

throughout Syria in 1860; but since then many European Christians have settled in the city, which has greatly increased in extent. Beyrout now has a good harbor, and there are so many European buildings and other European improvements that the place has lost many of its oriental characteristics in part.

Syria, in the ordinary modern sense of the name, consists of a long and narrow district of country lying on the east shore of the Mediterranean, extending from the highlands of the Taurus on the north to Egypt on the south, between 33 degrees, 5 minutes and 31 degrees north latitude, a distance of 370 miles. This includes Palestine. The country is divided lengthwise into several regions of very different character. From north to south extends a range of hills and mountains, broken by but few transverse valleys. To the west of these mountains lies the seaboard of the Mediterranean. To the east is the great Syrian desert, a fertile steppe which, when artificially watered, yields the most luxurious produce. This is the great interior of the country and is called a desert because of its lack of water; it extends at a mean level of about 1,900 feet to the neighborhood of the river Euphrates and is inhabited by independent nomadic Beduins; it is traversed by numerous caravans. If Syria is taken in its strict sense as meaning that part of the country which is cultivated, its eastern limit is the desert, and is therefore but vaguely defined.

Owing to the great inequalities in the surface of the country, the climate varies greatly in different parts of Syria. The year as a rule consists only of two seasons: the rainy and the dry. Spring, which is the most pleasant part of the year, last from the middle of March till the middle of May. From the beginning of May to the end of October the sky is almost uninterceptedly cloudless. Thunder and rain during the wheat harvest, as mentioned in I Samuel, 12: 17, 18, are of very rare occurrence. Heavy dews usually fall at night, even in the height of summer; but this is not the case on the desert. Toward the end of October clouds begin to rise, and the rainy season is sometimes ushered in by several thunderstorms. This is the first or former rain of the Bible. (Deut. 11: 14; Joel, 2: 23), which softens the parched up soil to such an extent that the husbandman can plow it December, January and February are generally stormy and rainy, the rain taking the form of snow among the higher mountains. The "latter rains" falling in March and April promote the growth of the crops.

The variations of temperature in Syria are very considerable. In the interior as well as in the hill land of Palestine and the mountains further north, the thermometer often falls below the freezing point. At Damascus (2,265 feet above the sea level,) Jerusalem (2,594 feet) and even at Aleppo (1,143 feet) snow falls almost every winter, though it usually lies no longer than a day. East of the Jordan, however, snow lies for several days, and on some of the mountain peaks of Lebanon all the year round. The highest temperature ever recorded at Jerusalem was (in August, 1881) 112 degrees Fahr., the lowest 25 deg. Fahr. (January, 1864). The climate of the valley of the Jordan is much hotter.

The population of Syria is estimated at about two millions, of which about 650,000 live within that area of country which is generally called Palestine. Ethnographically, the population consists of Franks, Jews, Syrians, Arabs and Turks, or, according to religions, of Mohammedans, Christians and Jews and several other sects. The Franks (Europeans) who are residents of Pale-

stine form a very small proportion of the population. Distinct from them are the so-called Levantines—Europeans (especially Italians and Greeks) or descendants of Europeans, who have entirely adopted the manners of the country. The Jews, who remained in the country after the destruction of Jerusalem were but few in number; most of them who now reside in Palestine are comparatively recent settlers from Europe. By Syrians is meant the descendants of all those people who spoke Aramaic at the beginning of the Christian era, with the exception of the Jews. The native Christians are mostly descendants of the population which occupied Syria before the promulgation of Mohammedism. The establishment of El-Islam as the state religion of Syria caused a number of Christians (Syrians and Greeks) to embrace it, while others held fast to their own religion. The Aramaic language gave place to the Arabic. The Arabian population consists of hadari, or settled, and bedawi (plural bedu), or nomadic tribes. The latter are mostly of pure Arabic blood; while the settled population is of a very mixed origin. The Beduins are professedly Moslems; but, as a rule, their sole care is for their flocks, and their predatory expeditions. They are the direct descendants of the half-savage nomads who have inhabited Arabia from time immemorial. Their dwellings consist of portable tents made of black goats' hair. It is supposed that the black "tents of Kedar," mentioned in Solomon's Song 1: 5, was made of the same material. The Turks are the official part of the community, and are not numerous in Syria; they are classed as intellectually inferior to the Arabs, but are shrewd and far-seeing. Arab is the language of the country, but French, Greek, Italian, Russian, English, etc., is also spoken. Most of the business men and many others speak several languages.

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PUBERTY AND ADOLESCENCE.

The attendance had largely increased by the second day, inasmuch that more seating room had to be provided. The teachers greeted Dr. Hall with enthusiasm as he stepped upon the platform. Following is substantially what he said:

Puberty, the time when the procreative functions are completely developed, ranges from 10 to 13 years with girls, and 11 to 15 years with boys. Puberty marks the ushering in of adolescence, which may ordinarily be said to cover a period of ten years. It is without doubt the most important epoch in the educational life of the individual. The facts herewith presented represent the cream from many pans. It is only recently that this period of life has received the attention it deserves from psychologists. But the harvest of facts has been unusually large and valuable, and as a consequence we are furnished with a new basis for the construction of a philosophy of education.

First of all the physical changes are so great as to amount almost to a reconstruction. There is a rapid increase of growth, reaching to as high as 6 and 8 inches in a single year. Instances have been recorded where the growth has been 12 and even 14 inches, but these are cases of disease.

The upward movement is most rapid in the spring, the thickening process beginning in midsummer, increasing slowly during the fall and ceasing altogether during the winter. The most rapid of all is the growth of the brain. By the twelfth year it has attained almost completely its normal size and weight. Thereafter its changes are functional. It grows in complexity. The association fibres connect part

with part, and as a general result the texture increases in rigidity.

The muscles begin to grow most rapidly when the brain ceases. This is a period which demands rest in order to give the growing fibres complete and undisturbed opportunity. As indicative of the increased chemical activity of the body, the temperature rises one and a half degrees. The molecular changes become more rapid the bones become brittle, and the cross-section measurement of the arteries increases day by day.

A complete reversal of the relative size of the heart and arteries takes place, resulting in unusual blood pressure, which may serve to account in part for the strong feelings of emotion which surge through the mind and secure during this critical period.

It is now that hereditary begins to assert itself most strongly. Ancestral traits undreamed of come to the front. Children who up to this period have resembled one parent in disposition and appearance, often change so completely as to resemble the other. Hereditary diseases also begin to show themselves; but such is the marvelous recuperative power of nature that if adolescence is given its best opportunity, such weaknesses are usually overcome. This is another reason why freedom from hard labor should be secured during this critical period.

Who has not been struck with the sudden changes that occur in the habits of young people in respect of all that pertains to their own personality? Both in regard to physical and also mental changes adolescence amounts in effect to a re-birth.

The sense of touch becomes unusually acute; so also the fine pressure sense. Children who a year or two before blundered unconsciously against anything that came in their way, recognizing nothing that did not actually inflict pain, now become sensible of the slightest contact.

Unusual attention is bestowed upon the toilet. Boys begin to patronize the barber long ere other people can see any signs of a beard. Girls spend hours before a mirror, studying the possibilities of toilet devices to enhance their natural charms.

The sense of taste becomes keen, and demands strong flavors. Girls satisfy the newly awakened craving by endless quantities of candy and bon-bons. Boys are in danger of the tobacco and liquor habits.

The ear is likewise sensitized. The love of noise for its own sake ends and the love of music begins. Sounds in nature, unnoticed hitherto, begin to attract attention. Girls wander in ecstasy amid the bowers of feathered songsters. Boys are alive to every sound about them and strive to imitate dogs, cats, horses, cows, sheep and other animals. It is likewise the golden period of whistling.

The voice is also stimulated to restless activity. Girls practice singing, and boys yell with a gusto that would charm the heart of a Comanche.

The eye becomes sensitive to colors and form, and flowers win new aesthetic converts. A May day party of girls might be mistaken, so far as color goes, for an unusual aggregation of butterflies, and boys select neck-ties that make you wink.

A curious transformation takes place in speech. The garrulous prattle of childhood ceases; for young ladies and gentlemen cannot condescend to communicate their ideas by baby talk. A dumb-found period ensues for boys. Their minds are much enlarged with things; very little with the signs and symbols of things. The result is that their speeches are monosyllabic or at best agglutinative. Slang becomes not only a great temptation but almost a necessity; for slang is a sort of vocal