REPORT OF RELIEF DEPARTMENT - JERUSALEM

JULY and AUGUST, 1916

As was anticipated in the first report issued for June 1916, the monthly expenditure in the succeeding months has exceeded that for June.

June .................. £8 8851.121
July ................... 10931.600
August ............... 12492.353
Total for three months... £32,755.074

The expenditure was swollen by payments made in advance as will be mentioned when the details are reviewed. During the succeeding months there should be a reduction which will bring the budget down to my previously estimated figure of £10,000 - £11,000 a month.

SUPPORT TO FAMILIES WITH FATHER ABSENT - A WAR MEASURE.

This item figures separately for the first time in the August accounts; a few of these cases were dealt with earlier and included in other items. This is a war time expenditure; in Palestine as elsewhere the war has separated families; in many cases the father was in Russia when war broke out, or was in some part of Palestine not yet liberated. The mother of the family was not always able to find work or is incompetent to make a living from the work to be found. There are often families of small children. We began lately to make regular provisions for these families.

BREAD

Unfortunately, there has been no change for the better in our wheat supply; during August, we had to buy nearly all our supplies in the open market at very high prices. The
price of wheat has gone up tremendously; this is not the place to enter into the reason for this rise directly after the harvest. Everything indicates great shortage during the winter in Southern Palestine, unless supplies are obtained elsewhere. Our flour bill is £350 to £400 a month higher than in June. We expect to start a bakery of our own in which better bread can be made under the present system. The list of bread distribution at the schools and ateliers will be revised at the beginning of the October term. We may expect a considerable reduction.

MATERNITY.

This was reopened in August and a small sum paid out.

WIDOWS.

Extra pensions have now been made for widows; the majority of these who come under the heading are old or infirm women; 1381 widows received relief during August; the extra cost (over June) is about £300.

ORPHANS.

The number of orphans now boarded out is 2560; the exact statistics of this orphan population are not yet available. There are about 800 children without parents; the great majority of the remainder are fatherless children. In a few special instances support is given to motherless children when the father is through age or disease incapable of work. The general rate of payment is £3 1 to £3 1.10.0 per head for parentless children, 10/- to 20/- for fatherless children paid to their mother in the great majority of cases (bread is given in addition to all orphans). Two nurses have been engaged in the work of inspection, whilst towards the end of August we had the assistance also of two nurses of the A.Z.M.U. Cases of disease and illness have been sent to the Hadassa
children Hospital for treatment. The Organisation is by no
means perfect, but the condition of the children is certainly
improved.

Arrangements will be made 1) when the school term begins in
October for a monthly report on the school attendance, 2) a
similar report from the trade schools. Arrangements have also
been made with the Artisans Organisation (Mercaz Ba'alé Melacha)
for the apprenticeship of children of suitable age without
premium. They will be supported by the Relief Committee.

During the month we were able to distribute clothing
(made in our factory) to the parentless children:

- 255 boys received knickerbockers, blouses and 2 suits of
  combinations.
- 290 girls received each a dress and two suits of combina-
  tions.

Several points arise in connection with this department.

a) Allowances. We are paying inadequate sums at the present
prices, if the children are to be kept clean, well fed and
decently clothed. 10/- a month to the widows is quite an
insufficient sum and £3 1.10.0 to £5 1. - for boarding out
among strangers is much too little. Provision also requires
to be made for supplying beds and bed clothing in many cases.

b) Administration. This large children population requires
an administration, which can give the whole of its time to the
work and a larger staff of nurses and social service workers.
A better grouping of the children is required and steps taken,
e.g. to see that those of suitable age are being apprenticed.

c) Permanent Provision. It becomes essential that this
work should be pur upon a more permanent footing; it would be
very desirable to know that we could reckon upon a definite
yearly income to be expended not in stone and mortar, but solely
on the children. It is possible that some donor would be
desirous of establishing a special orphan endowment for
Palestine.

Northern Palestine is unfortunately also likely to
contribute its quota to this population.

On the other hand, as has been previously pointed out, the present figures are unlikely to increase largely. On the contrary, we should expect a reduction every year after the war is ended.

**ORPHANAGES**

**Blumenthal.** After innumerable attempts to obtain such changes in this orphanage as would make for real improvements, I was forced to discontinue the allowance hitherto made. The condition of the new place is deplorable and the children showed no improvement. The children are gradually leaving, and are being boarded out.

**Sephardic Orphanage.** Arrangements have now been concluded with the Va'ad Ha'ir for the reopening of this Orphanage which will be placed under a board of Sephardic managers with Mr. Bahor Yeroyrim, the former headmaster of the Alliance Internat (now closed) as Director.

**Kindergarten's Orphanage.** No change having taken place in this establishment we have not renewed our support. The children as they leave are being taken care of in private houses.

**Diskin's Orphanage.** This institution is supported by Funds that do not pass through our hands. We have no control over it. There has been unfortunately no reason to change the opinion previously expressed about this Orphanage.

**New Orphanage.** Mr. Goldszid, formerly teacher of physical exercises to the Hilfsverein has accepted the position of head of a new Orphanage, suitable premises for which have been found.

These Orphanages, Sephardic and Ashkenazic, will accommodate eventually about 220 children. It is proposed to reserve them chiefly for parentless children for whom suitable homes cannot be found and for children who require more careful looking after or more stringent discipline.
RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The salaries hitherto paid to the Rabbis fulfilling important functions in the Community were very small; the list was revised in August; the total monthly payment being raised from £3 49.8s.0d. to £3 113.8s.0d.

Yeshiboth, etc. The answers to the questionnaire referred to in the last report have now been received and the whole question of the Yeshiboth is undergoing examination.

MEDICAL RELIEF

Owing to severe epidemics of pneumonia, influenza and the usual great summer rise in malaria this side of our work was unfortunately very active with a corresponding increase in the expenditure for August. After the A.M.U. have settled on their plans of work it is hoped to place this department on a sounder basis.

OLD AGE INSTITUTIONS

Both the Ashkenazi and Sephardi have now been reorganised: the payment in August (Ashkenazi) is for two months. Both institutions require considerable expenditure to place them in proper condition. The estimate for the Ashkenazi is £2200 and that for the smaller Sephardi Institution is £2800. We have not been able to advise this outlay out of our monthly income. Special grants will be necessary for this purpose.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS AND FUNCTIONS

The MIKVEHS were in a deplorable state; their sanitary condition was a real danger to the Community. They have been put in order at a cost of £378 5s.0d.

£250 were granted towards the Beth Haam which was reopened in July.

A contribution of £255 was granted towards the cost of entertaining JEWISH SOLDIERS for the holidays in September, when 200 - 300 officers and men were expected to be in Jerusalem.

HaShnassath Kalloth. A sum of £2 40 was granted to the Va'as for this purpose. In July and August, which is the marriage season £2 175 5s.0d. were expended by granting an advance against
reductions to be made in the ensuing months.

**LOANS**

Arrangements have been made with the Va'ad Ha'ir by which the Committee is to receive £2250 a month for one year for loans, i.e., a capital of £2 3000 at the end of the year:

This sum has been exceeded for seasonal reasons (Jewish holidays in August), but a corresponding reduction is to be made on the next months.

In many cases rents are demanded at the Moharram for a year in advance; to meet this rent of £50 we advanced to Mrs. Mayouchee's Workshop, £100 for Mrs. Hoofien and £100 to Mrs. Geller's Lace Atelier. These three loans will be paid off by gradual monthly instalment.

We continue to make advances to the Soffrim against their wares which will be shipped when transport can be safely secured.

**WORKSHOPS**

The Achvah Workshop figures are so far entirely on the debit side, £375 for July - August, but against this expenditure it has made clothing for Hospitals and Orphanages. The Hospitals, Orphanages, etc., have been supplied with:

- 521 sheets
- 70 nightgowns
- 105 aprons
- 20 pairs of trousers
- 41 counterpanes
- 70 mattress
- 180 pairs of boots
- 381 trousers
- 235 blouses

480 pillow cases
144 handkerchiefs
81 men's shirts
65 blankets
375 towels
102 dresses
1352 combinations
377 skirts
52 coats.

The money value of these garments turned out at the factory will be shown in the accounts of the factory.

More important still, after visits to the factory by General Jackson and Colonel Healy, definite contracts have now been made for the Army; orders have been placed by the
Government for the sewing of 10,000 shirts in September.
Miss Leah Berlin is now in charge of the factory and under her able management we expect this factory to give employment at a living wage to an increasing number of women.

Arrangements are being made for the comfort of those employed at the factory by providing a mid-day meal at cost price.

THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ZIONIST UNIT

The arrival of this long expected Unit at the end of August raised new hopes in the population as well as in those administering relief. Doctors, nurses were soon setting about giving medical relief in various ways, until their own arrangements were complete. The Doctors and Nurse went to the assistance of the overworked Dr. Kagan of the children Hospital. Mr. Gantor was soon doing invaluable sanitary work in the city and rapidly gained the confidence of the Military Medical Authorities by his ability and energy.

GENERAL

I have still to deplore the lack of any fixed income. It is the absolute conviction of all those connected with the work that the Jewish People will not allow Jerusalem to lack money for this essential task that has enabled us to carry on and start efforts at reconstruction.

The pressure upon my time prevents my giving more than a brief sketch of the work in these reports. It will be seen that the activities branch out in many directions: sanitary, educational, industrial, institutional control, relief and so on.

Fortunately the Va‘ad Ha‘ir (elected Council of Jerusalem Jews) has taken over a great deal of the administrative work and will take over more in the future
now that the general conditions have become more stable. Thanks to valuable help and co-operation of the Executive Committee of the Council the work of this department of the Zionist Commission has become greatly lightened.

(Sgd) M. D. EDER

Tel-Aviv, September 23rd, 1918.