

## OMAHA MAKES A FORWARD STEP

Samuel Neveleff

In accordance with the tendency throughout the United States to federate charity societies, the Jewish Charity Societies of Omaha, Nebraska, have recently been federated and all of them consolidated into one large central organic body. The central federation in Omaha, known as the Associated Jewish Charities is a representative organization of all the various elements of Omaha Jewry, including the reform and the ultra orthodox.

For the information of the reader, it might be interesting to note that the Jewish community in Omaha is about thirty-five years old and has now grown to a population estimated at about 10,000, and that until January of this year charity was handled and dispensed according to primitive methods. There were a number of smaller societies, each doing its own relief work and making its own collections. This practice necessarily gave rise to considerable duplication in the matter of relief furnished, and afforded a convenient means for the escape of those in the community who were not inclined to give to charity; just pleasantly were able to shift responsibility in that, when one of these various societies would appeal to them for subscription or contribution, they would plead that they had already subscribed to many others.

A comparison of the membership roll of the present Federation, even though it is in its infancy, with the membership rolls of the various societies which make up the Federation, discloses the fact that heretofore, under the old system, of all those eligible to subscribe to charitable societies, only 25 per cent. have contributed. We are pleased to note also that after only two months of active work under the new organization, there is a subscription list, the total of which exceeds the aggregate of the totals raised annually by the various constituent societies by \$3,000, and this is doubly gratifying in view of the fact that only two hundred out of one thousand eligible subscribers have been actively solicited. A systematized and concerted effort to see all of those who are financially able

to subscribe to a charity fund will be made within the next few months.

Another policy which has been endorsed and established by our Federation we believe will prove to be one of the greatest advantages in the Federation movement. We have officially endorsed those societies, philanthropic and charitable, whose representatives make annual tours to our city and solicit individual subscriptions. Among the more important ones that we have endorsed are institutions of national standing and character, such as the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigration Aid Society of New York, the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society and the National Hospital for Consumptives in Denver, the Marks-Nathan Orphan Home, Chicago, and the Cleveland Orphan Asylum.

We have made arrangements with these Societies to refrain from sending representatives into our territory in the future. We have learned from them what their annual subscriptions have been on an average and the appropriation by our organization will be made accordingly.

The benefits incident to such an arrangement are self-evident. The institutions receive *in toto* the contribution made by the central organization in Omaha without any cost in the way of traveling expenses and salaries to representatives, which expenses, investigation discloses, are an amount equal to approximately 35 to 50 per cent. of the collections.

Our Association is also co-operating in the work of the Industrial Removal Office of New York City and the Galveston Immigration Bureau, and this particular branch of the work, which is very important, can be carried on much more efficiently under this large central body with its greater influence.

The Board of Governors of this Federation is made up of representatives of every Jewish society of standing in the city of Omaha, including congregations, synagogues and temples, as well as fraternal societies. This will enable the Associated Jewish Charities to keep in touch with the activities of each of its constituent socie-

ties and will make the Federation a prominent head of all social activities of the Jewish community in the city of Omaha. The influence of the Federation will not therefore be confined only to the dispensation of charity, but will be very keenly felt in the lines indicated, namely, the social activities.

The great necessity has been felt in Omaha during the past few years for social settlement work and this necessity grows with the increasing influx of immigration. It is the hope of the Association, because only through the medium of such an organization can such hope be realized, to accomplish results along this line and to bring about commendable social settlement work.

## Rochester J. Y. M. A.

The Rochester Jewish Young Men's Association erected last year an addition to the building purchased in 1907, at a cost of upwards of \$50,000. The equipment consists of a large auditorium, seating 1,000; pool and billiard table, plunge, shower baths, bowling alleys, and a thoroughly equipped gymnasium. The membership of the Association now totals, both male and female, nearly 1,500. All departments of the work have been greatly enlarged. The Association has become the center of everything that is Jewish in the city.

The Association was incorporated November 1, 1907, the outgrowth of a kindred organization dating back to 1895. Its aim is to develop the best, the noblest in Jewish young men and women; not only to make them better Jews, but to make them better Americans. The Association aims to make itself the center of Jewish young people's activities: a self-help club, tending to surround them with healthy, inspiring and beneficial influences. The Association members are recruited from young men of all walks of life, and on account of its literary work, many of the active members are college or high school pupils. It is the desire of the Association to attract young men who are in need of wholesome influences in their lives, especially young foreigners or boys, with little or no home-life.

With this idea in view, it provides studies, pleasure and amusements of all kinds to those who desire it, and want to become a center of recreation and amusement.

The Association aims to make its work as beneficial and attractive as possible, and the number of men and women affiliated with it make a wide circle of functions and affairs, both literary and social, possible. Among other things, a splendid course of lectures and musicals have been given and classes in debating, parliamentary law, Shakespeare and Jewish history have been maintained; a Sunday School with classes for young children, with an average attendance of one hundred, have been organized. Considerable interest is taken in outdoor games and sports, and a summer home for its members is planned. The Association is governed by fifteen directors, elected every year for terms of three years. The directors select the officers and the management committee. The present officers are: President, Philip Present; Vice-President, Hashell H. Marks; Secretary, Alfred M. Hart; Financial Secretary, Sol Aiolo; Treasurer, Bernard Rose. There are no paid officers, and an opportunity is given all members to make suggestions.

H. M.

## War and Waste

By David Starr Jordan, Chancellor of Leland Stanford, Jr., University.

A plea for peace on economical rather than emotional grounds.

Dr. Jordan's new book shows in facts and figures the cost and sacrifice in both men and money of international war. Some items that make us think read as follows:

"The war debt of Europe today exceeds \$37,000,000,000. The debt will never be paid, can never be paid."

"We (the U. S.) are now spending more than \$800,000 per day on the army and navy; more than \$10,000 on smokeless powder alone."

"The most powerful lobby in the world is that employed by the great armament builders of England and Germany."

A battleship costs as much as a university.