

MISCELLANEA

A WORD OF COMMENT BY THE EDITORS OF THIS ISSUE

In the last issue of the *QUARTERLY*, Dr. I. M. Rubinow indicated that his recent professional connection with the Zionist Organization of America made such continuous pressure of work inevitable that full justice could not be done to the editorial requirements of this publication. The responsibility of editorship, having been thrust upon him over three years ago, was carried with his usual professional thoroughness, with conscientious devotion to his tasks, and with credit to Jewish social work. It was with profound regret that his resignation was accepted. The National Conference of Jewish Social Service at its 1929 Atlantic City sessions has adequately expressed its sense of appreciation of Dr. Rubinow's efforts with the *QUARTERLY* during his period of managership.

The joint endeavor of the present temporary editors was largely devoted to picking up the loose ends and to issue the June, 1929, number. In this connection we wish to express our sincere appreciation of the assistance rendered by Mr. Harold Silver, who has kindly continued his service as associate editor. In the meantime it was expected that the National Conference would clearly determine its attitude and program for the continuation of the *QUARTERLY*. Based on a preliminary

study, a summary of which is presented elsewhere in this issue, action on this matter was taken at the Atlantic City Conference, with definite recommendations for the editorial set-up, which would assure competent and continuous editorial direction.

This matter received very earnest consideration at the hands of the newly-elected president of the Conference, the late Dr. Boris D. Bogen, who unfortunately was suddenly taken from our midst.

This issue is being designated the "Bogen Memorial Number" in his honor. There have been few in our ranks who have touched so many of us as profoundly, as good-humoredly, and as knowingly as our departed friend. We shall miss him beyond measure.

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LOUIS MARSHALL

We note with profound sorrow the passing of one of American Jewry's noblest figures. There has not been a single phase of Jewish communal, cultural and religious life that he has not touched. His influence has left an indelible impress, and the memory of him will abide with us from generation to generation.

S. C. KOHS.
HYMAN KAPLAN.

THE ATLANTIC CITY CONFERENCE

(A Few Comments)

BY DR. SOLOMON LOWENSTEIN

THE quality of the program, the interest and number of delegates in attendance and the spirited round tables and other functions outside the direct line of program, all furnished incontestable proof of the desirability of holding a session of the National Conference of Jewish Social Service this year, despite the decision of the Conference to refrain from meeting in San Francisco because of the distance from the large centers of Jewish work and the consequent expense involved and probable lack of adequate attendance.

Every meeting drew and held the attention of large groups of workers. The only legitimate criticism that occurs to the writer is the old one, that the program was so crowded and so absorbing as to prevent any large measure of discussion from the floor. The papers were of uniformly high quality and presented by leaders in their respective fields who had positive values to contribute.

An encouraging feature of the meeting was the comparatively

large number of lay workers in attendance and the one meeting especially devoted to their problems was, I am told, very successful.

The scope of the program was catholic. Palestine, in the light of the Jewish Agency, the Jewish Communal Survey of Greater New York, the problems of the Training School for Jewish Social Work, a searching analysis of present-day conditions in American Jewry—these representing but a few of the outstanding topics discussed—indicate the wide range and scope of modern Jewish social work.

Round tables and other outside meetings concerned themselves, among others, with such questions as employment problems, psychiatric and psychological work in family case work agencies and child care societies, new methods in the family field, recent developments in child care, particularly relating to the mentally handicapped child. All these received careful attention and discussion which must have resulted in great benefit to the specialists in these fields.

TO THOSE who have been attending these conferences with great regularity for a period of over twenty-five years, the striking comment to be made consists in the change of the character of attendance. In the first place, from an original group of preponderantly volunteer workers, the present attendance has become almost exclusively professional; and, while retaining the professional group, it would be highly desirable to devise some way of attracting an increasing attendance of the volunteer group. As stated above, the indications this year were more promising than they have been for some time past. No doubt, it was due in some degree, to the accessibility of the city of meeting to most of the large centers of Jewish work. It is to be hoped that this may continue to be the case frequently in the future. Again, the great numerical growth

of the professional group was most impressive.

Communities throughout the country apparently have realized the professional character of the work and more and more are demanding at least some training and experience in their workers and making the service sufficiently attractive to acquire and retain full time service on the part of those who prove fit for the task. The increasing number of college trained men and women is noticeable and encouraging and offers prospects for increased usefulness on the part of our Training School. New names appeared with commendable frequency in the program and it is to be hoped that opportunity may be given to those hitherto inexpressive at the conferences to participate by means of greater facility for discussion.

CORRECTION

Dr. Maurice Taylor, author of the article, "The Problem of Insurance in Dependent Families," which appeared in the September and the December-March issues of the QUARTERLY (Vol. V, Nos. 1 and 2-3), requested that the following corrections and additions to his article should be published.

In the September, 1928, issue:

Page 4, col. 1. (9) should read: "Type of Policy—whether industrial or ordinary; life, 20-year endowment, 20-payment life, etc."

Page 5, col. 1. Last line should read: "Thirty-three, or about 8 per cent were ordinary life policies—either straight life, endowment, or limited payment."

Page 6, col. 1. Line 36 should read: "The home-nursing field."

Page 11, col. 1, line 4, of the September issue; Page 108, col. 2, end of paragraph; Page 117, col. 1, line 1, of the December-

March issue: *Cash values*—Although the text talks of industrial policies not acquiring cash values until they are more than ten years old, there are insurance companies in which industrial policies acquire a cash value after five years.

In the December-March issue:

Page 115, Recommendation 5. There should be added at the end: "*In the case of those industrial policies to be maintained where companies will not permit assignment, failing other arrangements, allowance should be made for insurance in the budget.*"

Page 117, Recommendation 8, should read: "*In every case where policies to be continued have no disability clause, providing for either waiver of premium or both waiver of premium and income, its inclusion should be insisted upon providing the policy is of such type as to permit its inclusion and the company will consent to it.*"

JEWISH COMMUNAL PROGRESS

SAVANNAH—A STUDY IN POPULATION DECLINE

BY WILLIAM PINSKER

JEWISH communal life in the United States is based on the premise of increasing population and Jewish social service is geared to the necessities of growing communities. The progress stories of the various communities all deal with problems forced by this growth of the Jewish population, a growth phenomenal in some cases, rapid in many and slow in others, but still a growth. Where these stories are not proud boasts of the methods with which the communities have met the problems of an increasing population they are sad complaints of inadequate facilities, inadequate funds and inadequate organization. Synagogues, Jewish centers, hospitals, clinics, new organizations and federations of organizations have been springing up in an almost mushroom growth, and sad indeed is the plight of the community whose citizens cannot point with pride to at least one new institution or building.

Will this growth continue forever, or even for long? The rate of increase has already materially slackened, due to the decrease in immigration and to the decrease in

natural growth in the Americanized groups, and it is strongly within the realm of possibilities that the next decades will see an actual decrease in the size of the Jewish population. The story of Savannah, then, where the Jewish population has decreased from 5000 to 3200 in ten years, should be of interest. Here is the story of a community which must base its communal life on the expectation, or at least fear, of a dwindling population.

SAVANNAH is one of the oldest Jewish communities in the country, being about to celebrate its two hundredth birthday. Only to a small extent, however, is the decline of the Jewish population due to the dry-rot that so often marks an old community. The factors mainly to be considered are geographic and economic. The composition of the population is also interesting to the extent that it has contributed to the exodus from the city.

Jews have been living continuously in Savannah for nearly two hundred years and many descendants of the original settlers—not all of them, alas, now of the Jewish