

Gen. & Emerg
Oze

JEWISH HEALTH ORGANISATION OF GREAT BRITAIN
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AFFILIATED TO THE
WORLD UNION FOR PRESERVING
THE HEALTH OF THE JEWS. "OZE."

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October 8th, 1926

Mr. Felix M. Warburg,
Chairman, American Jewish
Joint Distribution Committee,
40, Exchange Place,
New York City.

Dear Sir,

We feel it our privilege as well as our duty to join in support of Dr. Kreinin's representations to secure your assistance in preventing the collapse of the "OZE" health institutions in Eastern Europe.

Dr. Kreinin will place before you reliable and exhaustive information on the work devolving on the Organisation and on the minimum expenditure required for the upkeep of its Institutions. His long experience in Jewish public work and the leadership and considerable financial contributions which he has given to the movement for the physical regeneration of the Jewish masses, entitle him to speak on these matters with singular authority.

It is our object here to appeal to the leaders of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and through them to American Jewry as a whole to accord

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their fullest attention and sympathetic support to the urgent cause he is elected to represent.

The "OZE" institutions have already established a high record of Jewish self-help and humanitarian effort. The "OZE" clinics and welfare centres fought the epidemics which followed in the wake of war and famine between 1914 and 1920, and treated or cared for, about 3 0 0, 0 0 0 children and over half a million adults. The time has not yet come for these centres of medical relief to take upon themselves the work of the physical rehabilitation of the decimated remnants of our people for which the "OZE" was created. Their work and slender resources must needs continue to be absorbed by the more immediate problems of rendering first aid to the ailing and enfeebled Jewish populations. But the time is approaching when these establishments and societies will be charged with their primary duty. It is then that these institutions could become the centres and nucleus of a wider organisation for physical reconstruction. Yet another aspect of the "OZE" Movement must not be overlooked. The network of health institutions which the movement has called into existence represents the proud achievement of progressive Jewish public opinion. Its activity in the sphere of public health education and research is based on humanitarian considerations and on an anxiety to show what the Jews can do in the great and honourable field of hygienic endeavour. Moreover, the work of preventing avoidable disease is in full consonance with the general awakening of public conscience in the Western World to the problems of health. The benefits are already seen in a constantly decreasing mortality in the Western countries. A declining morbidity rate would lighten burden of Jewish communities in the upkeep of their curative and poor-relief institutions.

Indeed, no far-reaching plan of reconstruction is conceivable which does not take account of the health question. The physical suffering still rampant among the impoverished Jewish masses must first be arrested and their low vitality raised to strength before their economic efficiency can be expected to return to normal standards.

These among other considerations have prompted us in signing this appeal in support of Dr. Kreinin's mission. We are well aware that for a number of years the income from local sources of the "OZE" medical and hygienic centres has to an

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increasing degree been generously made up from the funds of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. We also remember with gratitude the decisions of the Philadelphia Congress of your Organisation communicated to us in a letter dated September 23rd, 1925, and placing on record the readiness of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to continue their support in the field of sanitation and prevention of disease. It is our firm belief that the work in this field should be done, as far as possible through the existing channels of the already unified and co-ordinated Organisation of the "OZE" World Union. The "OZE" was first to proclaim among the Jews the need to inaugurate the movement for raising the standard of Jewish health. Its institutions have stood the severe test of time, and have proved their worth in periods of unprecedented disaster; they have won their way deep in the hearts and affections of our people in Eastern Europe, have gained general recognition and valuable connections and have accumulated considerable experience, which should not be allowed to fall into disuse. We hope, therefore, that no effort will be spared to give the fullest effect to the resolutions of the Congress and to assist the "OZE" to the utmost extent, in the cause of the physical regeneration of our sorely tried people.

Hoping that the above will receive your favourable consideration

We remain,
Yours faithfully,

LORD ROTHSCHILD, F.R.S., TRUSTEE.
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