

agencies for distributing and Americanizing aliens, that a direct solution of the immigration problem can be found."

The Pacific Coast and Increased Immigration. As the opening of the Canal approaches, our friends out West are taking stock of the industrial and agricultural resources of their section prepared to absorb new immigrants. While in some instances, their expectations very likely contain an element of exaggeration, it is better to arm needlessly than to be caught napping. The Chambers of Commerce on the Coast are sending out questionnaires; committees are being formed, and advice sought. It seems that the best informed men on the Coast are desirous of profiting by the experience of the East with regard to immigration and immigrants, and to attract a body of sturdy and ambitious newcomers who can be adapted to the industrial and agricultural conditions of that territory.

On the subject of the anticipated immigration an interesting paper was read at National Conference of Charities and Corrections held in Seattle in July of last year, by Mr. C. W. Blanpied. In that paper he points out that if steamship lines ply between the Pacific Coast ports and Europe, a certain amount of immigration is bound to result.

"Inquiry made of harbor commissioners up and down the Coast reveals the fact that while a large number of companies have had advance agents on the grounds looking over possible dockage, etc., still the fact remains that few companies have as yet contracted for such docked space, so that all that is said concerning either of these subjects is based entirely upon newspaper reports, these reports in turn being based upon interviews with agents or officers of steamship lines."

It is safe to say that the Canal will have a profound influence on commerce and industry along the Coast. History shows that the opening of a new trade route forms an epoch in industrial life. Whether or not immigration will be attracted to the Coast, it is certain that manufacturing and commerce will receive such an impetus as will,

in the course of time, and in the stages of development, attract men of all types to seek their fortunes in that territory.

Guild for the Jewish Blind

A new society, known as the New York Guild for the Jewish Blind, was organized on March 15th at the home of Mrs. Joshua Piza, 736 West End Avenue.

This society supplies care to the indigent Jewish blind in his home by means of Jewish volunteer friendly visitors and Yiddish-speaking paid workers.

Through the co-operation of eminent oculists, the eyesight is improved or saved, when possible. General practitioners and dentists are under gratuitous services to those in the care of the Guild. Glasses and medicine are also supplied free of charge.

The Society procures from the proper sources citizens' papers, city pensions for the blind, peddlers' licenses, coal, clothing and nourishment, etc., and in addition to home visiting and walks, provides concerts for the blind, outings to places of interest, and special religious classes for blind children.

The New York Guild seeks to help the blind to help themselves, and by securing training and employment for them when possible, converts hopeless idleness into helpful usefulness.

The New York Guild for the Jewish Blind proposes in the near future a Home for Jewish Blind Babies and Children.

This institution will fill a distinct need in the community and all interested are most cordially invited to co-operate.

Free Loans

At the annual meeting of the Hebrew Free Loan Society of New York President Dukas said that the losses had been only 1 per cent. He remarked: "The Society now thinks advisable the forming of a federation of free loan associations throughout the country. An effort to create such an organization will be made at the National Convention of Jewish Charities in Memphis next May."

THE SETTLEMENT KINDERGARTEN AND THE HOME

Rachel S. Nathan

Anyone meeting a group of people for the first time is almost sure to be especially attracted or repelled by certain individuals who will stand out, as it were, from a confused background. Repeated encounters with the same group make the background less and less vague, and finally the time is forgotten when each member of the group was not a separate entity. And yet meeting individuals in a group, no matter how often, is but a superficial manner of knowing them; there is no intimate personal touch to such contact.

Besides this, and here is the problem of the settlement kindergarten, without an understanding of their circumstances, outside of the group, it is easy to misunderstand their conduct while members of the group.

This seems to be the problem almost exclusively of the kindergarten in the settlement, and especially in the denominational settlement. In a private school, the quality of the houses, while they may differ in ideals, is determined by the social status of the school. In the public school, the location of the school decides, more or less, the class of homes from which the child comes, but to the denominational settlement come comfortably situated and miserably poor alike, drawn there by entirely different motives, bringing their children for widely varying reasons.

Not for one moment would I say that it is not important for every kindergartner to seek to co-operate her work with the home, but in no other type of kindergarten are the home conditions so varying or an intimate understanding of them so necessary as in the settlement kindergarten. The cranky little boy whom we pity because he is supposedly brought up in poor surroundings is instead the spoiled child of the junk magnate of East Baltimore, brought up in circumstances no less unfavorable but demanding other remedy. On the other hand, the most spick and span of all the children, who seems sulky, irritable or unruly, may simply be longing for the breakfast without which he came to kindergarten. This is such a common occurrence in the settlement kindergarten that it is almost impos-

sible to discipline a child without a rather full knowledge of the state of the family larder.

Nor is it possible to judge a child by his appearance in kindergarten. The neatest children may come from the poorest homes, the dirtiest from the richest, the most gaudy from the most sober surroundings, the least ostentatious from the most immoral. The only way to really understand the child is to get behind his "school clothes"—to see into his home life.

The child who says, "I can't do it," is often explained by an unsympathetic mother, who does not trust him with responsibility, while the forward, pushing youngster may have developed this attitude as the result of necessity. I have a child three and one-half years old, whose mother is too busy to bring him across the car tracks at the rush morning hour. The result is that he has developed a feeling of such detachment from his home, such a lack of feeling of responsibility toward it, that he seldom goes home directly from kindergarten unless especially admonished by one of the kindergartners. This fact was discovered upon a visit paid to his thoroughly discouraged mother, who was, however, too busy to come with her troubles to the kindergartner.

The question of medical attendance is solved by a sympathetic understanding between the mother and the kindergartner. For in the settlement the kindergartner does the work both of medical inspector and district nurse, by discovering which children need attention and taking them where they can get it. In the recent vaccination campaign, our mothers, with few exceptions, voluntarily requested us to see that their children were vaccinated, as they had no time.

The transcendent problem is the realization on the part of the kindergartner that the home is one of the greatest factors in education and from this it can readily be understood of what great importance is the connection between the home and the kindergarten.

PROGRAM OF MEMPHIS CONFERENCE

(Subject to change)

Wednesday Afternoon, May 6th, 2.30 o'clock

Session Chairman—Mr. Max Herzberg, Philadelphia.

First Subject—"FREE LOANS."

Paper by Mr. J. J. Dukas, New York.

Discussion by Mr. Julius Goldman, New Orleans, and Mr. H. Feinman, Philadelphia.

Second Subject—"THE SELF-RESPECT FUND."

Paper by Dr. Lee K. Frankel, New York.

Discussion by Mr. Oscar Leonard, St. Louis, and Mr. A. S. Newman, Cleveland.

FORMAL OPENING SESSION

Wednesday Evening, May 6th, 8 o'clock

Opening Prayer—Rev. Dr. Max Samfield.

Address of Welcome on Behalf of the Federation of Jewish Charities—President Leon Sternberger.

Address of Welcome on Behalf of the City of Memphis—Mr. Bolton Smith.

Presidential Address—President Cyrus L. Sulzberger.

Address—"THE RELATIONS OF SOCIAL AGENCIES TO INDUSTRIAL WELFARE," Mrs. Belle Lindner Israels, New York.

Address—"RABBI AND SOCIAL WORKER," Rabbi George Fox, Fort Worth.

Benediction—Rabbi W. H. Fineschriber.

Thursday Morning, May 7th, 10 o'clock

Session Chairman—David M. Bressler, New York.

First Subject—"ORIENTAL IMMIGRATION."

Paper by Dr. David de Sola Pool, New York.

Discussion by Mr. Maurice B. Hexter, Cincinnati, and Mr. Joseph Gedalecia, New York.

Second Subject—"IMMIGRATION AND THE PANAMA CANAL."

Paper by Mr. Lucius L. Solomons, San Francisco.

Discussion by Mr. Cyrus L. Sulzberger, New York, and Mr. Maurice Epstein, Galveston.

Report of Standing Committee on Palestinian Charities—Prof. Richard Gottheil, Chairman.

Thursday Afternoon, May 7th, 2.30 o'clock

Session Chairman—Judge Julian W. Mack.

First Subject—"TRANSPORTATION RULES AND DECISIONS."

Paper by Mr. Max Herzberg, Philadelphia.

Discussion by Mr. Max Senior, Cincinnati.

Second Subject—VOLUNTEER PAPERS.

Thursday Evening, May 7th, 8 o'clock

President Sulzberger Presiding

First Subject—"HOW TO FEDERATE A SMALLER COMMUNITY."

Paper by Mr. G. A. Berlinsky, Denver.

Discussion by Mr. George Ellman, Memphis, and Mr. Henry E. Hess, Mobile, Ala.

Second Subject—"THE DISTRIBUTION OF A FIVE-THOUSAND-DOLLAR ANNUAL BUDGET."

Paper by Mr. Charles Strull, Louisville.

Discussion by Rev. Sol. L. Kory, Vicksburg, and Rev. W. H. Fineschriber, Memphis.

Friday Morning, May 8th, 10 o'clock

Session Chairman—Miss Minnie F. Low, Chicago.

First Subject—"ADVANCE IN SETTLEMENT WORK."

Paper by Mr. Jacob L. Billikopf, Kansas City.

Discussion by Mr. Charles S. Bernheimer, Brooklyn, and Rev. Emanuel Sternheim, Greenville.

Second Subject—"STANDARDS OF RELIEF."

Paper by Mr. Boris D. Bogen, Cincinnati.

Discussion by Mr. M. D. Waldman, New York, and Miss Frances Taussig, Chicago.

Friday Afternoon, May 8th, 2.30 o'clock

President Sulzberger, Presiding.

First Subject—"CHICAGO WOMEN'S AID SOCIETY."

Paper by Mrs. Jennie L. Purvin, Chicago.

Discussion by Miss Minnie F. Low, Chicago.

Second Subject—"AFTER-CARE FOR ORPHAN ASYLUMS."

Paper by Miss Alice L. Seligsberg, New York.

Discussion by Mr. R. A. Sonn of Atlanta, and Mr. Louis Volmer of New Orleans.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

ALL MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE REX—Y. M. H. A. BUILDING