

Kasr El-Aini under British influence .

In 1890, Hassan Pasha Mahmoud was appointed President of the School. The School deteriorated as the political chaos influenced its regime. Many Egyptian professors protested against the appointment of Hassan Pasha Mahmoud: especially that he came after the great reformer, Eissa Pasha Hamdy. In response to their protest, Hassan Pasha forbade students to go on missions abroad. The British appointed Dr. Keating professor of Anatomy. As a matter of fact, he was really the actual president of the school. As the School was having a good deal of trouble, Eissa Pasha was consulted by the authorities to return to the School, but he refused, and asked them to appoint Ibrahim Pasha Hassan who was quite decent; and so Keating was appointed deputy-president only in name, when he was actually the president.

In 1893, internal troubles took place in the School, and its policy was criticized. It was thought that the aim of this policy was to weaken higher education so that Egyptians would not be able to be qualified and so they could never dispense with European aid. They used to let a dermatologist teach ophthalmia. The Professor of the law of health taught dermatology. Many Egyptian professors were obliged to leave, out of dignity. Among these professors, there were doctors that were highly qualified, and were universally famous, like Hassan Khorshid Bey, Mohamed Dorry bey, Mohamed Elwy Bey, and Osman Ghaly Bey.

In 1897 the Government invited Sir E. Cooper Perry to come to Cairo and report on the situation. He forcibly pointed out that «To effect the requisite cohesion between the teaching in the school and in the hospital the scientific and the clinical - a unity of control and direction was essential».

In 1898, Keating was officially appointed the president of the school. He remained in his position till he put an end to the rest of the Egyptian system of the school. He forbade sending missions abroad, and he gradually drove out Egyptians and appointed foreigners. Their came a time when there no more Egyptian professors except for Mohamed Pasha Shoukry the professor who eventually resigned in protest. Other assistants, like Dr. Talaat, Aly Bey Labeeb and Aly Bey Heider, resigned too. The number of students decreased so much that only two doctors graduated in 1899 . All professors were non-Egyptian like Keating (1890) for Anatomy, and Pathology (1896), Symmers for Medicine, Milton for Surgery, Moden for surgery, Scott Fisher for Ophthalmia, Arthur Loss for Parasites then Schmidt for Chemistry, and Elliot Smith the world renowned anatomist for Anatomy and was succeeded by Professor Derry.

In 1903, the British plan was complete. It not only abolished the Egyptian school, but also replaced the Arabic language with the English language. The reign of the genius and Egyptian professors, like Osman Bey Ghaleb, had come to an end.

Through the influence of Dr. Keating, the years of study became four, instead of six. Chaos prevailed. An official committee headed by Mr. Dunlop was held then to investigate that chaos and to discuss the system of teaching. Newspapers published the point of view of the committee, which stated that the system was inconvenient. Riad Pasha, Minister of Education, was obliged to insist on firing Dr. Keating. Lord Cromer tried hard to keep him till he found him another job. Actually, he tried hard to make him deputy-president of the prison-department in place of Dr. Mahmoud Bey Moustafa, but Keating refused.

Ceasing to send governmental scientific missions to Europe, in the days of the British, harmed the future of the School. There came a tim (when they lacked efficient Egyptians to teach in the School of Medicine The School confined itself to graduating necessary doctors for the (different departments. We can understand Lord Cromer's crooke(Imperial policy toward Kasr El-Aini when we read his report in 1906 «This school graduated twenty doctors last year. Although many would like to join it, fifty only are accepted yearly, regardless of the fact that the number of doctors in the country is still less than what is expected. The more people are enlightened, the more they need to consult doctors. Di Keating, the president, says he is quite convinced that we should be cautious concerning the progress of the School especially from the point of view of the number of its graduates. He says that if many graduate doctors did not find sufficient work, the School would be affected, and 5 the number of those wishing to join it would decrease. There is no need t increase the number of students of the School of Medicine as long as the government has not complained of the number becoming less. I a convenience that we do not find a more dangerous factor in this country than having doctors who are in need». As a result of this unsound policy, the number of doctors decreased greatly. When Aly Pasha Ibrahim was in the first year in the School of Medicine, the number of students in the first years was twelve, and in the other years of study, there

were fifteen students only.

Strange to say, the barbers that were taught by Clot Bey, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, were still - when doctors were lacking - true patriots working for the public health. It is strange to say that barbers were responsible for a great deal of important health proceedings at the beginning of the 20th century and in the reign of the British administration. In spite of that, the British president of the School warned the government against hurrying into increasing the number of doctors. We here quote what Dr. Mohamed Sharaf exactly said about the health condition of the country in the days of Keating : «At the beginning of Dr. Keating '5 presidency, there four graduates in 1894; and in 1899, two doctors only, through the country was in great need of medical reform». Epidemics killed people. Great numbers of children were killed. The number of dead people per year was like the number of dead people caused by cholera and plague. The poor country was a victim of microbes and prey to worms and mosquitoes. Cairo had more dirty slums than any other place in the world. The report of Pavrotes in 1919 states «Cairo buildings do not suit any human being. No means of reform could be achieved unless the country has the sufficient number of doctors. In 1918, there was one doctor to 100,000 persons and there was a hospital per half a million persons» (Sir David Simples Report).

One of the French newspapers in Cairo wrote about the chaos in the School of Medicine at the beginning of British influence: «The School of

Medicine has become like an English shop. It does not resemble any Systematic school».

Coming generations will remember that Dr. Mohamed Sharaf answered clearly, patriotically, and truly, the report that Dr. Sandwith had published in the reports of Kasr El-Aini. Dr. Naguib Mahfouz Pasha published the report in his book, The History of Teaching Medicine in Egypt. Dr. Sandwith had not been fair to Egyptians and to their efficiency. He said that Egyptians were not fit for bearing the responsibility of education. He underestimated the great efforts and attributed all glory to the English people alone..