

Mixed Families

Editor of Jewish Charities.

Sir: I wish to present the following cases for your opinion, and if you think they deserve some consideration, you may print them in JEWISH CHARITIES for discussion.

A has married a Gentile woman and has a family of six children. All of the children were brought up in the Christian faith. A is not affiliated with any Jewish organization or synagogue. He deserts his family, who apply for assistance to a Jewish relief society.

B has married a Gentile woman and has a family of three children, who were brought up neither in the Jewish or in any other faith. The man becomes permanently incapacitated to earn a livelihood. Since he married, neither he nor his family were ever affiliated with any Jewish organization. They now apply to a Jewish relief society for aid.

C has married a Gentile woman and has a family of four children. The wife and children attend the Christian church, but the husband still belongs to a Jewish order. He became ill and the family applies for assistance to a Jewish relief society.

REMARKS

While charity does not discriminate between creed, sect, and nationality, yet Jewish relief societies are primarily organized to take care of Jewish unfortunates only. It would be impossible for any Jewish relief society to attempt to give permanent relief in a non-sectarian way. The question, therefore, presents itself: What attitude should Jewish relief societies take in cases like A, B, and C? Should they be treated as Jewish cases because the husbands are Jews by birth? I am not aware as whether this question has ever before been brought up for discussion.

S. B. Kaufman.

Indianapolis, April 21, 1914.

School and Settlement

The Council Educational Alliance of Cleveland is trying an experiment in connection with the Board of Education of this city. While the public schools of the city have made provisions for special classes for mental defectives, no facilities

were available for intensive work with high grade adolescent girls along domestic science lines. It was felt that girls of this type with special training might be of some use in the community and perhaps under careful supervision even self-supporting. The Council Educational Alliance, therefore, placed at the disposal of the Board of Education its equipment for use in the morning and early afternoon hours. A class of twenty girls with two teachers in charge, one a graduate of Pratt Institute, utilizes the kitchen, sewing room, and gymnasium for this definite training. It is expected that next season a teacher especially trained for work with defectives will be secured.

Ray of Sunshine

The Ray of Sunshine Club, an organization of young girls between the ages of 13 and 18, has recently been organized in New York, for the purpose of doing personal service among the blind, crippled, and those otherwise unfortunate. The Club started with a membership of five, and within a month has increased its number to fifty. The organization has outgrown its meeting place, the home of its president, Miss Hortense S. Simon, and now meets at the Public Library. The members are ready to co-operate with any social agency, and extend personal service wherever desired.

EXCHANGE BUREAU

Social worker, with experience both in institutional and field work, desires position as field worker or investigator. Personal service work preferred. Address F. K., JEWISH CHARITIES.

The Associated Jewish Charities of Minneapolis desires to hear from an experienced Jewish worker (woman), capable of taking charge as superintendent of its work, which is mainly the granting of relief. Salary at the beginning, \$1,200. Address Jonas Weil, 924 New York Life Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

JEWISH CHARITIES

BUSY TIME AT MEMPHIS

The Eighth Biennial Meeting of the National Conference of Jewish Charities, held in Memphis May 6th to 8th, consisted of seven sessions, at which fourteen papers were read. Once the Conference started, the work went on unceasingly, with practically no intervals between sessions, except for meals, and perhaps at no previous Conference was so much ground covered. Indeed, the question was raised more than once whether the Program Committee had not attempted too much.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

The order of the program was changed somewhat, and the Conference was opened by a paper on "Oriental Immigration" by Dr. David de Sola Pool of New York Wednesday afternoon in the assembly hall of the Rex-Y. M. H. A. Building. It was followed with much interest by the delegates, most of whom were probably surprised to find that an entirely new "problem" had arisen in this country without their knowledge. The paper treated the subject admirably, and presented the condition and the hopes of the Levantine Jews, as Dr. Pool preferred to call them, with both clearness and charm. Dr. Pool asked for sympathy and understanding, but first of all for knowledge. He warned against the mistake of bringing to bear upon the Levantines the relief machinery of organized charities, and pleaded for the encouragement and preservation of their self-respect. He estimated their number in this country at from 10,000 to 12,000, though some estimates were considerably higher. The paper was formally discussed by Mr. Maurice B. Hexter of Cincinnati, and then by Mr. Gedelacia and Mr. Amato, both Oriental Jews, from New York. Mr. Hexter suggested that the *Alliance Israelite Universelle's* representative in this country might be entrusted with the problem of making a census of the Oriental Jews, and otherwise directing the work with them; but this proposal was emphatically com-

bated, and met with little support from the floor. By the time the debate was finished, the delegates realized that an entirely new piece of work lies before them.

Mr. J. J. Dukas' paper on "Free Loans" followed, and it showed in detail what has been done by the Free Loan Association in New York, and what a large amount is loaned annually, with losses that are all but negligible. Mr. Dukas' paper was carefully prepared, and he afforded an interesting comparison of the advantages offered by the Free Loan societies with those of a largely-advertised loan system, which is supposed to be backed by philanthropists, but which is proving to be a good money-getter. Mr. Dukas had taken the trouble to have his address put in pamphlet form, and it was distributed to those present. A companion paper, "The Self-Respect Fund," was prepared by Dr. Lee K. Frankel of New York, and was devoted to the work done by that Fund by the United Hebrew Charities of New York. The object of the Fund is to preserve the self-respect of the borrower by making him a sufficient loan to establish himself in business; and the record of the loan shows that it has accomplished its purpose, and that the repayments by those to whom the loans were made were gratifyingly high.

A discussion of the papers developed that there is a difference of opinion on two points in regard to free loans—first, as to whether an interest charge should be made; second, whether an investigation should be undertaken to ascertain for what purpose the loan is desired. Julius Goldman of New Orleans, Oscar Leonard of St. Louis, A. S. Newman of Cleveland, Minnie F. Low of Chicago, and others debated the points. Mr. Dukas took a position opposed to interest and to investigation; others were in favor of both; still others supported one of these contentions. Those in favor of a small interest charge argued that only in this way were all implications of charity removed.

FORMAL OPENING

Wednesday evening a large audience gathered to participate in the formal opening of the Conference. Mr. D. Sternberg, Chairman of the Memphis Executive Committee, called the meeting to order, and President Leon Sternberger of the local federation welcomed the delegates in a short but warm address, full of good feeling and hospitality. Mr. Bolton Smith on behalf of the City of Memphis, in a particularly able address, pointed out the possibilities of scientific agriculture for the amelioration of bad city conditions, and suggested the abandoned sugar plantations in Louisiana as a good place to make an agricultural experiment.

President Cyrus L. Sulzberger, in his presidential address, paid attention, too, to agriculture as a cure for maladjustment, but frankly spoke of the dangers that lurk in agricultural experiments when not backed with sufficient capital. He named experiment after experiment that had been made with disaster as the final outcome, because the cost and difficulties of the work had not been sufficiently taken into account. He estimated the cost of placing a family on the land at \$1,500. The address was a contribution to the discussion of agriculture as a possible way out for the submerged denizen of the city, and it will serve for some time to come to warn enthusiasts not to embark into back-to-the-land schemes without knowledge and money.

The final paper of the session was by Rev. George Fox of Fort Worth, on "Rabbi and Social Worker." Rabbi Fox spoke of difficulties that often arise between rabbi and social worker, particularly in small places, which can afford only one of each functionary, but he appeared to overstress the difficulties of co-operation between the two.

THURSDAY MORNING

Thursday morning Mr. J. de Haas of Boston presented a very suggestive paper on "Credit Unions." He explained how these unions have prospered in Germany and Italy and in other countries where they have been introduced, and how in Massachusetts they had made great headway and had proved their soundness and usefulness. The principle underlying credit unions is

that they make character as well as financial responsibility the basis of credit, and experience has shown that the former has no less a money value than the latter. Mr. de Haas' pamphlets which he distributed were eagerly sought by the delegates.

"The Distribution of a Five Thousand Dollar Annual Budget" was the subject of Mr. Strull's paper, and it must have been a revelation to the delegates from smaller places, and even to those in larger cities, of what can be done with this comparatively small amount. Mr. Strull considered not only relief problems, but also social questions, and his scheme includes a well-rounded plan for a series of activities, relief and social, radiating from a properly equipped building, which he takes for granted. He went into details of salaries and workers, of the cost of keeping the house going, and other items of necessary expenditure, which such a budget must cover. His plan calls for contribution by those who use the privileges of the settlement house, from which, according to his outline, quite an income could be obtained. Rev. Fineschreiber of Memphis, Rev. Bernstein of St. Joseph and others considered Mr. Strull's figures, and some were inclined to think that he counted on a larger return from the settlement house than could be reasonably expected. There was also some discussion as to the adequacy of salaries he offered the workers, who, Mr. Strull advised, should be women; but he made the point that whether the salaries he mentioned were reasonable or not, they were up to the amounts now paid for similar service.

The session closed with the reading of the report of the Standing Committee on Palestinian Charities—Prof. Richard Gottheil, chairman; Henrietta Szold, secretary—by Judge Julian W. Mack. The report showed that the Committee had done considerable work in acquainting organizations with its facilities for distributing Palestinian contributions intelligently, and it suggested that the National Conference request federations to ask their contributors making Palestinian contributions to send them through the Committee on Palestinian Charities of the National Conference of Jewish Charities—a request that was after-

wards approved by the Committee on Resolutions and by the Conference itself.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

Mr. Max Herzberg was not able to be at the Conference and present his paper on the "Transportation Rules and Decisions," but he sent an analysis of the decisions, which was read by the secretary. The paper was discussed by Mr. Max Senior, who proposed a series of amendments to the existing Transportation Rules. The proposals of Mr. Senior elicited the liveliest debate of the Conference. Two of his amendments were adopted at once, namely, the one to the effect that no deserter can acquire a residence away from his family, and the other providing that persons sent out by the Industrial Removal Office at once acquire residence in the city to which they are sent. But the proposal that a deserter can be returned at any time to his home city at its expense and without its permission was not so tenderly received, and it went over, to be debated and brought back to the Conference with a recommendation of the Executive Committee. The Transportation Rules proved to a live wire, and the interest manifested in them shows that the reason for the organization of the National Conference is as strong today as it was fourteen years ago.

THURSDAY EVENING

At this meeting Mr. Lucius L. Solomons of San Francisco presented a scholarly and exhaustive paper on "Immigration and the Panama Canal." Mr. Solomons treated the subject in detail, and gave in review the various forces that would be set in motion by the opening of the Canal to world traffic. He did not anticipate so large an immigration, certainly not at once, as has been estimated by some observers. There was some immigration by rail that would probably come by water hereafter, so that all the Panama immigration would not be clear increase. He pointed out, too, that the Pacific Coast had few factories, and therefore would not furnish employment for large numbers of immigrants, as was the case in the East. Even agriculture, which had great natural advantages on the Coast, would be found to present difficulties

owing to the high cost of good land. But after all allowances are made, and all deductions taken into consideration, there would, nevertheless, in his opinion, be quite an augmented immigration, and he thought that the Jewish communities of the Coast would have to face something of a problem due to this increase.

Mr. Maurice Epstein of Galveston, in discussing the paper, expressed the opinion that for years to come the Panama Canal would not figure largely in Jewish immigration. He claimed that the immigrant from Europe to San Francisco would be three or four weeks on the voyage, and he thought that there would not be many to brave so long a journey in the steerage, unless there were attractions such as had not yet appeared. It was his opinion that there would be no new problem arising out of the opening of the Canal, and he expected things to be pretty much the same after the opening as before, so far as Jewish immigration is concerned. Mr. Sulzberger also thought that there was much over-statement in the immigration predictions. He compared the estimate of 100,000 tickets that are said to have been sold in view of the opening of the Canal with Professor Ross' absurd statistics as to the number of Roumanian Jews entering this country. He quoted from an article in the *Jewish Year Book* by Henrietta Szold that the Roumanian Jews were being forced out by economic and governmental conditions, and that they were not flocking to this country just to take advantage of the installation of new enterprises, nor induced by the advertisements of steamship agents.

The final paper of the session was by G. A. Berlinsky of Denver on "How to Federate a Smaller Community." Mr. Berlinsky has had experience both in Louisville and in Denver, and his paper instanced the forces that must be taken into account in federating a community, and the method of approach. Federation is now so much to the fore with smaller communities—all of the larger except New York have brought their charities together in a Federation—that his paper presents special points of interest for a large number of cities of the second or third class, which

in a few years will have to take the next step in advance.

In discussing the paper, George Ellman of Memphis gave a realistic account of the factors entering into the charity situation in a smaller community. He spoke of the peculiar cases that reach an inland city, and of the particular Jewish problems that have to be faced, and can be faced only by those who know what the types of cases mean. His paper was vivid and human, but seemed somewhat to over-emphasize the differences between the older settlers and the newer arrivals, though this difference is often real enough.

FRIDAY MORNING

Two weighty papers were presented at this session, either one of which would deserve a session by itself. The first, "Advance in Settlement Work," by Mr. Jacob L. Billikopf of Kansas City, was read by Rabbi Louis Bernstein of St. Joseph, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. Billikopf. It told of new ideals and methods in settlement work, and recounted the steps the Kansas City settlement had taken in introducing into the settlement a Hebrew school conducted on the Benderly system. The result had been at once to bring the parents of the children into close relation with the settlement and to raise religious education in the eyes of the child in value and dignity. Mr. Billikopf laid stress upon the closer and happier relations brought about as a result of the Hebrew school, and believed that in this way the settlement had come nearer to the hearts of the neighborhood.

Mr. Charles S. Bernheimer asserted that the synagogue had not reached the young people to the extent and in the same way as the settlement had reached them—a contention that was traversed by Mr. Cyrus L. Sulzberger. Mr. Bernheimer thought that both of these institutions had their proper functions, and that they could be developed apart. Jewishness could be brought into the settlement by Friday evening lectures, by the observance of Jewish holidays, and in other similar ways. He stood for Jewishness in the settlement, even if there were no Hebrew school there. All speakers emphasized the necessity of a Jew-

ish settlement being Jewish. There is no possibility of a doubt as to the attitude of Jewish workers on this point. The non-sectarian Jewish settlement had not a friend at the Conference, or if it did, he did not make himself heard.

Rabbi Emanuel Sternheim of Greenville, Miss., questioned the current theory of the settlement as it was developing in this country. Instead of being the seat of cultural and spiritual forces, it often lost itself in physical and manual exercises and became a place for physical training instead of a focus of ideas and a home of culture. He made a strong plea for the settlement that would elevate, inspire, and arouse. A spirited general debate would have followed had there been time, but the lateness of the hour made it necessary to pass quickly on to the next subject. The lack of time for debate was felt throughout the Convention.

Following "Settlements" came "Standards of Relief," by Boris D. Bogen of Cincinnati. The paper was built around an investigation into the actual needs of typical families, and a budget worked out on the basis of these needs. The writer contended that with the increase of the family up to seven persons (five children) the *per capita* cost of maintaining individuals of the family decreased, but that families consisting of more than five children failed to show any further reduction. Careful tables had been prepared by the writer of the paper giving the amount of a typical family budget and the details of distribution. The fundamental idea was financial adequacy of relief, figured on the basis of family needs. In the debate on the paper, led by Morris D. Waldman of New York and Frances Taussig of Chicago, adequacy was dwelt upon, and the cases of relief with amounts allowed cited by the writer of the paper, could be paralleled by similar cases in the other two cities. While much good-natured raillery was indulged in among these cities in regard to the standard pursued by them in relief cases, it was clear that the principle of adequate financial relief had been accepted by all three, and an endeavor made to put it into execution.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The afternoon session began after a short lunch with a paper by Mrs. Jennie F. Purvin of Chicago on the "Chicago Women's Aid Society," in which the many activities of that organization were clearly set forth, and an idea given of what can be accomplished by a woman's organization thoroughly alive to the needs of a modern city, and active enough to do its full duty. The lecture was illustrated with numerous photographs showing the work as it is done, and bringing vividly before the audience the clientele of the Chicago Women's Aid Society.

Other women's organizations in Chicago were described in a paper by Minnie F. Low, who set out at length the various activities now "manned" by women in that city; one, indeed, excludes all male participation except by way of contribution to its treasury. The variety and comprehensiveness of the work of these organizations gave convincing evidence of the important part in social work now played by organizations commonly known as women's societies—at least, in Chicago.

Finally the paper "After-Care for Orphan Asylums," by Alice L. Seligsberg of New York, read by Charles I. Cooper of Pittsburgh, was presented. It proved to be an extremely interesting account of Fellowship House, recently opened in New York to accommodate the alumni of Pleasantville. Miss Seligsberg analyzed the principles on which the House is conducted, told of the difficulties and the dangers that such a House, unless carefully watched over, might develop, and showed how the House was safeguarding a normal life for those who came within the range of its influence.

Louis Volmer of New Orleans and Milton Reizenstein of Baltimore freely admitted the all-importance of after-care work for orphans, but they were not willing to concede that a House, such as described by Miss Seligsberg, was a necessity to institutions with a smaller number of inmates, and consequently with a less bulky problem to deal with. Nevertheless, the principles propounded in the paper as to the care and attention that should be devoted to ex-wards of an institution were

accepted, and after-care was laid down as no less important and necessary a part of child-caring work than institutional care itself.

A pleasant feature of the meeting was the appearance of Dr. S. Wolfenstein, former superintendent of the Cleveland Orphan Asylum, who was received with every indication of love and respect, the delegates rising to greet him. In a few words he told of his devotion to his former wards, every one of the twenty-five hundred of whom he could account for. He contended that an institution should keep permanently in touch with those it sends forth, that it was not only possible, but easy, to do so.

RESOLUTIONS

The formal program of papers being completed, the report of the Committee on Resolutions, Morris D. Waldman, chairman, was presented, and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the cordial thanks of the National Conference of Jewish Charities be and are hereby accorded to the Jewish community at Memphis, Tennessee, for their warm reception of the Conference, their considerate efforts to facilitate its work and their generous hospitality to the visiting delegates.

Resolved, That the warm thanks of this Conference be tendered to the local press for the valuable publicity given by them to its deliberations.

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to examine into the feasibility of a plan for the creation of a Retirement Fund for Social Workers, proposed by the National Association of Jewish Social Workers, and to report to the next meeting of the National Conference of Charities and Correction.

Resolved, That three Assistant Secretaries be appointed by the Executive Committee, one to be located in the East, one in the West, and one in the South.

Resolved, That the President of the Conference appoint a Committee of seven to make a census and survey of the Levantine Jews throughout the United States,

and in close co-operation with the Industrial Removal Office, devise ways and means of promoting their distribution and settlement in the interior.

Resolved, That a standing Committee of five be appointed by the President, which shall be known as a Committee on Program. It shall be the duty of this Committee to prepare and submit to the Executive Committee a complete program for its approval not later than six months prior to the Conference.

Resolved, That a standing Committee of two be appointed by the President to be known as a Press Committee to assist in obtaining publicity.

Resolved, That the Palestinian Committee be and is hereby authorized to add to its number within its discretion; and be it further

Resolved, That the constituent societies of the Conference be requested to encourage their membership to direct such contributions as they may desire to make through their local organizations, these organizations to co-operate with the Committee; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Committee take the necessary steps to put this into effect.

Resolved, That the Transportation Rules of the Conference be amended as follows:
“(1) That a deserter can not acquire residence away from his family, even though the family be cognizant of his whereabouts.”

“(2) Persons sent by the Industrial Removal Office to any city shall acquire residence in that city immediately upon arrival.”

WHEREAS, Personal guarantees have been made by various members of the Conference to procure more than five hundred new subscriptions to JEWISH CHARITIES, sufficient, in addition to present subscriptions, to place the publication on a self-supporting basis: be it

Resolved, That the Conference continue its publication.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be and is hereby authorized to appoint a time and place for the next Conference, to be held in 1916.

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be and is hereby authorized to print and circulate the proceedings of this Conference.

ELECTION

The Nominating Committee, Max Senior, chairman, reported the following nominations, and the ticket presented was unanimously chosen:

President, Minnie F. Low, Chicago.

First Vice-President, Aaron Cohen, Pittsburgh.

Second Vice-President, Fred N. Butzel, Detroit.

Third Vice-President, David M. Bressler, New York.

Treasurer, Bernard Greensfelder, St. Louis.

Secretary, Louis H. Levin, Baltimore.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Max Senior, Cincinnati.

Max Herzberg, Philadelphia.

Julian W. Mack, Chicago.

Nathan Bijur, New York.

Jacob H. Hollander, Baltimore.

Lee K. Frankel, New York.

Cyrus L. Sulzberger, New York.

Leon Sternberger, Memphis.

Lucius L. Solomons, San Francisco.

Boris D. Bogen, Cincinnati.

Jules Hexter, Dallas.

Judah L. Magnes, New York.

NOTES

The program, as has been stated, was a crowded one, and some disappointment was expressed at the time limited for debate, but when the full meetings, with the numerous papers are considered, it will be found that the Memphis Conference furnished a more varied and weighty program than has been provided for many years.

An innovation of this Conference was the session chairman, who presided at the different sessions. Besides President Sulzberger, the following chairmen had charge:

David M. Bressler, Fred N. Butzel, Julian W. Mack, Max Senior and Minnie F. Low.

A number of rabbis participated in the proceedings and proved themselves to be *au courant* with social work. Among those who took part were Rev. George Fox, Rev. R. H. Fineshriber, Dr. David de Sola Pool, Rev. Louis Bernstein, Rev. Emanuel Sternheim, Rev. I. Lewinthal, and Rev. M. Samfield.

Considerable disappointment was expressed at the enforced absence of Mrs. Belle Lindner Israels, who was to have delivered a paper on “The Relations of Social Agencies to Industrial Welfare.” The title was promising, and Mrs. Israels is always heard with interest.

There were a number of new faces at the Conference, and the younger set of a few Conferences ago are now among the mainstays of the meetings. Among those who were formally on the program, but who attended for the first time at Memphis, were Maurice B. Hexter of Cincinnati, Maurice Epstein of Galveston, George Ellman of Memphis, and Jennie T. Purvin of Chicago.

A useful part of the Conference is the “getting together” of workers who are in the same kind of work, in private conversation. The excursion on the Mississippi was used for this purpose profitably. There will be more of this at future meetings.

The two Oriental Jews, Mr. Joseph Gedelacia and Mr. Amato, were welcomed by the other delegates, and proved excellent illustrations of an important paper. The Conference would benefit by the accession of other Oriental workers, as they are developed.

“Settlements” will probably be a strong talking item at Conferences for years to come. The principles and aims of a specifically Jewish settlement have not been determined beyond cavil. On one thing, however, all settlement workers seem agreed, and that is that Jewishness cannot be banished from the Jewish settlement.

The Jewish community of Memphis was not only kind and considerate of the delegates, but showed no little interest in the proceedings. All meetings were well attended, and in spite of the long and ex-

haustive sessions, at no time was there a large and interested audience lacking. Memphis surprised the delegates by the life and beauty of the city. The hospitality—well, it is a Southern city and lived up to the reputation of the South.

A number of Jewish “slumming parties” visited the “red light” district, and as a result of a visit, Rev. Emanuel Sternheim, at a meeting of the general (non-Jewish) Conference, denounced vice conditions in Memphis. The papers accepted the challenge, and the City Club became interested, and Rev. Sternheim was asked to appear before a meeting of that organization and discuss the matter.

A feature of the Conference, not down on the program, was the sermon delivered Saturday morning in the temple, by Mr. Cyrus L. Sulzberger. A number of the delegates attended and the temple was comfortably filled. Mr. Sulzberger made a notable plea for sympathy and understanding between the older Jewish population and the newer immigration.

JEWISH CHARITIES

The question of continuing the publication of JEWISH CHARITIES was considered at a “round-table” meeting, and the opinion was unanimously expressed that the publication should be continued, and the delegates present pledged themselves to secure at least five hundred more subscribers to the paper. Suggestions were also made for the popularizing of the contents of the paper, and there were generous promises of co-operation in making the magazine more interesting to the workers at large than heretofore.

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS

The following officers of the National Association of Jewish Social Workers were elected:

President, David M. Bressler, New York.
Vice-President, Miss Frances Taussig, Chicago.

Secretary and Treasurer, Monroe M. Goldstein, New York.

Executive Committee: Leon Volmer, New Orleans; Samuel Rabinovitch, Brooklyn; Charles Strull, Louisville; Joseph H. Hyman, Atlanta; Miss Jeannette Reis, St. Louis, and Walter Leo Solomon, Cleveland.