

## EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

CONDUCTED BY BERTRAM BENEDICT

Undoubtedly the most interesting piece of news of the past month was also the most unexpected to the greater number of Jewish social workers. It was concerned with the discontinuation of the work in Galveston of the Jewish Immigrants' Information Bureau, after a period of seven years' activity. The official statement regarding the situation was by no means pessimistic concerning the results which had been accomplished. Indeed, it "pointed with pride" to the fact that the Bureau had arranged 100 parties of immigrants, and to the fact that more than 9,000 persons had been thus assisted. As one result of these accomplishments, continues the statement, Galveston has become known to some extent throughout Europe as a most desirable point of entry to the United States, despite the length of the sea voyage necessary. The reason given for the cessation of the work now is the continued and bitter opposition to the work of the Bureau on the part of the Government officials in the Galveston Immigration Office. Indeed, it is hoped that, with the absence of the Bureau, the Government officials may begin to treat the Jewish immigrant with a little more leniency.

There are at the present time few forces making for social democracy so strenuously as the women's clubs which have grown tremendously in numbers and in influence in the past decade. Any one who followed closely the recent conference of the National Conference of Women's Clubs must have felt that these clubs in many respects are most valuable social workers. Every Jewish social worker must therefore be glad to know that there was recently organized an international organization of Jewish women. The organization meeting, held in Rome, was, of course, merely preliminary in character, and the first truly representative meeting will be held in two years. The indefatigable Sadie American was the American delegate, and there were delegates from every large European country, except Russia.

Through the efforts of Rabbi Stephen Wise, an American committee of three will shortly be sent to Palestine to investigate social conditions in Palestine, and to make a social survey of that country. Dr. Milton Rosenau of Harvard will concern himself with the medical situation. Dr. Boris Bogen will be the charity investigator, and Mr. Meyer Bloomfield will look into the field of potential vocational guidance. The report of this committee will be as much concerned with the future as with the present; and before the end of the year an expert knowledge of social conditions in the Holy Land should be available.

Newspapers throughout the country noted several weeks ago the completion of a very striking experiment in a New York garment factory. During working hours in the factory thirty-eight of the girls, who were recent immigrants, were given instruction in English, in civics and in other subjects. The school was conducted under the direction of the New York Board of Education; but it was made possible by the willingness of the employers of the members of the class to pay them wages for the time that they spent in learning. The employers report that increased efficiency has been one result of their experiment.

The *Kehillah* of New York recently issued a pronouncement deploring the tendency of certain well-meaning, but socially ignorant, people to float social institutions, and then trust to Providence to support them. (As Mr. Louis Marshall suggested, Providence in these cases usually is a *nom de plume* for Jacob H. Schiff.) The *Kehillah* therefore declared that no such new social welfare enterprise should be undertaken until the *Kehillah* had first had a chance to investigate the need for it. The interest in this announcement lay not much in itself, for it was too much a matter of common sense to be interesting; but rather in the outburst of fury in certain quarters which was called forth, as showing the bitterness lying at the bottom of social endeavors in New York.

In other countries there have been several recent happenings of note. In Italy, the Union of the Jewish Communities of Italy, sufficiently described by its title, has been finally launched. In Germany, a meeting of representatives of the various European societies for the welfare of the Jewish immigrant was held in Hamburg. Many new and helpful plans were adopted. In Buenos Aires, attempts are being made to organize the Jews of Argentina, estimated to be about 100,000 in number.

In this country steps have been taken toward federation in Savannah. In Memphis, doubtless as a result of the 1914 Conference of Jewish Charities, a free loan society has been organized under the title of the "Jewish Mutual Loan Association." In New York, a Young Women's Hebrew Association has been organized in the Bronx. It will be independent of, although it will co-operate with, the Y. W. H. A. of New York. In Cincinnati, an orthodox Home for Jewish Aged and Infirm is about to be opened. Cincinnati is also in the throes of a campaign for a Talmud Torah building under the auspices of the orthodox community. In Baltimore, a board has been organized to federate and to regulate the religious instruction of the Jewish children in the whole city.

Miss Ethel Vilensky, formerly of the Jewish Settlement of Cincinnati, has been appointed head resident of the Jewish Educational Alliance of Louisville. Miss Julia Schoenfeld will assume her new duties as head resident of the Irene Kaufmann Settlement of Pittsburgh on September 1st.

## NEW BOOKS

## A Study of Feeble-Mindedness

A new volume by Dr. Henry H. Goddard, director of the Research Laboratory of the Vineland Training School for Feeble-minded Children, who will be remembered as the author of "The Kallikak Family," is published this week. It is entitled "Feeble-Mindedness: Its Causes and Consequences," and is a consideration of 327 cases of feeble-mindedness which have come under Dr. Goddard's personal observation

in his official capacity. The work differs from most of those in the field in that it is what may be termed a source study. Instead of generalizing on the subject of feeble-mindedness, presenting arguments for this theory and that and concluding with vague speculations, Dr. Goddard gives facts and allows the reader to draw his own conclusions.

Each case included is preceded by a statement in two or three lines of the age, both in years and mentality, of the individual, his nationality and his period of residence in the Vineland School. Following that his characteristics and antecedents are described and the progress which he is making in the school outlined. For each case a family chart is shown, and specimens of writing are frequently reproduced. These cases occupy more than 350 pages of the total 600 pages, constituting one of the most significant collections of data ever brought together. No less important are the 40 half-tone plates. These are composed of photographs of 121 feeble-minded people. In some instances two views are given, a full face and a profile.

Before the case histories and charts are considered Dr. Goddard deals with those social problems in the solution of which it is now recognized feeble-mindedness plays a part—prostitution, crime, alcoholism, truancy and pauperism. Immediately after a chapter on the reliability of the data, the 327 cases are taken up and at the end of these come two chapters of conclusions, the first treating of the eugenic program, colonization and sterilization, and the second of practical applications.

This work should be of value not only to the psychologist and the scientist, but to the lay reader. It is so comprehensive in scope and the cases exhibit such a variety of disorders that not infrequently will the parent, the teacher and all who have to do with incorrigible, delinquent or unfortunate children encounter characteristics similar to those displayed by the subjects discussed by Dr. Goddard.

## New Member

National Farm School, 407 Mutual Life Building, Philadelphia, Pa. A. H. Fromenson, executive secretary.