

IN THE COMMUNITY

to house all the activities of these children, and often private homes are used for club meetings. The Governor Henry Horner Post of the Jewish War Veterans' meeting rooms are also used as a meeting place for dramatic groups. The community halls of the various congregations are used for holiday celebrations and special occasions.

An outstanding development on the South Side were the two-day camps sponsored by J.P.I., one in cooperation with Rodfei Zedek Congregation and K.A.M. Temple in Hyde Park, and one in cooperation with South Shore Temple and South Side Hebrew Congregation in South Shore. Plans are being made to extend the program of these two-day camps this summer by the use of buses to transport the children to forest preserves. This will enable the children to carry on their camp activities in a country environment and yet return home each evening. Reservations are already being made by parents for their children, as last year our capacity enabled us to accept only about half of the children who applied.

The day camps and the recreational activities conducted by the J.P.I. on the South Side are under the supervision of a full-time professional staff, and are conducted by trained leaders. Such leadership makes it possible to give the individual the personal security which faith in democracy and the application of its principles in group relationship can bring.

The Jewish People's Institute of Chicago

—STEPHEN S. BAUMANN

BOOK REVIEWS

edited by William Posner

Jewish Child Care Association, New York, N. Y.

A PSYCHIATRIC SOCIAL WORKER OVERSEAS: SERVICE IN THE AMERICAN RED CROSS, by Irene Tobias. Family Welfare Association of America, New York, 1945. 45 pp. 50c.

The Great War which recently ended was a mighty crucible in which democracy was tested in the heat of struggle, and it demanded tools and weapons which went beyond imagination. One thinks immediately of the Atomic Bomb, or the rocket at the mention of the word weapon, but there were others more subtle, more constructive. Social workers should be conscious of the work done by members of their profession in mobilizing the energies of the people for victory, and in close alliance with the Medical Department, assisting in the maximum utilization of manpower for victory. Social workers who were able to participate in the military set-up received a deep sense of satisfaction in knowing they were so closely identified with the People's War against Fascism. This identification, this functioning under strange circumstances and conditions must have resulted in new techniques, problems and philosophies, and it is hoped that we will now see evaluations, critiques and analyses of social work in the military milieu. There can be little question that social work has grown in meeting the challenges of the war years, but as yet there has been too little which has been written, crystalized and critically examined. Miss Tobias in her small booklet gives a stimulating account of her own experiences as an American Red Cross worker in two settings overseas, and in her descriptions establishes source material for the greater study which is needed.

Miss Tobias found herself closely identified with her clients — the servicemen she was serving, and she states, "When I started to write this account I found that I was unable to write entirely in the usual technical language. The experience was a deeply emotional one for me, and if I am to present it accurately I must express some of that emotion." This identification is even more apparent with military psychiatric social workers (Army job specification 263) who are enlisted personnel, and are actually part of the group they are serving. The emotion mentioned by the author may appear invalid in a case work setting, but the worker conscious of it could handle this affective coloring in a way most constructive to the servicemen.

With patients passing rapidly along the chain of hospital evacuation, short time contacts became imperative if an appreciable number of servicemen were to be helped. Social workers, as well as psychiatrists, learned that the men could be helped with the immediate problem even though more deep-seated difficulties were not met. Refinements were made therefore in the techniques of short time contacts. Working so closely with the reality situation appeared to disturb some social workers who feared that they were not doing a "case work" job. Miss Tobias appears to be a bit defensive as she states, "The function performed may or may not be considered case work . . ." yet an analysis of her own achievements, or a familiarity with most of the social work done in military settings reveals that a case work job was of necessity being done. The understanding of a man's problem, the recognition of his unspoken needs, the help given him in dealing with the problem through a self-directed utilization of his abilities in a new set of relationships — this is a vital part of case work. True the environment was unorthodox, the worker's private office might be a mud-floored tent, the desk but a wooden crate. Miss Tobias found that, "There was never any guarantee of privacy, of course, for interviews. The

BOOK REVIEWS

tent flaps had to be rolled up front and back for air and light, and patients gathered at both ends listening to interviews, frequently interrupting with suggestions or viewpoints of their own." No doubt this strikes a familiar chord for many a worker in Travelers Aid, or other war-time service housed in a large U.S.O., where the problem of one man was too often common property. The social worker learned that the absence of a good office staff, a private interviewing room, a Social Service Exchange, long time contacts, or a complete life history did not vitiate the essential case work process.

Miss Tobias remarks on the tremendous psychological importance a small service can have. A bar of chocolate, or a clean handkerchief presented to a man recently returned from weeks on the front lines had meanings and overtones beyond those usually associated with these items. The men needed familiar ties, and the link that the Red Cross served between the family at home and the serviceman overseas was a strengthening morale factor. Related to this was the marked reaching out for human relationships as an antidote to the killing, the surrounding death and the hostile environment that circumscribed them.

This pamphlet is interesting reading for one gets the feeling of freshness, versatility, emotion, and the need for service so well known to those serving the military. In two short case studies, Miss Tobias gives a picture of the work done in a Neuropsychiatric Hospital, where the doctor, social worker, recreationist, and the needs of the hospital met in helping an ill soldier. Over and above this, the paper is important as the production of a social worker close to the sound and tumult of the battle.

Basically, the development of social work in the military setting must be integrated into the general body of knowledge and practices of the profession. As we wrestle with the social and interpersonal problems of peoples searching for a better life in a world of peace we will need to look back to all we learned during this past period, and if we get from our work a similar feeling of being part of the searchers and discoverers, the satisfaction and gratification will indeed be great.

Mason General Hospital, Brentwood, N. Y.

— T/4 LEO H. BERMAN

THE JEWISH REFUGEE, by Arieh Tartakower and Kurt R. Grossman. Institute of Jewish Affairs of the American Jewish Congress and World Jewish Congress, New York, 1944. 676 pp. \$5.

Perhaps the adjective "Jewish" in the title of this book is pleonastic. Of course, whenever we get a bit importunate about the fate of the Jewish refugee, the do-nothing statesmen of the world remind us that there are non-Jewish refugees as well. But non-Jewish refugees are generally the particular concern of their governments; the Jewish refugee, as this book shows, being everyone's problem seems, in the final analysis, no one's concern. Today, by reason of the Nazi extermination policy, the numerical import of the Jewish refugee problem has declined, but its solution seems as distant as ever.

Published before the conclusion of the War, this work had a certain quality of contemporaneity of which events have since deprived it. It becomes thereby somewhat in the nature of a coroner's report than a medical diagnosis. After a brief review of the refugee problem consequent upon the First World War, the authors turn to the refugee problem created by the rise of Hitlerism in Germany and its inundation of Europe. They systematically survey the lands of haven: Palestine, United States, France, Great Britain, Russia and others, allotting each its meed of credit, with Palestine ranking first. Saddest lot of all befell those who became refugees over and over again as the rising tides of victorious Nazism engulfed shelter after

BOOK REVIEWS

shelter. Then follows a brief analysis of the basic individual problems of the dispossessed and concluding chapters on intergovernmental aid, private Jewish aid, and the "solution" which is, strictly, an analysis of theoretical possibilities, similar to one which a scientist might make as to the existence of life on the moon.

There are probably few facts about the subject which the authors have not absorbed. Their bibliography contains 880 items. Their reading is reflected in the writing; the facts and the problems are presented systematically with respect to each country. In fact, the uniformity of treatment becomes a bit noticeable to the reader, although it must be helpful to the student.

Scholarly, solid, informative; these are the virtues. Intertwined with them are prolixity and dullness. The authors overwrite and the editor of the volume for the Institute apparently was not concerned. That the authors, "refugees" themselves, could write with such a lack of fire and passion seems to this reviewer a bit astounding. Vigor and the expression of feelings go very well with sound scholarship.

A word must be said about their treatment of intergovernmental agencies. It is, to say the least, charitable. Thus their account of the action of the Bermuda Conference on refugees treats this gathering as a serious and genuine effort to meet the problem. I believe that the authors had enough private as well as public information to know that the Conference was merely a political maneuver by the British and our government to stunt off public opinion. Merely to review and condense official documents and public declaration is not the writing of history. There must also be a penetration into motives and an examination of realities behind the smoke-screens by which so much governing is done in modern society.

The conclusion is hopeful. If the refugees become more deeply imbued with a consciousness of their history and fate and if "from among the hundreds of thousands of these homeless, haunted men and women, there should arise fighters for the freedom of their people and of all mankind, the miracle of Babylon and of Plymouth may yet be repeated. Refugees have built the future and glory of many nations; they may do this once again in Jewish life after the war. In that event, the ordeal of the last eleven years will not have been in vain; a glorious revival will follow the martyrdom of the past."

It is pleasant to think that the authors see the stars and stripes fluttering side by side with the blue and white flag. But let them not forget that bigger than either of these banners in the history of the Jewish refugee is the black flag with skull and bones.

New York

— SAMUEL DUKER

A CENTURY OF JEWISH LIFE, by Ismar Elbogen. Jewish Publication Society of America, Philadelphia, 1944. 814 pp. \$3.

Though *A Century of Jewish Life* was projected as a supplement to Heinrich Graetz's well-known *History of the Jews*, it stands nonetheless as an independent work on world Jewry during the last hundred years. For the past century was a unique, unprecedented era! Something new has been added to the long, variegated experience of the Jew — the promise of Emancipation.

As one reads these pages, punctuated consistently with accounts of pogroms and slanders, one realizes that security for the Jew was seldom more than a promise, but yet, unlike previous centuries, "the promise" was unmistakably there. This strange condition of having equality within sight, yet never within grasp, underlies the poignant struggle of the Jewish people in recent decades. The tragic element underlying this story is the imperceptibility of the much-heralded march of human progress. The book begins with "Emancipation in Central and Western Europe," as its first chapter, and concludes with "Hitler's Total War Against the

BOOK REVIEWS

Jews." Its glory, however, resides in the unquenchable spirit of a people that, like one legendary figure of old, always seems to rise from its own ashes.

Jewish internal life, during this period, was a fluctuating response to the highly erratic state of the world. Often, as in the case of Germany, the Jewish community took avidly to the unfolding opportunities and responsibilities of a democratic society, only to be rebuffed by an unforeseeable turn of events. Elsewhere, as in America and Palestine, except for occasional disturbing interludes, Jewry made significant strides of material and cultural progress.

A keen spiritual dislocation is also manifest throughout this time. The feeling of inner security, formerly anchored in an authoritarian tradition, was being torn from its moorings by the waves of modernism.

In such an age of transition and uncertainty, it might be expected that new and varied movements would spring forth, in religion, culture, and social organization. Unity and uniformity in Jewish life are quite apparently things of the past. Only a revived spirit of nationalism, which the author refers to as "The Jewish Renaissance," constitutes a rallying point for large masses of the people. Uplifting, in particular, is the galaxy of personalities who tread across these pages. Like luminaries in the night, they emerge from the sombre background of the story—Moses Montefiore, Baron de Hirsch, Theodor Herzl, Jacob Schiff, Louis Marshall, Solomon Schechter, Isaac M. Wise, Cyrus Adler, and many others. *A Century of Jewish Life*, though detailed and scholarly, is nevertheless quite readable. Furthermore, the author has exercised commendable restraint in viewing the historic currents about him objectively and dispassionately.

Since the book was published posthumously, an appreciation of the life of Ismar Elbogen, by Alexander Marx, is incorporated in it.

Great Neck, New York

— ASHER BLOCK

ADULT ADJUSTMENT OF FOSTER CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLIC AND PSYCHOTIC PARENTAGE AND THE INFLUENCE OF THE FOSTER HOME, by Anne Roe, Barbara Burks and Bela Mittelman. *Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol*, New Haven, 1945. 164 pp.

With this Yale University study, another chapter is added to the controversial question of heredity vs. environment.

The authors of this piece of research set out to repeat and expand a study done in 1922 under the auspices of the New York State Charities Aid Association.

The study concerns itself with the adult adjustment of foster children, i.e., with their emotional, volitional and social qualities rather than with the more measurable traits, such as intelligence and special abilities. Ninety-two out of a possible number of over 3,000 children were selected for this work. The cases used were all children who had been under the care of the State Charities Aid Association from 1898 to 1921. Jewish children were excluded from use in this study because they are mainly cared for by Jewish organizations. Also excluded were Negro children, children under 21 at the time of the study, foundlings, children now deceased, and children who were placed when they were over 10 years of age. Thus a group of foster children was selected which could show in its adult development the hereditary effects of alcoholic and psychotic parentage where the environmental influences were altered.

The cases used were divided into four groups: children with alcoholic parents, children with psychotic parents, children with alcoholic and psychotic parents and children with normal parents. All of these children were separated from their own parents before the average age of 4,

BOOK REVIEWS

and were placed in foster homes before the average age of 6.

This study comes to the conclusion that there were no very real differences in the adult adjustments of the children coming from abnormal parents and those coming from normal parents, and that both groups of children make similar adjustments in a normal environment. Notwithstanding many reports that alcoholism may damage the germ cells physically or chemically with resulting disorder in the child, and a high infant mortality, this work points out that germ cell damage does not occur and high infant mortality is due to neglect of and poorer care given the child by the alcoholic parent.

On the whole, this work is a careful painstaking effort to study the effect of heredity by the use of a control environment. The final conclusion of this study as stated previously can be considered valid in the light of the data presented. This conclusion takes on particular significance with regard to alcoholism. Previous studies have clearly indicated that 20% to 30% of children of alcoholic parents raised by their own parents became heavy drinkers. In this study, the children of alcoholic parents were no heavier drinkers than children of other parentage.

One of the limitations of this study lies in the fact that the number of cases used is often too small to be valid when broken down to minor subdivisions such as the number of "very well adjusted children of psychotic parents," etc. The conclusions in these instances are often based on one, two or three cases. It is all but impossible to draw valid conclusions about complex social phenomena when we work with such small numbers.

Nevertheless, the project as a whole, using the large categories of adjustment, is statistically meaningful, and this work may very well be considered a valuable contribution to the pressing question of the relative weights of heredity and environment.

Foster Home Bureau, New York

— JOSEPH H. SAUR

COUNSELING METHODS FOR PERSONNEL WORKERS, by Annette Garrett. *Family Welfare Association of America*, New York, 1945. 187 pp. \$2.

With the objective of assisting industrial counselors to understand and to apply the basic interviewing principles that case work has developed, Miss Garrett has written a clear, simple and well illustrated discussion of case work principles as applied in an industrial setting. Her initial chapters provide useful eclectic summaries of such underlying psychological factors in human behavior as drives, irrational behavior, emotional tensions and ambivalence, which may affect the adjustment of industrial workers on the job. She goes on to discuss basic interviewing methods, taking up such topics as the relationship between counselor and counsellee, understanding the problem, interpretation, resistance, referral, etc. She defines helping in the interviewing process as a synthesis of understanding and action. Her final chapters consider the place of interviews at various times in the industrial or employment relationship, and discuss briefly the similarities between counseling and case work, and some general problems of case work with industrial employees. In a valuable section, she takes up some common misconceptions about social work held by industrial workers and management.

One can admire the clarity and thoroughness with which Miss Garrett has accomplished the job she undertakes while being skeptical that her volume will actually accomplish what it intends. Implicit in the book and underlying its premises is the assumption that, having found industrial counseling useful during the war, an increasing number of industrial firms will continue to expand counseling programs during peace time. A further assumption is that such counseling programs will increasingly call upon and utilize the skills that case work has

BOOK REVIEWS

developed whether or not social workers are personally employed in them. To the writer, these seem questionable assumptions. Industrial counseling was greatly stimulated during the war years as a result of the manpower shortage, the large-scale employment of women, and the fact that the cost of these programs could be written off under Government contracts. In a time of unemployment, or industrial uncertainty and conflict, it seems very doubtful that management will maintain or expand programs providing impartial counseling for employees on personal and family problems. Even though a period of greater mutual cooperation between case work agencies and industry is highly desirable, and some form of case work in an industrial setting is probably inevitable, it does not seem likely at this time that management will promote any such impartial service. On the other hand, only under impartial auspices or joint management-labor auspices (as was recommended by the Federal government during the war) will counseling programs be widely acceptable to industrial workers, particularly organized workers. It is significant that where industrial counseling has been carried along on joint management-labor lines or under community auspices, it has come closest to utilizing the professional skills and approach of social work. In those counseling programs which have been sponsored solely by management, and are consequently viewed with distrust by workers, the chief emphasis seems to be away from case work methods and on the use of purely passive or pseudo-analytic techniques. Such an emphasis by industrial counselors on passive, individualistic methods leads away from social work concepts and from remedial social action.

Although it seems unlikely, therefore, that Miss Garrett's suggestions and text will find wide acceptance among personnel workers or management, it can be recommended as a readable and useful summary of case work principles.

Worker's Personal Service Bureau, Brooklyn, N. Y.

—ALFRED H. KATZ

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CONTENTS

Counseling With Jewish Soldiers <i>by Saul Hofstein</i>	<i>Page 259</i>
A Case Work-Group Work Approach To The Treatment of War Neuroses <i>by Victor Rubenstein and Abraham Novick</i>	274
Jewish Education in a Foster Home Agency <i>by William Posner</i>	300
Jewish Education in a Foster Home Agency — A Follow-Up Report <i>by Elizabeth K. Radinsky and Golde Bodek</i>	305
In the Community <i>edited by Martin M. Cohn</i>	310
Book Reviews <i>edited by William Posner</i>	319