

Hadassah Medical Center Creates Ward For Care Of Ethiopian Children

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policy, mothers are encouraged to remain with their children on the ward during treatment.

This arrangement has provided doctors and social services personnel with an unusual opportunity to learn more about the olim -- newcomers -- and the quality of their lives in Ethiopia while also treating their medical disorders and helping them prepare for new lives in their new homeland.

The ward also has attracted a growing number of volunteers who teach the youngsters and their mothers to speak Hebrew and provide other informal educational and cultural experiences that will help ease their way into the mainstream of Israeli life.

On a typical day in the new ward a visitor finds three Ethiopian children sitting at a table, drawing, putting puzzles together and playing with toys. A nursery school teacher points to a drawing that Amara, aged 7, has done of a cat. "Cat," she says in Hebrew. A shy smile spreads over Amara's beautiful face. He repeats gently, "Cat."

Nearby, a grey-haired Ethiopian woman holds a baby girl, her niece. The child's mother died of starvation on the journey to Israel. Her father's whereabouts are unknown. Doctors assure the aunt that the child, her stomach swollen by malaria, will begin to recover in a few days with proper medication and diet.

Another mother, Radah, dresses a baby on her lap after the doctors finish their examination. He, too, has malaria, as does her older child in the next bed. Radah's husband is being treated in another medical facility.

She brought her baby to Hadassah only a few days ago. The next day, her neighbors brought her four other children, all small, to be with her in the hospital. A quick medical test revealed the

second child also suffered from malaria. Radah remains with her two children while the other three are at home, the care arranged by socialworkers from Hadassah and the Jewish Agency.

Socialworkers check into the family situations of the mothers and children on the ward and take steps to see they get needed social services. They find clothing for the mothers and, through an interpreter sent to Hadassah each day by the

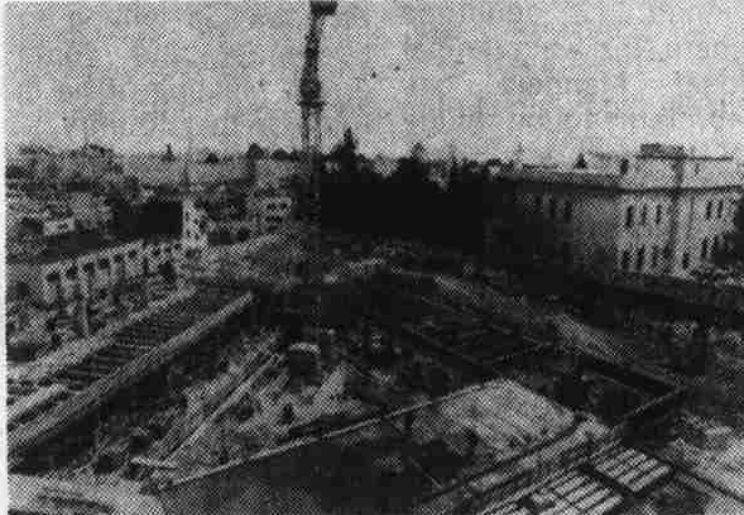
Jewish Agency, they discuss the children's diets with their mothers and take care that they get some of the foods they are familiar with, such as bananas, rice, potatoes and chicken.

Often these daily sessions uncover important medical facts which need attention that might otherwise go unreported. For example, one child whose mother is being treated for malaria, had a baby who died on the journey. She stopped breast-feeding the infant because her breasts had become very painful. She was too shy to tell anyone in a position of authority. Diet and medication quickly cleared up the problem.

In another area of the ward a volunteer picks up a small picture of a house. "House," she says in Hebrew to a little girl. "Your house," she says, "Eretz Yisrael."

The child smiles in delight. "My house," she says. "Eretz Yisrael!"

Hebrew Union College Construction Site In Jerusalem



The construction site in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem School of Hebrew Union College is located on King David Street overlooking the walls of the Old City. Students enrolled in the rabbinic and religious education programs of Hebrew Union College are required to spend their first year of study at the Jerusalem School. The school is also a center for archaeological research, maintains a special rabbinic program for training native-born Israelis as Progressive rabbis, and conducts an outreach program of classes, lectures and cultural events for the Israeli public.

The Musical Arts Chorus and Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Douglas Peterson, will perform Bruckner's Mass in F Minor in the Judy Bayley Theater at UNLV, Sunday, March 31 at 3:00 p.m.

100 musicians and singers joined by solists Pat Dawson, Helen Maynard, Larry Wayne and George Skipworth, will give tribute to the late Martha Peterson. The memorial concert will begin with the Rachmaninoff Vocalise, featuring opera star, Madelene Capelle. The concert is free to the public. For information, call 451-6672.

Doolittle Community Center, 1900 W. Lake Mead & "J" Street, is in the process of starting their Summer Softball League and will have a coaches and team representatives meeting on March 25 at 7 p.m. This meeting will be conducted to discuss participation, entry fees, rules, by-laws and tournaments.

This program is sponsored by the City of Las Vegas' Department of Parks, Recreation & Sr. Citizen Activities. For more information call 386-6374.

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