

anthropic need of the Jewish community. Supply these two needs, money and perspective, and the different and constantly arising new needs of the community will take care of themselves."

DR. LEE K. FRANKEL

Dr. Lee K. Frankel lays stress on system in the collection of funds.

"In my opinion, the chief philanthropic need of the Jews of New York at present *unprovided for* is a systematic, efficient, comprehensive method of raising funds to carry on the activities *already provided for*. It is useless to attempt any consideration of general philanthropic needs unless there can be some definite assurance given that there will be sufficient financial resources to permit the officers of institutions, relief societies, etc., to carry on their work.

"The advertisements of the United Hebrew Charities, which have been appearing for the past week in the *New York Times*, are pathetic, not only in content but in the need for the insertion of such publicity. It is a satire on our Jewish philanthropies that an organization such as the United Hebrew Charities should be compelled to make an appeal for a paltry \$30,000 through the medium of the daily press.

"I am not writing this as a special pleader of the United Hebrew Charities, nor do I hold a brief for any particular one of our Jewish communal institutions. I speak for all of them when I say that the crying need at the present time in the city of New York is concerted action on the part of the members of the community as a community and not representing any particular institution or group of institutions, to get together as sensible business men and attempt to apply common-sense business principles to the collection of funds for Jewish charitable purposes. Our present system of raising money is disorganized, inefficient—one might almost say chaotic, and certainly antiquated. It is competitive to the last degree.

"One has only to read what has recently been done in Cleveland to realize that scientific management can be applied equally as well to philanthropy as it can to the manufacture of steel or clothing. If Cleveland has found it possible to federate not

only its Jewish charities, but all of its charities in one comprehensive unit, it is idle to assume that the same thing cannot be done in New York, at least so far as Jewish charities are concerned.

"I am confident that if the *American Hebrew* were to make a postal card canvass of the 25,000 or more contributors to the various Jewish charitable societies in the city of New York, a very large majority of them would be in favor of a centralized collection bureau and that they would welcome any effort which would do away with the present highly objectionable system of repeated and continuous appeals from a number of organizations.

"Why not try it?"

J. LEON SANDERS

Mr. J. Leon Sanders has a more specific need in mind, a lodging-house for immigrant men.

"The most pressing need, for a number of additional reasons I do not care to go into, is a lodging-house for Jewish immigrant men. There should be established a man's hotel, giving at cost all the comforts of a well-managed *kosher* hotel, for which the men are to pay, but where, besides physical comforts, they can be given that additional help that will make the transition to Americans more easy and less liable to dangers and unseen pitfalls."

NATHAN S. JONAS

Mr. Nathan S. Jonas also makes specific suggestions:

"In the Borough of Brooklyn, which I presume applies to the city in general, I would consider the two most important needs—first, relief for those afflicted with tuberculosis, and second, an adequate self-support fund so as to keep those who have been unfortunate from becoming pensioned paupers and to give them an opportunity to again climb the ladder and to retain their self-respect."

No longer will the New Orleans Council of Jewish Women spend money on flowers to send to the home of a dead member as a silent expression of sympathy. Instead a card expressing sympathy and stating that the sum contributed had been turned over to a specific charity will be sent to the family of the dead member.

## IMMIGRATION SNAP-SHOTS

David M. Bressler and Abraham Solomon

*Professor Ross*, the erudite sociologist, doesn't like the "intellectual baggage" of our immigrants. It is all a question of taste. Some think that Robert W. Chambers, George Barr McCutcheon, *et al.*, provide hyper-intellectual reading. And really, Maeterlinck, Ibsen, Bergson, Hauptman, are *unintellectual*. Perhaps the Professor's definition of intellect does not include adherence to truth and reality—an adherence, by the way, so eloquently marked in the writings of the continental school.

*Talking of reality*, isn't it a fact that the American Federation of Labor thinks that an immigrant who cannot read or write is an inferior being with a low standard of living? The "aristocratic" skilled mechanic has no use for a "common" laborer. Verily, vanity and flatulence breed as readily amongst workmen as among snobs and the idle rich.

*The Great Subterfuge*. Those in favor of the literacy test make no pretense of believing that literacy or illiteracy determine the character or fitness of an immigrant. The test is a disguised expression of their dislike for "foreigners." Afraid to admit that they want restriction in order to satisfy their prejudice, they hide behind the pretext offered by the literacy test.

Assuming, however, that the test is honestly advocated, does this government seriously desire to penalize immigrants because in the countries from which they come *no educational facilities were afforded them*? It is a fact that Russia and Roumania limit, proscribe, and prevent the attendance of Jewish children in elementary schools. The inadequacy of the Russian primary schools is too well known to require discussion. For example, in 1907 there were only 84,544 elementary schools in the entire Russian Empire with only four and one-half million pupils. Out of this number, it must be remembered that 42½ per cent. were parochial schools under the direct supervision of the Holy Synod.

*The Division of Information at Washington*. The world does move. Everywhere there are conferences of unemployment; the city, state, and government officials are investigating the problem and the crop of annual reports is the highest in years. Inasmuch as there is a growing recognition that the proper distribution of our population has some relationship to the question of unemployment, the report of the Division for the year ending June, 1913, is relevant. The report is a pithy, dignified document. Those in charge of the Division are doing nobly against heavy odds, against the handicap of limited funds, inadequate machinery, government torpor, and fear of paternalism. The Division points the way to the biggest constructive measure the government can undertake—the distribution of immigrants. Let some of our heavyweights in the academic world rest from their labors on taxation, the law of wages, etc., and look into the question. Contact with realities will refresh them.

*The Industrial Removal Office* has just issued its thirteenth annual report. In the face of all the disturbing symptoms of our social and economic life, it is good to know that 75,000 of our people were distributed from the seaport cities to the more wholesome and industrially superior sections of the interior. In an editorial comment by the *New York Evening Post* of March 14, 1914, the following terse analysis appears:

"The factor of urban congestion in the cities of the Atlantic Coast is concededly one of the outstanding problems of immigration. It is therefore of interest to see what has hitherto been accomplished in the way of a more even geographical distribution of immigrants. The latest report of the Commissioner General of Immigration says: 'There can be no question but that many of the evils that grow out of our present excessive immigration would be remedied, or at least alleviated, if the congestion of aliens in our large centers of population could be broken up. Distribution of admitted aliens is a thing much to be desired.' A commentary on this statement is offered in the thirteenth an-

nual report of the Industrial Removal Office, operating in this city. Since 1901, this bureau has been instrumental in transplanting something more than 71,000 aliens from New York, Philadelphia, and Boston, to homes in 1,155 cities and towns in every State of the Union and Canada. The West Central States have taken half of this number. If such results can be attained by private initiative operating with comparatively limited resources, it is plain that very appreciable results may be obtained if government agencies were to co-operate with private effort."

*The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society* has completed the twenty-fifth year of its activity, an event which was marked by an appropriate celebration. Their last annual report is full of good results and calls attention to the indispensable and excellent work they are doing in protecting the Jewish immigrants at the ports of entry, in housing and sheltering those of the needy who can be accommodated in their limited quarters, and in advising and befriending the newcomers. Of particular interest is the report showing that out of 736 appeals from decisions of exclusion which were taken in behalf of the immigrants, the Society was successful in 461, and out of 3,726 cases of original detention and exclusion, the Society secured the admission upon rehearings of 1,944 cases, or 51.4 per cent. Another item of much interest is the Employment Bureau of that organization, indicating that it procured positions for 2,190 persons, or 76.9 per cent. of its applicants during the period of its report. The Society shows a robust vitality which promises much for the future.

*The Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society.* More signs of awakening. States and the government are appointing Farmers' Commissions, Rural Credit Commissions, etc. Everyone is nursing the farmer. And the expert physicians around him ought to insure a correct diagnosis. This country has been notoriously backward in providing short-time credit to farmers, a fact to which Mr. Leonard G. Robinson, the General Manager of this Society,

has called attention to. He aggressively undertook a propaganda for short-time credit and his Society was the first to put into practice a Rural Credit System, modeled on the continental plan. Its success was instantaneous. There are now in existence, through the medium of the Society, seventeen Credit Unions, eight of which are located in New York, five in New Jersey, and four in Connecticut. Each Union raised \$500 or more from its members through the sale of shares, and the Society loaned \$1,000 to each with which to begin operations. The Unions have an aggregate membership of 517 and a capital of \$9,165. They have been in operation for periods averaging a little over thirteen months, during which time they loaned out \$73,624.66, about eight times their capital. Their net profits amount to \$1,317.93, that is, at the rate of 12¼ per cent. per annum. In passing, does the reader know that the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society has, since 1900, granted 2,991 loans, aggregating \$1,739,415.76? These loans were extended to 2,600 farmers, occupying 2,168 individual farmsteads.

Honorable Anthony J. Camminetti, the Commissioner-General of Immigration, has recently issued the annual report of his Bureau for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1913. These reports have, to a great extent, become stereotyped in form and thought, reflecting the precise and rigid formulae of the institution they represent. These reports cannot read like human documents because any department of the national government acquires certain precedents and ruts which only a very great personality can transcend.

The report this year is enlivened by a map of Gargantuan length divided into many colors, showing, in summary, the total immigration to this country from 1820 to date and classified by nationalities. Thus does not relieve the tedium of government monotony.

The first portion of the report is discursive. It takes for granted the need for "regulation" of immigration (regulation is a euphonious term for restriction) and advocates plans that would result in hardship to the immigrants. For example: "In

the Bureau's judgment, the adoption of a physical test similar to that which recruits for the army undergo would insure a suitable standard \* \* \* Irrespective of whether or not the literacy test is adopted, the standards of the law regarding physical and moral qualifications should be materially raised, and the machinery for their enforcement extensively improved." Under the caption "Distribution of Aliens" the Commissioner says: "There can be no question but that many of the evils that grow out of our present excessive immigration would be remedied, or at least alleviated, if the congestion of aliens in our large centers of population could be broken up." Thereupon, and with commendable caution, he proceeds to qualify, amend, and limit by urging three chief difficulties which will prevent the success of a scheme of distribution. Among these difficulties is the objection that distribution might "involve artificial interference with the 'natural operation' of the law of supply and demand." This statement revives echoes of the Manchester School of Political Economy.

In the fiscal year covered by the report, 1,197,892 immigrants were admitted to this country, of which number 101,330 are classified as Hebrews. 10,720 immigrants were debarred at the port of New York, while 892,653 were admitted.

In the conclusion of the report we see a portent: "There is no field of endeavor in which standing still would be moving backward more truly than in the enforcement of the statutes regulating immigration."

And so is vindicated the prophecy of Jeremiah: "In order that I might drive you out that ye may perish."

Max J. Kohler, who has rendered notable service in the cause of the Jewish immigrant, has written an article for *The Economic Review*: "Some Aspects of the Immigration Problem." It is deftly written, admirably poised, and is selective in choosing just the proper datum with which to hit a restrictionist sophism on the head. Mr. Kohler has penetrated deeply into the immigration question, giving it the benefit of his sound and cogent reasoning power.

He avoids the commonplace and takes a broad and comprehensive viewpoint. He appears to advantage and of excellent stature in the company of academicians and professional economists who discourse so valiantly every three months.

Mr. Kohler has burrowed into historical documents one hundred and fifty years old, and gives a rapid fire exposition of immigration to this country from colonial days until the present time. What unexpected pictures unroll before us! "The United States was *colonized* by men in origin, religious faith and purpose as *varied* as their climes." \* \* \* "For the entire thirteen colonies at the time of the revolution, we have it on good authority that one-fifth of the population could not speak English, and that one-half at least was not Anglo-Saxon by descent." \* \* \* "Even in those days attempts were made to exclude certain classes of immigrants."

Coming nearer our own times, "the decade of 1850 to 1860 was marked by an increase of 84.4 per cent. foreign born, the *largest* in our history, while from 1890 to 1900 there was an increase of only 11.8 per cent., the *smallest* since our census takers began to compile such returns, in 1850." The significance of this fact should not escape attention.

To us, the most important contribution made by Mr. Kohler is his showing that in the days of "old" and so-called better immigration, there were not those assimilative agencies which came into existence only in the past decade. Today we have Y.M.C.A.'s, church organizations, organizations like the Italian Immigrant Bureau, the Industrial Removal Office, the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society, the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, the Baron de Hirsch Fund, and other similar institutions throughout the land, which "do effective work in Americanizing the immigrant, finding employment for him at good wages, overcoming tendencies towards congestion, effective distribution, and promoting acquisition of American standards of living and thinking."

Mr. Kohler concludes with the wholesome suggestion: "It is in initiating and developing salutary public and private

agencies for distributing and Americanizing aliens, that a direct solution of the immigration problem can be found."

*The Pacific Coast and Increased Immigration.* As the opening of the Canal approaches, our friends out West are taking stock of the industrial and agricultural resources of their section prepared to absorb new immigrants. While in some instances, their expectations very likely contain an element of exaggeration, it is better to arm needlessly than to be caught napping. The Chambers of Commerce on the Coast are sending out questionnaires; committees are being formed, and advice sought. It seems that the best informed men on the Coast are desirous of profiting by the experience of the East with regard to immigration and immigrants, and to attract a body of sturdy and ambitious newcomers who can be adapted to the industrial and agricultural conditions of that territory.

On the subject of the anticipated immigration an interesting paper was read at National Conference of Charities and Corrections held in Seattle in July of last year, by Mr. C. W. Blanpied. In that paper he points out that if steamship lines ply between the Pacific Coast ports and Europe, a certain amount of immigration is bound to result.

"Inquiry made of harbor commissioners up and down the Coast reveals the fact that while a large number of companies have had advance agents on the grounds looking over possible dockage, etc., still the fact remains that few companies have as yet contracted for such docked space, so that all that is said concerning either of these subjects is based entirely upon newspaper reports, these reports in turn being based upon interviews with agents or officers of steamship lines."

It is safe to say that the Canal will have a profound influence on commerce and industry along the Coast. History shows that the opening of a new trade route forms an epoch in industrial life. Whether or not immigration will be attracted to the Coast, it is certain that manufacturing and commerce will receive such an impetus as will,

in the course of time, and in the stages of development, attract men of all types to seek their fortunes in that territory.

### Guild for the Jewish Blind

A new society, known as the New York Guild for the Jewish Blind, was organized on March 15th at the home of Mrs. Joshua Piza, 736 West End Avenue.

This society supplies care to the indigent Jewish blind in his home by means of Jewish volunteer friendly visitors and Yiddish-speaking paid workers.

Through the co-operation of eminent oculists, the eyesight is improved or saved, when possible. General practitioners and dentists are under gratuitous services to those in the care of the Guild. Glasses and medicine are also supplied free of charge.

The Society procures from the proper sources citizens' papers, city pensions for the blind, peddlers' licenses, coal, clothing and nourishment, etc., and in addition to home visiting and walks, provides concerts for the blind, outings to places of interest, and special religious classes for blind children.

The New York Guild seeks to help the blind to help themselves, and by securing training and employment for them when possible, converts hopeless idleness into helpful usefulness.

The New York Guild for the Jewish Blind proposes in the near future a Home for Jewish Blind Babies and Children.

This institution will fill a distinct need in the community and all interested are most cordially invited to co-operate.

### Free Loans

At the annual meeting of the Hebrew Free Loan Society of New York President Dukas said that the losses had been only 1 per cent. He remarked: "The Society now thinks advisable the forming of a federation of free loan associations throughout the country. An effort to create such an organization will be made at the National Convention of Jewish Charities in Memphis next May."

## THE SETTLEMENT KINDERGARTEN AND THE HOME

Rachel S. Nathan

Anyone meeting a group of people for the first time is almost sure to be especially attracted or repelled by certain individuals who will stand out, as it were, from a confused background. Repeated encounters with the same group make the background less and less vague, and finally the time is forgotten when each member of the group was not a separate entity. And yet meeting individuals in a group, no matter how often, is but a superficial manner of knowing them; there is no intimate personal touch to such contact.

Besides this, and here is the problem of the settlement kindergarten, without an understanding of their circumstances, outside of the group, it is easy to misunderstand their conduct while members of the group.

This seems to be the problem almost exclusively of the kindergarten in the settlement, and especially in the denominational settlement. In a private school, the quality of the houses, while they may differ in ideals, is determined by the social status of the school. In the public school, the location of the school decides, more or less, the class of homes from which the child comes, but to the denominational settlement come comfortably situated and miserably poor alike, drawn there by entirely different motives, bringing their children for widely varying reasons.

Not for one moment would I say that it is not important for every kindergartner to seek to co-operate her work with the home, but in no other type of kindergarten are the home conditions so varying or an intimate understanding of them so necessary as in the settlement kindergarten. The cranky little boy whom we pity because he is supposedly brought up in poor surroundings is instead the spoiled child of the junk magnate of East Baltimore, brought up in circumstances no less unfavorable but demanding other remedy. On the other hand, the most spick and span of all the children, who seems sulky, irritable or unruly, may simply be longing for the breakfast without which he came to kindergarten. This is such a common occurrence in the settlement kindergarten that it is almost impos-

sible to discipline a child without a rather full knowledge of the state of the family larder.

Nor is it possible to judge a child by his appearance in kindergarten. The neatest children may come from the poorest homes, the dirtiest from the richest, the most gaudy from the most sober surroundings, the least ostentatious from the most immoral. The only way to really understand the child is to get behind his "school clothes"—to see into his home life.

The child who says, "I can't do it," is often explained by an unsympathetic mother, who does not trust him with responsibility, while the forward, pushing youngster may have developed this attitude as the result of necessity. I have a child three and one-half years old, whose mother is too busy to bring him across the car tracks at the rush morning hour. The result is that he has developed a feeling of such detachment from his home, such a lack of feeling of responsibility toward it, that he seldom goes home directly from kindergarten unless especially admonished by one of the kindergartners. This fact was discovered upon a visit paid to his thoroughly discouraged mother, who was, however, too busy to come with her troubles to the kindergartner.

The question of medical attendance is solved by a sympathetic understanding between the mother and the kindergartner. For in the settlement the kindergartner does the work both of medical inspector and district nurse, by discovering which children need attention and taking them where they can get it. In the recent vaccination campaign, our mothers, with few exceptions, voluntarily requested us to see that their children were vaccinated, as they had no time.

The transcendent problem is the realization on the part of the kindergartner that the home is one of the greatest factors in education and from this it can readily be understood of what great importance is the connection between the home and the kindergarten.