



A BUFFALO GIRL WHO HAS GONE ABROAD FOR STUDY. Miss Miss Morgana, whose voice possesses great possibilities. She will develop it abroad.—From a photograph by Rowley.

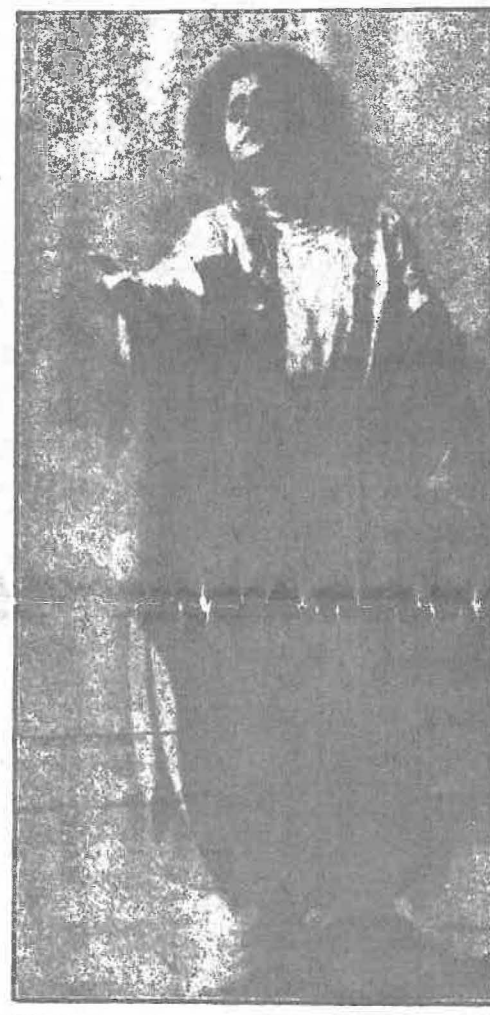
### The Syrian Colony of Buffalo

After the Teutonic and Celtic influx to the United States, followed the immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe, and in the wake of this movement came the Orientals from Turkey, Arabia, Armenia and Syria. It is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics as to the number of Orientals who arrived here. It is estimated, however, that 25,000 out of a population of 60,000 in Syria proper, the territory

any attempt at ornate or characteristic architecture, all tends to lend a domestic tone to the colony. In addition to this the very apparent tendency on the part of the present inmates to affect the American mode of dress is considered—the Semitic races show much greater adaptability in the matter of dress than the Aryan races—it seems a wonder at first sight that so much that is foreign has been preserved and that

The Syrians are a large and well-built race, the jet black curly hair, the dark, luminous eyes and bronze complexion show their Oriental origin, the strong protruding nose reveals their Semitic descent. More composed in their demeanor, more dandified in their appearance—many of the men wear white shirts and stiff collars and the women adorn themselves with embroidery and lace head dresses—and less vivacious and energetic in their manners than their next-door neighbors, the Italians, they appear more Americanized. The groups of Syrians seen about are nearly all composed of men and children. The women are out hustling for a living, peddling, the chief occupation of the colony, while the men stay home and take care of the children, or

work to very much give to the custom-gatherer and dispenser of abstract questions. Many of the men seek employment in nearby factories, if it is to be had. They are not very much inclined to manual labor, however. Less energetic than the Armenians, a tacit acknowledgment of which is found in the Syrian proverb, "It takes two Christians to conquer an Armenian," they seek to satisfy their commercial instincts in the bulk that is open to them in peddling or trade in notions and Oriental wares in small stores. Being of a different race and having lived under conditions entirely foreign to Occidental civilization, they differ greatly in their mode of life, in spite of all appearances to the contrary, from the South European races that have come here within the last twenty or 30 years. Many of the peculiar customs to which they still adhere were undoubtedly dictated by sanitary reasons due to conditions in their Syrian home, while others seem entirely meaningless. Most of the men and women bear deep scars at the base of the brain and on the top of the forehead, which were produced shortly after birth by means of a hot iron. The popular explanation is that it is good for the eyes; the probability is, however, that these indentations would be convenient places where leeches might be



MISS MORGANA IN CHARACTER.—Rowley, photo.

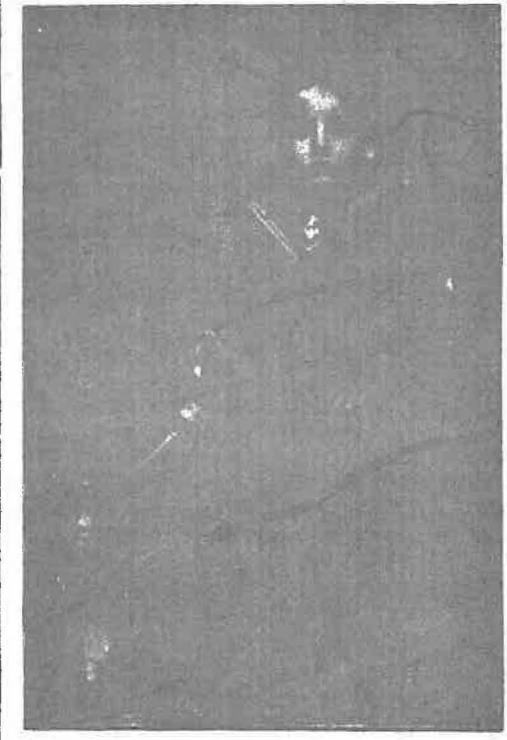


SCENES IN THE SYRIAN COLONY OF

interested in the East will find it worth his while to go there on Sundays and observe the many quaint usages that have been preserved in the services. The church is still very poor and no parochial school is connected with it. If sufficient means can be obtained later on, one will be established where Syrian and Arabic will be taught. The present pastor of the church is a Syrian who received his clerical education in Paris. France is one of the seven powers under whose supervision Syria

is governed within the last five years. Her influence in the affairs of the country, regulated according to the French pattern, is still very great, and many of the Maronites look upon the radical republic of France as the protector of their faith. There is a saying in Syria that the establishment of one mission in a village means that there will be three or four more in no time. Other denom-

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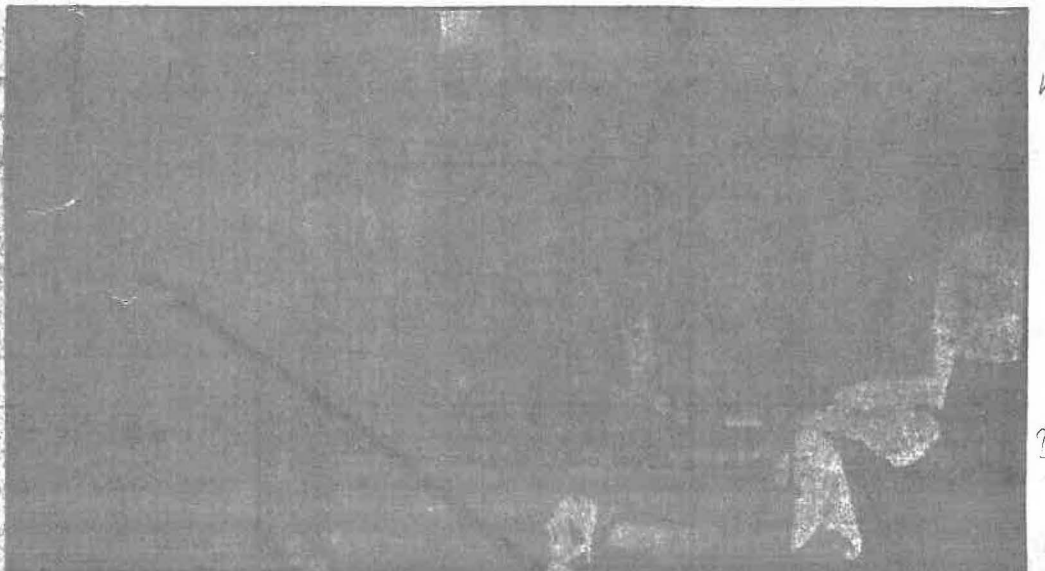


A SYRIAN BOY AND A TURKISH PIPE.

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baby grow straight. During this period the head of the little creature rests on a hard flat surface, for in conformity with the Syrian ideal of beauty the base of the head must be flat and straight, not rounded as with the Americans. It is considered very injurious to take a bath within 40 days after a person has left a sickbed. Most of the Syrians are Maronites, Roman Catholics, the rest are Greek

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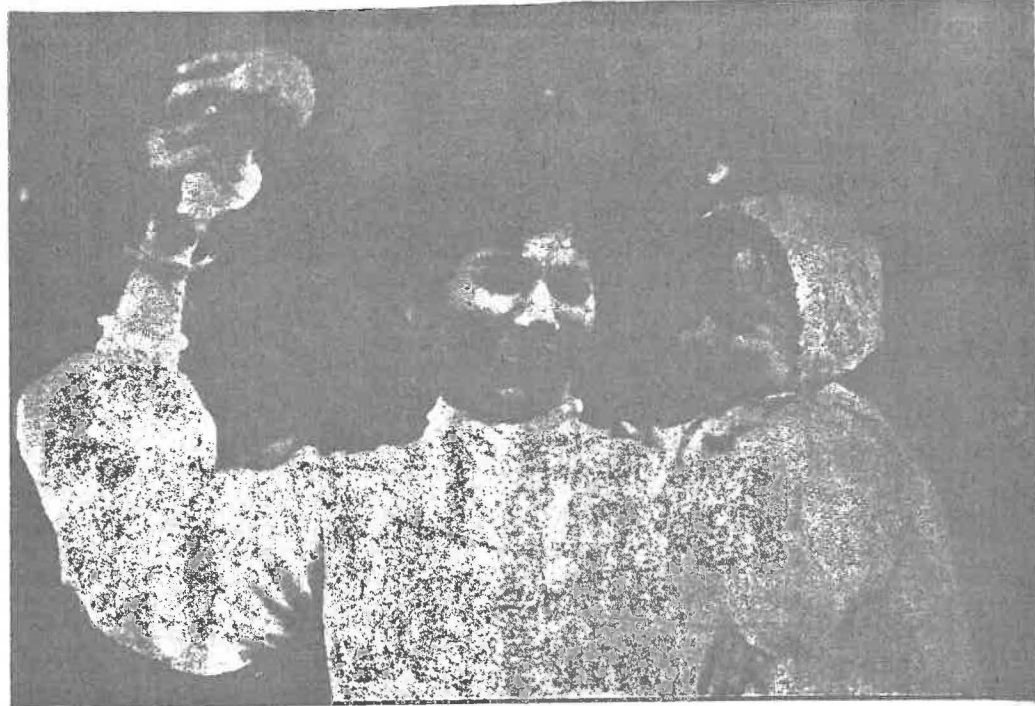




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SCENES IN THE SYRIAN COLONY OF BUFFALO: A SYRIAN WOMAN AND HER BABY.

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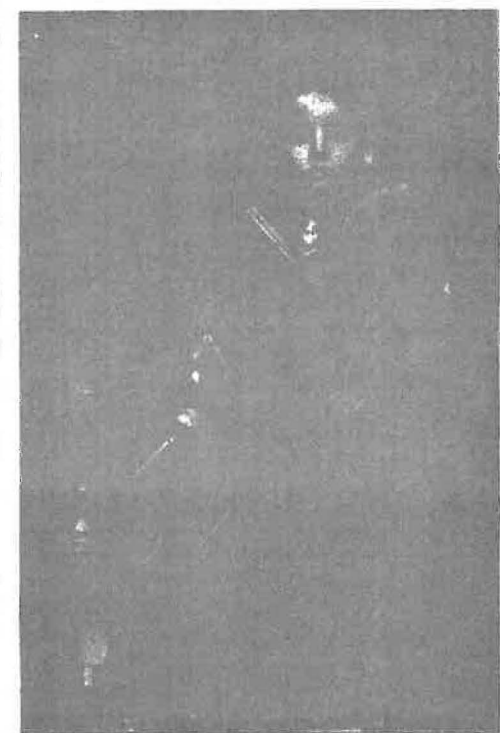
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inations. Within their church, there are factions between whom fierce controversies have been waged. On the other hand, as so many religious influences have been brought to bear on the Syrians in the course of the centuries, there exists among them a commendable tolerance for other forms of belief that would put many of the Western nations to shame. The Syrian immigration to the United States is the result of the tendency of a people gradually gaining in strength under conditions unfavorable to their welfare, materially and spiritually, to seek a new field. The incursions of the Druses, fierce Western mountain tribes, their neighbors in Syria, gave the final start to the movement a little less than twenty years ago. Unlike the energetic Italians—to whom they are compared because they live side by side here in Buffalo—who respond at once to the call for labor in the New World, the repose of the Syrian character mingled with Oriental conservatism prevents them from solving the problems of Occidental civilization in so direct a manner. Preferring a commercial activity, where they must compete with races more energetic, their progress in the new social order of things is seriously hampered. The fact that when a Syrian returns to his native home, his countrymen look askance at him, because of his radical opinions and pro-

cessing and when more than 30 per cent. of unemployment is in the building trade itself. But the government has been more influenced by questions of economy than by anything else, and the peared building fills the bill at about a third less cost than an ordinary structure, even in brick. In stone, of course, the difference is almost two thirds less in favor of pouring. The new postoffice building is being constructed according to the Marseilles system—a French invention, though it differs little from the American application of the same principle. Great iron rods extend throughout the frame work, and around these cement is poured, being kept in place by boards until it is quite solid. It is claimed that the concrete solidifies quite to the hardness of stone, and the structure will last as long, and bear as much weight as the strongest stone buildings. The new postoffice wing has tremendously deep foundations, as it was found that the soil near Saint Paul's Cathedral was not of the character to support a great building, unless the foundations were exceptionally well laid. Considerable mystery has surrounded the putting up of this new postoffice wing. The work has been delayed a long time. Though it should have been given out four years ago, nothing was



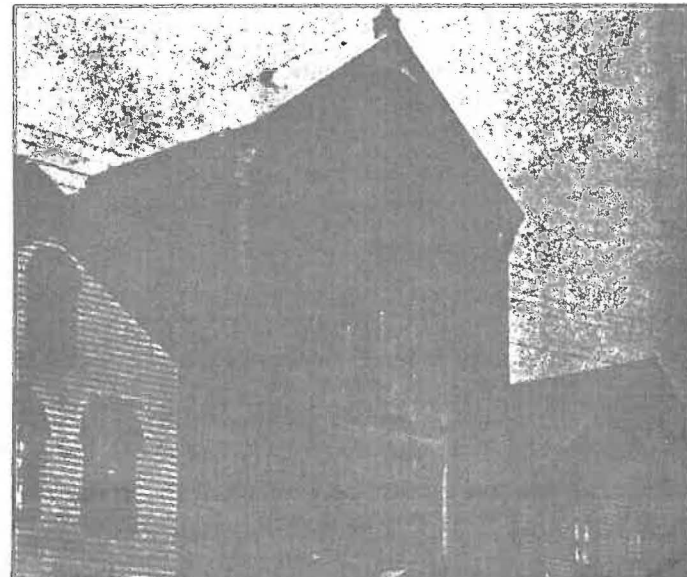
MISS MORGANA IN CHARACTER.—Rowley, photo.



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PART 2-V

TODAY

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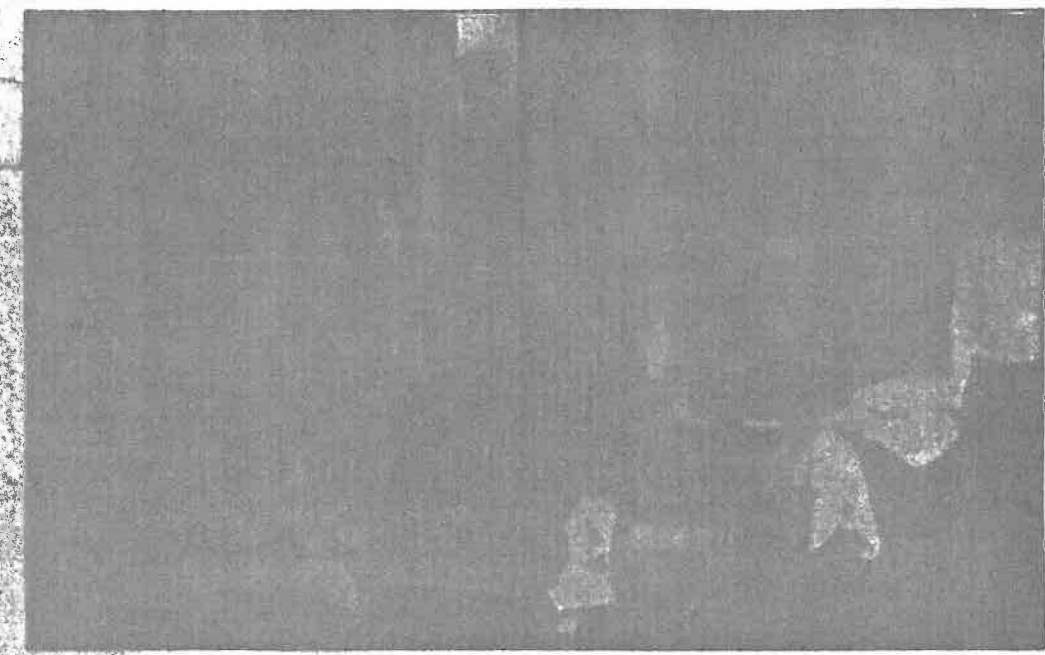
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Armenia, Armenia, and Syria. It is almost impossible to obtain reliable statistics of the number of Orientals who arrived here. It is estimated, however, that 10,000 out of a population of 200,000 in Syria proper, the territory

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YOU SEE MEN TAKING CARE OF THE CHILDREN IN THE SYRIAN COLONY.

adjacent to the cities of Beirut and Damascus, immigrated to the United States within the last decade and a half. Of this number about 100 have made their homes in Buffalo and settled west and on Seneca street. Scattered among them are Greek and Armenian families.

The Syrian colony is one of those small foreign settlements that are formed in all of the large American cities. The electric cars, the tracks on the streets and the dwelling-houses—originally built for English speaking people, and first occupied by them—that like the thousands of homes created every year in the poorer part of the American cities, are entirely innocent of

the Oriental type is so conspicuous. An explanation of this is found in the physical appearance of the race and the mode of life in which its characteristics are reflected.

To reach the Syrian colony, a quarter occupied by small stores kept by Germans, Jews and Irish an Italian settlement must be traversed, which obscures, by the way, the order in which these races have come. There is no distinct line of demarcation between the different quarters. In hot weather you are likely to see the inmates outside the tenement houses. They are seated in groups on the doorsteps, to draw some fresh air, and here it is that they may be observed to best advantage.

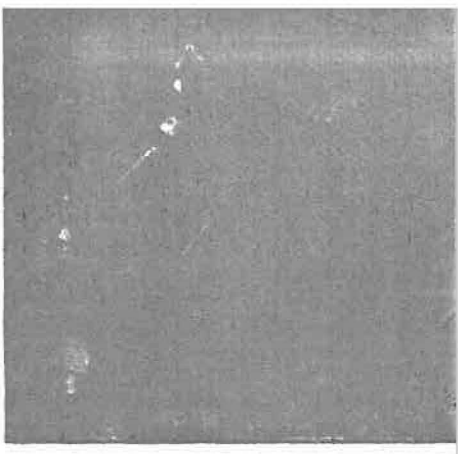
lead to the small stores of which there are several in the colony.

In no other race does the woman occupy such a position as with the Syrians. When she comes home and there is time, after the manifold duties of the family have been discharged, she is, in turn, privileged to associate freely with the so-called stronger sex. The man, in granting her an immortal soul unlike her Moslem sister, accepts her drudgery as a matter of course. The family life is pleasant enough, and both sexes seem to be devoted to the children. At night they sit about, man and woman, and gossip. Very frequently the subject of discussion is a religious topic, for like all Orientals this

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Most of the Syrians are Maronites, Roman Catholics, the rest are Greek Catholics and Protestants. In spite of the effort towards uniformity in the Roman Church, they maintain a mode of worship that differs in some respects from that of the Western church. The ritual is performed according to the Oriental rite, the mass is said in Syrian, not in Latin. If the priest is married before he takes final religious orders, he is permitted to retain his wife. Belonging originally to a monothelistic sect that in the fourth century after Christ was driven from the country near Antioch in Asia Minor, they drew near the Roman Church during the Crusades and finally subscribed to the articles of the ecumenical council of Trent in the fifteenth century.

Their little church, built some five years ago and situated in the heart of the colony, is named after Saint John Maron, the patron saint of Syria, who lived in the seventh century after Christ and who rallied his flock about him and fought successfully against Moslem aggression. Anyone who is

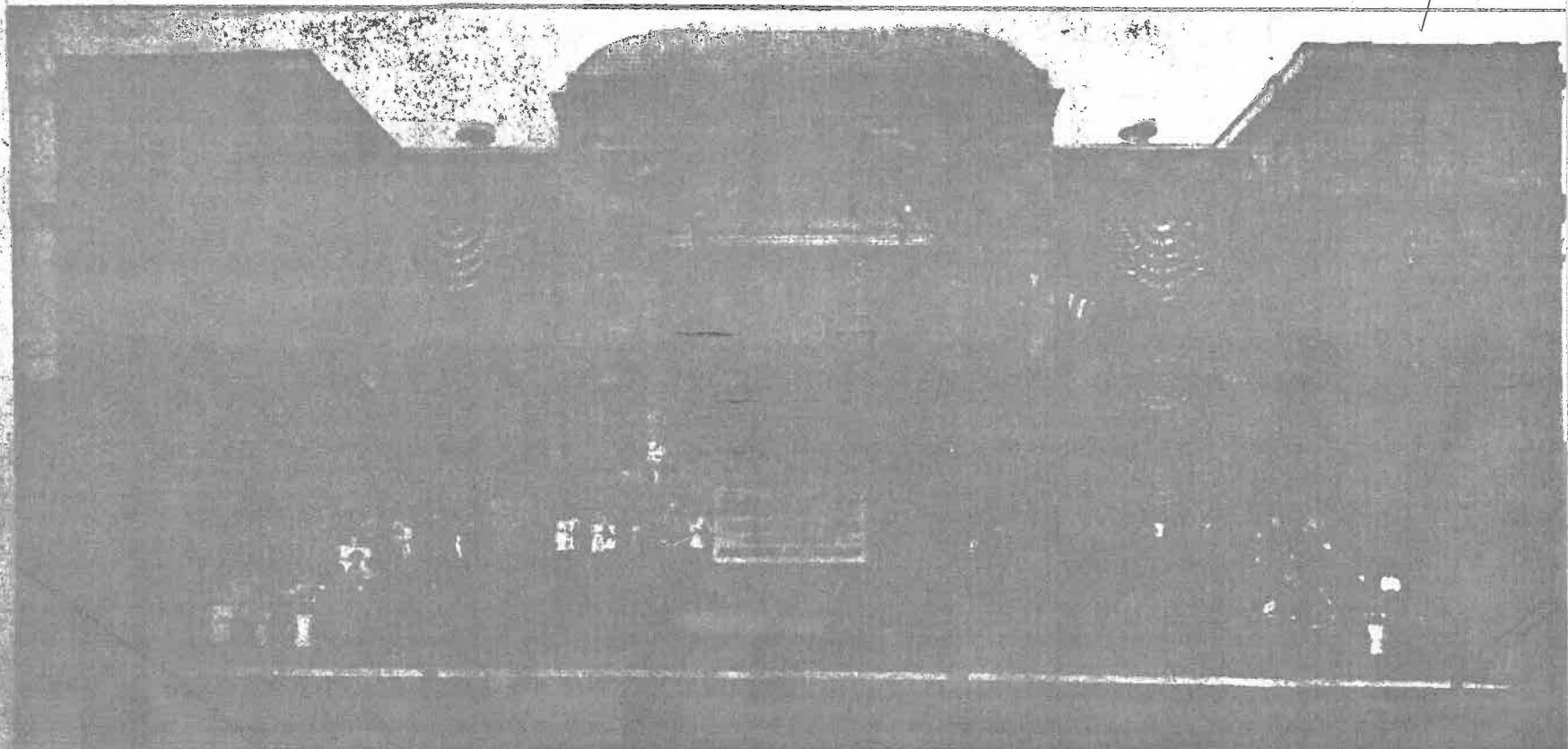


A SYRIAN BOY AND A TURKISH PIPE

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There is a saying in Syria that the establishment of one mission in a city means that there will be three more in no time. Other denominations hurry to build missions to get for converts. The existing Welcome Hall, an institution situated in the local colony, maintained by the Presbyterian Church, seems almost to parallel these conditions. Such a comparison can be drawn, however, as Welcome Hall is not a mission but devoted exclusively to settling and other philanthropic work. It attempts in the right direction to the inmates of the colony as well as other settlements of the neighborhood for here they are taught what citizenship means and in general a high standard of living. The dark waifs of the colony come here to receive instructions and to be treated their little aches and pains; they are followed by their mothers who, disheartened at first, become very much interested and friendly under the kindness they receive—and all speak of the Syrian woman.

As stated, the race is intensely religious and very prone to enter into



THE HOLY ANGELS SCHOOL ON WEST AVENUE, AND SOME OF THE CHILDREN WHO GO THERE.—From a photograph by Walter R. Starr.



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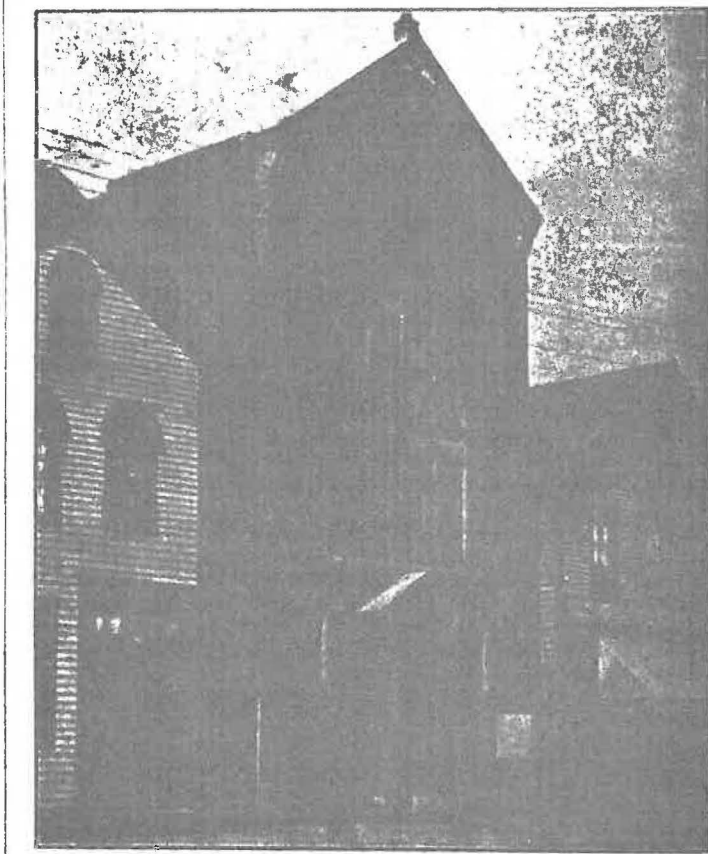
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gressive ways, shows, however, that he is adapting himself to the Western mode of life, and that the unchangeable East is changing, after all.

In the continuous adjustment of internal relations to external relations, which marks the life of a race, the Syrian has had strength enough, in spite of the immense pressure of Mohammedan civilization, to maintain the faith which he inherited from his ancestors. This strength of character is his most valuable asset, and it will serve him, as nothing else could, in his struggle for advancement and progress in the New World.

ERRLAND GJESSING.



THE SYRIAN CHURCH OF SAINT JOHN MARON. On Seneca street.—Pictures of the Syrian colony are by Erland Gjessing.

done until quite recently. The secret of the delay is to be found in the fact that the English Government was so hard hit over the Boer War that it could not enlarge the postoffice until it had recovered its financial equilibrium. The government has been promising to give out this work for so long, and it has been so much delayed that people began to think nothing would ever be done. In the final adoption of the Hennobriquo system, the expectations of out-of-work builders, bricklayers and contractors have been disappointed. Though several deputations have waited on the government and requested that an ordinary stone building should be put up—similar to the new war office—the request was turned down owing to reasons of economy. The cost of the new building is to be, on completion, \$1,352,563.

**New "Poured Building" is a Surprise to London.**

London, Dec. 24.—"Poured buildings," or reinforced concrete structures, are the latest wonders in London just now. Though this process of putting up buildings has long been known in America, its advent in England is of recent date, and it is attracting a great deal of public attention.

What has brought the question of brickless and stoneless buildings to the front is the fact that the British Government is putting up a great new wing to the general postoffice by the new process. There is not a brick or stone in the entire structure, and the speed with which the work is being done astonishes the natives. From the trade-union point of view, the government is severely criticised for introducing labor-saving building into government contracts at a time when the unemployed question is

will appear in the coming cat show. Lady Bufal, owned by Mrs. G. Fletcher. Took first prize and special in the kitten class in the 1906 show.

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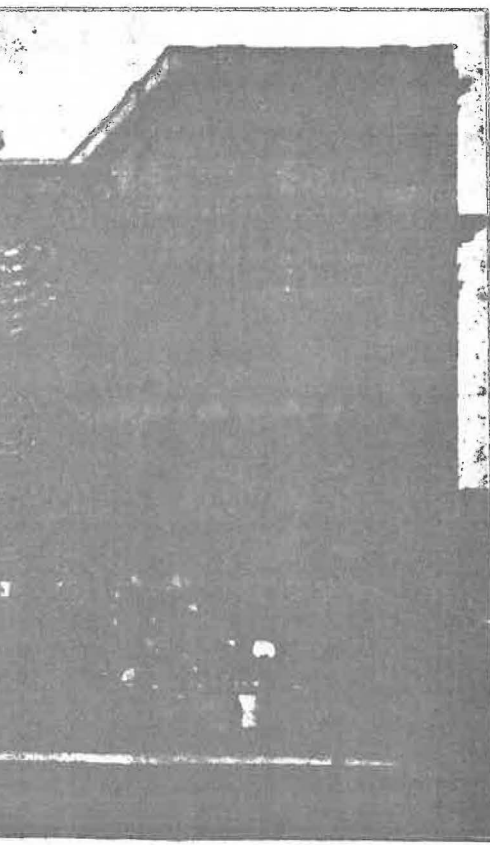
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