Joint Distribution Committee
20 Exchange Place
New York City

Gentlemen:

I am forwarding you under separate cover reports of the work done by the American Zionist Medical Unit during the months of June and July, 1920. While I am not prepared to comment on the medical aspect of the work done, I wish to make some general observations relating particularly to the social side of the work.

You will notice that in the months of June and July about eleven percent of all the patients treated were non-Jews (Table 8).

I also wish to call attention to the fact that the laboratory work done, particularly in Jerusalem, (June Table 22 and July Table 24) is practically the only work of its kind done in the country, and for this reason both the Government Hospital and the Public Health Department turn to the Medical Unit for their laboratory examinations. Thus, in June, 15 examinations were made for the Government Hospital and 45 for the Public Health Department, while in July 44 were made for the Government and no less than 119 for the Public Health Department in Jerusalem.

I would further call your attention to the high value of the sanitary work done, in inspecting the various communal institutions. When the Medical Unit came to Palestine the conditions in some of these institutions were almost unspeakably bad. Courtyards and cellars seemed not to have been cleaned for years and the cisterns were uncovered and were breeding thousands of mosquitoes. The sanitary installation was of the most primitive kind. Today, owing to the regular inspection, disinfection and cleaning up done by the Sanitary squad, the condition of these eighty institutions, with one exception, is reported as satisfactory.
Until recently the Medical Unit also extended this sanitary inspection to the whole city, as it is obviously to create a condition of cleanliness and health for the Jewish population, if the conditions next door among the non-Jews are such as to breed disease. The Government, however, has stepped in and taken upon itself this work and has requested that our volunteer agency discontinue its general work of sanitation and petrolizing of wells. I have regretfully to admit, that since the work has been taken out of our hands, it has been done with far less efficiency than when we were looking after it.

The work of the scavengers in cleaning up playgrounds, repairing fences and yards, etc. in various public institutions, is, in reality, work done by the Relief. But since these men, to whom we are giving employment in this way, formerly did a great deal of sanitary cleaning up, they have been directed technically by the Sanitary Department of the Medical Unit. While the Sanitary Department still looks after them and directs their work, they are paid by the Relief. (Page 14 June).

I would also call special attention to the valuable sanitary work done in the villages (June Table 58). The sanitary conditions of these workmen's colonies were of the worst. The men were living under conditions which made it inevitable that they would quickly become victims of disease and a large percentage of them soon suffered from Malaria and other results of unsanitary conditions. The table shows the kind of work which is being done. The economic value of this work cannot be over-estimated.

I would like to add a general review of the health situation as it exists at the present time, based, in large part on facts presented by Dr. Boruchov of the Medical Unit. The work of inspection of school children (June and July Table 14) has produced most satisfactory results. The total number of treatments, nearly 75,000 in the month of June and over 67,000 in the month of July, shows the extent of the work. As a result of these school treatments the condition of the children's scalps is becoming a decent one. In some schools in Jerusalem skin trouble has been reduced fifty percent. And the condition of the eyes, which is even more important in a land as infested with eye trouble as is Palestine, shows an even more marked improvement. Thus, in Haifa, the percentage of Trachoma found in the Jewish schools has dropped rapidly from fourteen to two percent. The children are also receiving Quinine treatment against Malaria.
The Influenza epidemic in Palestine was not as serious as it was in many other lands this year, perhaps particularly because of the energetic steps taken to combat it. The school children in Jerusalem and Jaffa who showed the slightest trace of incipient Influenza were sent by their teachers to the Medical Unit for medical examination. If the examination showed positive results, the child was immediately isolated, thus preventing, in large measure, the spread of Influenza among the school children.

Relapsing Malaria and Typhoid Fever have become fairly infrequent and this year there has been no case of Cholera. But in towns and villages where the Medical Unit is not working, cases of typhoid fever have been frequent. Even in Jerusalem, now that the Medical Unit work is limited only to Jewish public institutions, cases of Typhoid Fever are occurring with increasing frequency. As an instance of how readily this can, and almost must occur, I would cite the fact that the Sanitary Work of the Medical Unit found the water in seven of our institutions, particularly schools, unfit for drinking. It may well be imagined, therefore, how many of the wells which are not examined, also serve as centres of infection.

Malaria this year has been a scourge of unusual sharpness. The extraordinarily heavy rainfall of last winter and spring, left stagnant water and swamps in places where such conditions usually do not exist and Malaria has broken out in places which were formerly comparatively free. Thus, in Artuf, which previously has been little troubled by Malaria, this year, on account of the swampy conditions left by the heavy rainfall, there is not a house in which Malaria is not to be found. And within the last month or so Typhoid Fever has also broken out. It will be noticed in the July report that the Medical Unit has extended its work to Artuf in the month of July.

A new drain on the resources of the Medical Unit work has been created by the immigration. The conditions for the reception of hundreds of immigrants are totally inadequate and the medical and sanitary work done among them is slow in being organized, on account of insufficient funds to take up this work as it should be shouldered. The Government does practically nothing along these lines and the whole responsibility falls on us. Until the last week or so the most cursory medical inspection has been made, particu-
larly with the view of finding out whether the immigrant suffered from any obviously contagious disease. From this there resulted a condition, by which immigrant workmen who were ill, unfit for work and unfit for hard work, but who were not suffering from contagious diseases, were sent to undertake road-building and similar work. They immediately broke down under the strain and they have added to the burden of illness with which we have to cope. The workmen coming here, especially from Central Europe, are not accustomed to the Palestine climate and they have not known how to protect themselves against the heat of the sun, or against Malaria. General instructions have been given about Quinine, but it is only within the last week or so that the anti-Malaria work among the immigrants and in their labor camps is becoming organized. These labor camps have grown up so quickly, that we have not been able to keep pace with them in the creation of decent sanitary conditions, or to keep them supplied with emergency medical supplies. In some places no less than eighty percent of the immigrants are reported as being already infected with Malaria. As I have indicated, within the last two months, August and September, we have taken energetic steps, with the help of Relief moneys, to combat these conditions. Special nurses have been designated for these immigrant groups and medical inspection and sanitary care at the port of entry is being organized. Quinine is being distributed in large quantities. The sanitary conditions at the working camps is being cleaned up. Pamphlets on general principles of sanitation, hygiene and the prevention of Malaria are being distributed. To do this work in anything like the way it should be done, requires far more funds than are available to us. Nevertheless, the supreme importance of this work is driving us to go to the extreme allowed us by the budget of the Medical Unit and of the Relief, in an attempt to meet the situation in some measure.

Faithfully yours,

[Signature]

REGIONAL DIRECTOR

SP/AES