

WOMEN'S AID TO PALESTINE

THERE is an interesting story behind the work of the American Zionist Medical Unit, the name of which has been changed to the Hadassah Medical Organization in Palestine. This title grew out of an American organization of Jewish women.

Hadassah in America ten years ago was a small society of 100 members, and is today a national organization of approximately 15,000 members, distributed among 140 chapters in as many cities. The founder of Hadassah, Miss Henrietta Szold, from the outset urged upon women interested in the development of Palestine the wisdom of undertaking hygienic work for the women and children of that country. So it happened that when the first opportunity came through the help of Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straus, Hadassah, in 1913, sent two American trained nurses to Palestine for medical social service, especially as related to women and children.

When the war broke out Hadassah was called upon to assemble, equip and help to support a medical unit of forty-three doctors, sanitarians, clerks and administrators. It was this unit that developed into the Hadassah Medical Organization, which today commands a personnel of 400. The three features of medical work in Palestine in which Hadassah has taken most interest have been health work among the school children, care of mothers and infants and the professional training of Palestinian girls as nurses. The Hadassah Training School for Nurses, from which in December, 1921, the first class of twenty-two girls was graduated after having completed a three-year course under American teachers, has opened a new profession to the young women of Palestine, which will, no doubt, raise the standards of hygiene and sanitation throughout the country. Two graduates will soon receive scholarships enabling them to take post-graduate work in hospital management and medical social service, here in America. They will then return to Palestine as heads of their respective departments.

Miss Szold is at present in Palestine acting as assistant to Dr. Rubinow, head of the Hadassah Medical Organization. She and other American Jewish women in the Holy Land are trying to organize the Jewish women of Palestine, and have succeeded so far that the latter are rendering valuable voluntary service in the instruction of mothers, whose babies receive care at the Infant Welfare stations established by Hadassah in co-operation with Mrs. Harold Salomon, an Englishwoman.

Hadassah in America, through its 380 sewing circles, supplies linens to the Hadassah hospitals and clinics in Palestine, and linens, clothing, toys, soap, &c., to the Jewish orphanages and orphans of that country. There are at present 2,000 Jewish war orphans under the care of the Palestine Orphan Committee, supported by the Joint Distribution Committee. An American woman is at the head of the Jewish orphan work in Palestine, Miss Sophia Berger, formerly an officer of Hadassah in America.

The Honorary President of Hadassah is Miss Szold and the national Chairman Miss Alice L. Seligson. The national office is at 55 Fifth Avenue. Hadassah

Miss Alice L. Seligsberg. The national office is at 55 Fifth Avenue. Hadassah collects as much money as it can for the Hadassah medical organization and transmits 100 per cent. of its collections directly to Palestine. The expenses of the organization are not covered by any percentage of donations but are paid by membership dues. All the hospital and clinic work of Hadassah is non-sectarian, for Moslems, Christians and Jews alike.