

It appears that among the Jewish arrivals, one Abraham de Lucena was, in 1655, arraigned for having kept his shop open and made sales at retail, on Sunday.²³ For this it was recommended that he be deprived of his business and that he be fined. The incident came near being an excuse for expelling the Jews.²⁴ This is, perhaps, the first recorded instance of the Jews coming in conflict with the Sunday laws in what is now the United States.

Concerning the same period, it is also of interest to note the spirit of tolerance that characterized the colonial Dutch,—from an incident again involving the Jewish religion. It appears that in 1658, one Jacob Barsimson had failed to respond to a summons requiring him to make an appearance in court on Saturday. From the entry in the case, it is clear that the

23) See Samuel Oppenheim, "The Early History of the Jews in New York, 1654-1664": *Pub. Am. Jew. Hist. Soc.*, Vol. 18 (1909), p. 7.

24) See Frederick J. Zwierlein, *Op. Cit.*, p. 258.

Court recognized it as his Sabbath, when it said: "Though defendant is absent yet no default is entered against him as he was summoned on his Sabbath."²⁵ And this, perhaps, is the first recorded instance of judicial recognition of the Jewish Sabbath in what is now the United States. When representative English government was ultimately established in New York, it brought into being, in 1691, its first Sunday law, which was, in affect, of a general prohibitory nature concerning activity on "the Lord's day", and which virtually remained in force until after New York had become a state.²⁶

These, then, were the colonies that are especially significant as having shaped the pattern of the American Sunday laws.

25) See Samuel Oppenheim, *Op. Cit.*, pp. 23-24, citing *Records of New Amsterdam*, Vol. II, pp. 396, 397.

26) Abram Herbert Lewis, *Op. Cit.*, pp. 200-201.

(To Be Continued)

Departments of Home Economics in Family Welfare Agencies

By ROSE F. LANDIS

Supervisor, Home Economics Department, United Jewish Aid Societies, Brooklyn

THE last few years have witnessed an important change in the structure of most family case work agencies. From not having any place or status in the make up of these organizations, the Home Economics Department now emerges as one of the most important in the task of rehabilitating families. With this in view, it is essential that case workers should have more than a rudimentary understanding of the functions of a Home Economics Department. In order to convey these functions to the case worker in concise practical and non-technical language, this article has been prepared.

Historical Survey

The history of Home Economics shows with great clarity that the progress of this comparatively new science has been based entirely upon studies not only within the household, but of price movements and tendencies in the general market. Studies conducted in the past, present for the Home Economist of today, the basic technique of procedure, and the successful

Home Economist is the one who applies the tested technique of yesterday to the problems of today. It seems strange that after thousands of years in which incomes of various sorts were utilized for family support, it was only in the middle of the last century that this question of how to spend wisely received scientific attention. And so we have Frederic LePlay, the French engineer and economist, perhaps the first one to make a study of budgets of workmen's families. His Monographs were the basis for future work by other economists, the outstanding one being Ernst Engel of Saxony, who promulgated the famous "Engel's Laws of Consumption." These laws basicly are sound in theory and practice today. The scene of activity then shifted to Vienna where Ottilie Bondy, during the latter part of the last century made an intensive study of the income of middle class families for the purpose of finding out "how to maintain the equilibrium in domestic expenses, without which neither dignity nor peace of mind can be preserved." The trend of income studies during the latter part of the

last century and the early years of the present century confined itself to middle class families, and so we find in the United States Mrs. Ellen H. Richards busily engaged in the study of an ideal budget for a normal family whose income varies between \$2000. and \$4000. yearly. Her division of income for rent, food, running expenses, clothing, recreation, health, etcetra, remained for a long time one of the most useful generalizations on the American family budget. At approximately the same time, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics made budget studies and estimates for budgets that would be sufficient to maintain "a standard of health and decency" among government employees. It is interesting to note that in these studies special emphasis was made on the possibility of saving through various economies. Somewhat later the Savings Division of the United States Treasury Department in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture made a budget estimate for a normal family based on an income of \$2400. yearly. This budget because of the thoroughness with which it was prepared was a basis for budget making for many years.

The beginning of the present century witnessed a shift in emphasis in the study of family incomes. Instead of budgets for normal families, studies of income and budgets based thereon of dependent family forged to the front. In 1906 Caroline Goodyear of the New York Charity Organization Society studied the income and dietary habits of families living in slum sections. The New York State Conference of Charity and Corrections undertook a study of the standard of living of workingmen's families in New York City whose report was presented in 1907. Florence Nesbitt in 1912 made a study of adequate minimum budgets for dependent families living on a minimum of subsistence standard. These budgets were based upon a study upon current neighborhood prices in the particular locality where the dependent families resided.

During the past twenty years the study of minimum and normal budgets have undergone great revision and amplification caused by increased earning capacity, rise in living costs based on family composition, and a finer appreciation of the needs of dependent families. One of the great advances in the field of Home Economics was made in the study of children's needs. Intensive studies by the Children's Bureau, United States Department of Labor, and the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Home Economics, have been made and various bulletins published dealing with the question of children's

needs within the family. The following studies have been published:—"The Suggested Budget for Families of Small Incomes of the Cleveland Associated Charities" 1918; "Studies conducted by the Boston Budget Council" 1920; "Good Nutrition at Minimum Cost," New York Nutritionists, 1922; "St. Louis Budget for Dependent Families" 1923; "Study of a Minimum Standard of Living for Dependent Families in Los Angeles" 1927; "Chicago Standard Budget for Dependent Families" 1929. Continued interest in this field has been shown by the Government in 1932 and 1933 featuring budgets to provide for families whose children vary in ages.

The element of budget making represents only one angle of home economics. The studies in the past, mentioned in this brief review, have confined themselves to the attempt either to establish a normal budget or a minimum standard for dependent families. The theoretical establishment of such budgets is one thing, and the endeavor to effectuate these budgets presents an entirely different aspect of the work of a Home Economist. In the latter the Home Economist is dealing with human emotions, psychologic reactions, and with established mores. In the attempt to place a dependent family on a minimum budget it often requires the breaking down of resistance, change of standard of living, a new plan of home-making. Together with this comes the problem very often of a deficiency of funds at the command of the agency endeavoring to put into effect these standard budgets. This entails a reallocation of funds omitting many items which though essential in a minimum budget cannot be supplied. So the Home Economist is placed in the position where a minimum budget is minimum as to some items and non-existent as to others. Being cognizant of these factors in the rehabilitation of families, and in recognition of a long felt need in the case work of the organization, the United Jewish Aid Societies established a Home Economics Department September 1929, under the direction of a worker trained in family case work and home economics. This Department functions under the direct supervision of the Executive Director and the Senior Case Supervisor. Frequent conferences are held with either or both, and policies are decided upon and work directed in conference with them. Living on a minimum income as the majority of our families must do, requires a maximum of skill in management which few of them possess. The result is that many families whose income we were certain were adequate to maintain a decent standard of living, were failing to maintain this

standard. Daily evidence of this failure presented itself in the form of bad housekeeping, poor home-making, complaints about the adequacy of our allowances, and what was of paramount importance—malnutrition of children. It was clear that when we are once assured that families have enough to live on, we have the further responsibility of teaching them how to do it successfully.

Our Home Economics Department is composed of a supervisor, nutritionist, secretary and two clerical workers. The functions of the secretary and clerks will be found in detail in the Manual of Office manager.*

PLACE OF THE HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT IN FAMILY CASE WORK AGENCY

Rehabilitation of dependent families is the primary function of a family agency. In the division of its work, the Home Economics Department represents an aspect of paramount importance, since the home economist sets the standard of living for client families. Home economics when practiced as part of the functioning of a family agency means a generalized all round experience rather than participation in an isolated segment of the field. While definitely assuming a place within social work, home economics occupies a position and possesses a body of knowledge which is outside the ken of the usual social worker.

Today home economics is one form of case work treatment. The field worker doing family case work is constantly confronted with problems requiring home economics services. She is responsible for the bringing of the multifarious angles contained in family difficulties into proper relationship with one another. She must deal with these problems in a unified and systematic manner to the end that they may be remedied. The home economist must fit her plans to those of the case worker. Mutual understanding would be furthered if schools of social work added to their curriculum courses treating of the scope of home economics and its application in practical social work. At the same time schools giving instruction in home economics should inject into their field a knowledge of the philosophy and principles of case work. We recognize now that lack of homemaking ability is rarely an isolated factor in home life, but is associated with other serious and more complicated social problems. Difficulties arising from lack of knowledge of home-making, budgeting, housing, selection and preparation of food, selection and making of garments, require

* Available in the Library of the Graduate School for Jewish Social Work.

home economics treatment. Frequently the lack of efficient knowledge in home management is one of the major difficulties the family presents in its general maladjustment. These problems should be part of the social examination conducted by the case worker, and their treatment included along with the other plans made for the family's rehabilitation. In order to interpret every day problems arising in the household, the case worker needs a working knowledge of home economics techniques, terminology and definitions. We attempt to meet these needs through home visiting with the worker; consultive service and conferences on nutrition; by studies of current prices of food, shelter, fuel, clothing, household furnishings; the preparation of recipes, diets and menus; caretaking service; computation of special diets; meal planning; analysis of family expense accounts; review and approval of budgets, as well as any other home economics problems on which workers request advice. The home economist also informs workers of changes in the fields of nutrition and foods. Fluctuations in living costs, changes in standard of living, new trends in home economics work, and the more integrated part which the home economist is now playing in case work agencies requires of the home economist an alertness of perception and understanding, so that the home economist can take advantage of these changes which will redound to the benefit of the families under care and to the agency.

DEPARTMENTAL FUNCTION

A. Consultive Service

This service is given to the staff on home economics problems. Though many of these problems can be discussed and suggestions given through conferences, it is sometimes necessary for the home economist to read the record of the case, and it is occasionally advisable to visit with workers before advice is given. The greater part of the home economist's work is consultive service given to the staff. Workers are stimulated to recognize home economics problems in their cases, and encouraged to bring the case to the home economist for discussion. Workers thus gain an understanding of certain simple principles of home economics, and as they become conscious of these factors, they are enabled to recognize such problems and learn to deal with them or to refer them to the home economist.

B. Direct Home Economics Service

Direct home economics service is given clients in

their own homes. Problems in household management, home-making, nutrition instruction and visiting housekeeper service are worked out by the home economist in conjunction with the case worker. Home visits are made as frequently as the case requires. The home economist endeavors to visit each family at least once a week. Families requiring intensive home service are referred to the home economist after the worker has made every effort to treat the home economics problems herself. The home economist keeps a complete record of her services on the case. (Form H.E. No. 1)* A copy of her dictation is given worker for the case record of the family. Worker incorporates this into her regular record.

C. Budgets

The supervision of budget planning is a function of this department. Workers compute budgets for each relief family under care (Form U.J.A.S. No. 9a) and submit it to home economist for review and approval. Relief is not given, except in emergency cases, unless the budget is approved by the home economist. At the present time workers are making two budgets for each family, one the *estimated*, the other, *actual*. The estimated budget includes the total needs of the family. The actual budget includes the allowance the organization is able to give. In these days of financial stress, it is important that families should be budgeted scientifically so that the funds will be allocated according to the needs of each family, stress being placed upon those families in greatest need. This necessitates specific individualization of each relief case under care.

In addition to approving budgets for regular relief families under care, home economist cooperates with worker in organization who writes stories for "Times Appeal," "Post," and "Eagle." Due to the fact that budgets for newspapers are arbitrary, home economist reads the stories for the individual family and draws up the budget on the basis of information contained in it. A copy of the budget is included with the "Times," "Post" and "Eagle" stories which go to those newspapers and given to worker on the case.

The home economist has prepared a midget budget sheet. (Form U.J.A.S. No. 9b) A copy of the regular budget of the family is carried by worker in her note book on the midget budget sheet for each relief family, so that she can use this when discussing family's budget during her home visiting. "Helpful

*A copy of all of these forms is available in the Library of the Graduate School for Jewish Social Work. Y

Hints" and "Health Rules For Children" on reverse side (Form U.J.A.S. No. 9b) are used by visitor in her work with families.

Budget Making

See page 2 and 3 "A Study Of A Minimum Budget Standard For Dependent Families In Brooklyn."

Budget Standard

"A Study Of A Minimum Budget Standard For Dependent Families In Brooklyn" (Budget Standard) was drawn up by home economist for use of workers in computing budgets for families. This standard is revised in accordance with the fluctuation of market prices, and studies are made on each item in the standard such as food, clothing, shelter, fuel, recreation, education, care of health, ice, household incidentals and supplies, personal incidentals, etc.

Budget Planning

METHOD OF SECURING BUDGET FIGURES

INCOME

1. From man, woman.
 - a. Amount per hour.
 - b. Number of hours per day.
 - c. Number of days.
 - d. Regular, or irregular.
 - e. How are wages paid (by week, etc.)?
 - Date of shop payday.
 - f. Total amount.
 - g. Amount of personal allowance.
2. Working children.
 - a. Amount earned as above.
 - b. Amount paid into the home.
 - c. Amount of personal allowance.
 - d. For what personal items is the allowance used?
3. Boarders.
4. Small amount from children, i.e. from newspapers, etc.
5. Amount received from rent of property.
6. Pensions.
7. Regular contributions.
8. Irregular contributions—Gifts.

EXPENSES

Shelter

1. Rent
 - a. Amount
 1. When due.
 2. How paid, part or whole.
 3. Paid in advance.
 - b. Amount paid in proportion to location and space.
 - c. Feeling between landlord and family.
2. House, definite statements regarding.
 - a. Date of purchase.
 - b. Purchase price.
 - c. Probable increase or decrease in valuation.
 - d. Equity.
 - e. Mortgages and rate of interest.

- f. Payments on principal and interest.
- g. May payments be made only on interest and not on principal?
- h. Taxes.
- i. Water rent.
- j. Amount and cost of repairs.
- k. Insurance on property.
- l. Family's attitude toward owning their home.

Food

1. How much does family spend for food in one week?
2. Does W. buy for cash or use credit?
3. Does W. buy at neighborhood stores, chain stores, fruit and vegetables stores, open markets, etc?
4. What kind of food does she buy?
 - a. Is food nutritious?
 - b. Do children eat most food prepared, or is much wasted?
5. Does family buy economically?
 - a. In small or large quantities?
 - b. Are meals planned ahead?
6. Are lunches prepared for members of the family who are working or going to school?
7. Are members of the family purchasing meals away from home or getting meals where they work?
8. Are children attending nursery? State amount paid and number of days attending.
9. Is special diet prepared for any member of the family?

Clothing

1. Are clothing standards high or low?
 - a. Are Sunday clothes considered a necessity?
 - b. Is special clothing necessary—as for the tbc. patient?
2. Is clothing given good care?
 - a. Is clothing put away carefully?
 - b. Is clothing mended?
 - c. Do children have old clothes for play to save school clothing?
 - d. Can clothing be made at home?
3. How much money is spent?
 - a. Is it bought for cash or credit?
 - b. Are good values chosen?
 - c. Are gifts frequent?

Operating Expenses

1. Fuel and Are these used economically?
 - a. Average amount of gas bill.
 - b. Number of gas stoves.
 - c. Are stoves in good condition?
 - d. Is gas used for lighting, heating, cooking?
 - e. Average amount and cost of coal used.
 - f. Has family a furnace?
 - g. Amount and cost of oil used.
 - h. Average amount of electric bill.
 - i. Number of electrical appliances.
2. Cleaning material.
 - a. Average amount used per week.
 - b. Is this used economically?
 - c. Laundry expenses.
3. Household expenses.
 - a. What articles need replacing?

Advancement

1. Carfare.
 - a. Amount paid by various members.
 - b. Is carfare used to go to and from work, recreation,

- synagogue, dispensary, markets and stores?
2. Insurance.
 - a. Kind of policies.
 - b. Total amount of premium paid regularly to each company.
 - c. Length of time sick or accident benefit will be paid.
 - d. Date of policy taken out.
 - e. Is cash surrender possible at this time?
 - f. Who is beneficiary?
 - g. How does family feel about continuing payments?
 - h. Are payments up to date?
 - i. How long can policy lapse and be resumed without loss to family?
3. Recreation.
 - a. Amount spent by family.
 - b. Explain forms of recreation of individual members.
 - c. Are community resources and free forms of recreation being used?
 - d. Is proportion spent high or low?
4. Education.
 - a. Amount spent for school supplies—books, tablets, pencils, etc.
 - b. Tuition, if paid.
 - c. Special expenses—night school fees, music lessons, etc.
5. Synagogue.
 - a. Amount paid.
 - b. Does family feel contributions necessary?
6. Newspapers.
 - a. Amount paid.
7. Medicine.
 - a. Amount paid.
 - b. Is it necessary?
8. Savings.
9. Debts.
 - a. Amounts of debts.
 - b. Regular amount payable.
 - c. Are payments kept up?

D. Visiting Housekeeper Service

The functions of the visiting housekeeper service are, to recruit, select, train and place visiting housekeepers. These visiting housekeepers are used (1) to take charge of households in the absence or illness of the mother; (2) to take charge of families in an effort to raise their standard of living; (3) to assist in child training, special feeding problems, etc. Visiting housekeepers are chosen with very definite ideas in mind. We have tried to fit our visiting housekeepers to the type of family requiring her services. An endeavor has been made to develop a corps of visiting housekeepers who can act as efficient mother substitutes as the needs arise. The home economist interviews prospective visiting housekeepers and visits their homes. If they are client cases, the home economist reads their records, discusses them with the worker, and lists them for the job they are best fitted. Visiting housekeepers work 6 days a week, 8 A.M. to 6 P.M., salary about \$15.00 a week, depending on the number of children in the home, duties, and extraneous work.

Applications for visiting housekeepers are made by the worker to the Home Economist, (Form H.E. No. 2). The Home economist reads the record of case, and after conference with the worker, selects a visiting housekeeper best suited for the position. Visiting housekeepers who are relief cases of the agency receive preference. The home economist keeps a complete record of the visiting housekeeper's services in the family. (Form H. E. No. 3). The dictation is entered in the regular way and a copy of home economist's dictation is given to the worker on the case.

E. Supply Department

The home economist is assisting in the supervision of the Supply Department which receives donations of furniture, household incidentals, clothing, food, etc. These supplies are kept in the Industrial Department. During the past nine months this project has grown into an Industrial Department, and the warehouse is now being supervised by a capable director who has a group of men working under a work relief project doing the work involved in receiving, reconditioning, and the distribution of supplies. The home economist assists in soliciting and receiving donations from the community by correspondence, telephone, and personal visits.

Orders for the collecting of donations are sent to the head of the Industrial Department. (Form I.D. No. 1). Every donation received is acknowledged. (Form H.E. No. 123). Contributions in large quantities coming from organizations and concerns receive special acknowledgement. (Form H.E. No. 123). Workers requisition supplies for families under care (Form H.E. No. 4). This requisition is approved by the home economist and forwarded to the Industrial Department for filling. The Home Economics Department makes entry of all articles supplied the family, (Form H.E. No. 5), and returns same to worker who incorporates this in her record of the family. All articles which cannot be furnished by the Industrial Department are purchased by the Home Economics Department. (Form Bk. No. 5.) Price studies are made and used by this Department as a guide for purchasing. (Guide For Purchase Of New Articles).

The Home Economics Department keeps a monthly record of the number of families given supplies in kind through this Department and other agencies, and the number of articles given. The home economist informs the staff of "supplies available" through the Industrial Department. (Form H.E. No. 9).

Clothing:—Through arrangements made with the

Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee, Clothing Division, clothing is given to families under our care. The forms are filled out by the workers in the presence of the family. The family retains the original. The Home Economics Department after approval forwards duplicate to the Clothing Station in the precinct where the family lives, and distribution is then made to the family. The Home Economics Department retains a duplicate. Supply records are made in the same manner as though the supplies were distributed by our Industrial Department. (Form H.E. No. 5). The home economist contacts such organizations as The American Red Cross; Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee; New Yorkers' League; May's Specialty Shop; and other concerns or organizations who are encouraged to make donations to our organization.

Household Furnishings:—Through arrangements made with the American Red Cross by the Home Economics Department, donations of household furnishings are sent to our Industrial Department. Families under our care receive blankets, linens, yard goods and muslin. The home economist gives each worker swatches of the material which workers use as the basis for requisitioning materials. (Form H.E. No. 4). Through information given to workers by the Home Economics Department, families have been using the yard goods for curtains, bureau scarfs, tablecloths and clothing.

Food:—Through arrangements made by the Emergency Work and Relief Administration, Food Division, with the Home Economics Department, food packages are given weekly to families under our care at Food Stations in various sections of the city. Worker lists information required for families to whom food is to be given. (Form H.E. No. 8). The Home Economics Department sends families food tickets on which the necessary information has been listed by the clerical department, and a letter of instruction to clients (Form H.E. No. 121). Monthly statistics are kept on the number of families given food orders. This food is considered surplus food and no deduction is made in the families' regular allowances.

Through arrangements made by the American Red Cross with the Home Economics Department, families under our care are given flour. Workers requisition flour for families under care, (Flour Record), and on the basis of information given, families are sent letters to call for the flour (Form H.E. No. 122).

Flour is distributed from the Industrial Department. Flour deliveries are made through the Home Economics

Department on request from workers, to families who are unable to call for flour because of illness. When flour has been called for by the family, worker is given data. (Flour Delivery Sheet). This Department keeps monthly statistics for the number of families given flour and the number of bags distributed.

Thanksgiving Supplies:—Each year at Thanksgiving schools make donations of food, clothing or

money to the United Jewish Aid Societies for distribution to families under care. This department contacts schools, gets lists from workers of families to whom food baskets should be given, arranges for distribution with industrial director and acknowledges donations to donors. A similar plan is carried on for Passover contributions, Christmas supplies, and other holidays when special donations are made for a special purpose.

Foreign Department

JACOB BEN LIGHTMAN

Vocational Guidance in Roumania

THE recent political turn of events in Roumania has given rise to discussions regarding the social and economic position of the Jews there, particularly in view of recent proposed measures looking toward the protection of national labor. One organization in Roumania that has taken cognizance of the situation, and whose concern, particularly, is with the younger generation, is the "Institute for Professional Orientation," which was established in Bucharest some five years ago by the Union of Roumanian Jews. Altho the Institute is in a sense, non-sectarian, its primary concern is with the Jewish masses, for whom it performs a much-needed service in furnishing vocational guidance and reorientation along productive lines. There are not, however, many possibilities for present-day Jewish youth in Roumania, in view of the de facto, tho non-legal, discriminatory measures in a country that has been having recurrent moments of ethnic-nationalistic impulses.

As part of its work of vocational guidance, the Institute for Professional Orientation applies physical and psychological examinations annually to more than 350 Jewish school children, with a view toward ascertaining their equipment for particular callings for which they may be exhibiting aptitudes. In connection with this a comparative study was made of the occupations of some 700 young people and of their parents (and in this respect, the work of the Institute in Roumania, is very much akin to that of the Federated Employment Service, in New York). The results revealed a greater trend toward the liberal professions among the children than was the case among the parents. Thus, 42% of the number of parents studied were en-

gaged in artisan callings, but only 11% of their offspring followed in the same types of activity. And, conversely, where only 2% of the parents were in the liberal professions, 21% of their offspring did follow in the same class of callings. As part of the study, the Institute has also made an investigation into the home conditions of the children, correlating data on the number per room, prevalency of disease contagion, and other kindred matters. In communities in which the economic lot of the Jewish masses is a trying one, and the whole level of culture comparatively not high, in view of the constantly changing political situation, and its concomitant discriminatory measures against minority groups, the Institute for Professional Orientation is to be commended for employing scientific method in making its findings apropos vocationally guiding Jewish youth.

An interesting circular from the Jewish Board of Guardians, in England, announces its work as covering the "whole field of charitable endeavor." Among its diversified social service activities, involving an annual outlay of nearly £100,000 (\$500,000) a year, are the following: "immediate relief of temporary distress; weekly allowances to the aged; the care of the widow and the orphan; distribution of clothing; providing coal in winter; maternity relief; providing medical instruments; relieving the sick; the after-care of consumptives; sending delicate children to the country; boys' welfare; apprenticing boys and girls; loans up to £100 without interest; assisting in emigration to the Dominions and foreign countries; almshouses for the aged; convalescent homes for children; a home for orphan working boys; housing."

Protecting the Health of Jews Abroad*

By JULIA RUBENSTEIN

TWO years before the outbreak of the World War, in recognition of rapidly changing industrial conditions which necessitated greater readjustments among the Jews of Eastern Europe because of their peculiar historical, economic and social heritage than among any other peoples, a society was founded by a group of Jewish medical men and public-minded laymen in Russia "for the protection of the health of Jews." Today, in the second year of the Hitler regime in Germany, in a land where the Jews had become thoroughly integrated in the economic structure, one of the gravest problems confronting Jewish leaders is that of protecting the health of the Jews of that country.

The causes which brought into existence in 1912 the Society for the Protection of the Health of Jews (called the OZE or OSE, from the Russian, *Obstchestvo Sdravookhranenia Evreev*) were precisely those which differentiated the Jews settled in East European lands from those in West European countries. Aggregated in large compact masses and constituting a considerable portion of the total population of the respective countries, the Jews of Eastern Europe had become a distinct community bounded by racial, religious and linguistic ties. For decades they had been subjected to open discrimination and had concentrated in certain limited fields in the crafts, trades or professions. These pursuits not requiring muscular strength, it had become a matter of pride and almost of morality to scorn physical prowess. Generations of neglect of body produced in Eastern Europe a preponderant type of Jew who was underdeveloped physically. The strain of combating prejudice, political and social oppression as well as the bitter struggle for a livelihood created a propensity for nervous irritation.

At the turn of the century, the spread of industrialism had begun to wipe out the trades and crafts that

gave employment to the masses of Jews in Eastern Europe. They were forced to turn to new branches of industry and agriculture. Determination of spirit was not lacking, but they failed miserably. Physically not hardy, overtaxed mentally and emotionally, they were incapable of performing useful labor requiring vigorous muscles and calm nerves, as a result of the restrictions to which they had been subjected.

To give direct physical aid and particularly to educate the East European Jews and their children in principles of hygiene, the OZE undertook field work and the establishment of health institutions. Soon after these activities were initiated, however, the regular program was interrupted by the World War. Hundreds of thousands of homeless refugees, sickly abandoned orphans, sufferers from epidemics and famine cried for emergency relief. The Jews had no one to turn to but the Jews. Fortunately, in the OZE there was a working health organization. Soup kitchens, milk stations, and hospitals were set up as quickly as possible.

The Treaty of Versailles did not end the need for emergency health work. Civil war and pogroms in the Ukraine swelled the number of the Jewish refugees and led them to the newly created Baltic States as well as to Poland and Rumania. Contagious diseases arising from the miserable conditions surrounding the refugees presented special problems to be met in addition to the urgency for building further hospitals, child-care centers, health colonies, etc. in the new sections harboring refugees.

Among the diseases to which the Jews were most susceptible were tuberculosis, trachoma and favus. Exact figures are not available, but it is estimated that a sizeable percentage of the refugee children suffered from favus, which not only manifested itself most painfully and left the victims bald, but also ostracized them from society as no one would associate with them nor give them employment through fear of contagion. With subventions made to the OZE by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee specifically to fight this disease, X-Ray laboratories were established and, after a persistent effort, the spread of the disease was arrested.

From the seeds sown before the outbreak of the War and then by these emergency health institutions

*The writer is indebted for information to Dr. Jacob J. Golub and to the Joint Distribution Committee, who were good enough to supplement data obtained from reports on "L'activite de la Societe OSE" and "ORT-OSE-EMIGDIRECT" in the May 1934 issue of *Revue OSE*; an article by E. Olschwanger on "L'Union OSE, l'histoire et l'activite, 1912-1934" in the June 1934 issue; and a report by Dr. J. J. Golub on *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Medico-Sanitary Department in Poland*, February 1921 to October 1923. Responsibility for conclusions drawn regarding the need for health work in Germany is solely that of the writer.