

A JEWISH SOCIAL CENTRE'S VARIED PROGRAM

By Charles S. Bernheimer
Brooklyn

JEWISH CHARITIES of last month contained a schedule of day-by-day activities of a Jewish settlement or social centre. The varied impress which such an agency seeks to make upon the general elements of the population is illustrated by the following synopsis of activities as carried on by the Hebrew Educational Society of Brooklyn:

AMERICANIZATION

Citizenship Bureau—To assist aliens to prepare their *first papers* in applying for citizenship (Monday evenings).

Citizenship Class—Lectures on United States history, government and Constitution to enable the securing of the *second papers* (Thursday evenings).

Yiddish Lectures—To give information on industrial, civic, scientific and literary subjects related to American life and conditions (two Saturday evenings per month).

Mothers' Meetings—Discussions on the relations of parents and children and on health, sanitation and neighborhood conditions (Tuesday evenings).

Entertainments—Plays, recitations, music and dances, primarily for working people of the neighborhood.

JUDAIZATION

Sunday Afternoon Religious Discourses—(Average attendance more than 500)—A series of Jewish and moral topics discussed by Rev. Dr. Nathan Krass, also Bible reading, music, answering of questions.

Friday Evening Lectures—A series of talks of Jewish interest by various speakers, rabbis and laymen.

Sabbath-School (Sixteen Classes)—Conducted on Saturday mornings. Jewish history from Biblical to modern times taught. Average attendance, 357.

Bible Talks (Illustrated)—For pupils of the Sabbath-school on occasional Sundays.

Holiday Entertainments—Hanukah and Purim plays, with recitations, music and folk dances.

SOCIALIZATION

Forty-three Clubs (About 600 Members)—Weekly meetings, literary exercises, debates, declamations, oration and essay contests.

Social Room—Informal gatherings of young people (open every evening except Friday).

Study and Game Rooms—Approximately 175 boys and girls come to these rooms every week day (except Friday) afternoon after school for studying lessons and playing games.

Entertainments—Clubs give entertainments: literary, musical and dramatic. One of the plays produced the past season was Zangwill's "The Melting Pot."

Dances—An important element in the dances is the maintaining of a high standard in the social life of the young people (Wednesday and Sunday evenings).

EDUCATIONAL WORK

Six Hebrew Classes (More than 200 pupils)—Sessions five days per week.

Manual Training—One basketry and one carpentry class; one session each per week.

Domestic Art—One millinery and one sewing and dressmaking class; two sessions per week for each class.

Farm Garden—Five sessions per week during July and August.

GYMNASTICS

Classes—For men three sessions, and for women two sessions per week; for boys two afternoons, and for girls two afternoons per week.

Basket-Ball Games—Saturday evenings.

Basket-Ball Practice—For clubs, Sunday afternoons.

Games and Athletics—Baseball, handball, folk dancing, exhibitions.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Lessons (213 Pupils per week)—Piano, violin, singing and theory.

Orchestra—Rehearsals Thursday evenings.

Recitals—By instructors and pupils.

Support—This department is entirely self-supporting, being maintained without cost to the Society, except the use of the rooms and pianos.

CO-OPERATION

Employment—We refer persons to the state and municipal employment bureaus as well as the Jewish Free Employment Bureau, Manhattan; we also refer individuals at times to places of employment, but there seems to be need for greater provision to secure employment in Brooklyn for Jewish young people.

Vocational Guidance—We have from time to time endeavored to assist boys and girls in choosing desirable occupations, but have not the means for pursuing this work systematically.

Legal Aid Bureau—This is also one of the needs of the Jewish community of Brooklyn. We are compelled to refer applicants to the Jewish Bureau in Manhattan.

Brownsville Chronicle—We co-operate with the Health Department of the city in the issuance of the *Brownsville Chronicle*.

We also co-operate with the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities as well as the Health Department in lectures and literature promotive of health; the Council of Jewish Women, Brooklyn section, in social work among immigrant girls; the Sanatorium for Hebrew Children in providing for anaemic and convalescent children; the United Jewish Aid Societies in referring cases for relief; the probation officer of the Children's Court and Big Brothers in the supervision of delinquent children, and the attendance officers and the public schools.

BOOK REVIEWS

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THE PROTOCOL.

Mr. Julius Henry Cohen relates what he calls a "five years' experience" in a volume entitled "Law and Order in Industry" (New York, Macmillan, \$1.50). Mr. Cohen was attorney for the manufacturers' association, but he presents a very fair view of the employes' side of the difficulties that have arisen in the cloak and suit industry. His description of the history of the protocol and the preferential shop will doubtless be a real contribution to the history not only of the needle industry in the United States but to the matter of the re-

lations of employers and employes of the present time. He writes most illuminatingly and brings out all the essential and salient points in such a way as to be practically clear to the reader not familiar with technical details of the industry.

He urges the embodiment of the idea of the protocol in a federal industrial council to be organized in similar fashion to the Industrial Council of Great Britain. He calls attention to a bill which he submitted to the United States Industrial Relations Committee planning such a council. He claims that if we could create such a national board, composed of leading trade unionists, employers and public men and women, we should find a method for complying intelligently and constantly to trade agreements the force of public opinion and at the same time utilize federal power in making such agreements binding upon the minority employer. His contention throughout is that there must be a fair attitude on the part of one side toward the other and not that of the partisan.

Mr. Cohen argues that the protocol produces among other things the following results: The elimination of the general strike and the closed-shop idea; the judicial and legislative method of determining controversies; the promotion of better sanitary and working standards; the elimination of the notion of the "right to the job." He puts down as failures in the protocol arrangement, as thus far worked out, the following: "Failure to equalize competitive labor conditions; failure to eliminate sporadic shop strikes; failure to secure whole-hearted and mutual endorsement of the plan by both organizations." He feels that if this endorsement had been secured in New York the protocol idea would have continued in the cloak industry. The adoption of the protocol by a well known Chicago employing firm indicates its possibility where there is single-hearted and single-headed devotion on both sides. The New York situation has been complicated by the fact that there has not been that unity of purpose and control.

All who are in any way interested in helping to solve the problems involved in the relationship between employers and employees will find much that is highly valuable in this volume.