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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY

Jordan

SUBJECT

Hospitals/Drugs/Nurses Training/Jordan
Medical Council/Refugees

DATE DISTRIBUTED

16 May 55

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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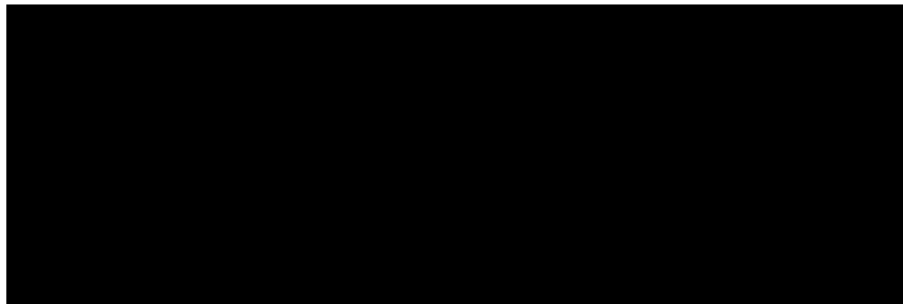
15 March 1955

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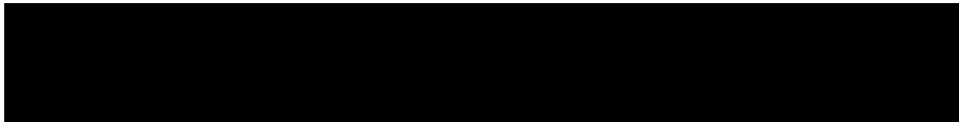
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In Bethlehem there was a hospital built in 1908 by the Swedish Lutheran Mission. It had not been in operation for some time. It was turned over for the care of refugees, and soon after it was in operation, was named the Arab National Hospital. This hospital has three stories and is made of native stone. Its normal capacity is 75 beds and it has four private rooms. The first floor has the offices, nurses quarters, laboratories, kitchen and dining room; on the second floor, a surgical room and ward for surgery patients. The third floor is for medical patients. Since the opening of the hospital in 1948 and up to [redacted], over 16 thousand

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patients have been admitted.

5. We average 10 surgical operations daily, seven days a week. The open-mouth (ether) method of administering anesthetics is used and is done by 25X1X6 [redacted] who also teaches nursing, supervises nurses, has charge of the surgical rooms, attends medical cases, and assists with the administration of the hospital. The staff of the Arab National Hospital consists of three physicians, all of whom are capable of doing surgery, three staff nurses, two laboratory technicians, 15 student nurses and 20 workers, such as cooks, waitresses, and hospital helpers. The highest salary paid to anyone on the Staff is US\$100 a month. The lowest paid is US\$10 a month. During vacation, refugee students at the American University in Beirut help in the hospitals and in the refugee camps.
6. In the late fall of 1954, a one-room, one-story building made of native stone was completed, now (1955) houses a fairly modern medical laboratory. This building and equipment (including modern x-ray equipment) were gifts of a US organization. Our own trained technical personnel operate the laboratories. 25X1X6 25X1X6
7. [redacted] The lighting facilities in the two surgical rooms are poor. There is no ambulance service. Patients are carried in by their friends.
8. Water for the hospital is piped from nearby springs and is chlorinated before human consumption. Primitive toilets, of the 1900 vintage, are used, and the refuse is collected daily and burned. Garbage and other refuse is hauled to a dump for disposal. Electricity is furnished by the city of Bethlehem. The one real and serious inconvenience is that the hospital has no heating facilities.
9. To the Arab refugees who have no income, all medical and hospital facilities are free. For those who can pay, a charge of US\$2 a day for a hospital bed is made. US\$10-15 for surgery is charged. These payments take care of approximately 15 per cent of the cost of operating the hospital. Private donations take care of the remainder. The annual operating cost of the hospital is US\$30 thousand.
10. At the hospitals that I serve we have a sufficient quantity of ordinary drugs. Occasionally we have shipments of antibiotics. All of these drugs come to us in the form of gifts, mostly from the US, and some from the UK. Because of no facilities we have no blood bank. When blood transfusion is necessary we call upon selected refugees who always respond willingly and for no charge. We have a supply of dry plasma which was received from the US. It is out of date but we still use it. Since 1950, we have been making our own smallpox, typhoid, antirabies and anticholera vaccines in the Jerusalem Central Government Laboratory. Oxygen is not available. The only research that is going on in the Jordan area that I know of consists of clinical research in tuberculosis of the intestines and the testing of new drugs for treatment of heart failure.
11. The most common diseases in the refugee areas are: Intestinal infection, chest complications, malnutrition, and tuberculosis. Infectious diseases are typhoid, diphtheria, malaria, smallpox, and typhus. Infant mortality in

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the refugee camps is 36 per one hundred. There is very little syphilis or other venereal diseases in the refugee area. This is due to the morality of the refugees.

12. In 1951, what is known as the Nurses' Training Center was set up in the Arab National Hospital. Students for this training are selected from the refugee groups. These students are required to have an education comparable to a high school education in the US, must be of good health and reputation, and of high morals. A board, which includes the Minister of Health of Jordan, and a representative from the American University of Beirut, approves all applications. The nurses' course is for a period of three years, and in addition to the practical experience in the hospital, each student must attend classes where the following subjects are taught: Physiology, Anatomy, Surgery, Medicine, Public Health and Infant Welfare. All text books used are from the US. As of March 1955, 25 students have received diplomas from the Jordan Department of Health. 15 students are now ^{March 55} in training. Nurses, after receiving their diplomas, are employed in the hospitals, in private clinics, and many of them go out into the refugee villages, where they serve as Public Health Nurses. We have found that these graduate nurses are very capable, hard working, thoughtful and serious. With additional training, they become dependable technicians, such as X-ray operators, laboratory technicians, anesthetists, and in the refugee villages are capable of doing minor surgery and the prescribing of medicines.
13. All hospitals in Jordan are governed by a Board of Governors. The hospitals are first registered with the Government Health Department, which grants them authority to operate as charitable institutions. Regulations for the operation of hospitals are made by the Government Health Department, which closely watches, by regular inspections, the unit and personnel. Only registered physicians, surgeons and nurses are permitted to practice in these hospitals. There are no special hospitals for infectious diseases. Hospitals treat all types of illnesses.
14. The Jordan Medical Council was created by an act of Parliament, which provides that the medical personnel in Jordan shall elect their council and the council elect the officers. The Minister of Health of Jordan is the Chairman of the Council. Throughout the larger cities of Jordan there are local medical associations which meet monthly and are well attended.
15. In 1946 Dr (fnu) Lambi, a US medical missionary who had spent most of his life in Africa, came to Palestine. There he saw the tremendous toll of death that was caused by tuberculosis. He obtained the permission of King Abdullah to build a hospital for the tubercular. The hospital was started in 1952 and was completed last year, 1954. Dr Lambi died before completion of the hospital, but his wife is carrying on and is in charge.
- This hos-
- pital is a 70-bed hospital. Although it is supposed to be entirely for tubercular people, other patients are admitted. It is located near Hebrun. It has a fairly modern surgical department [REDACTED].
16. The Spafford Hospital, located within the walls of the old city of Jerusalem, was formerly a nurses' home. It is the only complete children's hospital in the Middle East. It is sponsored and partially financed by the American Colony in Jerusalem. This hospital was first opened as a children's hospital in 1952, and since the opening, over 14 hundred children have been registered. The hospital is complete with surgical, medical, X-ray and laboratory

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facilities. In 1954, a new surgical wing was added to the hospital, at a cost of US\$35 thousand, a gift from a US organization. The same organization gave US\$8 thousand for surgical equipment.

17. In the city of Bethlehem proper, there are estimated to be 24 thousand people. Of these, 14 thousand are Arab refugees. It is also estimated that there are 460 thousand refugees, including new-borns which are estimated to be 25 thousand each year, located in all of the refugee areas of Jordan.

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18. Most of the financial help in maintaining [redacted] health program, which reaches out into the refugee villages, comes from persons and organizations in the US. The names of the donors are not generally known to the refugees living in the villages because bitterness still exists in the minds of many of them toward the US. We know that this attitude is diminishing because our workers in the refugee villages daily bring us information about the health and well-being of the refugees which tell us that the thinking of the refugees is becoming more and more rational. Communism and other subversive activities are gradually losing their foothold in the minds of the refugees. Formerly, considerable subversive literature, all produced in Tel Aviv and distributed among the refugees, would be brought to me by our workers. Now only an occasional bit of this literature is brought to my attention. Some of this decline is undoubtedly due to the law which makes it unlawful for anyone to be a member of the Communist Party and unlawful for the distribution of Communist literature. This law has been strictly enforced and many arrests and imprisonments have been made. We, of the refugee group, believe that this decline in the distribution of this literature is due principally to our efforts in making idle men and women busy, in establishing schools, in creating farms to produce much of the food for the refugees, and in establishing a health program which will eventually reach out to all of the refugees. We believe that our plan will produce more lasting results than the imprisonment of the offenders of that law because it creates martyrs out of those who have been imprisoned.

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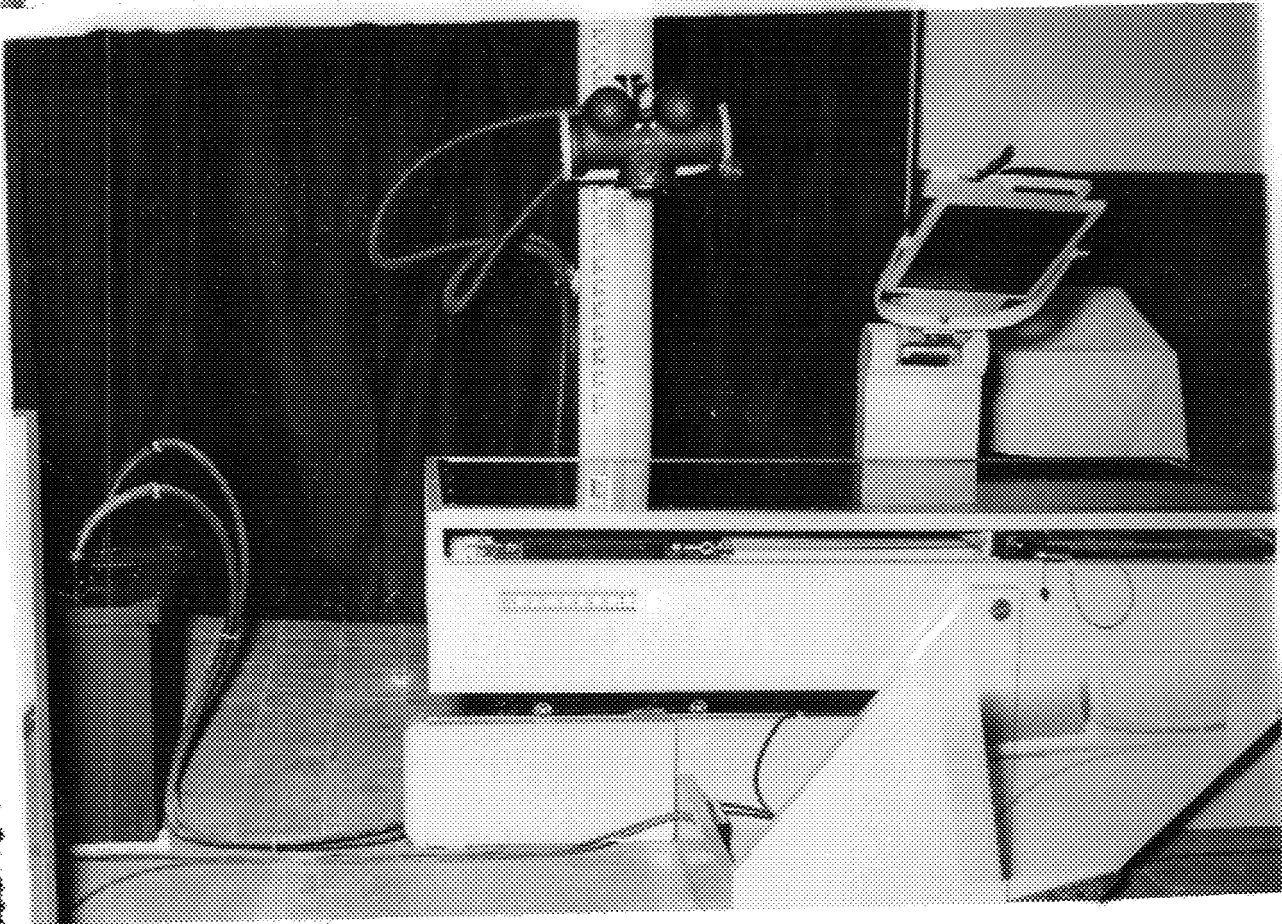
1. Refugees arriving at the Arab National Hospital.
2. Jordan Medical Council in session.
3. Medical Laboratory at Arab National Hospital.
4. X-ray equipment at Arab National Hospital.
5. X-ray equipment at Arab National Hospital.
6. Patient and ward facilities at Arab National Hospital.
7. Under-nourished child
8. 9. 10. & 11. - Views of surgical operations - UNCLASSIFIED, 7

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X-ray given to the Hospital
by the Ford Foundation.

(19)

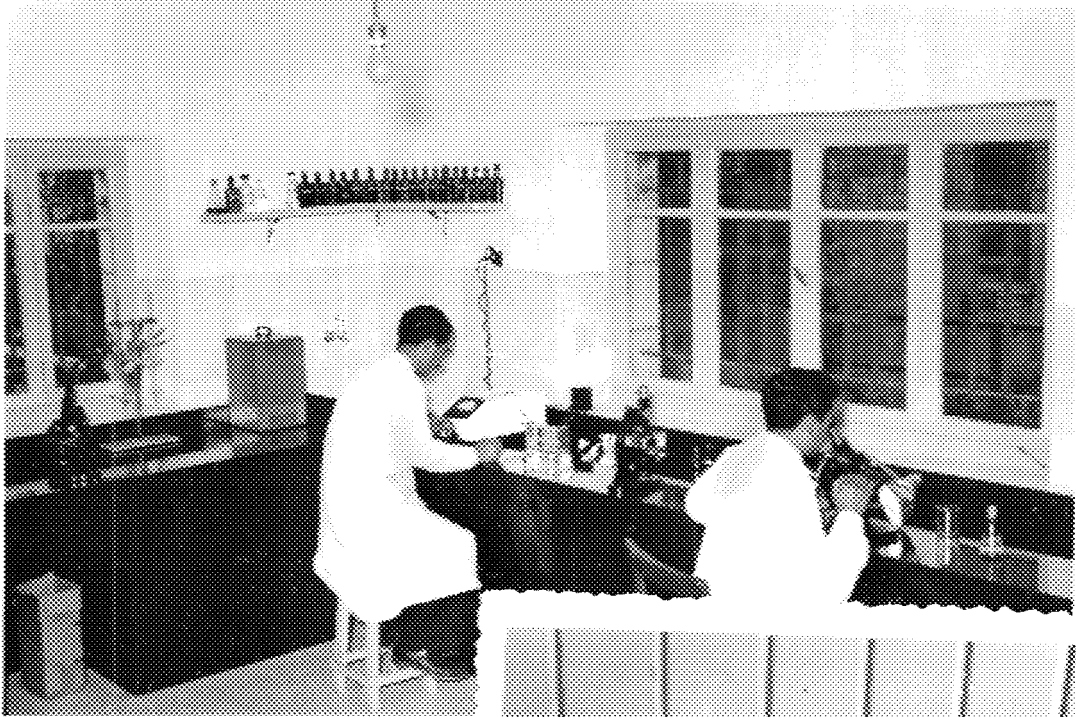
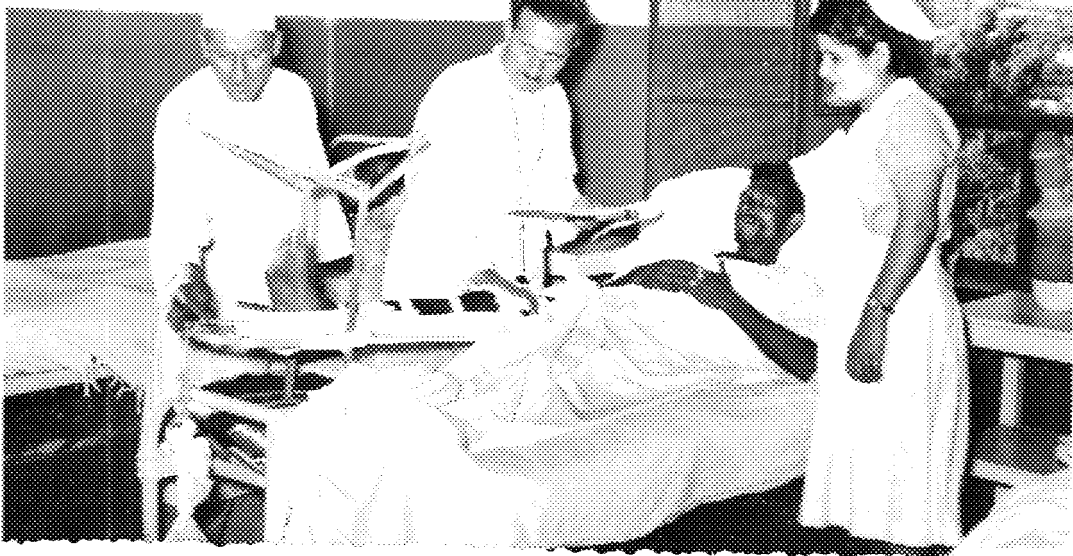
(E)

pts from surrounding
Camps come to the
Hospital for medical
and Surgical Treatment
Arab National Hospital
Bethlehem, Jordan.

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Moraine under covered
inpatient. at Arab National
Hospital Bellalche Jordan

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The laboratory given to the Arab
National Hospital by the Ford Foundation
is building 3 miles by 6 miles, and
Dr. M. T. Dajani

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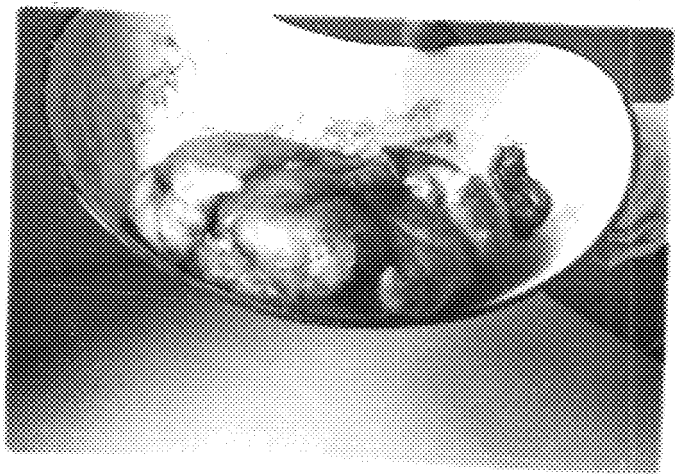
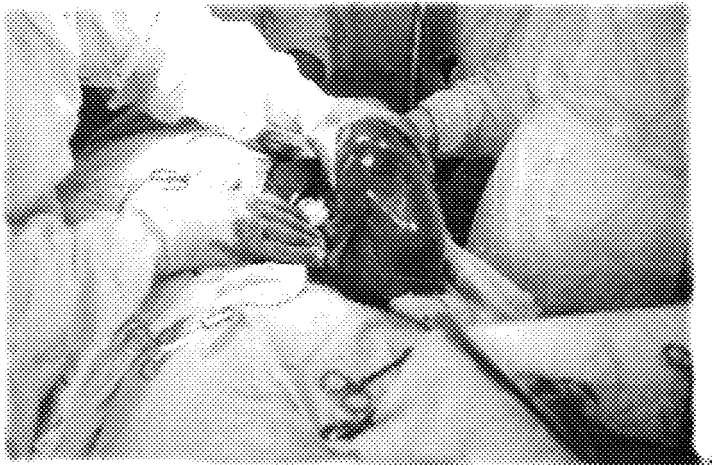
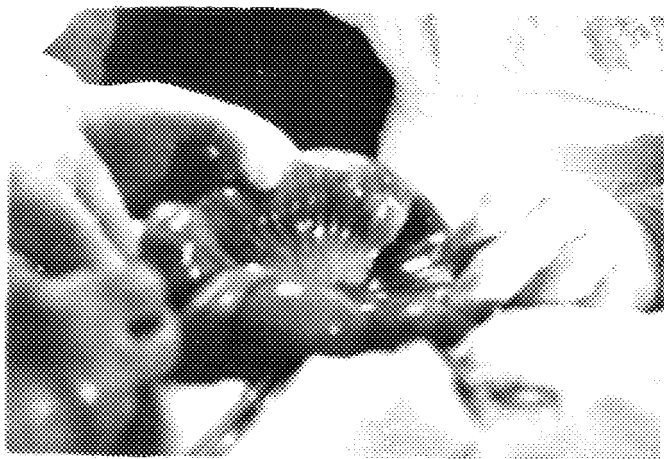
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Dr. M. T. Dajani with
a staff nurse and a
trained male nurse
attend to a refugee
with a fractured leg
at the Arab National Hospital
Bellalche - Jordan.

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① Abdomen opened
and intestines
opened to remove
the worms.

② Obstruction due to
Ascariis -

③ On hydatid cyst of
the spleen.

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④ Spleen removed
with the Hydatid
cyst.

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1. Refugees arriving at the Arab National Hospital.
2. Jordan Medical Council in session.
3. Medical Laboratory at Arab National Hospital.
4. X-ray equipment at Arab National Hospital.
5. X-ray equipment at Arab National Hospital.
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7. Under-nourished child.

REMARKS 8. 9. 10. & 11. - Views of surgical operations.

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