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home—a place in which parents place their children while they themselves work?"

"Precisely. And remember that it is a better home than they themselves could provide. Remember, too, that the standard of living in these settlements is low only if the test is what the individual possesses. I have said that married couples live in single rooms. They have no private sitting rooms of their own, no easy chairs and carpets and radios and pianos. But the community centre has all these things, and they are freely available to everybody—including libraries and other advantages that few individuals would have in New Zealand. The standard of living of the parents is low, because they are building a new world, and have not got very far. But already the children are the centre of the whole structure. Their parents look at the future through them."

"Besides," he went on, "Palestine—I mean Jewish Palestine—is a very small piece of the earth. If you plant 500 people on 500 acres, no one is going to be very rich, especially during the first 20 years. It is to be emphasised that these communities began on borrowed money, with which everything was provided to begin with. This money is eventually paid off, and the settlement is free. But there is still no notion of accumulating individual wealth. The goal remains the fuller life of the community as a whole. Of course these Jews have not enough land but the world will not give them any more. They have to squeeze a living out of rocks and sand, and they are doing that and all these things besides. Spend a year in the Nile Valley where nature has provided everything but human energy, then visit these irrigated farms of the Jews and you will see what I mean. In 20 years the Jews have done bigger things than the Egyptians in 20 centuries; and they have done everything in this new, this absolutely unprecedented, spirit of co-operation. I am not a Jew, or a Communist, or a Socialist; I am born and bred in New Zealand; and in civil life I am a banker. But I remember what happened after the last war to most of our soldier settlements, and I felt as I wandered through Tel-Aviv and in the orchards surrounding it that the new Palestine might be part of the answer to those who wonder how to avoid catastrophe a second time."

"You think that what is happening there should be studied seriously by our economists and politicians?"

"I think that experts should be studying it now. Half a dozen specialists should be extracted from the Middle East Army and sent to Palestine to report. There are planners and economists among the soldiers, and those who have been a year or two in the Middle East would be the most suitable."

★ An elementary school in Tel-Aviv —of 12 classrooms, two work-rooms, school hall, dining-hall, and rooms for teachers and nurses

"What about yourself?"

"Don't be rude. I said specialists—men of science: agriculturists and agricultural economists, town-planners, architects and engineers. Why do you journalists think that everybody has an axe to grind?"

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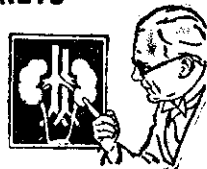
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