

they coiled up in their black shawls and entered the land of Morpheus, without the least concern for the duties of the hour or the staid old professors. It was an interesting sight, and so were many of the other large halls which we entered and walked among the hundreds of groups of students, Nubians, Tunisians and Assyrians, being taught by about two hundred professors (Sahiks), who sat with crossed legs on slightly raised stools and read from books placed on low desks before them, seemingly explaining each sentence as they proceeded. The students sat around them in a circle listening attentively.

This vast assembly of students spend from three to five years studying the Koran. They come from all parts of Egypt, many are the sons of wealthy parents who can afford to send their sons to the university, but the greater majority were sent there from distant villages at the expense of public subscriptions with the understanding that when they returned they were expected to impart their learning to their benefactors, thus the faith of Mahommed is being spread throughout Egypt. The students live in the university in a very frugal manner. They all have lockers which surround the various halls or rooms, where they receive their instruction, and in them they generally keep a week's supply of rations. We saw many of them having lunch, consisting of a plain piece of bread and a bowl of water. Groups of four or five sit around a small table and dip their bread into a bowl of