

and the displacement of some three-quarters of a million Arabs who now, five years later are still scattered over the Kingdom of Jordan (which comprises what is left to the Arab of Palestine) and the neighbouring country of the Arab world.

By writing of this, I hope after Miss MacKellar, to still further draw our readers' attention to the work which is being done in the name of the Anglican Church to deal with this problem.

The headquarters of the Anglican Bishopric are in St. George's Close, a few yards only on the Arab side of the armistice line.

That line has split Jerusalem into two cities, under different governments, speaking different languages, using different currencies, and having for all practical purposes no communication with one another at all.

Here to St. George's, as to other places where Christian charity may be looked for, flows a constant stream of people with piteous tales of want and poverty, many of them homeless, workless, and short of clothing or food, asking for such help as can be given.

Naturally, a number of these cases come under the heading of medical relief. Hospital accommodation is limited, and chronic cases particularly, are difficult to cater for.

Some of these are helped with a small cash allowance, others with the cost of medicines and sometimes transport to places of treatment.

The Bishop's funds also support some patients in existing homes if there is no one else to pay for them.

Miss Shilace also presides over a sewing centre where women, themselves refugees, or very poor, are occupied in mending, altering or re-making the supplies of old clothing which are sent for the relief of the poor and, where possible, making new clothes when the centre has materials or money to buy them. Supplies of old clothes come largely from American churches through the Committee Relief and Reconstruction Services, co-operating with Church World Service, which is a co-ordinating body for Christian activities. They also come from other sources, both private individuals and charitable organisations.

Recently there has been a gift from the W.V.S. of a million garments, originally contributed in the United Kingdom for flood relief but found to be in excess of requirements. A second million is said to be on the way. The distribution of these is not in practice as easy as might be thought.

Apart from the fact that much of the clothing is of a nature unfamiliar and not really useful to Middle East peasants, the sheer collection of facts as to families needing help, and the sorting out from innumerable bales of the right kind of garment required, is no small task when the petitioners run into hundreds of thousands and the garments into millions.

A second and very important branch of the work is the educational side.

Refugee children are being born in camps and elsewhere every day; many five-year-olds have never known any other life, and perhaps the most tragic of all, many who had reached, or nearly reached, the end of their primary education have been unable to proceed any further.

The refugee problem is commonly thought of as being one mainly of the great refugee camps organised and maintained by the United Nations.

Actually the published statistics of the United Nations' Organisation show that in Jordan at least *only one-third of the refugees are accommodated in camps*. The rest are overcrowded in towns and villages or living in caves, ruined houses, or sometimes in the summer just under the trees. The resources of the Church are too small to enable her to deal with the whole of these.

Under the supervision of Mrs. Stewart, the Bishop's wife, a milk centre for children and a soup kitchen for underfed families, was opened in the Church house, already at that time occupied by several refugee families.

Part of the supplies are now provided by the United Nations; the rest, together with the premises and the supervision, are contributed by the Church.

A housing scheme has been started near Bethany, where during 1952 22 families, who since 1948 had been eking out a crowded existence in five caves, together with their few sheep and goats, their chickens and their dogs, have been enabled to build themselves one-roomed stone houses and to restart life as a village community with small gardens, a common oil-fired oven and a cistern of their own. They are also cultivating, as tenant farmers, some irrigated land near Jericho.

These houses are of a simple, cheap type, but there are many of them and their occupants—all refugees originally from one village with their own Meektah or head man—have in a single year been transformed from aimless and despairing cave dwellers into a self-respecting, hard working village community.

A second village on the same lines is nearly complete and should soon be housing another 36 families.

Plans are being made for yet a third village. It will not now be possible to build until the spring, but much can be done in preparing roads and cutting stone in readiness.

In the calendar year 1952, the Bishop's Relief Fund spent altogether £12,277. Of this sum only £475 went in salaries and administration.

If our readers' interest has been stirred by Miss MacKellar's arresting account of her observations while visiting these greatly suffering and oppressed people, these details may give further enlightenment of their sad plight.

All inquiries, offers of help and gifts of money should be addressed to: The Secretary, Jerusalem and the East Mission, 12, Warwick Square, London, S.W.1. A.R.B.

Book Reviews.

Human Nature. Its development, variations and assessment.*

By John C. Raven.

PSYCHOLOGY IS A difficult but intensely interesting subject for all Nurses. They must obtain a good working knowledge of it if they are to be nurses in the real sense of the word. Also of course, it is a compulsory subject on the syllabus of the General Nursing Council. This book should be of the greatest help to all. It is set out along the lines of the new syllabus and makes the subject a fascinating one. We are all interested in trying to understand each other and our patients in particular; Mr. Raven's book will help us to do so. It is a comprehensive little book and I like the chapters explaining the meaning of the tests used in testing the mental make up. These are not always thoroughly understood and in consequence maybe misleading. Tutors will find a great deal of instruction here and I would recommend the book to them.

* Published by H. K. Lewis & Co., Ltd., 136, Gower Street, London, W.C.1. Price 12/6.

Surgery for Students of Nursing.*

By John Cairney, D.Sc., M.D., F.R.A.C.S.

THERE ARE MANY books written on the subject of surgery for Nurses and here is yet another one. It comes from the pen of a well-known New Zealand Surgeon who is obviously keenly interested in the training of good surgical nurses. He has set out the reasons for performing the various operations followed by an outline of each operation and the pre-operative and post-operative treatments. These facts are important to the nurse if she is to have an intelligent understanding of the cases whom she is to nurse. It is illustrated by drawings appropriate to the text. U.S.

* N. M. Peryer Ltd., 145-147, Worcester Street, Christchurch, C.1., New Zealand. Price 40/-.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)