

New Era In PALESTINE

BENEFICENT work of a new sort which has been instituted in Palestine through the generosity of Nathan Straus has reached such proportions that Mr. Straus is now in that country on a special mission to see how he can further and enlarge the humanitarian projects to which he began to devote attention last year. He will spend some time in a comprehensive study of the needs and possibilities of the two charitable enterprises he has already established and in directing the formation of still a third, of which he has the highest hope.

The institutions which are already in existence through Mr. Straus's activities are known as the Nathan Straus Relief Fund and the Health Bureau. The first operates exclusively among the poor of Jerusalem, while the second extends over all of Palestine and concerns some 600,000 persons. Now he proposes to introduce the system which has been so successfully employed here of providing trained nurses to disseminate hygienic knowledge in districts where modern methods have hitherto been unknown and to teach medical principles so that the ignorance of the people in regard to such subjects may be dissipated.

In this way he hopes to supplement the equipment with which for the past year he has been fighting disease and to secure the employment of modern ideas in a campaign for health and the rout of disease-breeding habits. Under his direction the first steps have been taken that the dwellers in the city of Jerusalem and the surrounding country have ever known for the relief of the conditions that have so long impeded the commercial and social progress of that portion of the Turkish empire.

Palestine had until Mr. Straus and some American colleagues became cognizant of the situation been overlooked by the many medical missionary movements that have been started by various countries in most other quarters of the globe. Now it is proposed to do everything that money and energy can accomplish to push a program of enlightenment and relief there and so good a beginning has been made in the work of the existing movement that Mr. Straus has been inspired to take for the time being personal charge of affairs.

Details of the work that is being done in Palestine at the present time and of plans for the future are told by Dr. Aaronsohn, head of the Jewish agricultural experiment station, which is located near Jerusalem and which is conducted in conjunction with the health bureau started by Mr. Straus. Dr. Aaronsohn came to this country to report to the department of agriculture on the results of experiments in the development for industrial purposes of the growing of "wild wheat," which is found in profusion in the farming sections of his native country. Since he has been here he has made an extended trip through California, Arizona and Texas at the request of the agricultural department to introduce and direct experiments with the wheat in those states.

It was directly through the discovery by Dr. Aaronsohn of wild wheat that the Jewish agricultural experiment station in Palestine was founded. He was born and brought up in that country, the son of a native farmer, and after receiving a medical education he came to this country to see what reception he would have for his theories that the cultivation and adoption of the wheat for commercial purposes would tend to cheapen foodstuffs and render usable many arid districts in the west where nothing could grow before. He was favorably received by the federal agricultural authorities and on his trip met the men who ultimately united to form the station of which he is now the head. Julius Rosenwald of Chicago is president of the board of directors of the station and members of it are Oscar Straus, Paul M. Warburg, Isaac N. Seligman and Jacob H. Schiff. The late Isidor Straus was also affiliated with the organization, and so is Nathan Straus.

With a plan for the industrial betterment of Palestine and its inhabitants under way, naturally it became necessary to do something for the physical alleviation of the people themselves, since it had been found that healthy men to do the work were an indispensable requirement. The rate of mortality in the country was very high and the general health of so low a standard that it soon became evident that something must be done to improve conditions if the agricultural movement was to be a success.

At the time this need became most evident, something more than a year ago, Nathan Straus was in Palestine on a pleasure trip. He was appealed to, but at first declined to do anything in that country, as he thought his first duty, from a humanitarian standpoint, was to the poor and the suffering of the United States. He consented, however, to investigate the situation personally and soon became so impressed with the conditions that he assured those who had made the appeal that he would do all in his power to relieve them and would also solicit the aid of his numerous friends. Since then his efforts have been unremitting and such improvements have been introduced that Palestine in general and Jerusalem in particular have become modernized from a hygienic point of view to an extent that was not dreamed of a few years ago.

It was not only because of his personal experience that Mr. Straus determined to lend his aid in Palestine. He believes that all members of the Jewish race owe a peculiar duty and obligation to that country and that wherever feasible no effort should be spared to civilize and bring it to a position where it will bear comparison with any other community in the civilized world. No sooner had Mr. Straus seen with his own eyes the pitiful and squalid conditions in Palestine that so sadly needed relief than he, with the decision and generosity characteristic of him, took immediate steps to correct them. With the



NATHAN STRAUS



STREET IN JERUSALEM



STREET OPEN IN BETHLEHEM

expenditure of both time and a great deal of money he devoted himself to the object, with a result that has now far exceeded even the most sanguine expectations.

The first thing he did was to start the Nathan Straus Relief Fund, of which he is the sole supporter. Discovering that great numbers of the aged and infirm of Jerusalem were without means of support and were frequently in the throes of starvation because there was no organized means of relief in the city, he started two soup kitchens. This was a year ago, and since that time the institutions have been working night and day with great results.

Each day from 600 to 800 men and women and children are fed at these kitchens and the food they receive there is about the only subsistence they secure. No lines are drawn and persons of all religions are entitled to the aid.

But Mr. Straus was not satisfied with the soup kitchens. They were a remedy for a disease, but he sought a preventive for the ailment that was producing vagrants and beggars in the Holy City. His investigation disclosed the fact that many of the young men and young women were never trained to support themselves in any way and were virtually dependents from childhood on. So he decided to educate them in some useful occupation which would prevent them from becoming useless in old age and would make them creditable citizens.

One of the principal businesses of Jerusalem is the selling of small objects of art and other souvenirs to the throng of tourists that flock to the city every year. Seeing something to be gained in this, Mr. Straus hired skilled artisans, secured buildings which were fitted with proper machinery and started an industrial school for the manufacture of the salable souvenirs of Jerusalem. This venture proved an immediate success and the institution is crowded with the previously neglected youths, who have shown not only a willingness but a distinct desire to learn some such useful and lucrative occupation. The souvenirs that used to come from the larger cities of that part of the country, and some even from the continent and America, are now produced right on the ground. The workers get the proceeds of their labor and the undertaking bids fair to be in time one of the biggest and most successful of the kind in the world.

At about the time of the establishment of the relief fund Mr. Straus's sympathies were so strongly aroused by the unfortunate situation in which he found a great majority of the inhabitants in regard to hygienic precautions that he determined to do something in that direction. Dr. Aaronsohn and other officials of the agricultural station were delighted with the decision and labored with him to effect his purpose. Such things as sanitation, the scientific battling with disease, proper drainage and even the use of such simple health expedients as soap and water were almost unknown to people in Palestine. Year in and year out hundreds of them had been dying solely because of this ignorance of the very essentials of hygiene. Mr. Straus set about a campaign of education.

The result of this situation was the health bureau, perhaps the most unusual institution of its kind in the world. With funds furnished by Mr. Straus some empty buildings were secured and an experienced physician found to take charge

of what is the only medical laboratory in all Palestine. With this as a basis the work has been extended from Jerusalem, where it was started, to every part of the country. Now it is firmly established and growing every day. Money for its continuance is furnished by Mr. Straus and great interest is taken in the work by the Americans who were responsible for the establishment of the agricultural station.

The physician in charge of the bureau is Dr. Brunn, a twenty-eight-year-old graduate of the University of Berlin, who had done work in the German colonies in central Africa and had settled in Jerusalem. He was recommended to Mr. Straus by Dr. Aaronsohn, and in his hands was placed the organization of the enterprise. The equipment for the laboratory was imported from Germany at considerable cost and is of the most modern kind, suitable for chemical analyses and examinations necessary in the determination of the nature of disease.

Dr. Brunn became acquainted with Mr. Straus when the latter was taken ill as he was about to return to this country last spring. The doctor accompanied the philanthropist from Jaffa in Palestine to Naples, reaching there just about the time of the Titanic disaster, in which Isidor Straus lost his life. Nathan Straus's condition was made more serious by this loss and the young physician stayed with him until he was able to sail for America. That cemented a friendship and gave Mr. Straus the utmost confidence in the success of the bureau.

Returning from Naples to Jerusalem, Dr. Brunn set about the still further extension of the plans. The bureau is modeled as closely as possible upon the board of health of New York, the reports of which are sent to Palestine and information in regard to which has been liberally furnished by the officials here. Dr. Brunn has never been in this country, but is planning a trip here in the near future to study local health regulation at close range. Dr. Aaronsohn says that the work of the bureau's chief has been most remarkable and up-to-date in every way.

At the present time Dr. Brunn has two young doctors assisting him and also two nurses. It is not possible to do any actual hospital work, but methods of checking and preventing disease are taught all through the country.

Whenever an epidemic starts a temporary camp is established at the spot, with one of the bureau physicians in charge, and the people affected are directed in their fight against the trouble. In one settlement of sixty persons it was found that 150 days of illness had been the average each month. In one year this average had been cut down to thirty-six days, an accomplishment which has been characteristic of the work in every place where it has been put into operation.

Not only does the bureau educate in prevention methods, but the physicians, so far as they are able, treat afflicted persons, and, best of all, distribute medicines free of charge. Malarial fever has long been the scourge of Palestine and the fight against this has been carried on in two ways, first by sanitation and second by quinine.

The bureau experts have shown the natives how to get rid of the disease breeding and bacteria laden pools and the marshy grounds, sometimes by the simple application of a few shovelfuls of dirt. They have used modern methods in fighting the plague of mosquitoes, the germ carriers, and then where the disease has still existed they have introduced quinine.

Dr. Aaronsohn says it is no uncommon sight to see a line in front of the dispensary in which could be found not only natives of the country but groups of Arabs from far away who have been attracted by reports of the marvelous work of the white doctors.

The fight against the mosquito, which abounds in Palestine, is one of the most interesting features of the work of the bureau. Dr. Brunn and his assistants have studied the methods used in this country, particularly in the state of New Jersey, and have adapted them to the situation in the Holy Land. Kerosene is poured in the pools where the insects breed and every other scientific weapon is employed against them.

With all this charity and benevolence among them, after so many years of neglect, the people of Palestine are taking new heart. They who have been a downtrodden and discouraged race are now hopeful and cheerful. Hand in hand with their moral and physical welfare goes their industrial welfare. Betterment of one means improvement of the other, and both are on the forward march. There is a new era in the Holy Land.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. BELLERS, Director of Evening Department The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

LESSON FOR APRIL 6

JACOB AND ESAU.

LESSON TEXT—Gen. 27:23-34.
GOLDEN TEXT—"Jehovah is a God of judgment; blessed are all they that wait for him." Isa. 30:18.

Jacob is one of the great figures presented to us in the book of Genesis. His birth and purchase of the birthright are recorded in Chapter 25, and in chapter 27 we have presented his great sin.

It is absolutely necessary to read carefully all of this chapter before we can properly present this lesson. Moses did not record Jacob's deception because he commended it, but rather as a warning to all who read and ponder thereon. The Bible spreads before us the sins of God's people as well as their virtues, which ought to be a comforting thought to us all, who are sinners "saved by grace."

I. The Deceit, vv. 22-29. Lying, duplicity, profanity, and compounded felony, are presented in the preliminary verses to that section selected for our study. Jacob's conscience rebelled (v. 12), yet he gladly listened to the voice of his unwise mother who thought she knew best how to circumvent God's will; see ch. 25:23, 25, 28. This mother's foolish ambition and teaching had developed a self-seeking, deceitful son. By nature Jacob was unlovely and the greatest lesson we can learn from his life is that he, a "cheater," should by the grace of God be transformed into "Israel," a prince, he that hath power with God.

A Rough Man.

We first have presented the temperamental difference between these two brothers, then the story of the birthright, and lastly the stolen blessing. Esau was a rough man of the chase, cunning, clever and skillful as a hunter. Jacob was a plain man, viz., one who inclined to the conventionalities. He loved a settled, quiet home life, for he "dwelt in tents." Again when we consider the episode of the birthright we have set before us another illustration of the great contrast of these brothers. We do not value birthrights as do the Orientals, and further, we must remember this is the story of God's development of a chosen race. Esau, mastered by his appetite, governed by selfish instincts, gladly and flippanantly spurns—"despised"—his right. He denied his responsibility to the future of that race of whom Abraham was the first, and virtually said that nothing was of value that did not serve this present lifetime. Jacob, on the other hand, estimated this birthright at its supreme value, as of the highest importance.

From Bad Stock.

Subject as Jacob was to the rule of a seeking, scheming, mother, yet we must remember that she, too, was actuated by the same high estimate of the value and the importance of the birthright. Her mean manner of seeking to accomplish her purpose did not succeed, but, in fact, delayed the desired end for Jacob had to try for his life. Let us look at Rebekah. She came from the same stock as Laban, who was a fraud, a cheat, and a liar. She taught her son to follow those same methods and had to smart for it, for she lost his companionship through long years, and never saw him again. Is it ever right to do wrong? God's word tells us no, see Rom. 3:8. Rebekah was more concerned with her partiality than with the purposes of God. (Ch. 25:28) Jacob's conscience was aroused as we see from v. 12, though it was probably not so much fear of the error of the act, but rather fear of being caught.

God would in his way and in his own time have given Jacob the promised blessing without the aid of his deceit. As it was Jacob engendered his brother's hatred, was separated from his home and endured multiplied suffering.

II. Esau's Sorrow, vv. 30-34. Esau had sold his birthright and sought to regain it. Now he is too late to secure the blessing that should accompany his birthright. The brothers bartered for the birthright. One brother secured the blessing and with it, banishment. The other brother lost both birthright and blessing and gave vent to a bitter cry. (Heb. 12:17.) Esau was himself to blame.

What a wrecked home partiality and deceit brought forth. Rebekah's anticipation (v. 45) was never fulfilled and her conduct with that of Jacob well deserves the censure and the punishment inflicted.

Because the Bible records no word of censure some have asserted that God approved of Jacob's course. Even a casual reading of his life, of its delays, its disappointments and its misfortunes, reveals God's vindication of the moral law and that retribution follows wrong. As much as we sympathize with Esau we are compelled to acknowledge that Jacob was the fitter man of the two. He was tenacious, self-reliant, constant in his affections, devoted to the covenant of God and sensitive to spiritual influences. Esau was impulsive and shallow.

OH! MY BACK!

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AN INDIANA CASE

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FLOWERS IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Simple Methods That Will Keep Them Alive, Fragrant, and a Pleasure for Many Days.

To make flowers last a week or more, four things are necessary. First, do not try to arrange them the moment you get them, but put them in a pall of water for a few hours, so that every stem will be under water up to the flower. Second, cleanse the vase thoroughly before putting in the flowers and change the water every day. Third, the cooler you keep the flowers the longer they will last. If you are too busy in the morning to enjoy them or have to go out for the afternoon, do not leave them in the living-room, for they are not used to such a temperature. Every night put the vase in a cool place, or better still, plunge the stems up to the flowers in a pall of water. Fourth, cut about a quarter of an inch off each stem in the morning. It is more trouble to do this under water, but it pays. If you cut the stems in the ordinary way air bubbles get into the stems and impede the taking in of water.—Delineator.

BABY IN MISERY WITH RASH

Monroe, Wis.—"When my baby was six weeks old there came a rash on his face which finally spread until it got nearly all over his body. It formed a crust on his head, hair fell out and the itch was terrible. When he would scratch the crust, the water would ooze out in big drops. On face and body it was in a dry form and would scale off. He was in great misery and at nights I would lie awake holding his hands so that he could not scratch and disfigure himself. I tried simple remedies at first, then got medicine, but it did no good.

"Finally a friend suggested Cuticura Remedies, so I sent for a sample to see what they would do, when to my surprise after a few applications I could see an improvement, and he would rest better. I bought a box of Cuticura Ointment and a cake of Cuticura Soap and before I had them half used my baby was cured. His head is now covered with a luxuriant growth of hair and his complexion is admired by everybody and has no disfigurements." (Signed) Mrs. Annie Saunders, Sept. 29, 1911.

Cuticura Soap and Ointment sold throughout the world. Sample of each free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. L, Boston." Adv.

No Little Girl for Him. The six-year-old son of a well-known Indianapolis family attends a dancing school. He is a chubby little fellow who has not begun to stretch out yet, and he keenly feels his "shortage." He demands that he be recognized as a little "grownup." Several days ago the teacher planned to instruct her pupils in dancing "the Butterfly." A five-year-old girl who is too far for her age, and just a trifle stouter than our hero, but an adept at dancing, was assigned as his partner. He gazed at her in silence. Then he took hold of her hand and, with his mouth set firmly, walked straight over to the teacher.

"Don't you think you'd better give me a bigger girl?" he asked.—Indianapolis News.

The average girl treats a new acquaintance far better than she does an old friend—so the old friend thinks.

But it isn't every high flyer who reaches the top.

CONSTIPATION



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