

house would soon be noised abroad and the children in the school would be subject to their being known by all the other children as the children of paupers. I may put this rather strongly, but I feel this would be the outcome of such an attempt.

"After all, the modern conception of the care of needy families presupposes that each family is a unit and must be handled as such. Individual attention is required. Families cannot be treated *en masse*. In many instances, such careful treatment must be continued over a long period of years. If the family is really to be reconstructed and to be made self-supporting, so that the children will become finally useful citizens, it is highly necessary that their integrity and independence be preserved. I fear very much that in the scheme which is proposed by you this would not be possible and that a result just the opposite would be obtained. That such a result would be disastrous, I think you will agree with me.

"New York, December 5, 1913."

Mr. Levin to Mr. Leonard

"In reference to the plan outlined to me, I beg to say that a similar plan was brought up years ago by the Hebrew Benevolent Society of Baltimore, which has an endowment fund large enough to permit it to put up a series of houses, or build a large apartment. The same argument was used, namely, that pensioners for whom we are paying rent might be better housed in places belonging to us for the same outlay.

"I have always opposed this idea, and it has been abandoned here. My reasons for opposing it is that such house must become in time a sort of Jewish poor-house. As it will be known that only dependents are living in them, no person who is self-respecting or desirous of maintaining his self-respect in the neighborhood will consent to live there. You will no doubt have all the tenants that you can accommodate, but you will create a class of people whom you would rather not encourage.

"Your tenants not paying any rent will not be interested in the upkeep of the house, and your bill for repairs and general cleaning up will be extraordinary. You will not be able to evict a person, no matter how

unclean or careless he may be, without subjecting your organization to criticism of having put a poor family out; and if you were to move them to another place you will encounter either opposition or resentment, and really will, in fact, be removing families that need good housing most from decent housing to poor housing.

"Considering all these difficulties, I doubt whether it would be a paying proposition to own the houses yourself. Renting a little better class of rooms would in the end be a saving even in dollars and cents. These and other objections have been urged from time to time, and until we see a demonstration that they can be overcome we will probably not consider the matter further.

"We are, however, working on a housing proposition, and we are trying to see whether we cannot put up model, cheap, small houses that can be rented at rates a low-wage workman can pay, and yet yield a four per cent. dividend. I am more interested in housing independent workmen just on the edge of things, who can, by a little help of this kind, live in such way as not to cause his family to deteriorate, than in gathering absolute dependents in houses for which others have to pay the rent.

"Baltimore, October 13, 1913."

To Devote Himself to Philanthropy

Mr. Nathan Straus, according to the *Zionist Gazette*, has retired from active business and will devote himself in future exclusively to humanitarian work. In particular Mr. Straus will strive for the universal adoption of the pasteurization of all milk fed to infants, a work in which he has long been engaged. Mr. Straus' enterprises in Palestine needing more careful attention, he also intends to carry out in person his various humanitarian projects. He is going to stay several months in the Holy Land to extend the work of the Nathan Straus Relief Bureau, which operates soup kitchens, the International Health Bureau, and the Pasteur Anti-Hydrophobia Institute, all of which have been established by him. Mrs. Straus and Mr. Nathan Straus, Jr., will accompany him.

Transportation Decision

Health Resorts—Sending Sick People from Town to Town

S. vs. D.

The facts in this case are not disputed, and the conclusions to be drawn therefrom are clear.

The city against whom the claim is made furnished transportation to an applicant to S., his home being in C. He had left his home, being tubercular, seeking relief in S.A. S.A. believing that his disease was incurable furnished him transportation to D., which in turn, instead of returning him either to S.A. or sending him all the way to his home in C., gave him a ticket to S., and in the language of the president of the D. society, "leaving him to work his way as best he could from S."

S., after satisfying itself of the truth of the applicant's statements, furnished transportation to C. and rendered a bill to D., which has not been paid.

This case is a clear violation of the Transportation Rules, and cannot be justified upon any grounds of humanity as the D. society attempts to do in its correspondence. As the committee has repeatedly pointed out in its decisions, there is little humanity in furnishing a sick man with transportation to the nearest point and letting him try to work his way from point to point until he finally arrives at his destination. If he is to be helped at all he must be helped promptly and fully, and no city has the right to make another share its burdens.

We trust that the D. society will recognize the error of its ways and will not only refrain from committing the same offense again, but will promptly reimburse S. for its expenditure.

We recognize the burdens that are cast upon the so-called health resorts and that they are being continually asked to assist strangers who come there in want and in distress, and when they realize the mistake made in coming, seek the aid of the organizations to return to their home.

We recognize the force of their contention that these strangers are not a proper

charge upon their societies, and it might be a possible deterrent to others, who may hereafter be tempted to go unaided and alone, if some rule were adopted by all such resorts that they will render no assistance to such cases and have such rule generally understood. It may seem inhuman at first, but if properly understood and enforced with discretion it would result beneficially to all concerned, saving no end of acrimonious dickerings between organizations and prove beneficial as well to those who are in need of assistance.

MAX HERZBERG.

I concur.

JULIAN W. MACK.

I concur, but think it advisable to call the attention of D. to the fact that they apparently have a claim against S. for reimbursement.

MAX SENIOR.

Borderland Problems

Martin Zielonka

To live in a small city on the border of a foreign country presents problems differing not only in kind, but also in intensity, from those of metropolitan communities. The social worker believes these problems are most acute in the largest cities of the country; the city in which I live may be exceptional, but I am sure it presents certain problems in a most intense form.

In the first place, we are situated more than six hundred miles from any community which can boast a population of twenty thousand or more. This alone complicates many problems. We are situated in what was formerly called "The Great American Desert," and it is desert enough now to make "tramping" almost an impossibility. If there is any doubt as to the existence of the genus "hobo," religion "Jewish," it can be dispelled in this city. When a man is "down and out" here he faces a very serious problem. Small villages may be found every sixty or seventy miles, but not closer. "Tramping" is almost an impossibility. Even labor cannot be obtained with any degree of certainty, because the common labor market is controlled by the Mexican "peon" and the Mexican foreman gives the white man little opportunity. Factories are few and very small.

In the second place, our situation on the border further complicates our problems. A poorer civilization with lower standards of living is in juxtaposition with twentieth century civilization and a high standard of living. But this lower civilization is not swallowed up as in the large cities; nor is it encouraged to higher levels by its surroundings. It has an entire country to draw upon and is continually recruited from the interior of Mexico.

In the third place, we live in the "health belt," and thousands come here seeking a cure for tuberculosis. Often they come without means; often communities send them, and though morally certain they received help and ought to be maintained by one of the large cities we cannot prove it. These health-seekers require attention and attendants. The only source of supply is the Mexican. These are gradually infected and thus we have a native T. B. problem in a country where T. B. ought not to exist. This increases our death rate, and a statistical study would prove ours to be a very unhealthy city. Let us see:

U. S. DEATH RATE, ALL CAUSES

	Per 1,000
1907.....	15.971
1908.....	14.780
1909.....	14.400
1910.....	14.958

EL PASO DEATH RATE, ALL CAUSES

	Per 1,000
1907.....	38.170
1908.....	32.380
1909.....	36.66
1910.....	44.22

U. S. DEATH RATE, T. B.

	Per 1,000
1907.....	1.785
1908.....	1.675
1909.....	1.608
1910.....	1.603

EL PASO DEATH RATE, T. B.

	Per 1,000
1907.....	7.614
1908.....	8.517
1909.....	7.368
1910.....	7.796

Now do not think that El Paso is an unhealthy city. Far from it! Its death rate due to the causes mentioned above, and though these may be somewhat remedied, they cannot be eliminated.

And our three-fold problem is further complicated by the political problem. With so many Mexican voters, who may be purchased or easily influenced by jobs, the local administration is not compelled to face the sociological problems. The social worker may point them out, but he has few votes, and the Mexican looks upon disease and death as a decree of God and is not interested in your problems.

And all this is of Jewish interest. A fairly large and representative Jewish community lives here. Jewish men and women suffering from the dreaded plague come or are sent here for their health, and these conditions present problems they could not foresee. Able-bodied young men seek work and find the labor market glutted with Mexican labor, and positions as clerks can only be obtained by those who speak Spanish and English.

These are some of the problems confronting us on the border; what has been done in trying to solve them I cannot here state. I have written enough.

Mr. Abelman Succeeds Mr. Mitchell

Mr. Abelman, who, since the inception of the Brooklyn Federation of Jewish Charities, has been connected with this institution, has been appointed assistant secretary, in place of Mr. Mitchell, who held the office of executive secretary.

EXCHANGE BUREAU

An experienced Social Worker, Investigator and Superintendent of Relief Society is open for an engagement. Thoroughly experienced; highest references. Address R. H. B., 1126 Lafayette street, Denver, Col.

Wanted—Assistant in a Settlement as supervising housekeeper. Apply to Young Women's Union, 428 Bainbridge street, Philadelphia, Pa.

TEACHING FOREIGNERS

How Terre Haute is Trying to Do It

This school is run on a non-sectarian basis, two of our teachers being Christians and some of our students being non-Jewish. But this article has a place in your magazine because we meet in the vestry-rooms of the Temple, under the auspices of a rabbi.

Of course, it is notorious that the Jewish foreigners are more desirous of bettering their education than the non-Jewish foreigners, and that is the reason that we have now twelve Jews who came without urging—in fact, came with many thanks for this opportunity which they had long desired—as against one Protestant Christian and two Catholics, who only came after much urging and quickly dropped out from lack of interest.

The origin of this night school for foreigners has the usual characteristics. It was begun with trepidation and as an experiment. The utmost hopes of its founders, Rabbi Jacob H. Kaplan and Benjamin Blumberg, was to have two or three students at a time. One day one young fellow applied; a week later he brought three of his friends; the next day another foreigner was discovered; three days later he brought two friends, and then the first class was held, containing seven men. A week after this two girls appeared. The following week there arrived at the regular class hour four more men; and shortly thereafter the teachers were surprised to have five more men come in. So that the school at its height contained eighteen students. Then came the usual phenomenon of decrease. One dropped out because he found the rest were too far behind him in his work; three were forced to move out of town; two others stopped on account of sickness.

The primary aim of the school is to teach these foreigners the American language. They desire more than anything else reading, writing and spelling. But the proper pedagogical theory demands that these simple things be concealed and sugar-coated with other names, to wit, a course in American history is given, a course in Arithmetic is given, a course called grammar is given. We have a course called conversation. The problem of textbooks was

hard to meet at first. We attempted to use eighth grade grammar school arithmetic, grammar and history, but it was found that the grammar contained words which were of no use to a practical foreigner; that the history contained long words that were useless and lacked short words that were necessary, and that the arithmetic dwelled too much on theory and not enough on practical problems. Now we are using the books published by the Association Press, at 124 East 28th street, New York City. For the beginner these pamphlets and cards are most excellent as far as they go, but they are mere starting points which suggest to the teachers long lists of words and subjects which these Y. M. C. A. books do not mention.

At present we have eleven teachers. Mrs. Ed. Kohn is in charge of the conversation class, and often finds that she must invite some member of the class to a private conversation in her home in regard to some work not acquired in the classroom. Rabbi Kaplan has charge of the grammar class; Miss Edna Vineberg teaches history and writing, and she has found the work grow more interesting from day to day; Mr. Walter Letzer has charge of the business forms, and for that purpose has adopted a tablet No. 7, used here in the public schools. The arithmetic classes are in charge of Benjamin Blumberg, Miss Tillie Strouse, Edwin Goodman, Leon Rubin and Jennie Brown, where a different problem is met with. There are also as substitute teachers to fill occasional vacancies, Mrs. Henry Wolf and Nathan Shuckart. Of the twelve now in the arithmetic class, it was found that there are five different stages of education. Five of the men were able to take up mixed fractions; two of the students rapidly went through the arithmetic and began the study of fractions; four of them knew addition and subtraction, but could not divide nor multiply plain numbers; two of the men did not even know how to subtract or add on paper. One of them is a Frenchman and must be taken in a special class, because he knows the methods according to the French, and only needs to be taught the