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Series I: General Correspondence, 1914-1969, undated.

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Palestine School luncheon fund, 1924.

Chicago, Illinois,
October 23, 1924.

Dr. Maurice Harris, President
Palestine School Luncheon Fund,
418 Central Park West,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Harris:

On several occasions we visited the School Lunch Room in the Old City in Jerusalem. We saw the children partaking very happily of good wholesome food. A young girl acted as hostess at each table and saw to it that everybody received a generous helping and a second portion if it was desired. The pupils themselves, cooked the food, served it, and washed the dishes. In fact they did everything that was to be done except for the supervision of one adult. How neat and attractive each child looked in her cap and apron, and how rapidly they worked. The kitchen was immaculate when they gave it their last look of approval. Through some one's careful planning and in spite of the many difficulties encountered, the kitchen was well equipped and quite conveniently furnished. The whole made a most pleasant impression upon the visitor. One felt too that not only is the giving of wholesome food to these children a very necessary piece of work but a very valuable service is being rendered in teaching habits of cleanliness and inculcating higher standards of living in these children.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) PEARL FRANKLIN

Dr. Maurice Harris, President
Palestine School Luncheon Fund,
418 Central Park West,
New York N. Y.

New York, N. Y.
November 1, 1924.

Dear Dr. Harris:

In the old city in Jerusalem, in a street that in America would be termed an alleyway, different than alleyways we know, because of its cobble stones and shallow, broad stone stairs winding down a hill - behind a wall is a Girls' School. It is in a quarter of the city where Persian and Yemenite Jews live.

My visit to the school was planned for the noon hour and I was fortunate enough to be on time for the preliminaries. On the street floor are a kitchen and dining hall, the latter divided into two rooms by an arch. The kitchen is well kept. Through ingenuity, there is a "place for everything and everything in its place." Tins in orderly arrangement, inscribed in Hebrew, held the ingredients. In a large pot (if vessels of such size may be called pots) was simmering some broth. The young woman in charge informed me how many vegetables were in the pot and my senses of smell and sight testified to a delicious, wholesome meal.

The children, after the signal, made a bee line from their classes for the washing of hands - paper towels were supplied and a container ready to receive them. This to me seemed a natural process and had it not been for my guide, I would have taken it all for granted. She, however, brought me back to a realization that I was in Palestine and not America - for the paper towels were not the kind we know that come out of a slot-box attached to a wall and which we use extravagantly, but were printer's paper, used for newspapers, cut up into small squares, and the receptacle, a standard oil tin square.

I was conducted down into the dining hall - seven long tables in parallel position were flanked by benches where 125 children were ready for a meal.

It was interesting to try to pick out the various types - Persian, Yemenites and a sprinkling of Ashkenazim. The tables were neatly set and the older girls were serving. Again I found myself taking for granted that this was all natural procedure when I was informed that many children were taught to use table tools and how to sit at table for meals for the first time.

The children pay 1/2 piastre per luncheon. The menus are varied and planned by trained dietitians. Can you imagine how in a country like Palestine, where ideas of calories and the importance of cooking are unknown, through the children will be brought home a realization of the relation between good, wholesome, well-prepared food and good health and happy dispositions! And just as trained nurses are being supplied, so in time there will be developed trained cooks!

You will wonder why I say nothing about how these luncheons help to build up the bodies of the children - the children all looked so well, I suppose I took that for granted also.

Perhaps the School Luncheon Committee will make it possible for visitors to take for granted such performances in more schools in Palestine!

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) MRS. EDWARD JACOBS

THE PALESTINE SCHOOL LUNCHEON FUND COMMITTEE

114 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

אין העולם מתקיים אלא בזכות תינוקות של בית רבן.

"On The Breath of School Children The World Depends"

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New York, November 20th, 1924.

Mrs. FRANK COHEN, Sec'y-Treas.

Dear Sir:-

A year ago an appeal was issued to all the pupils of the Religious Schools of America to make a contribution to help the children of Palestine thru supplying them with a daily meal. The original suggestion came from the children themselves. A very large number generously responded and are repeating their donations this year.

The Palestine School Luncheon Fund Committee, as a result, has undertaken to establish in Palestine luncheons for the children in its schools and also to organize classes in Domestic Science, so much needed in the country to-day. The Committee has already opened one of its centers and nearly 200 children are benefiting daily from its funds in a Jerusalem School.

We are certain that the Committee of your Sunday School which deals with matters of charity or social service, will be happy to respond to this appeal. In return for each child's contribution of five cents and upwards, he will receive a leaflet, (like the one enclosed), written in Palestine and describing conditions and life in that country. We shall be glad to send you as many leaflets as you will need for your children.

I am glad to say that yours was one of the Schools that generously answered our appeal. It is a splendid piece of work of children for children. It is a link uniting East and West. Won't you aid us to continue it.

Most sincerely yours,

Maurice H. Harris
Chairman.

P. S. I am enclosing two letters received from Miss Franklin and Mrs. Jacobs, both Vice-Presidents of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, who have visited Palestine and have seen the luncheon project in actual operation. The tribute of these eyewitnesses, if read to the pupils of your School, would more than any letter of mine, appeal to their sympathetic imagination.