

3,000 GREET WOMAN PALESTINE LEADER

Miss Henrietta Szold Describes Work and Problems in Holy Land.

TELLS NEED OF PATIENCE

Equality of Sexes Demanded to Put Jewish Women on Equality With Others.

Miss Henrietta Szold, organizer and Honorary President of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist organization, who returned recently from Palestine where she had served for three years as Acting Director of the Medical Unit, was greeted by more than 3,000 men and women at the Hotel Pennsylvania yesterday.

From New York and vicinity and also distant cities members and friends came to give their leader a hearty welcome.

With a huge blue and white flag of Zion as a background, Miss Szold spoke optimistically of the future of the Holy Land, but urged her American brothers and sisters not to lose patience.

Miss Szold was officially greeted by Miss Alice L. Selligsberg, National President of Hadassah, who acted as Chairman. Further tribute was paid to her devotion to the cause by Mrs. Jacob Sobel, member of the National Board, and Louis Lipsky, President of the Zionist Organization of America. Others at the speakers' table were Mrs. Irving Lehman, Mrs. Nathan Straus, Bernard G. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph S. Ochs, the Rev. H. Maslansky, Dr. Schmarya Levin and Reuben Brainin.

Miss Szold asked that American Jewry be not dismayed upon reading that there are many emigrants from Palestine as well as immigrants to that country. What success can one expect, she asked, if a trunkmaker tried to grow almond trees?

"If only they would do what they are accustomed to doing and what their hearts dictate to them, failures would be diminished," said Miss Szold. "And yet there would be emigrants, because, besides idealism and heart, there must be pioneers.

Impresses Need of Patience.

"I believe the most important lesson we must learn is that of divine patience. We are not going to get a perfect Palestine. Not even the youngest of us is going to see the completeness of our work or its completion. It will take a generation; perhaps two or three generations, before that is achieved. Happily we are not going to see it; retardation will make it even more perfect. We are the generation of the desert. We are going to fructify the earth with our ideas, with our bodies, with our hopes, but we have the distinction of being pioneers, and we will not see, with our own eyes the consummation of our hope."

One of the problems confronting the Jews in Palestine, said Miss Szold, is the internal consolidation of the Jewish community. She had believed before going to Palestine that a Jew was a Jew. In Palestine they are Americans, Rumanians, Russians or Hungarians. This nationalistic feeling, said Miss Szold, will be adjusted through the use of one language and the schools. The problem of language is acute, Miss Szold said, and urged all who could to study Hebrew.

Another aspect of international consolidation, she said, is the question of Jewish laws. There is a fast-growing movement in the Holy Land for women to secure equal rights with men before the law. This, she said, is not only a political problem, but primarily it is a legal one.

"The Jewish women of Palestine," she said, "are petitioning the rabbis to begin at once with the task of modifying the ancient Jewish law in such ways that the Jewish woman may not stand behind her Mohammedan sister and her Christian sister in the privileges which she enjoys. Today a Jewish woman in Palestine cannot be the guardian of her children in accordance with the Jewish law, and under certain circumstances she cannot inherit the fortune which she may have helped her husband to accumulate. That is the line along which the women, who have formed an organization for that purpose, have been working. That, too, will lead to the

consolidation of the Jewish community in Palestine.

Relations With the Arabs.

"You have heard much of the so-called pogroms of the Arabs. It is a misnomer. There are excesses committed. I had the good fortune, let us say, to go through some of these excesses. I think that I am the stronger for having gone through them. My feeling is that they are not a menace to us because they do not spring from ill-feeling. They spring from agitation. I do not mean to say that the ignorant Arab peasant who has been goaded on to march to Jerusalem with a stick in his hand to which is affixed a rusty nail and to force his way into the inner city of Jerusalem and attack some defenseless old Jews does not feel hatred, but he did not feel it yesterday, and what he did not feel yesterday he can be made to dismiss from his heart tomorrow.

"I do not wish to belittle the difficulties that stare us in the face in our relation to the Arabs. They cannot be dismissed. We must bear them in mind, on the contrary. If you want to have my credo, I suggest that our propaganda hereafter must be turned to the left in bringing to us the Arab world and to the right in bringing to us the Christian world. We must succeed in getting the huge world to the east to realize that our desires are just and we must insist that the Christian world support us if only to right the wrongs that it has inflicted upon us.

"I personally am not afraid that the task of cultivating that land is going to be too hard. The harder it is the greater the triumph. If we succeed there will drop away from us all those inefficiencies, weaknesses, disqualifications, which we have gathered."

Referring to a situation which occurred in this country while she was in Palestine, Miss Szold appealed to members of Hadassah and the Keren Hayesod to work together. Some members of the woman's organization believed that Keren Hayesod was not giving enough support to the medical unit. Hadassah last year contributed \$130,000. She said that the medical work in Palestine is the "best missionary work we could do in the face of our relation to the Arabs," and she said it would be a "political blunder" if it could not continue.

Miss Szold was loudly applauded both at the beginning and at the end of her address.

Her active participation in Jewish work began to expand in 1881, when the first immigration of Russian Jews took place. She was always interested in Zionism and at one time was the Executive Secretary of the Zionist organization. She was one of the founders of Hadassah, which created the medical unit. This maintains five hospitals, a training school for nurses, infant welfare stations, medical services in the colonies and labor camps and does health work in the schools. She was summoned home because of health conditions in her family.