



‘ELMĪ

‘ELMĪYA, a high school in Tehran with 500 students studying experimental sciences, mathematics, and economy. It was the second school established in Tehran to offer modern education. It was founded in Du’l-ḥejja 1315/May 1898 by Anjoman-e ma’āref (q.v. Council of Education) as a result of Anjoman’s disagreement with the principal of Rošdīya school over the disbursement of funds. The school included an elementary section (Ebtedā’īya) for boys between seven and twelve years of age and an advanced section (‘Elmīya) for boys who could read and write Persian fluently. Its first principal was Mīrzā ‘Alī Khan Nāẓem-al-‘Olūm. At the elementary section students were taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and the tenets of Islam in a five-year program. Students paid only a monthly fee of one toman for supplies. In the advanced section students learned algebra, trigonometry, geometry, advanced geography, history, astronomy, botany, geology, zoology, and either Russian, English or French. They studied for three years and paid four tomans per year for tuition and a monthly fee of fifteen *qerāns* for supplies. Teachers were hired and paid by the Anjoman-e ma’āref.

The school officially opened at the end of Du’l-ḥejja 1315/21 May 1998 with 120 students. As financial support for the school increased, the Anjoman-e ma’āref offered free admission to the poor. Consequently the enrollment reached beyond the school’s capacity. A new school, called Šaraf, was established in Rabī’ I 1316/August-September 1898 to accommodate poor students free of charge.



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