

## HOW NEW ORLEANS DID IT

By Julius Goldman

The idea of federating Jewish communities is being received with much favor throughout the United States. Large and small communities find it advantageous to centralize their financial and social efforts and activities.

At the annual Conferences held at Cleveland and Atlantic City, "Federated Charities" was a topic of discussion. At the coming Memphis Conference "How to Federate a Smaller Community" will be presented at one of the sessions.

A study of the methods employed by different cities proves that the plans of organization and administration are not identical in any two communities. Some cities follow closely the methods found satisfactory in other communities, but are compelled to make changes to meet local conditions. It may, therefore, prove interesting to some to learn of a plan of organization radically different from that of any other federated Jewish community, which may not be termed ideal when compared with other federated cities, but which was found necessary to meet local conditions.

About one year ago several Jewish gentlemen were discussing the needs of the Jewish Charities and philanthropies of New Orleans and how to meet them. It was proposed that a Federation of Jewish Charities be formed. Investigation proved that there were eleven Jewish organizations, including a Young Men's Hebrew Association. The largest and most influential of the organizations were the Touro Infirmary, the Jewish Orphans' Home, and the Young Men's Hebrew Association. Of the eight other organizations, the work of six was being duplicated by local agencies. Two of the ladies' societies were in existence over fifty years.

The Hospital Association conducted a free dispensary, free wards for in-patients, wards and rooms for pay-patients, a free clinic, a training school for nurses, an outdoor relief department, an out-patient department, and a home for the aged and infirm. The three last named were conducted for Jews only. The other activities were non-sectarian. The source of income

of the hospital were dues from Jewish members, donations and bequests, alimony from the city, pro-rata membership contribution from the District No. 7, I. O. B. B., and income from pay patients.

The records showed that the Jews of New Orleans were contributing one-tenth of the annual amount necessary to conduct the various activities.

The Orphans' Home received one-third of its income from the eight States comprising District No. 7, I. O. B. B., a very generous proportion from the Jews of New Orleans and the balance from investments. It had large sinking and endowment funds. Of the total amount previously contributed to all local organizations, the Home was receiving one-third, although only fifteen per cent. of the children in the Home were from New Orleans. In connection with the Home there is conducted a large Manual Training School, including High School courses where Jews and non-Jews are admitted for pay; the children of the Home receiving all instruction free.

The Young Men's Hebrew Association, with a membership of eight hundred and a building costing \$250,000, depended for its existence on membership, and income from the rental of its auditorium. The total assets of the three institutions were about \$1,000,000.

In addition to the foregoing unusual conditions, one of the institutions was opposed to the idea of federation and the majority of the smaller societies declined to affiliate with the Federation when first approached. Undaunted, the Organization Committee proceeded with its plan. First, a sub-committee was appointed to solicit the regular contributors with the idea of forming a permanent organization as soon as fifty subscribers were secured. When this was accomplished, the campaign was continued until the subscribers numbered three hundred. The opposing institution, being convinced that the majority of its large contributors were members of the Federation, and that its annual income was assured, withdrew its objection and became an affiliated organization. Only four of the seven local organizations were at

this time affiliated with the Federation. To bring the others into the fold and at the same time eliminate the duplication of activity was a task by no means to be easily accomplished.

The following plan was successfully carried out: That each organization not duplicating the work of another affiliated organization be permitted to maintain its autonomy and conduct its activity as heretofore, subject to the approval of the Federation. The other organizations to form a central organization under authority and control of the Federation. The hospital to relinquish all its Jewish outdoor work in favor of the Federation and to retain control of the Home for Aged and Infirm. The Federation thus became the Central Relief Bureau for all work not conducted by the three largest institutions, and by one Ladies' Sewing Society connected with the hospital. Thus, the dues and donations collected for the seven relief organizations are handed to the Federation treasury and the Federation conducts this work through a Central Relief Committee appointed by the Board of Trustees, care being taken that each society is represented. This centralization of activity prevents duplication and tends towards perfect organization and work.

In considering the general financial plan of securing funds it was found necessary to adopt the membership plan, also to permit the subscribers to designate how and to what institution their funds are to be distributed. All the funds not designated are credited to the General Fund of the Federation which is distributed among the affiliated institutions at the discretion of the Board of Trustees.

The Board of Trustees consist of seven delegates at large elected annually by the membership of the Federation, and organization delegates selected as follows: One delegate to be named by each organization affiliated with the Federation which has a membership of one hundred or less, two delegates for not less than two hundred members, and three delegates for not less than three hundred members. No organization can have more than three delegates. The Board of Trustees choose the officers of the Federation at the first meeting following the annual election of trustees. An

Executive Committee of nine members conducts the affairs of the Federation under authority of the Board of Trustees. The standing committees are directed by the Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees meets quarterly. The Executive Committee meets monthly.

The Jewish Charitable and Educational Federation of New Orleans was organized November 17, 1913, with the following officers: J. K. Newman, President; Jos. Dinkelspiel, First Vice-President; Ben Beekman, Second Vice-President; Sim Weis, Treasurer; F. H. Gutmann, Secretary; Julius Goldman, Superintendent.

New Orleans has a Jewish population of about 8,000. For the year 1914 the Federation will collect \$52,000 from 1,500 subscribers. Of the amount subscribed, 35 per cent. is undesignated. A survey of the annual amounts collected in New Orleans for all Jewish purposes during the past five years shows that the subscription to the Federation for the year 1914 exceeds by \$10,000 the amount secured in any year during that period. All the requirements of the affiliated organizations for this year will be met.

**New Member**

Jewish Charitable and Educational Federation, New Orleans, 1205 St. Charles Avenue.

**OFFICERS**

J. K. Newman, President; Jos. Dinkelspiel, First Vice-President; Ben Beekman, Second Vice-President; Sim Weis, Treasurer; Eug. H. Gutmann, Secretary; Julius Goldman, Superintendent.

**AFFILIATED SOCIETIES AND INSTITUTIONS**

Jewish Widows' and Orphans' Home, Touro Infirmary and Julius Weis Home for Aged and Infirm, Young Men's Hebrew Association, Ladies Aid and Sewing Society, Young Ladies Sewing Society, Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society, Ladies Hebrew Aid Society, Israelite Ladies Aid Society, Council Philanthropic Fund, Somech Nophlim and "Moses Chitim," Daughters of Jacob Society, National Jewish Hospital for Consumptives, Denver, Col.; Jewish Consumptives Relief Society, Denver, Col.; National Farm School, Doylestown, Pa.; Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, New York; Charities of Palestine.