

NEWS IN BRIEF.

CENTRAL BUREAU FOR ARTISANS' AID IN TEL-AVIV.

Jerusalem.

The Jewish Agency's Department for Small Trade and Industry has opened a Central Bureau for Artisans' Aid in Tel-Aviv in conjunction with the Mifdeh 'Ezrachi (Middle-Class Assistance Fund), with the object of co-ordinating and giving systematic support to artisans' organisations, particularly in helping members to get work, credit financing, providing guarantees, and giving advice and technical instruction. The same department has set up a Handicrafts Promotion Fund for the purpose of aiding in the purchase of requisite materials, give advances to workers in this field, assist in buying tools and implements, and extend advances to enable orders to be carried out. During the four months ending September, 1941, the Keren Hayesod granted £P.1,000 towards the development of handicrafts.

MIKVEH ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL.

Jerusalem.

At a reception given in Tel-Aviv by the Friends of Mikveh Israel School Society, Mr. A. Krause, Director of the School, disclosed that of the 1,300 graduates of the Mikveh Israel Agricultural School, there are now 700 in various parts of the country, of whom 121 are private farmers, 66 working on their parents' farms, 36 in small-holding settlements, 182 in kibbutzim and kvutzoth, 60 agricultural instructors, 30 grove managers, 145 agricultural labourers, and 100 have joined the British Army. Unfortunately, hard times have hit the institution and it ran last year at a deficit of £P.4,000. Mr. Krause appealed for scholarships, or for memberships in the Friends Society. Various sums were received last year from abroad, but substantial amounts are necessary for the current year.

PALESTINE ORCHESTRA'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY.

Jerusalem.

On 26th December, 1941, the Palestine Orchestra had its fifth anniversary. During this period it gave 595 concerts and had an aggregate audience of some 700,000 persons. Twenty per cent. of the concerts now being given are for the troops, while 40 per

cent. of the audiences in ordinary concerts are uniformed people. In January, 1942, the orchestra went for the tenth time to Egypt.

ACTIVITIES OF BIALIK FOUNDATION.

Jerusalem.

During the five years of its existence, the Bialik Foundation, financed by the Jewish Agency out of Keren Hayesod funds, has spent £P.23,000. The Board of Governors consist of eight members, of whom two represent the Hebrew Authors' Association. The Chairman is Mr. Isaac Grunbaum, member of the Jewish Agency Executive. There is also a Literary Advisory Council which supervises all publications. These publications range from the Hebrew classics and Judaica to scientific works and the products of modern Hebrew literature. The Foundation also makes an annual grant to the Hebrew Language Board.

MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY.

Jerusalem.

The Magen David Adom First Aid Society in Jerusalem has just completed its seventh year. It has now three ambulances, and a fully equipped first-aid station in town serving (since the transfer of the Hadassah to Mount Scopus) from three in the afternoon until seven the next morning. Three doctors are in attendance with volunteers taking turns. Over 1,000 members of the Society have completed full courses and another 600 of them have formed the volunteer corps of first-aid workers. There is a panel of 90 doctors available for unpaid service in the event of air attack, and during alerts eight first-aid stations are immediately manned and ready in various parts of the city. There are 4,000 members of the Jewish A.R.P. Society in Jerusalem, which was fostered by the Magen David Adom Society.

PALESTINIAN BOYS & GIRLS TRAINING AT ORTHODOX SETTLEMENT.

Jerusalem.

A group of twenty-three Palestinian boys and girls, including five Yemenite Jews, are now training at the Hapoel Hamizrachi settlement of Tirath Zvi. They learn Mishnah, Bible, Talmud and laws, as well as Jewish and general history during half

of the day and work on the land in the other half. In the evening, one of the boys reads out the day's portion of the Bible, accompanies it with a commentary, while on the Sabbath another gives the portion of the week and the Haftorah. They have six rooms, a club hut and a dining-hall for their use.

FISHERIES AND OTHER MARITIME ACTIVITIES IN YISHUV.

Jerusalem.

With the object of encouraging fisheries and other maritime activities within the Yishuv, the Histadruth set up some years ago the "Nachshon" Society. During 1941 the Society completed the building of the first training vessel to be made completely in Palestine. The body was built by Plugath Hayam at its shipyard in Kiryat Haim, the crane and other parts at the Kibbutz Na'an locksmithy, and the remainder at Haifa. The vessel is used as a coastwise trading ship, leaving Tel-Aviv every morning, and returning in the evening, and is manned by a group of Tel-Aviv sailors. Another ship was built on the Yarkon in Tel-Aviv. The engine has arrived and the ship will soon be put into service. A third ship, made of steel, is now to be made by Sole Boneh at Haifa. Nachshon has also opened a Marine Equipment and Ship's Chandlery department at Haifa, in which it invested about £P.8,000, and is able to furnish Jewish boats with fishing tackle, etc. Nachshon is also aiding agricultural settlements engaged in fish-breeding and lake-fishing.

Twelve Keren Hayesod settlements now engaged in carp-breeding have formed their own association for the furthering of fish-breeding. It was stressed at a conference that an experiment and research station is needed to investigate such questions as feeding, breeding, and combating undesirable kinds of fish.

DEVELOPMENT OF K FAR SHMARYAHU.

Jerusalem.

Kfar Shmaryahu, founded by "Rassco," recently observed its fifth anniversary. The village has 90 families, or 370 individuals, and 33 children have been born in the last five years. There are 37 fully-developed farms and 21 auxiliary farms of labourers engaged on outside work. The village area of 850 dunams was recently enlarged by 1,000 dunams of KKL land.

JEWISH WHEAT PRODUCTION DOUBLED.

Jerusalem.

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