

DEDICATION OF THE HEBREW EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY BUILDING IN BROOKLYN

The new building of the Hebrew Educational Society of Brooklyn was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, June 7th. It is located at Hopkinson and Sutter Avenues, in the Brownsville; Hon. William A. Prendergast, Rabbi Simon J. Finkelstein, who spoke in Yiddish; Mr. Simon F. Rothschild, for a number of years president of the society, who rehearsed the history of the society since its beginning in 1899, referring to the early efforts of the late Abraham Lincoln and the late A. S. Solomons, then the manager of the Baron de Hirsch Fund, concluding with the presentation of the key to the president of the society, Mr. Adolph Feldblum, who discussed the present status of the organization as a social center for Brownsville; Hon. William A. Prendergast, Comptroller of the City of New York; Mr. Felix M. Warburg, president of the Young Men's Hebrew Association of Manhattan; Judge Samuel Greenbaum, president of the Educational Alliance; Hon. Abram I. Elkus, representing the Baron de Hirsch Fund; Rev. Dr. Stephen S. Wise, Mrs. Edward C. Blum, for several years president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Hebrew Educational Society; Mr. Benjamin H. Nanim, president of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities; Rev. Dr. Nathan Krauss and Rev. Dr. Alexander Lyons, who at the conclusion of his address gave the benediction.

The music was furnished by the chorus of the Hebrew Educational Society, under the direction of Prof. T. Bath Glasson, and the orchestra, Mr. John Lynch, conductor.

The building includes an auditorium with a gallery having a capacity for 500 persons, a gymnasium below the auditorium and a roof garden above. On the first floor are the administration offices and social room. On the two floors above there are fifteen club and class rooms, including one for Hebrew, three for music and one for domestic science. In the basement are a men's social room, showers and lockers for the gymnasium. The building, with equipment, will approximate a cost of \$40,000. It is located on a lot 100 by 92 feet 11 inches. Part of this plot is not occupied and will be used for the present as a farm garden.

The new Hebrew Educational Society Building represents the first completely equipped structure established by a private organization for the purpose of a Jewish social center in Brooklyn. It caters to the largest homogeneous population in that borough. The Brownsville district is assumed to contain about 150,000 Jews.

CHARLES S. BERNHEIMER,
Superintendent.

NEW BOOKS

The Great Society

A book which should be equally interesting to the psychologist and to the student of sociology, politics and the general reader is Graham Wallas' "The Great Society," which the author terms in his sub-title "A Psychological Analysis." Mr. Wallas is a man of wide connections in England, a man whose experience has well fitted him for the task which he has essayed. He has been for many years a university extension lecturer; he was at one time a member of the school board of London, chairman of the School Management Committee, a member of the Technical Education Board, of the London County Council and of the Education Committee of that council. He has been since 1896 a lecturer at the London School of Economics. He has served on the Senate of London University, as university reader in political science and on the Royal Commission on Civil Service. He has written more or less widely, his most popular publication being, perhaps, "Human Nature in Politics."

The present work, a portion of which was delivered last winter as the Lowell Lectures in Boston, begins with an exposition of what the author means by the term "The Great Society." It then proceeds to a consideration of the following topics: Disposition, Social Psychology, Instinct and Intelligence, Disposition and Environment, Habit, Fear, Pleasure, Pain, Happiness, The Psychology of the Crowd, Love and Hatred, Thought, The Organization of Thought, The Organization of Will and The Organization of Happiness. (Macmillan.)

HUNTING HOMES

Jennie Mandel

It is the purpose of the Jewish Home-Finding Society of Chicago to care for children who, through no fault of their own, have become temporarily or permanently dependent. These children are invariably placed in carefully selected homes. Modern experts in child-care tell us that every normal child should be reared in a family home, and if he cannot have his own parents, he should have the best kind of foster parents to guide him. The following incident recently happened:

WANTS TO BE LOVED ALL THE TIME

A little boy about seven years old was placed in one of our institutions because his mother is afflicted with advanced tuberculosis. While in the institution the boy developed ringworm and was sent to the county hospital, where he remained a number of months. When he was pronounced cured, the Jewish Home-Finding Society was asked to board him for a month or two, prior to returning him to the institution, so that all danger of contagion would be eliminated. The boy is a retiring, quiet child, who had been given considerable love and attention by his parents. Therefore, a home was chosen for him where he would receive as much affection and love as he naturally craved. It so happened that the foster mother with whom he was placed was a lonely woman and her heart longed for a child in her home, as her children had married and gone to their own homes. It is needless to say that this child was with his new mother only a few days when he completely won the hearts of the members of the family. The home took on a brighter aspect and the mother forgot her loneliness. The time arrived when the boy had to be taken to the specialist to be examined. When he learned where he was going and why, he said, "Please let me keep my ringworm and stay with auntie who kisses me good-night and good-morning, and loves me all the time. My mamma kissed me too, but now she is sick and can't come home, and where I was nobody ever loves little boys."

The physician reported that the child is not in condition to be returned to the in-

stitution. It has been decided, however, to leave him permanently in this pleasant home, consequently, the lad will not be deprived of the love to which he has a perfect right. While children in our institution receive excellent care, it is a physical impossibility for one caretaker to give all of the children in her charge individual attention.

Can anyone doubt that the family home, if well chosen, is the preferred one?

The children in family homes are more closely supervised than when left with their own mothers, as placing children with strangers is a far greater responsibility.

The chief cause of dependency when both parents are living is the tubercular condition of the mother, and it can readily be seen that children who come from home which are doubtless impregnated with infection require special attention.

Before placing a child in a family home, be it an infant a few weeks old or a boy or girl from one to fourteen years of age, he or she undergoes a thorough physical examination at the West Side Dispensary. In the case of infants, the foster mother is instructed as to proper feeding, and the welfare nurse visits the home and directs special treatment if necessary. The dispensary responds promptly when a call for a physician is received. Only in extreme cases do the caretakers consent to sending children to the hospitals. Owing to the splendid co-operation of the West Side Dispensary, Michael Reese Hospital and others in the city, the organization is able to report very little illness and no deaths during the entire year.

All children in family homes are visited regularly twice a month and many weekly. Reports from the schools the children attend are received each month. General appearance, as well as scholarship and attendance, are mentioned in these reports.

Whenever there are relatives who are considered fit persons to rear a child, every effort is made to place the children with them, although part of the board must be supplemented.

Home-finding should be more closely studied and more universally adopted. The

institution should be saved for the delinquent and defective child, and for the child who is to be cared for only a short time, before being returned to his home.

Last year 195 children were cared for in eighty family homes, at a cost of \$14,583.86, the monthly per capita being \$18.30 for children under three years of age, and \$15.90 for children three years of age and over, making the actual cost of maintenance \$17.10 per capita per month. One hundred and thirty children were dismissed, leaving on hand April 30, 1914, sixty-five children; \$2,121.74 were received from parents and guardians toward the maintenance of children.

THE NOBLEST WORK

The noblest and most worthy work which can be done is bringing together the homeless child and the childless home. If the child is not to grow up to be a public charge, he must have love and a home.

Applications from the childless homes are plentiful, but fortunately conditions in Chicago among the Jewish people are such that there are few homeless children for adoption. Surely this is a good reason for rejoicing, and much as the organization would enjoy filling the empty hearts and homes with the presence of children, existing circumstances are preferable. Owing to this fact, only eight children were placed in permanent homes during the year just ended—seven girls and one boy.

Immediately upon receipt of an application, a thorough investigation is made, and only after the entire board of directors expressed itself as satisfied with conditions reported is a child given for adoption on six months' probation. During the probation period the child is visited frequently.

St. Louis Home For Chronic Invalids

The Jewish Home for Chronic Invalids of St. Louis has been opened for the reception of patients. The Home consists of a fifty-acre farm, a large administration building, in which there are facilities to house about thirty chronic invalids; within a couple of hundred feet therefrom is a concrete, fireproof building to house twenty-four advanced tubercular patients, and

within 600 feet farther are two buildings, one each for male and female, to house about twenty-four each incipient tuberculars—in total the capacity is about one hundred beds.

The superintendent is Miss Elizabeth S. Kaplan, formerly head nurse of the National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives in Denver, Colorado, and the resident physician is Dr. Milton M. Schaie, formerly of the Montefiore Country Home, Bedford, New York.

Mr. Louis Renard is president of the Home, Emil Nathan vice-president, Mrs. L. P. Rothschild second vice-president, Mrs. M. Shoenberg treasurer and Mrs. Jacob Friedman secretary.

Grand Rapids Federates

Editor of Jewish Charities.

Sir: The Jewish Charities of Grand Rapids, Mich., have been federated into an organization known as the United Jewish Welfare Society.

This organization, in addition to contributions made to the national charities to which its members have heretofore subscribed, is endeavoring in an organized, scientific manner to administer to the needs of the worthy poor at home.

The officers of the association are: Joseph S. Hart, president; A. I. Wolf, vice-president; Mrs. Meyer S. May, treasurer; Miss Lillian F. Lubetsky, secretary; Mr. G. A. Wolf, counsel; Mr. Samuel G. Brandy, chairman Finance Committee, and Miss Clara Heyman, chairman Welfare Committee.

LILLIAN F. LUBETSKY,
Secretary.

Grand Rapids, Mich., June 15, 1914.

In connection with the campaign for a new building for the Cincinnati Talmud Torah, a brief survey was made of the extent of Jewish Religious Education in the city of Cincinnati by Mr. Isidor Kadisevitz of the Cincinnati School of Jewish Social Service. A list was prepared of the known existing agencies engaged in religious instructions, and a questionnaire was presented to the persons in charge of these several agencies.

PROCEEDINGS

Eighth Biennial Session National Conference of Jewish Charities

Memphis, May 6-8, 1914

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 6, 2.30

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cyrus L. Sulzberger, president.

Announcement was made of the appointment of the Committee on Nominations and the Committee on Resolutions as follows:

ON NOMINATIONS—

Max Senior.
Julian W. Mack.
David M. Bressler.
C. D. Spivak.
Louis H. Levin.

ON RESOLUTIONS—

Morris D. Waldman.
Frances Taussig.
Julius Goldman.
Emanuel Sternheim.
Fred N. Butzel.

The president then turned over the meeting to Mr. David M. Bressler as chairman.

The Chairman: There is to be a slight change in the program as published, and this afternoon's meeting will be on the subject of "Oriental Immigration."

There is as much truth as wit in the saying that the greatest difficulty of the problem of Jewish Oriental immigration is that it is not properly Oriental. Dr. Pool's instructive article, "The Levantine Jews in the United States," in the American Jewish Year Book of 1914, and Mr. Hexter's "Survey of Turkish Jews" may be regarded as the first attempts to throw light upon the subject. These articles have stimulated considerable interest, particularly as they call attention for the first time to the fact that there is something peculiarly distinctive about the Levantine Jews, and that the precedents we have to guide us in regard to Jews coming from other countries are hardly applicable in considering the settlement and assimilation in this country of Levantine Jews.

Prior to 1899 Jewish immigration from the Balkan States was negligible; since that

time something like 10,000 have come, and, with the exception of a small minority, have settled in New York City.

As in the case of all new immigrants, their economic and social status is still somewhat unsettled; on the one hand, they are mainly unskilled workers, which makes it difficult for them to find suitable and reasonably steady employment, and, on the other hand, they do not speak English or any language that is in vogue. They speak Ladino, Greek and Arabic, whereas of German, or Yiddish, not to say English, they know hardly a word. This tends to encourage their isolation, with a consequent clinging to their peculiar customs and habits.

It is not the province of the chairman to detail the attempts made to meet this situation. As in the case of all young problems there has been considerable exaggeration and perhaps unnecessary alarm. No one will doubt that it merits serious consideration, and this is particularly true at the present time when, as a result of the Balkan wars, a quarter of a million Jews have been transferred from Turkish rule to Bulgarian, Servian and Roumanian sovereignty, and while their political status has not yet been defined it is feared that it will not be as favorable as under the Turkish regime. Should this unfortunately prove to be the case, immigration to this country will remain one of the chief recourses which our Levantine brethren will have, and this immigration must necessarily concern the country at large and not merely any local district.

I have great pleasure in calling upon Dr. David de Sola Pool, who has worked among and in behalf of the Levantine Jews for many years, and who brings to this question a large experience, which I believe will prove highly valuable in formulating practical measures toward a proper understanding and solution of the question.