

Hadassah Cares for Sufferers in Palestine

National Organization Has Branch in Duluth.

The local branch of Hadassah organized recently by Miss Minnie Deberah Isaacs, has awakened interest in the national movement which is so ably described in the following article from a recent edition of the Buffalo Evening Times:

"There exists in this county a national organization of Jewish women known as Hadassah, whose chief concerns are the health needs of Palestine and the care of the orphans there. From a very small beginning this organization attained a remarkable growth, and their work now is much more stupendous than was at first thought possible. The story of this growth both in number of members and in the accomplishment, is an interesting and noteworthy one.

"1913—Nine years ago in the spring of the year, Hadassah was born out of the resolve to bring healing to Palestine. Before the organization was one year old two pioneer nurses from America were established in a little nurses' settlement in Jerusalem, the school children's eyes were being cured of trachoma, and a midwives' service was in operation.

"1918—In this year the Hadassah service of district visiting nursing was absorbed by the medical unit which was organized and fitted up by Hadassah in America in answer to an S. O. S. cry that typhus and cholera had throttled Palestine.

"1921—The medical unit has set up laboratories and clinics and hospitals with maternity and children's wards in them. The children's eyes and teeth have systematic care, and hospital beds received the pitiful immigrants from pogrom-cursed eastern Europe.

"The medical unit now operates five hospitals in which thousands of patients are treated every year. It ministers to all elements of the population irrespective of race, creed or color. Who has not heard of the wonderful Rothschild hospital in Jerusalem and the marvelous work being done there? At this hospital there was established the nurses' training school, where native Palestinian girls are instructed in the most modern methods of nursing, giving them a worthy and dignified profession and at the same time bringing to Palestine twentieth century ideas of sanitation and disease prevention. The first class of 22 girls was graduated from the hospital Dec. 7, 1921, and one of them is now having a post graduate course at Sinai hospital, New York City.

"1922—At the present time Hadassah helps to maintain the five hospitals, many clinics, several field hospitals for immigrants and road builders; medical circuits in the Jewish colonies; a system of school visiting; a model nurses' training school, and two infant welfare stations.

"All of these activities, when enumerated, seem to constitute a very ambitious program. Perhaps it is so—but what worthier ambition should we have than that of bringing relief to suffering people?

"We repeat in our religious service the words: 'He healeth the sick,' and truly in Palestine Hadassah medical unit is His instrument."