Washington Y. W. H. A.

One of the most flourishing Hebrew associations in Washington, D. C., is the Young Women's Hebrew Association, which was organized in March. 1913, the object being to promote the welfare of young Hebrew women in this city. The organizers are: Mrs. D. Spiegelblatt, Mrs. E. Gordon, Mrs. Bloom, and Misses Sarah Goldman, Anna Cooper, Rose Hornstein, Jennie Finger, Sadie Smith, Henrietta Spiegelblatt and Fannie Eskin.

It is hoped in the course of time that it will be possible for this organization to attain its ultimate aim, which is to establish a club home for young Jewish women, where they may be able to receive instruction in various branches of domestic and commercial work; where they may have a gathering place for social purposes and a protective arm to shield them from misfortune and to provide for their welfare, morally, socially and industrially.

Weekly meetings are held at the Washington Hebrew Congregation Temple, and the first Thursday of every month has been set aside for social evenings, several having been held during the past season with great success. In this way many new acquaintances are made, thus developing the social feeling and unity of purpose under the high ideas of Jewish womanhood, which are always of first importance in the beginning of any movement for social betterment.

One evening a month is set aside for an educational evening, at which time a study of some interesting topic is made. Rabbi Abram Simon and the Hon. Julius Kahn, member of Congress from California, have at different times delivered very interesting addresses. The Educational Committee began its work with a study of Jewish womanhood, and an essay was read at one of the educational evenings, entitled "Jewish Women in Ancient Times."

It is hoped by the organization that the Y. W. H. A. will exert a distinct influence on the young Jewish women of Washington and do its part in the grand work for the general uplift of womanhood.

The officers of the association are: Miss Annie Hornstein, president; Miss Henrietta Spiegelblatt, vice-president; Miss Anna Cooper, recording secretary; Miss Jennie Finger, financial secretary; Miss Rose Lazerow, treasurer; Miss Sadye Atlas, sargeantat-arms; Mrs. M. B. Dodek, chairman, Welfare Committee; Miss Dora Weiss, chairman, Entertainment Committee; Miss Bertha Clepatch, chairman, Educational. Committee, and Miss Frances Keroes, chairman, Press Committee.

The Brooklyn Campaign

The Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities received the letter, printed below, from Mr. Julius Rosenwald, just before his departure for Europe. The Brooklyn Federation has made strenuous efforts to raise its subscription to the amount necessary to secure Mr. Rosenwald's generous gift, and though it has not yet been able to secure the amount, Mr. Rosenwald has handsomely recognized the great effort it has been making.

"My Dear Mr. Jonas:

"Since Mrs. Rosenwald and I sail on December 16th, it will prevent our being present at the annual meeting on December 21st.

"I cannot, however, forego the opportunity to express my admiration of the unselfish work and, in spite of the many obstacles, the splendid results obtained by you and your co-workers. Never have I known such splendid enthusiasm sustained for so long a period as in the work done by your organization. I regret very much to note that, in spite of this, you have not been able to reach the goal within the time specified.

"However, you and your valiant assistants have been so active in your efforts to succeed that I deem it only just to encourage you to renew your work by sending you my first contribution of \$5,000, with the understanding that you are to have one more year in which to meet the conditions of my offer. While I am glad thus to try to help you reach the desired goal, I deem it only fair to say to you in advance that, unless the conditions are complied with during 1914, the offer will be withdrawn. I sincerely hope this will not be the case.

(Signed) "JULIUS ROSENWALD."

NEW BOOKS

SOCIAL PROGRAMS IN THE WEST. Lectures delivered in the Far East. By Charles Richmond Henderson, Ph. D. University of Chicago Press. \$1.25.

As its sub-title indicates, this is a series of lectures delivered in the Orient by Professor Henderson. They were given under the auspices of the Barrows Lectureship. The preface to this book is dated Bombay, November, 1912. The book is a description of public and private social work in the United States, including a statement of the underlying policy and a detailed account with reference to health, education, morals, matters affecting the relations of employers and employes, and the efforts for general improvement, such as the eugenics movement.

C. S. B.

THE QUEST OF THE BEST. Insights into Ethics for Parents, Teachers and Leaders of Boys. By William DeWitt Hyde. New York. Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. \$1.00 net.

Running through this entire volume the social worker with boys will find a sane interpretation of the life of boys in his savage, natural state and the means that must be employed by honest understanding and frank and fair explanation so that boys will be led to develop themselves into rightminded men. He says:

"The only power that can draw a boy out of his natural badness and his conscious sin into that Quest of the Best for self, for others and for all, which is the only real moral good, is a parent, teacher or friend, who, already in this Quest himself, shares the boy's interests with him, and by close, constant contact lets the boy catch from him his own contagious character."

President Hyde refers to the Boy Scouts a most effective organization for setting and keeping before boys high ideals of conduct and character.

The book will be found most useful to leaders of clubs.

THE AMERICAN CHILD. By Elizabeth Mc-Cracken. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co. \$1.25 net.

Miss McCracken has presented us with a delightful series of essays showing the importance of the American child in American life. She indicates the numerous efforts we make for the benefit of children in this country. One of her chapters is "The Child in the Library," in which she brings out the function of the children's librarian and the library set apart particularly for children, enabling them to obtain their knowledge through their own investigation, with suggestions by the librarian in charge. Other subjects include "The Child at Home," "The Child at Play," "The Child at School," all interspersed with child comment and conversation tending to illustrate the observation of an English woman which the author quotes in her introduction: "It is possible to converse with any American on the American Child."

C. S. B.

IMMIGRATION: A WORLD MOVEMENT AND ITS AMERICAN SIGNIFICANCE. By Henry Pratt Fairchild. Macmillan.

Professor Fairchild attempts to regard his subject not simply as an American public problem, but as a sociological phenomenon of world-wide significance. While the primary viewpoint is that of a citizen of the United States, several other viewpoints are considered and regarded as equally valid with the purpose of setting forth the entire immigration question as a part of an inclusive conservation program for all humanity. Beginning with the colonial period in the history of this country, Professor Fairchild passes to the modern, and then takes up in turn the following topics: Volume and Racial Composition of the Immigration Stream, The Causes and Effects of Immigration, Inspection and the Condition of Immigrants in the United States, The Standard of Living, The Exploitation of Immigrants, The Conditions Affecting the Country, The Industrial Effect, The New Problem of Immigration and The Nature of That Problem.

Vocations for Girls. By E. W. Weaver, New York. A. S. Barnes Co. 75c net.

Mr. Weaver has done practical work in placing students as chairman of the Students' Aid Committee of the New York High School Teachers' Association. He has likewise furnished a very practical book, which will be most helpful to persons who desires to assist girls in obtaining employment, as well as to the girls themselves. He shows a knowledge of actual conditions concerning a large number of trades and professions open to girls and women. He gives in brief and clear terms the necessary information which is required for one contemplating any one of the occupations. He has worked out his chapters in text-book form with "Practical Studies" intended to have girls ascertain the conditions affecting particular trades. He also adds to the chapters short references. The occupations discussed in detail occupy a wide range, including factory work, laundry work, domestic science, salesmanship, office work, nursing, teaching, social work and a number of others.

Mr. Weaver's book will be found one of the most helpful compact contributions to our fund of information affecting presentday vocations for young people as well as guidance in vocational training. C. S. B.

ARTIFICIAL FLOWER MAKERS. By Mary Van Kleeck, New York. Survey Associates. \$1.50 net.

Miss Van Kleeck's study was made under the auspices of the Russell Sage Foundation. The work of artificial flower makers has been investigated in detail in New York City. The social conditions surrounding the women who work in this trade have been studied. A survey of the economic situation of the trade in the United States has been entered into. A comparison of the trade as it is conducted in Paris has been made. The conclusion has been arrived at that in Paris, as well as in New York, large numbers of girls are paid less than a living wage; but in Paris the trade is more artistic and ranks among the better paid occupations open to women, while in New York the proportion of low-paid workers is comparatively large. The greatest single element in reducing standards is

the home work. The suggestion is therefore made that a law be passed absolutely prohibiting any manufacture in tenement houses. The New York State Legislature could carry out this suggestion in a very practical way, the author contends, owing to the fact that so much of the trade is centered in New York.

There are a number of Jewish girls engaged in this trade, though their proportion is not as high as that of several other nationalities. "The Jewish girl," points out the author, "has a distinct sense of her social responsibility and often displays an eager zest for the discussion of labor problems." Though her attitude may assume that of an agitator, yet "she has the foundation of that admirable trait, 'public spirit.'" It follows, therefore, that she is less willing than the Italian girl to accept conditions as she finds them.

C. S. B.

Social, Environment and Moral Progress, By Alfred Russell Wallace, New York: Caswell & Co. \$1.25 net.

Dr. Wallace believes that we have developed a long train of social evils, such as insanitary homes, girls compelled to work at starvation wages, the injustice of socialled justice—the latter because of a system of money fines—and the like. He believes the evils are due to the system of universal competition, remedy for which is universal co-operation; a system of monopoly, the remedy for which is access of land to all. The remedy for social injustice is universal inheritance by the State in trust for the whole community.

In his discussion on moral progress, he opposes legislation on eugenics. His thesis is that when we have brought about changes along the lines of his suggestions, there will be possible a higher type of manhood; not through direct legislation, but by free selection in marriage. He says: "It may be taken for certain, therefore, that when women are economically and socially free, numbers of the worst men among all classes who now readily obtain wives will be almost universally rejected." He has no fear of over-population, believing that a very moderate advance in the average age of marriage and the advance of educational and economic equality would tend to reduce the birthrate. C. S. B.

MEMPHIS CONFERENCE, MAY 6-8



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THE MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

Arrangements are now under way for the arrangement of a program for the Memphis Conference that will be diversified in character, and no less interesting than varied. New questions will be taken up and old ones discussed and brought up to date. Matters that concern the small town will be carefully considered, and the large city, with many and highly organized agencies, will find sessions that will be of importance and value to it.

A paper will probably be prepared for the purpose of showing the way that one of the smaller cities may proceed in federating its charities. While there has been much done in the way of federating Jewish charities, there is little accessible literature on the subject that may aid a new city in organizing itself. It is hoped that this paper may become a text, available for the use and benefit of those cities which have not yet been able to bring their charities within one fiscal system.

Another paper will present a study of the best way of spending a \$5,000 annual budget. There are many lesser cities in which this amount is annually available, but it is quite a matter of accident as to how the money is spent. Shall it be devoted entirely to relief? What share shall preventive or social work proper receive? What activities, found in large cities, are entirely beyond the resources of the small town? These and similar questions will be discussed, and an attempt will be made to have this paper set a standard that will be found both practicable and useful.

For the first time the Jewish immigration from the Orient will be considered by the National Conference. This immigration, which has been growing in volume for a number of years, will, it is expected, receive great impetus from the late Balkan War, and it may bring an entirely new problem to the Jews of this country. Several preliminary studies of this question have been made, and the presentation of the matter at Memphis will probably be more comprehensive than any we have had.

Help through loan of funds will take up one session. The constructive character of this kind of assistance is universally recognized and a scheme for extending similar help to the general public has lately been widely mentioned in the daily press. Among the Jews this method of help has been highly developed, and its extent and possibilities will be explained at Memphis. At the same session the operation of the Self-Respect Fund will receive the attention its importance deserves.

Standards of relief is an old, old topic, considered at many a municipal, State and national conference, yet it is still a question to be debated. What standard should a relief society set for itself? How is it arrived at? Where and how is it reached? These are meaty questions, and their solution will test the resources of the society and the abilities of its managers and directors. It will have a place on the program.

The same may be said of settlements. Have they not been discussed to minutest detail? They have. But have they still the same old viewpoint, the same method,