

THE "THANKFUL HEARTS' LEAGUE"  
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF,

JERUSALEM.



February 25th. 1938.

Dear Friend,

I am only writing a very short letter, as we hope to arrive in England about the middle of June, when we shall be able to tell you all our news.

Thank you so much for all you have done to help us during the past year, in many ways 1937 was a wonderful year. Again and again we were faced with difficulties, that seemed impossible to overcome, and in a marvellous way the path was made clear. "Someone is praying for us somewhere" we said, as we thanked God, and thought of our many Helpers by Prayer, all over the world. Many new friends for the little deaf and dumb children of Palestine, have been added to our Helpers, by the kindness of Canon Hopkins, who specially asked for Prayer for the work in Palestine of "The Thankful Hearts' League" to help the deaf and dumb of Eastern Lands, in the Quarterly Paper of Intercession and Thanksgiving for the Church's work abroad.

I do not think we have ever had so much practical help, and sympathy from local friends. Our good High Commissioner has continued his kindness by sending us gifts from time to time, and we were touched by his thoughtfulness, in coming to say "Good-bye" to us all a few days ago, for he is soon leaving Palestine.

On March 24th. The Rt. Rev. The Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, and Mrs Graham Brown, and many friends came for special Prayer, and Thanksgiving, and to see the School in it's new Home, all bringing gifts of money, or presents for our Store room.

Two of the large Training Colleges for Women, have most kindly helped by sending Students in training to teach the boys, (who have a good grasp of English, and have learnt to lip read well), how to speak and lipread Arabic. Of course this has taken up a good deal of my time, for I am always present at this class, guiding the Students step by step, but it has been abundantly worth while, as the parents' joy when they hear their deaf and dumb child speaking it's "Mother tongue" is great. There are some sounds in Arabic which seem almost impossible to lip read, or to get a born deaf child to say, but we are persevering!!!

"Toc. H." Members have been such a help to us, they took care of our house when we went to Cyprus for a short holiday, watered the plants etc. and when we returned to Jerusalem we found the courtyard and verandahs all beautifully swept and tidy. The Chairman spent "Pound Day" with us, I

don't know how we should have managed without his help, he and Bolo were kept busy carrying in the many Stores from the cars as they drove up, and piling the goods up on the long trestle tables, lent to us by another "Toc. H." member, who has done this kindness every year on "Pound Day", since we came to Palestine. Whenever a tap wants a new washer, or a branch of a tree needs cutting off, we send out an S.O.S. and "Toc. H." responds.

After careful preparation by the Chairman, Bolo was initiated, and made a member of "Toc. H.", it was such a simple but solemn little service, at which many of our friends were present. Bolo so enjoys going to the many Meetings, Lectures, and Social evenings, at the "Toc. H." room which is only a few minutes away from our school. Great was the joy of Bolo, and the boys, when they heard that this good friend was coming to spend three days with us at Christmas, for the boys all love him. Their excitement was great when he rode up on a donkey dressed as "Father Christmas"; he created quite a stir in St. Paul's Road!! I was on the verandah with the boys, and when they saw "Father Christmas", they shouted with joy, and rushed down to meet him at the gate. The many Sergeants, who live next door to us, ran in to see the fun, and helped "Father Christmas" to dismount, and then we all went to the School room where the Christmas Tree, so beautifully dressed by Miss Martin was all lit up. It was a pretty sight to see the men with the small boys on their knees, helping them to untie their presents, all gifts from friends in England and Jerusalem. The room looked so gay, and bright, decorated with red, white and blue paper chains, which the children love to make, and numbers of fascinating balloons. How the boys and their friends love balloon fights, I wish you could have heard their laughter, as they played with them.

Two of the Sergt. Majors came to our help one Sunday morning, when a Moslem man brought his little son to our School. The Matron of the Government Hospital most kindly said she would take the boy, give him a carbolic bath, and get the Doctor to examine him, before we admitted him to school. Miss Walden and I were so relieved, as we were alone with the boys, all the others having gone to Church, but our joy was short lived, for the telephone went, and the Matron said she was sending Ally back, as his screams, and kicks were frightening all the patients, many of whom were seriously ill. We knew that once the father had left, Ally would settle down happily with the other boys, so I went next door, and these two Sergt. Majors gladly came in, took the boy from his father, and gave him a bath. The Matron sent an Arab policeman from the hospital to help the father bring the boy back to school, for the poor man could do nothing with his son, and he is only seven years old! The policeman asked to see the school, and was amazed to see such a happy well behaved number of deaf and dumb boys!! and great was his astonishment when the boys spoke to him in Arabic, and answered the questions he asked them; he went away saying "This is a wonderful place, here little devils are turned into angels".

It was a very tiring morning for us, for after giving our two helpers tea, they asked to see how we begin to teach a deaf child to speak, and they stayed a long time, and so enjoyed the Demonstration I gave them. These "Toc. H." men are really interested, and on "Pound Day" collected a good sum of money from their Mess. The Matron of the hospital came to tea with me a few days afterwards, and when she saw Ally happily learning in school, she said "I cannot believe that is the same boy who came to the hospital, what miracles this school performs".

HEALTH. We have had a clean bill of health since the boys returned to school last September, cleanliness, good food, and exercise have made sturdy little lads of many who suffered with skin diseases, ricketts, etc. when first they came to school. I still give daily treatment for Trachoma, mostly preventive; and tie up various cuts and bruises from time to time, for they always run to me when they fall down, and rather enjoy having a little first aid attention.

Dr. Thompson, the Surgeon Specialist of the Government Hospital, Jerusalem, wrote in our Visitors' Book after one of his visits, when he charmed the boys by skipping with them, as follows "it has been my privilege as a doctor to see some truly remarkable changes in character in the children who have been fortunate enough to have the patient care and teaching of Miss Chapman, and her helpers. The transformation is evident in their happy smiling faces, for they now feel that they can understand, and be the same as others".

FINANCE. In spite of the troubles in Palestine, friends of all races, religions, and classes have come to our help, and so every need has been met.

Our Hon. Home Representative, Miss Joice Acton, was much cheered to receive a letter, and cheque for One thousand Dollars, from Miss Emily A. Medcraft, who sent this good sum in memory of her sister, who taught the Deaf in America for many years. She asked that this donation should be known as "The Molly Medcraft Gift", and wrote that it was "To be used in the School for the Deaf at Jerusalem, in any way the Trustees, or Miss Mary F. Chapman, may see fit." In writing to me, Miss Medcraft told me that her sister had become very interested in my work for the Deaf, by reading about it from time to time, in the "Volta Review". I should like to found a Scholarship with this £200., and endow this School for the Deaf in Palestine, with twelve Scholarships, as I did in Burma, but we must FIRST get our own School Building, as we did in Rangoon. I have seen the ideal house, in just the right position in Jerusalem, and I should like to buy this as soon as possible, and thus be able to receive the many children, boys and girls, waiting for admission. I am sure if this great need were known, many would give or collect £200. to endow one room, and thus have a share in this work known as "The Gospel in action" by our many friends here.

Teachers of the Deaf, deaf children, and many adult deaf friends in England, Scotland, Wales, Denmark, America, and S. Africa have sent through Miss Hewitt, or direct to me, the good sum of £32-13s-6d. towards the expenses of one Teacher; we are so very grateful for this help, and I am sure the full support for one Teacher could easily be raised, if every teacher, and worker for the Deaf, in Christian Lands, where the Government makes it possible for every deaf child to be taught, gave a small annual "Thankoffering" for the joy of being able to work, without BEGGING!! If they in turn would interest every deaf child, or adult, in the many, many deaf and dumb people in this land, who have never had a chance of learning, we should be able to have all the workers we need in this most beautiful land of Palestine, with its glorious climate. As many of our boys are growing up, and we hope to admit many new ones next year, we specially want a Teacher (man) to help in the Schoolroom, and with Games; and also able to train them for work, one who has the infinite patience, love, and firmness needed for dealing with the deaf lad.

I am hoping to visit as many Schools as possible before they close for the summer holidays, and also to take many Meetings during the two months we hope to be in England. If you can let me know as soon as possible, about what time, and which day will suit you best for a Meeting, I can plan out my Tours on board ship; the postage to Palestine is 1½d. for one ounce. Please send letters to me here up till the middle of May, and then to 16 Westby Road, Boscombe, Hants. to await my arrival.

With many renewed and grateful thanks for all your help, Miss Walden is specially grateful for the parcels of lovely clothes etc. for the little "Family".

Yours very sincerely,  
MARY F. CHAPMAN.