

and all sorts of quackery and bigotry flourish in the soil of ignorance.

The system of education at Mecca is typical of that in all Moslem lands not yet influenced by Western civilization and governments. The youth learn to read the Koran, not to understand its meaning, but to drone it out professionally at funerals and feasts, so many chapters for so many shekels. Modern science or history is not even mentioned, much less taught, in the high schools of Mecca. Grammar, prosody, Arabian history and the first elements of arithmetic, but chiefly the Koran commentaries and traditions, form the curriculum of the Mohammedan college. The method of teaching in the schools of Mecca, which can be taken as an example of the best that Arabia affords, is as follows:

**System of
Education**

The child of intellectual promise is first taught the alphabet from a small wooden board on which the letters are written by the teacher; slates are unknown. Then he learns the *Abjad* or numerical value of each letter—a useless proceeding at present, as the Arabic notation, originally from India, is everywhere in use. After this he learns to write down the ninety-nine names of Allah and to read the first chapter of the Koran; then he attacks the last two chapters, because they are short. The teacher

**Method and
Content of
Education**