

BOOK REVIEWS

By Charles S. Bernheimer

NEW YORK'S WEST SIDE

Under the direction of Pauline Goldmark studies have been made of New York's middle West Side. One is entitled "Boyhood and Lawlessness" and the other "The Neglected Girl." Both are bound in one volume (New York: Survey Associates, \$2.00). They do not form a very flattering picture of the section of New York City they describe. The demoralizing influences to which young people are subjected are presented in detail and are illustrated by stories and observations from the actual life of the neighborhood. The volume on "The Neglected Girl" states: "Demoralizing neighborhood conditions, such as congestion, filth, street temptations, and neighborhood gangs, all of which are practically synonymous with West Side life, influence the girls for evil only to a less degree than they influence the boys." The writer adds that the remedies which are given to the girls in the reformatory at Bedford as a cure should be applied to the West Side girls as preventive measures. These include regular school attendance with manual training and flexible courses of study, regular hours for sleep, food, work and play, nourishing food and outdoor life and the social discipline of community life.

Perhaps one can obtain some notion as to how low this section has fallen by comparison with the soddenness of the London slums. The writer affirms: "It is not yet a spot such as those that exist in the London slums, pervaded with the taint of mental and physical degeneration." From which one may infer, however, that the social and moral conditions are extremely low-class measured by the standard being set in this country.

In the study of the life of the boy one is impressed with the permeating influences of drinking, smoking, lawlessness, petty thievery and sex irregularity and immorality. In both studies the lack of control on the part of the parents is, of course, most evident. The particular neighborhood described, largely Irish-American, is an instance of the

survival of the unfit—those more able and intelligent having left the neighborhood.

The concluding chapter is on the Italian girl. The following comment will be interesting to readers who deal with Jewish families: "The Italian daughter must be taught intelligently to meet American conditions and trained in the form of self-protection which they necessitate. Her parents cannot do this. They have themselves still too much to learn."

Training for Jewish Social Workers

An innovation in the training of Jewish social workers is offered to both experienced workers and volunteers by the Jewish Chautauqua Society, in a course in social service to begin Monday, July 12th, with four daily sessions to extend over a period of two weeks. The course includes lectures by such well-known social workers as Dr. Boris D. Bogen of Cincinnati, Mrs. William Einstein of New York City, who is well known as the exponent of widowed mothers' pensions fund, Dr. Ludwig B. Bernstein of Pleasantville, Dr. Charles Bernheimer of Brooklyn, Dr. Sidney Goldstein of New York, and others prominently connected with social service work. In connection with the regular program the students will be given the privilege of taking part in field work, which includes visits to all of the prominent institutions both in New York and the suburbs. At the end of the term a certificate will be awarded to each student who has qualified. Full information regarding the course can be had from the Jewish Chautauqua Society, 925 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

EXCHANGE BUREAU

Young woman graduate of leading school for social workers desires position. Speaks English, German and Yiddish fluently. Answer E. P., care of JEWISH CHARITIES.

WANTED—A capable man as superintendent of a Jewish Orphan Asylum at Rochester, N. Y. (preferably a married man). Apply in writing, stating experience had and references, to Abram J. Katz, 875 East Avenue, Rochester, N. Y.

JEWISH CHARITIES

THE COLLAPSE OF THE PROTOCOL

Abraham Solomon

In September, 1910, on account of the protracted strike in the cloak and suit industry in New York City, an arbitration agreement was agreed upon between the manufacturers and the workers, which has been commonly known as "The Protocol," and which designation will undoubtedly be retained by historians of the labor movement. Under the conditions of this protocol three new methods of adjustment were instituted—the preferential union shop, a system of industrial courts, and the joint board of sanitary control. The first was a compromise between the demands of the manufacturers for an open shop and of the unions for a closed shop. By it the employer agreed to maintain union standards as to hours and conditions of employment, and to give the preference in employing and retaining help to union members. On their side the unions agreed to maintain discipline in the shop among their members and to assume full responsibility for their conduct.

The industrial court consisted of a board of grievances and a board of arbitration, on each of which the manufacturers and the unions were equally represented. A dispute between employer and employe was referred to the clerks of the board of grievances, who, in the event of their inability to agree upon a settlement, sent the matter to the higher court, the board of arbitration.

The joint board of sanitary control aimed to do away with the intolerable conditions existing in some of the shops and to raise the standard of sanitary requirements throughout the industry.

This commendable attempt to rationalize an industry did not run a smooth course, causing radicals to predict disaster to the scheme and making sceptical manufacturers still more convinced of the stubbornness of the workingmen. A third class, however, after weighing the possible good and the possible evil, rejoiced that a step in the

right direction had been taken and believed that even if industrial antagonism could not be obliterated it could still be modified for the public weal.

Let us contemplate the uneven career of the protocol. The first important defect in the agreement was that no provision had been made for the pieceworkers who predominate in the industry; for them no standard of piece rates was adopted. As before the era of the protocol, each manufacturer was left at liberty to bargain with the committee of his employes for the rates on each of the innumerable styles of women's garments. This situation led to an unnecessary increase of differences between employer and employe, although by the terms of the agreement, if the price committee of the given shop failed to reach an understanding regarding the wages, the employes were permitted to strike; but no agency for the settlement of these strikes was provided by the protocol. In the month of December, 1913, controversy arose with reference to fixing piece prices, which led to a suspension of the protocol. This first breach between the contracting parties was considered an ill-omen. And the prophets of evil may now gloat since the protocol has collapsed.

After the wage problem for pieceworkers had been patched up, the protocol resumed its course, but even less smoothly than before, its machinery creaking and lumbering along. The number of complaints averaged over 3000 a year. Every week the clerks were kept busy investigating complaints of violation of the protocol by manufacturers. Many were the questions that had to be submitted to the board of arbitration as the court of final resort. But it should be noted that this board of arbitration did not have power to make an award. Mr. Louis D. Brandeis, delivering the unanimous opinion of the board of arbitration on October 13, 1913, took occasion to say: "The worker must recognize that if he is all the time

endeavoring to exact to the uttermost penny full performance from the employer, there is going to be a great deal of friction. *The protocol cannot accomplish the results of a court of justice.*"

And friction there was. Prof. Isaac A. Hourwich differed emphatically from the interpretation that Mr. Brandeis placed upon the activities of the board of arbitration, asserting that at the time when the protocol was accepted by the strikers, they were not told that they were to surrender the right to strike and also to waive their claims for the redress of their grievances.

It should be further noted that in many instances, although the manufacturers expected a tolerant spirit on the part of the employes, they did not themselves evince such a spirit. The usual differences arising between employer and employe from a competitive struggle in which self-interest rules were aggravated in this industry by the complex technique of the protocol in attempting to adjust disputes, which technique resulted in red tape, innumerable hearings and countless decisions, none of which tended to improve the relations of employer and employe. It is difficult to believe that even under the most favorable conditions two bodies of men divided by fundamental considerations of self-interest will yield on important questions affecting either profit or wages, employers' freedom or employes' freedom.

It would be futile to lament too much the passing of the protocol; it had its uses and its functions, and perhaps the lesson to be learned from it will aid in the establishment of a more feasible system of agreement between employer and employe. But we may unhesitatingly say that unless manufacturers are willing to submerge to a greater extent an overweening desire for profit, no system of compromise can be more than a temporary stopgap to strikes. And as for the employes, they, too, require such self-discipline as will enable them to give and take on any proposition making for a larger good than is immediately apparent to them.

Communication from H. S. & I. A. Society of New York

Editor of Jewish Charities.

Sir: You have been recently informed by us that after listening to the arguments by a committee, of which I was chairman, the Secretary of Labor, William B. Wilson, has postponed indefinitely the deportation to Russia of several hundred immigrants whom the immigration authorities wished to deport through the port of Archangel.

These immigrants, who on arrival in the United States since the beginning of the war were found ineligible for admission, were released on the filing of bonds guaranteeing their return from the United States to their native country when deportation could be effected with safety. We felt, however, that the lives of these immigrants would be endangered if they were returned now; first, because of the possibility of an attack on the steamer; secondly, because of the risks through submarines; and, thirdly, because of the possible presence of spies on the steamer, who might be carrying ammunition and other contraband of war.

At the hearing which was held Wednesday I presented a telegram from George Kennan, the famous authority on conditions in Russia, which read as follows:

"Deported immigrants sent to Southern Russia by etape from Archangel would have to travel 1000 to 1200 miles, as railroads are crowded with troops and war munitions. Immigrants would have to go on foot at rate of fifteen miles a day. They would march under guard with common criminals and would be herded with latter in dirty, infected prisons at night with inevitable delays. Journey would occupy three to four months and would be attended with great hardships, privations and risks. Most of the weaker members would probably die from exposure and disease. I doubt very much our moral right to subject human beings to such experience. We are trying to relieve suffering and prevent death in Russia, but by returning these people we should increase both."

This evidence added with the arguments presented by my associates and myself brought about the indefinite postponement of the deportation of these immigrants.

LEON SANDERS.

DEPORTATIONS DURING THE WAR

David M. Bressler

The letter from Judge Leon Sanders, the president of the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America, which appears elsewhere in this number, describes in detail the novel issue raised for the first time in the history of the immigration department of this country in the matter of several hundred Jewish immigrants who arrived during the war period. These immigrants being deemed ineligible for admission in accordance with the immigration laws of the United States were excluded. Upon proper representations, however, based upon considerations of humanity rather than upon the letter of the law, their deportation was stayed by the Department of Labor until such time as their passage could be effected with safety to them.

This is a precedent which all lovers of humanity, regardless of race or creed, will welcome. The lot of these excluded immigrants would, indeed, have been miserable had they been deported. Aside from the grave risk attending sea voyage at present, there is the graver danger that once arrived at Archangel, a veritable journey of death would have begun for them, 1200 miles, on foot, under guard, "with common criminals, herded with them in dirty, infected prisons." (The quotation is from Mr. George Kennan's cable cited in Judge Sanders' letter.) Even if by a miracle they might have arrived safely in Southern Russia, what a spectacle would have greeted them! Desolation, economic ruin, untold misery, and the more than likelihood of finding that all their dear ones had been forced, for one reason or another, to go elsewhere.

It should be borne in mind that these immigrants come from those sections of Russia which have been the scene of the war's greatest activity resulting in indescribable ruin.

Add to this the vicissitudes forced upon the Jewish civilian population by the decrees of expulsion enforced against them, making them wanderers in a region within constant earshot of gun and cannon, what fate would have awaited deported immigrants upon their arrival in what once was their native city?

All these considerations must have weighed heavily in the deliberations of the Secre-

tary of Labor and his subsequent decision to stay indefinitely the deportation of the excluded immigrants. While, in the light of all the circumstances nothing else could have been expected, the Department of Labor is to be congratulated upon carrying out those principles of humanity which have been traditional with this country, and to the devotion of which emphatic testimony has been given in recent days.

Federation Community Self-Sacrifice Week in Brooklyn

Max Abelman

The Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities held a campaign at the 23d Regiment Armory in Brooklyn during the week of May 1st to May 8th, inclusive, which was known as "Federation Community Self-Sacrifice Week." Owing to the great demands on the local charities, as well as the necessity for helping our suffering brethren abroad, this special emergency campaign was decided upon as a means of meeting these conditions. Realizing the critical situation with which the Brooklyn Jewish community was confronted, Mr. Nathan S. Jonas had previously accepted the chairmanship of the Federation Membership Committee for 1915, and the campaign was under his direction.

The slogan for the week was "Great Emergencies Require Unusual Methods," and not only the Federation membership at large, but the press, advertising and traction companies lent their prompt co-operation to the movement. While the amount of \$100,000 had been set as the goal as an incentive for this campaign, the actual results were over \$54,000 in net cash receipts for the week, of which amount \$1139 was obtained from 90 new annual subscribers. The work was divided into several committees, a chairman appointed for each specific activity, to take full charge of that particular matter. Aside from the financial response, the campaign also had an educational value, a good portion of the receipts having been secured in small special contributions from a large number of people who had not prior thereto responded to the Federation's appeal.