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Dear Friends,

I am very thankful to the enlightened and devoted Director of this college because he has given me the happy opportunity to have a talk with you on some important subject concerning your education; I wish I had much time in this country, which is my Fatherland, and ~~to~~ deliver you a series of lectures to let you know my personal opinion ^{I have acquired through} ~~as~~ (as a result of my long life experience) on the principal questions concerning our happiness, our duties, our rights, our aims in life. As, we have no ^{long experience and} much time unfortunately, I will give you some drops of sound ^{opinions which} ~~sound~~ ^{studies.}

You all are students, and I am the oldest one among you, so we can have a friendly talk on every question concerning the basal problems of individual and

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social life.

Let us ~~let~~ consider first the problem of education, ~~for~~ because it is perhaps the most important among all other problems for you and for your teachers as well. A school is a special institution where we get an appropriate education in order to succeed in life.

What is then an education? It is simply a method for preparing a young man, to fulfill successfully his duty and realize a high Standard in life. It is then evident that education must be in a civilized society, quite specific according to the carrier followed by a young man. It is obvious to say, that the kind of knowledge

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undispensable for an electrician, for an architect, a statesman
a violonist, a painter, a chemist a poet a doctor, a carpenter
an officer, a merchant, a philosopher, etc etc. can not be
same. Even it must be different between that of a violonist
and a painter though both of them are artists; so also between
a mathematician and a biologist though both of them are
scientists!.... Yes!... there is no doubt of it; but yet there
is a kind of knowledge which is undispensable for every
man. Everybody must know, for instance, that he is doo-
med to struggle against many destructive agents, inorganic &
organic, and that the material causes of the most terrible
diseases destroying the health and wealth of humanity are
simply some very minute microscopic organisms called

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microbes, and that they can kill a workman, an artist and a doctor as well, if they are ~~weak~~ feeble enough to shelter them in their lungs or blood, and that ~~for instance~~ the terrible calamity we call Cancer, as every kind of disease is disrespectful of the knowledge, the career and the social standing and the exceptional intelligence, or the moral value of a man if ~~the~~ the tissues of his body is in a process of degeneration. In a word everybody from the simple workman to the most highranked one ought to ~~to~~ have got some indispensable hygienic knowledge, in order to be fit in the struggle for life. I do not mean by this famous principle the war, or the commercial competition which we are ^{still} very unfortunately subjected to for living, but I mean our con-

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tinuous struggle with the destructive agents above mentioned in order to preserve ~~our~~ our health and life. You must not forget that ~~the~~ the white cells of our blood called leucocytes are ceaselessly fighting against the microbes introduced in our body by any means possible and destroying them or ~~be~~ being destroyed by them; our life and health depends on the success of our cells to resist to all the destructive agents.

~~Besides this~~ I believe also that every body has ~~the~~
↑ ~~not only the~~ right of enjoying ~~besides~~ a good health — but that of profiting of the advantages of it if he is ever capable; don't forget that infirmities and diseases prevent any man from enjoying life and the beauties of Nature eternally young

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as an inexhaustible source of life and beauty. So to be able of being most often in communion with Nature, that would be a real blessing for man as a source of poetical inspiration as well. If you agree with me and acknowledge the value of this opinion of mine, you will understand at once, the important role which the artistic teachings play to day in our general education, and why the democratic societies are caring so much for giving a share of esthetic joy more and more considerable to the common people by generalizing the aesthetic education for ~~all~~ nearly all the members of the nation.

There is a very striking historical example to prove the efficacy of such an education, including in its program the

Aesthetic instruction of the greek nation. ~~The~~ I must tell you that the former greeks had something as a shilling paid by the municipality of Athens to every citizen in Athens as an entrance fee to the theatre which was ^{justly} ~~dearly~~ considered as an educational institution under the government of the famous ~~The~~ Pericles, the enlightened President of the Attic Republic. There no doubt to day that the old greeks were the most remarkable nation ~~endowed~~ gifted with the finest taste and the most marvellous genius in every respect. They have created the most brilliant Culture ever existing in the world, and in some way they are still unsurpassable, in the perfection of form and the excellence of execution in their artistic performances. This is due - I believe - to their general education.

We may apply without any reserve or restriction the same judgment to the marvellous civilization and the brilliant Culture created by the Arab Genius.

I must come to a conclusion now:

The school is an important institution, where young people get their education, and where there is given for them a chance to manifest fairly their natural tendencies, their talents or genius.

The education properly so called ought to be specialized according to the natural tendency and capacity of a student. But this ~~is not~~ is not to mean that a general education is not required, or not possible, on the contrary such an education as a background is indispensable to all, in a civilized society, and this edu-

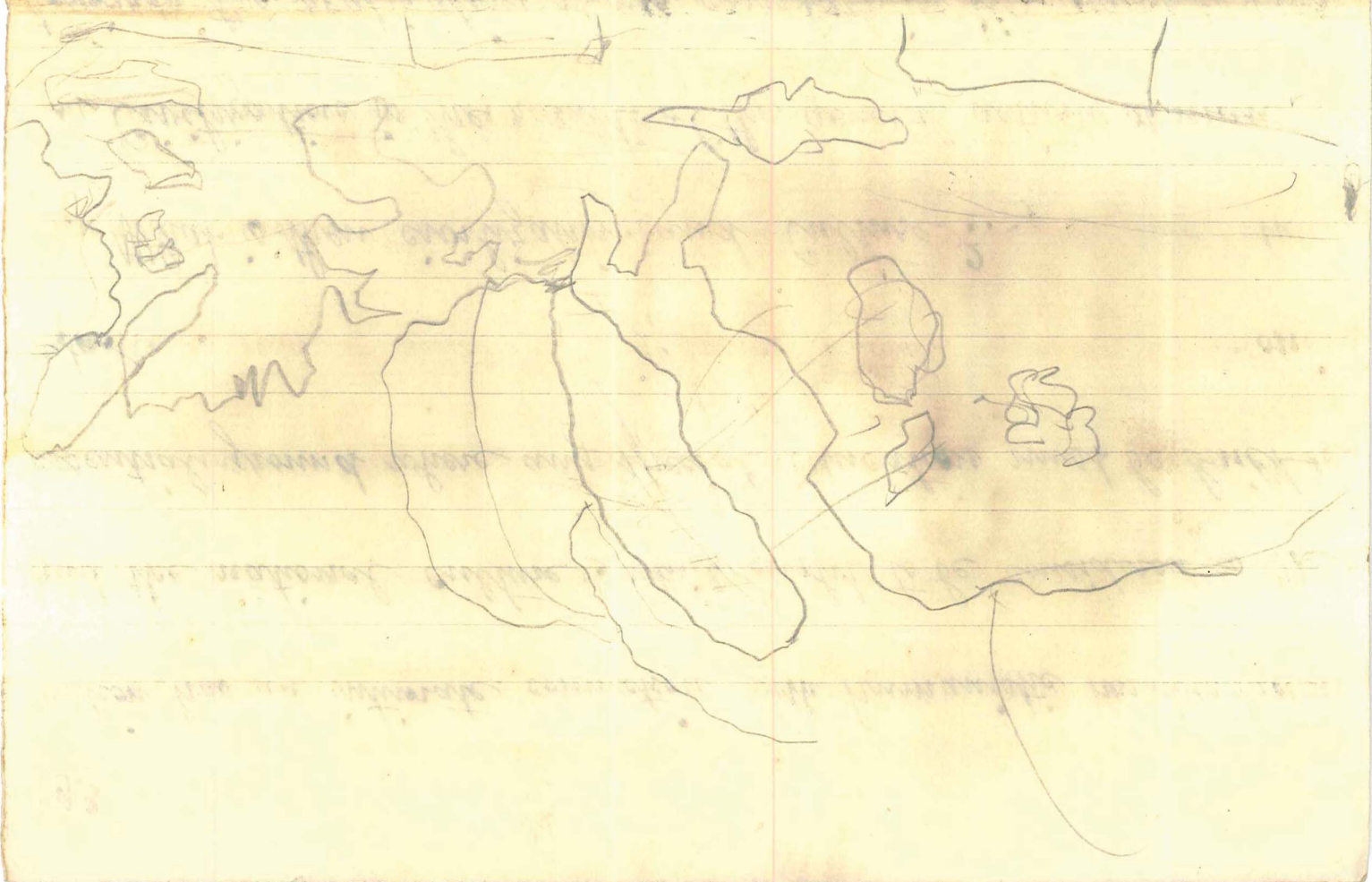
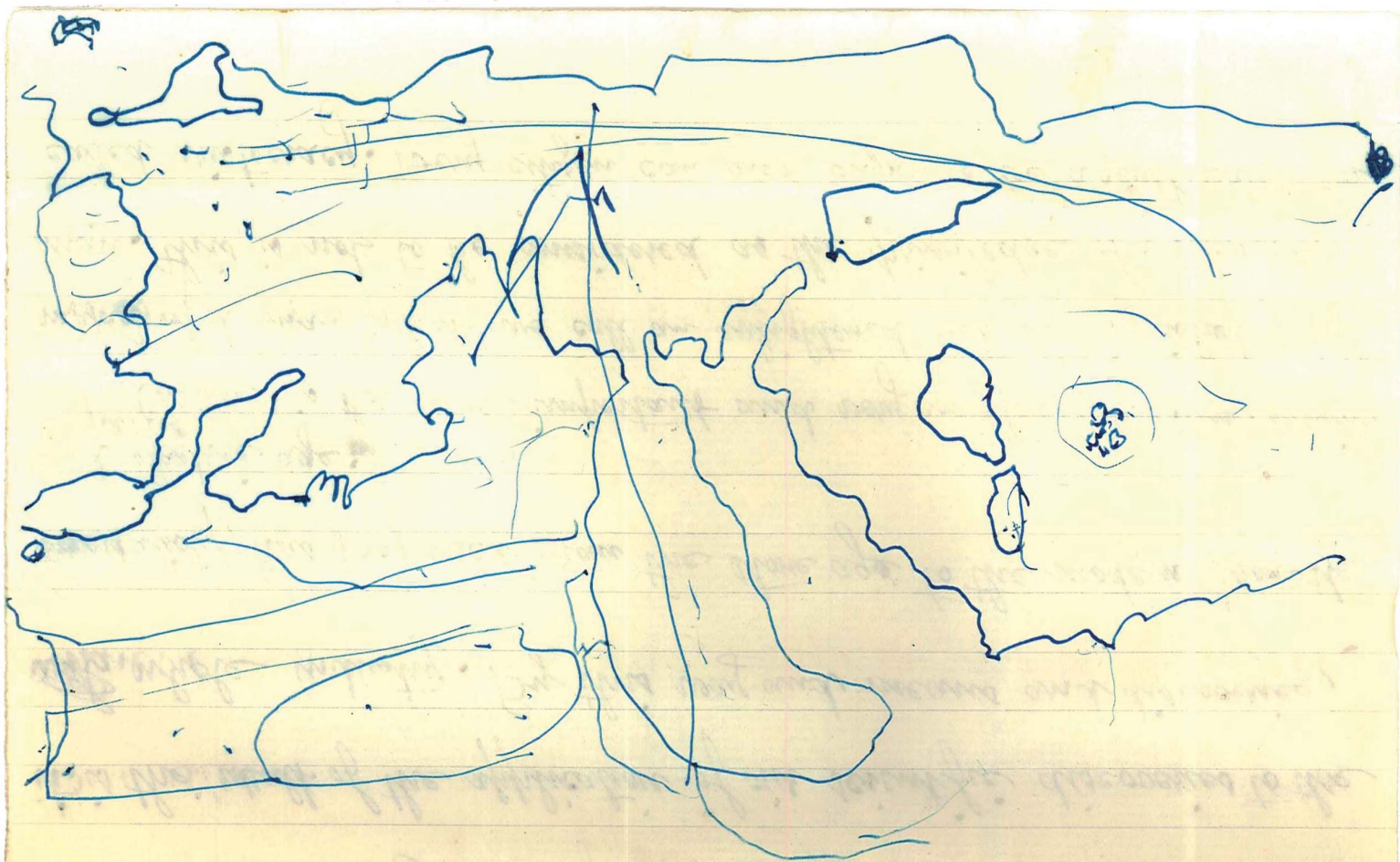
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cation has an intimate connection with humanistic knowledge and the national culture, which ought to be considered as the essential ground where any special education must be built up.

What is then civilization and Culture?..

Civilization is the result of the general activity of man towards the realization of our comfort in life, and as such it is the result of the application of our scientific discoveries to the ~~not~~ whole industry. By this way and means and discoveries, humanity, has progressed from the stone age to the modern Iron-steam and electric age.

Culture is the more important and very complex education which makes of a man what we call an enlightened and distinguished gentleman. This is not to be considered as the privilege of a minority called aristocracy. Every citizen can and ought to be a gentleman for



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that is the loftier ideal of a civilized society. Only I must not forget to tell you in this occasion, that I believe in a true born Aristocracy, which very seldom or exceptionally transmissible by heredity: that is the oligarchy ~~of the~~ whose members are those extraordinarily gifted men of genius, and they are very few in each century. If they do not rule apparently the Nations, they

Quelques pages de l'une
de mes conférences.

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