipe-lines, and communications. But what is encouraging is to see the patient way in which an attempt is being made to achieve co-operation in connection with questions of this sort.

One of the most interesting aspects of Arab development is a debut in the world of diplomacy. Most of the states have already organized legations and consulates in many foreign cities. The Arab representatives exercised real influence during the San Francisco conference. Almost a

ninth of the votes in the United Nations Assembly are controlled by the Arabs. It has been the custom for one of the members of the Security Council to be an Arab and at the present time the Chairman of the Social and Economic Council is a Lebanese. In fact, arrangements are being made to hold the next U.N.E.S.C.O. meeting at Beirut.

Another form of progress is the rapid development of the cities. Last year I visited 'Iraq and was astonished by what I saw. New boulevards radiate out from the old section of Baghdad in three directions, planted with trees and lined by two-storey houses set in gardens. Some of these residential quarters were planned for during the mandate period, but the zest for developing them seems to be a part of independence.

Fine new streets and buildings are also changing Mosul, Bosrah, and Kerbela. When I went to Kufa, I thought that the big building with Arab architecture and bright green tiles must be the famous mosque. But I soon learned that it was one of the new county hospitals which are being built in 'Iraq.

My chauffeur prides himself on never losing his way. But when we visited Damascus after an absence of nearly two years, he was completely bewildered. So many new flats and handsome private houses had been built, that it gave the appearance of a new city. The old Turkish barracks have been turned over to the Syrian University, a large hospital is half finished and parts of the business section are being opened up or re-constructed.

Many new apartments and dwelling-houses are also being erected at Beirut. Like those of Damascus, they are designed with very modern architecture.

During the past year the Lebanese Republic has started to complete the broad boulevard along the shore of Ras Beirut and to plant it with trees. Boulevards are also being made to beautify smaller towns like Tripoli, Sidon, and Zahlah. A very handsome two-lane parkway is being constructed between Beirut and its new aerodrome, which is to have runways two kilometres long. New avenues are also being built, at great expense, to handle the traffic going out of Beirut towards Tripoli and Damascus. Altogether a hundred and fifty new roads are being constructed throughout the Lebanon.

But the most surprising city that I have seen is ancient Aleppo. The Mayor is Majd al-Din al-Jabri, who belongs to the most aristocratic family of North Syria and is a nephew of the former Prime Minister. He was educated at Beirut, Robert College at Istanbul, and the University of Illinois. In June he very kindly spent two whole mornings showing me around the city in his car, which he drives himself. He is so much interested in re-making his own city, that he has refused the position of Minister of Defence and flattering diplomatic posts.

The Mayor has already completed boulevards encircling the city, which are forty metres broad in certain places. He has made zoning laws to protect the views from these boulevards and is removing the prison, so as to open up a proper approach to the historic citadel.

People in Syria are unaccustomed to having trees planted along the roadways. But the Mayor has patiently kept on re-planting trees, until

at last the populace appreciates them and mothers punish their children when they see them injuring the trees.

A new public garden has been made and before long there is also to be a zoo. The Mayor is encouraging mothers to bring their children to the park, by organizing a motor-bus system, providing music twice a week, and forbidding the sale of alcoholic drinks in the park restaurant. The Mayor also has his firemen make park benches and other useful things, while they are waiting for alarms.

The municipality is aiding hospitals, an old people's home, and other philanthropies. Some wealthy Syrians have been encouraged to build a school for arts and crafts and the city is starting an insane asylum.

The Mayor has expropriated thirty-five acres near the railroad station to form a civic centre, in which there will be a town hall, municipal auditorium, public restaurant, and other useful features. The course of the River Qwayq is being changed, so as to beautify this centre and leave the old river bed for other purposes.

An even more remarkable project is being rapidly carried out in an older part of the city. With great firmness and tact the Mayor has expropriated eight hundred and thirty ancient tenements. They are being torn down and four hundred and eighty modern houses are to be erected in their place, to form a model housing unit for workers.

These new houses are to be sold to labouring men on the instalment plan. There will also be a vegetable market, a refrigeration plant, mosque, dispensary, elementary school, and a playground, to serve the workers' families.

A number of cemeteries are being moved, which is a miracle in the Near East. Some old barracks have been turned into a college of engineering, the public library is being modernized with steel shelves and a good catalogue, and the municipality sponsors a programme of free plays and public lectures. Once a year prominent lawyers are asked to explain the new laws, as a part of this lecture series. A beautiful new stadium, with a large swimming pool alongside of it, has also been completed.

The Mayor is arranging to train village teachers, much as Mr. Humphrey Bowman succeeded in doing when he was Director of Education in Palestine. A building next to the experimental farm is being made over, so as to become a normal school. The young teachers will be trained in agriculture, so that they can introduce lessons in farming into the programmes of their schools for peasant children. Steps are also being taken to have their salaries raised.

The Mayor's greatest triumph is the construction of a sewage system, which is to cost six million Syrian pounds. It is estimated that by selling a hundred tons a day of sewage disposal for fertilizer, the debt can be amortized in less than four years.

A central tunnel, large enough for a man to pass through, drains the pipes from the many side streets, and even from the mediæval bazaar. The old *sūq* or bazaar of Aleppo is a vast network of covered alleys, lined with small cells, in which master workmen and their apprentices manufacture and sell all kinds of articles. Adjoining these shops are a number of spacious mosques and ancient khans, with arcades surrounding

their courtyards. The Mayor has made over for modern use an old public latrine of the Fatimide period and has also built twenty-five new ones, all connected with his sewage system.

Since the evacuation of the foreign troops, the city of Aleppo has made 50 per cent. more roads, 600 per cent. more parks, and 900 per cent. more sewers than were built during the quarter-century of the mandate.

At the present time the Syrian Government is financially embarrassed, because it is obliged to support an army in Palestine and to feed over forty thousand Arab refugees from Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Haifa. A very progressive and capable graduate of the Beirut University, the director of public health in the North Syria area, took me out to see a refugee camp. He was looking after 11,000. The Government and the Citizens' Committee were providing food for the refugees. Mrs. Altounyan, an English nurse, and some of her assistants offered their services to aid in looking after the health of the refugees. They had a tremendous task in caring for some 45,000 refugees throughout Syria and another 20,000 in Lebanon, these being charity cases, in addition to trying to help the wealthier refugees living with their relatives scattered amongst the towns and cities. But when this abnormal situation ends, the Mayor hopes to bring water from the Euphrates to Aleppo. If he can accomplish this engineering feat, it will turn the dusty old city of Aleppo into one of the most beautiful centres of the Middle East.

Another very useful reform, of a more general nature, is the installation of an automatic telephone system, which ought to be accomplished in several years and will serve, not only Aleppo, but the whole of Syria. These examples which have been given should suffice to show the extraordinary progress which the Arabs are making, in connection with the development of their cities.

Another evidence of Arab progress is the new interest in aviation. King Ibn Sa'ud is developing a large aviation field in East Arabia and has asked American army officials to train his Arabs how to handle the ground service.

Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria have their own air lines and aerodromes. They are encouraging trans-continental lines to co-operate with them in making the Arab lands important corridors of world-wide air traffic.

The newly awakened interest in industry is still another sign of progress. Much the most important source of revenue is the petroleum industry, which is assuming gigantic proportions. Iraq has led the way by granting concessions to the Iraq Petroleum Company, which is an international corporation.

King Ibn Sa'ud and the ruling Chiefs of Kuwayt, Bahrayn, and al-Qotar are following the example of Iraq. Although Syria has not yet started to exploit her oil, it is not improbable that she possesses valuable reserves. The Lebanese have so far failed to strike oil, but they are encouraging the building of pipe-lines and refineries.

The royalties from this huge industry will finance many of the projects which are to bring new life to worn-out lands.

The Arabs are also building up a great many small factories, as well

as a few large ones. A powerful hydro-electric plant is to be built at the Assuam Dam, so as to furnish Egypt with cheap electricity for its new industrial development. There is a large Syrian cement factory at Damascus and a foreign-controlled factory provides Lebanon with cement. Both in Transjordan and Syria there are asphalt pits.

The principal industries in the Arab states are the manufacture of tiles and clay drain-pipes, cement building-blocks, bricks, furniture, rugs, soap, leather goods, vegetable oils, beet sugar, starch, wine and beer, matches, brass and silver ware, silk and cotton fabrics, as well as cigarettes, sweets, and preserves. Egypt and Sinai possess stores of iron, chrome, and other minerals, which may prove to be important, but so far the Arab lands have not developed mines, except for the gold mines in Saudi Arabia. The famous copper deposits, which the ancient Pharaohs exploited in Sinai, and the copper mines of Transjordan, which King Solomon worked to help pay for his temple and his chariots, can no longer be operated on a paying basis.

As the Arab countries grow a great deal of cotton, it is natural that the largest factories should be devoted to spinning cotton cloth. Last June I went all through the Mudarris factory, and for that reason I will take it as an example of the sort of progress that is going on in the field of industry.

Although it was started a few years before the war its rapid growth is largely due to the new period of independence, when the government is charging protective tariffs on manufactured goods, but allowing raw materials to enter the country free. The factory is situated on the outskirts of Aleppo. It is owned by Syrian Muslims, and, as most of the labourers are Muslims too, a mosque is being built for them to worship in.

The Mudarris family has recently paid a million Syrian pounds to buy cotton lands in East Syria, but they also procure raw cotton from neighbouring plantations.

The machinery has been purchased in England, Switzerland, France, and Germany, and seems to be thoroughly up to date. Some of the automatic machines are the last word in modern equipment.

There are four Diesel engines and dynamos to supply power and large boilers to supply steam. I shall not attempt to describe the many large areas devoted to different technical processes, but I must say how impressed I was by the order, cleanliness, and discipline, which used to be so lacking in the East. An expert chemist works in a well-equipped laboratory and a serious attempt is made to keep the dyes and other materials up to the best modern standards.

There are thirteen hundred employees, who work in three shifts for six days of the week. The labourer is provided with a bath and breakfast before he starts work and another hot bath at the end of the day. He has a locker of his own and a clean room in which to eat his picnic lunch. There is an efficient system of time clocks and the employee is expected to work for eight hours a day, unless he is ill, in which case he is given free medical care.

The minimum wage is equal to about twelve shillings and sixpence a day, according to the official rate of exchange, but experienced men

receive considerably more. At the end of the year a 7 per cent. bonus is distributed to the employees. Four per cent. of this is granted as extra pay while 3 per cent. is set aside to cover employer's liability. Not long ago a Syrian workman was fortunate if he received three shillings a day, so it is evident that real improvement is being accomplished.

In order to guard against tuberculosis, which is a danger in cotton mills, a labourer is only employed for ten years at a time. According to the law of Syria, he is paid a substantial indemnity when his period of contract ends. The factory management also helps him to find other work.

The labourers appreciate the treatment which they receive, and they have consistently refused to join strikes, in spite of the fact that there has been active Communist agitation in the Aleppo region.

As there is a large demand for cloth in Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon, the Mudarris factory and others like it are making money and helping to prevent unemployment.

One of the promising things about the younger generation is the fact that well-educated young men are completing advanced study and then starting industrial enterprises with their own hands, so as to learn the manufacturing processes by personal experience. One graduate of our University learned how to pasteurize milk, and started a dairy business by his own efforts. A second alumnus studied the jam industry in Ireland and developed a successful business, with the help of his family. A third graduate is setting up a perfume plant in his father's garage, although his father is a wealthy man, belonging to an old and aristocratic family. This spirit of enterprise is a new thing in the East and is a promising phase of the new independence.

In spite of the importance of this industry, the Arab lands are still primarily agricultural. Irrigation and agriculture have already been developed in the Nile valley and there are over three hundred thousand members in the consumers' co-operatives of Egypt. But the neighbouring states have only recently become interested in agricultural development.

King Ibn Sa'ud is asking American experts to develop irrigation and modern farming near al-Kharj in the South Najf. He is also continuing to sink wells, so as to persuade the nomads to become farmers.

Last year I enjoyed a conversation with His Highness, the Regent of Iraq, who told me about his plan for developing a large lake near the Euphrates, so as to draw off the water at flood time and provide irrigation when the freshets subside. During the autumn two high Iraqi officials started serious negotiations to carry out an irrigation project of vast proportions, so as to turn the Land of the Two Rivers into a second Egypt.

The President of Syria has employed some foreign advisers, established an experimental farm and started to build an agricultural school in Damascus. A beet sugar business is being developed between Homs and Hama, with new irrigation canals, and a factory nearing completion. Many rich landlords are undertaking large-scale farming, with mechanical tractors, petroleum irrigation pumps, and modern methods of fertilizing. D.D.T. is also being used extensively, so as to free the peasants from malaria and to enable them to do efficient work.

The Arab Awakening has reached a point where feudalism is giving way to a new aristocracy of education. The influential officials, who help Ibn Sa'ud to conduct his kingdom, are mainly men who have risen from the ranks. In Egypt, Lebanon, and Palestine a new bourgeoisie of educated men and women is taking the place of the old aristocracy. Many well-educated young men from poor families are also working their way up to positions of influence in 'Iraq, Syria, and Transjordan.

Progress among the Arabs is not only political and economic. It is also social and cultural. Religious leaders are no longer trying to cling to mediæval traditions, but are giving their blessing to new types of reform. The question of the Caliphate is being kept in the background, so that nationalism can have free sway, unimpeded by religious sentiment. In spite of the Quramic injunctions against usury, the members of the *Ulcima* in Egypt have interpreted Scripture so as to permit insurance companies to do business and to encourage the powerful *Misr Banque*. Except in conservative parts of the country, the religious leaders are permitting the emancipation of women.

When I first went to Beirut, the Mufti, who was alive at that time, was so opposed both to European music and modern science, that he forbade the Muslim College to use a violin, so as to demonstrate vibrations to a physics class. Now a Muslim government, like that of 'Iraq, has its own bands, its conservatory of music, musical broadcasts over the state radio, and science teaching in the official schools.

There is also a new spirit of toleration, as the old sectarian "Millet" system of the Ottoman Empire is giving way to modern nationalism. I have belonged to three committees of a public nature in Beirut. Each one of them has taken pains to have a representative of every important sect on the committee, so as to assure proper team-work. The governments are also making sure that minority groups have fair representation in the parliaments and cabinets. It is further true that the new systems of state education are non-sectarian, so that the children of different communities can grow up together as friends.

The most important phase of social progress is the new attitude towards women. Polygamy, the veil, and the harem system are rapidly disappearing. Girls are becoming educated, marrying boys whom they know at a reasonable age, and enjoying all sorts of activities. They dance and go to the cinema, play tennis, and ski, and take part in various philanthropies and public enterprises. Many Christian girls and some Muslims enjoy sea bathing. They also serve as assistants and secretaries in business houses and government offices. Most significant of all, the old system of patriarchal life is disappearing, so that a young man and his wife can enjoy their own home, instead of living with their parents.

The Arabs realize that they cannot enjoy constitutional government and democratic institutions unless their youth is educated. It is amazing to see the efforts that Syria and 'Iraq are making to expand their school systems. We have felt this new activity at the American University of Beirut. During the past year Syria sent forty-two men and women to be trained as teachers, while 'Iraq sent sixty-five. Next year 'Iraq expects to send eighty more. Elementary schools, secondary institutions, as well

as schools of higher learning are being developed as fast as teachers can be trained. Egypt is rapidly enlarging her well-established school system and encouraging her Union for Social Reform to start nursery schools for children and schools of economics for girls. Egypt has also helped Ibn Sa'ud to organize a modern secondary school at Mecca. Private institutions, too, are developing as a result of the new independence. Some of them are managed in a personal way by individuals, but most of them are becoming incorporated under boards of trustees or pious foundations. One of the most interesting is the farm school in Palestine for Arab orphans.

There is also a tremendous demand for foreign education, as the Arabs realize that they must understand foreign culture and science if their progress is to be a success.

Our greatest problem at the American University of Beirut is to limit enrolment and also to do justice to the large number of students, whom we feel it only fair to accept. Our responsibility is so great that we especially appreciate the co-operation of the British Council, which supports a hostel at the University, as well as helping to supply three professors and several assistants. As there are also a number of Englishmen engaged independently of the Council on the staff at Beirut, in addition to numerous Arab teachers trained in England, our Anglo-Saxon culture and idealism can be presented to the students, free from all prejudice or division, in a constructive spirit of collaboration.

We have found by experience that our students tend to devote their energies and the benefits of their study to public service, as long as they feel that they can work as the free citizens of independent countries. Last year, for instance, three hundred students volunteered to do adult education work during the summer vacation and supported a camp for poor boys. During the winter student committees conducted night classes for six hundred poor boys and collected 22,000 Lebanese pounds for welfare work. The greatest benefit of independence is probably the psychological effect that it has on the youth.

But all thoughtful Arabs realize that this period of emancipation has its dangers, as well as its opportunities.

In the first place, there is the world-wide danger of religious unbelief, which makes for materialism, extravagance, pleasure seeking, social licence, and all kinds of corruption. If the Arab progress is to be enduring, it must be accompanied by an intellectual leadership, which can interpret spiritual principles in the light of modern science and form a new basis for faith. This is a problem which we all share alike, so that it is not in any way peculiar to the Arabs alone.

In the second place, progress must not be allowed to become merely the copying of foreign culture and manners, in a superficial way, without acquiring the traditions and refinements which have made Western civilization so great. The Arabs have the problem of selecting what is best in Western life and of so mixing it with their own heritage of tradition and behaviour, that they will form a new culture. This new culture, though modern, must be truly indigenous, so as to preserve the respect for personality and the chivalry for which the Arabs have been famous.

Finally, there is the all-important problem of avoiding division between the classes, and of using the benefits of modern life to uplift the poor, as well as the rich. As the progress of modern science and invention found its way into Egypt before the world awoke to understand the importance of social responsibility, there is a serious class division in the Valley of the Nile. The rising generation in Egypt is trying to cure this inherited evil in a courageous and public-spirited way.

But for the other Arab states, prevention will be better than cure. Steps must be taken to uplift the peasants, before a serious class division has time to develop. The problem is an especially critical one, as powerful agencies are doing their best to stir up discontent and a spirit of social radicalism in the Arab lands.

We are living in an exciting age of momentous changes. One of the most dramatic events in modern history is the Arab renaissance. It is essential for the good of the world that Arab independence and the progress it is inspiring should lead to new stability and confidence.

I am sure that all of us who are members of the Royal Central Asian Society wish to congratulate our Arab friends on the progress which they are making. At the same time we are ready to help them, in any way that we can, to face their unsolved problems, that, in the years to come, Arab independence may lead to enduring enlightenment and peace.

Colonel H. ST. CLAIR SMALLWOOD: Is the cotton produced in Syria comparable with the very good long staple of Egyptian cotton?

Dr. DODGE: No. As I understand it the cotton districts in Egypt and Cilicia produce better cotton. The Syrian cotton is not as good as the Egyptian but it is good enough for the cloth they are making there. They may make better cotton in time.

Professor CRESWELL: May I put in a word for the need to stress the value of the cultural treasures of the Middle East and not harp too much on modernism. In the first place, to my knowledge quite a number of beautiful monuments have been damaged and destroyed by the road-making mania. In Baghdad they have been making a *ronde point* through the Marjanayah Madrassah, when actually they could quite well have saved that Madrassah. There are in Baghdad five monuments dating from before 1600, and one of those has been nearly destroyed in order to get a road about three miles long dead-straight without any deflection. The sacrifice is not worth while. Again, when I heard Professor Dodge speaking of all the modern houses in Baghdad I shuddered to think of them. They are houses built one brick thick, whereas the old houses all had thick walls and a *sirdab* or underground room where one could take refuge in the heat of the day when the temperature is 120° F. How would anyone here like to be sitting in a room in a house with walls one brick thick in a temperature of 120° F., saying "Never mind, it is a modern house"? (Laughter.) No. Anybody who has any influence on Middle Eastern opinion should do all he can to get the people at the same time to respect their own cultural past and its achievements, especially in architecture.

The CHAIRMAN: The lecturer says he is not going to answer Professor Creswell as the Professor knows more about the subject than he.

Another MEMBER asked were the school books entirely in Arabic? Were children taught the alphabets of other languages?

Dr. DODGE: In many of the Government schools in 'Iraq and Syria, and Transjordan and, to some extent, in Egypt most of the courses, almost as far as Matriculation, are in Arabic. On the other hand, they teach foreign languages as well as they can and many schools teach them very well indeed. In many of the schools the children are helped to get a certain amount of scientific work done in a European language before they get their Matriculation. In the elementary schools in most of the countries of the Middle East the teaching is entirely in Arabic although in Lebanon there is insistence upon having some foreign language taught in the elementary schools, so that the children become accustomed to the pronunciation.

The CHAIRMAN: As there are no more questions, I should like to say that it has been a great privilege to listen to Dr. Dodge. We of Great Britain, and especially those of us who have worked in the Middle East to help the Arabs, are inclined to look at things too much from our own point of view. It has been most enlightening to hear what a disinterested observer from another nation has had to say. Some few of us have known the Arabs almost as long as Dr. Dodge and watched their progress with equal sympathy. I am one of those few, and I have always had great faith in their future. The changes during the last thirty years have been remarkable and will continue, for the different governments all have far-reaching schemes of development in contemplation.

In regard to what has already taken place, there is a point I would like to mention in connection with a remark of Dr. Dodge's about the roads in Baghdad itself. He was good enough to say that perhaps it was British influence which had started the development of Baghdad. As a matter of fact, it was not so. The credit was due almost entirely to S'aid Arshad Al 'Umari, the Mayor of Baghdad for many years. He was responsible for the laying out of the new city, and I think that other towns, most of which have been fashioned on the same lines as Baghdad, have taken their ideas from him. I have referred to the plans for development which all the Arab countries have. Their many friends will watch their progress with sympathetic interest and will hope that nothing will prevent their fulfilment at an early date.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Dodge for his interesting and brilliant lecture, and I am sure you would like me to thank him on your behalf for sparing the time to come to us this evening when he is such a busy man and for giving us all so much pleasure. (Applause.)

