

DISTRICT NURSING IN PALESTINE.

Two young women sailed recently from New York for Palestine to establish there a system of district nursing, as part of the purpose and programme of one of the local Zionist Societies. This Society, less than a year old, is known as Hadassah Chapter of the Daughters of Zion. Like its sister Societies, the new organization has its work mapped out for it in the promotion of Jewish institutions and enterprises in Palestine and in the fostering of Jewish ideals.

Within the month, an impetus was given to Hadassah's plans, and in consequence the nurses are now on their way to Jerusalem. The impetus was an offer from Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Straus, who urged that Hadassah's work of introducing the district visiting nurses' system in Palestine be begun at once. If this were done, they were prepared to pay the travelling expenses and four months' salary of whatever nurse Hadassah might select and equip. It was understood that the Daughters of Zion would be responsible for all expenditures incidental to the nurse's work on the spot, and for her salary after the fourth month.

Hadassah obtained a large part of the money needed for the first year, and, assuming the full risk, engaged a nurse at once for a period of two years. While this project was under way, non-Zionists in Chicago subscribed \$2,000 annually for five years to send a nurse to Palestine. The choice and control of this nurse were left to Hadassah. Accordingly the two workers, Miss Rose Kaplan, of the Mount Sinai Hospital staff, as first nurse for two years, and Miss Rachel D. Landy, of the Harlem Hospital Dispensary, as second nurse for two years and a half, sailed for Jerusalem quite recently.

The immediate object of this Zionist effort is not so much to bring relief in individual cases of illness, as to organize a thorough system of district nursing throughout the towns and colonies of Palestine, beginning with Jerusalem. The first two nurses will co-operate with the Health Bureau established in Palestine a year ago. Miss Kaplan and Miss Landy will devote themselves primarily to the needs of women and children.

With this end in view, they will organize the work of the midwives along the lines laid down by State legislation in New York, and made effective through the activity of the Nurses' Settlement and the Russell Sage Foundation. For this aspect of the work they will be furnished with means to pay midwives, to supply

linens to mothers and babies, and afford a modicum of relief in the shape of medicine and food. They are expected to train probationers and helpers, organize "Little Mothers'" circles like those under the New York Board of Health, give illustrated health talks to mothers and girls at the schools and elsewhere—in short, engage in all the social service and educational activities of a nurses' settlement.

This is one more bit of excellent work which Miss L. D. Wald, LL.D., Founder of the Nurses' Settlement in New York, has done much to further.

THE GREATEST WOMAN CITIZEN.

"The Greatest Woman Citizen" was the subtitle of a lecture on Florence Nightingale, given by Surgeon-General Evatt, at the Caxton Hall, on February 26th, under the auspices of the Women's Freedom League. The fact that the lecturer was intimately acquainted with the great pioneer, whom he admired and respected above all women, lent very special interest to an ever interesting subject. Surgeon-General Evatt has seen so much of the disastrous effects of inefficiency, as to fortify his tirade against it. He depicted Florence Nightingale in the Crimea, where she was the "only person who knew anything." She knew everything, and could do everything; in a word, she was efficient." She was no meteor flashing into life suddenly, she had prepared herself by careful study, training, and investigation. She was so splendidly equipped for her great work of Reform by her excellent education, and her powers of organisation. "Why are not you?" he said, addressing himself to the audience, with flashing eyes, "educated as she was!" We could have replied "that is just what we are aiming at—higher educational standards, which will only be reached when we have legal status." The lecturer referred to Scutari and the disorder that reigned supreme until Florence Nightingale brought order out of chaos there. The story of Scutari, he told us, was the most ghastly record of human inefficiency. Out of about 22,000 soldiers who died there, only 4,000 died of their wounds. The others died of starvation, disease and neglect. Truly a grim story! The heart of the great woman was stirred with pity and horror at the preventable causes. The Barrack Commission was brought about through her instrumentality. Upon her return the War Office enquiry which followed revealed the deplorable state of the army in peace and war, and the regulations which were subsequently made, have served as a Magna Charta to all armies since. This is an incident in the life of Florence Nightingale which is probably not generally known, and will doubtless be of interest. Applause, loud and long, expressed the appreciation of the audience when the lecturer sat down.

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