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EDITED BY WATSON DAVIS

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EDWIN E. SLOSSON, Director
WATSON DAVIS, Managing Editor



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AMERICAN CLASSICAL LIBRARY DEDICATED IN ATHENS

By Prof. R. V. D. Magoffin, President,
Archaeological Institute of America.

The Gennadius Library, or Gennadeion, a magnificent marble building erected in Athens by the American School of Classical Studies to house the library presented four years ago by Dr. Joannes Gennadius, has been dedicated and opened for service. The ceremony, which was one of great solemnity, was opened by the formal consecration of the structure by the Greek Archbishop of Athens. Speeches of presentation were made by President Pangalos of Greece, by Henry Smith Pritchett, president of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which supplied a fund of \$250,000 for the erection of the building, and by Dr. Gennadius, donor of the library. The speech of acceptance on behalf of the American School of Classical Studies was made by Prof. Edward Capps of Princeton University.

The Gennadeion is one of the most useful and at the same time one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. It is made in classic columnar style entirely of white Naxian marble. It would have been made from marble from the quarries in Mt. Pentelicus, a few miles from Athens, which supplied most of the marble for those universally admired ancient Greek temples on the Athens Acropolis, but the Pentelic quarries do not supply the beautiful white marble they once did, so recourse was had to the snow white product of the quarries of the Greek island of Naxos. The Gennadeion houses the most complete library in the world in the general Greek field, is to be open to students of all countries on equal terms, but is owned and administered by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, the oldest of the foreign schools founded by the Archaeological Institute of America.

It is not far from being a romance how this magnificent library and library building came to be under the aegis of a school belonging to the United States of America.

Several years ago Dr. Gennadius, an elderly and wealthy Greek, who for many years had been Minister from Greece to St. James, was on an official visit to this country. At a luncheon in a club in Washington, D. C., he spoke of his library, and how he had been well advised to bring the most valuable part of it to London before the World War. He deplored the inability of his country to house properly his library; and more than that, he spoke of the uncertain status of the east Mediterranean area, which seemed not to warrant the belief that Greece could be absolutely sure of being able to maintain and protect such a collection against future eventualities.

He thought that perhaps the best solution of the matter would be to present his library to Great Britain and let it be housed in London.

This statement seemed almost a challenge. Several of the men present were stirred to the depths of their being. Among them was Prof. Edward Capps of Princeton, who had been at the head of the American Red Cross in Greece during the War, and later U. S. Minister there, and who also was chairman of the managing committee of the School of Classical Studies at Athens. This seemed to be the chance to further a splendid enterprise under American auspices. The entire matter was presented at the earliest possible moment to the President and Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. These wise and patriotic gentlemen sensed immediately the significance of the opportunity and appropriated the money necessary to build a marble library worthy of the collection of books which M. Gennadius was ready to bestow. It was a direct answer to his fervent hope, which was to see his books in his native land, worthily housed, and assured of an efficient and safe administration.

PLANTS LIVE FOR MONTHS IN SEALED GLASS BULBS

An array of vegetable Robinson Crusoes, small living plants, each cut completely off from the outside world by being hermetically sealed in an old electric light bulb, is now on display at the building of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Research Council in Washington. Though they have been shut up in their glass prisons for several months, receiving nothing from outside except sunlight and warmth, they thrive and grow, using the same supplies of water and air over and over again.

The system of growing plants in sealed bulbs was invented by Raymond H. Wallace, a young graduate student in the department of botany at Columbia University. It was designed as a demonstration of the ability of green plants to live completely independently, an ability not shared by animals.

The plants, which include several ferns and fern-allies, a small sensitive-plant and a seedling evergreen, are so mounted in the spoonful of soil that is allowed them that they receive a constant but no excessive supply of water from beneath. As water evaporates from their leaves, it is condensed on the walls of the glass bulb and runs down, to be used over again.

The original supply of air imprisoned in the bulb is also used repeatedly, in a slightly more complex cycle. Plants make a double use of air. They take in oxygen and give off carbon dioxide, just as animals do though it was formerly taught that they performed only the reverse process. They do perform a reverse process, taking in carbon dioxide and giving off oxygen. That, however, is not a part of their breathing but a part of the food-making process, wherein by the aid of sunlight they build the carbon and part of the oxygen of the carbon dioxide into starch and sugar, releasing the remainder of the oxygen into the air. Because plants play this double role, Mr. Wallace's green hermits can keep up the game of life indefinitely.

Since they build the carbon dioxide into food, the plants would naturally stop growing when the small original supply of this gas in the sealed up air was exhausted