

Coming now to a somewhat more detailed treatment of the ceremonials of orthodox Judaism that bear upon the nursing profession, we may say that they have to do with: (a) diet, (b) prayer and ritualistic forms, (c) home ceremonials, (d) religious rites associated with child birth, (e) death and burial.

Of these I mention the subject of diet first, because, by coincidence, it plays such a leading part both in the nurse's profession and in the life of the orthodox Jew, and it is upon this point, more than any other, perhaps, that nurse and patient are likely to clash. It should be said in dealing with this subject that the dietary customs observed by the orthodox Jew go much farther than those laid down in the Bible, and embrace as well the varied and minute extensions of the Biblical law for which medieval and rabbinical authorities are responsible. When the nurse, who is a stranger to the customs of an orthodox Jewish home, enters there to attend her patient, she will be struck at once with certain regulations that are entirely strange to her. In the first place she will find that many articles of diet, which she is accustomed to give to her patients, are here absolutely taboo. Ham, for instance, indeed any form of the meat of the swine, is entirely forbidden. Oysters and other seafoods she cannot give her patient. Indeed, she will find that the orthodox Jew rigidly insists upon the observance of the Biblical law that in the realm of animals those are prohibited for food which do not chew the cud and which have not the cloven hoof, or which lack in either one or the other of these matters, and so far as fishes are concerned, those are prohibited which have not both fins and scales, a prohibition which as you will see includes all forms of shellfish and other seafoods which are frequently given as delicacies to convalescent patients.

Meat Tax to Help War Sufferers

In St. Paul, Minn., two largely attended meetings; one held at the College Avenue Talmud Torah on the east side and the other at the Talmud Torah on the west side, were addressed by Mr. Harry Fischel of New York, Rabbi Hurwitz and others,

and resolutions were unanimously adopted to the effect, that the Jewish community of St. Paul would undertake to tax itself one cent on every pound of Kosher meat and two cents upon each fowl killed by a Schochet. A committee will make all arrangements for the collection of this tax through the wholesale butchers. Mr. A. Silver is president, Mr. Louis Pavian, secretary and Mr. A. I. Shapiro, treasurer. Through Mr. Abraham Feinberg, the representative of the Central Committee at St. Paul, the sale of the self-taxation stamps is also continuing very satisfactorily. They were used on all the tickets for seats issued in all the synagogues for the High Holy Days.

Similar arrangements will be made in Minneapolis, Minn., the heads of the community there agreeing to arrange for the meat tax and also for the use of the stamps.

Hard Times in Chicago

The "hard times" have hit the Federated Charities of Chicago. Not only has the number dependent on its twelve institutions increased, but the unsettled business conditions have made it impossible for a considerable number of the smaller subscribers to contribute as before. Despite these difficulties the Federated had successfully provided for all until July. Since then the receipts have been insufficient for adequately helping the needy. The institutions are suffering and a campaign has therefore been instituted to raise sufficient funds for their proper maintenance.

"Federation Campaign Days" were observed on Sunday and Monday, September 19th and 20th. Hundreds of charitably inclined men and women had volunteered to make a house to house canvass on these two days and collected the \$50,000 in unpaid subscriptions due to the Federated.

EXCHANGE BUREAU

Situation Wanted

Young man, college education, graduate School of Philanthropy, experienced in Social Work, desires position. Address "Capable," care of Jewish Charities.

TO FIND JEWS IN WAR ZONE

The awful suffering of their relatives in Europe is felt keenly by the immigrant Jews on this side of the ocean. Every item of news which reaches America, showing the many great hardships which their European brethren are forced to endure, brings forth renewed activity on the part of the Jews in this country, who are ready to do everything within human power to assist their dear ones.

The war has caused numberless instances, separation of parents from children, wives from husbands, and sisters from brothers, and has filled the hearts of hundreds of thousands of foreign born Jews throughout this country with terror, for among the 2,000,000 Jews now living in the United States are found persons coming from every town and hamlet in Russia, Austria, Galicia and Poland in which Jews dwell, and these are extremely anxious to know the fate of those members of their families whom they left behind. The disorganized condition of the mails and the fact that many letters are destroyed by the censors in the various European countries, have caused an interruption of communication between those living in Europe and their relatives here.

The Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society of America, realizing the necessity of systematic work to re-establish communication between those who live in the United States and those who are dependent on them for aid in Europe, recently organized a Bureau especially equipped for this purpose. Judge Leon Sanders, the president of the society, made arrangements with similar national organizations in Russia, Austria, Germany, England and France to locate persons on behalf of whom inquiries are received in the office in New York, and the latter in turn exerts itself to locate those whose relatives in Europe report to the organizations there that they have not heard from them.

About 800 persons have, since the opening of the Bureau, been placed into direct communication with their loved ones, and their letters and money have been forwarded to them.

The following typical cases are cited to show the extent and scope of the Bureau.

A resident of Denver asks Judge Sanders to locate his six married sisters and

their families in Riga, as all his brothers-in-law have doubtless gone to the front.

A man whose son lost his reason while he served in the army during the Russo-Japanese War, and who has for ten years been in an insane asylum at Novo-Willesk, near Wilna, Russia, writes a heart-rending letter from Portsmouth, Va., in which he asks the Society to find out whether the son is still alive.

"Help us find our only son" writes a lonely mother from Philadelphia—"We have shed all our tears in vain, and have done all we could to obtain news from him who remained behind to serve in the armies of the Czar."

"We are four children" writes a group from Boston, "who supported our aged parents in Austria, by regular monthly remittances, but since the war broke out we do not hear from them."

From Galveston, Tex., comes the following: "Please help me find the address of my wife and baby because it is over a year since I received word from them. How happy I would be if you could trace my dear ones! You would be giving them and me a new lease of life."

A man living in Chicago asks the Society to find his mother and younger sister. He writes: "Since the war was declared, I had but one letter from them and in that I was informed that my brother was taken into the army of the Czar."

Scores of similar letters are received daily by the Society from every part of the United States and Canada. Hundreds of persons come in person to the office at 229 East Broadway to ask for word from those in whom they are interested, and every effort is made to obtain the information for which they seek.

Dr. Frankel Chosen

Dr. Lee K. Frankel has been chosen treasurer of the American Health Association. Dr. Frankel is well known to all Jewish social workers, and is former president of the National Conference of Jewish Charities. His interest in social matters has made the department of the Metropolitan Insurance Company which he inaugurated one of the great social agencies of the country.

ABRAHAM'S CALL, AND WISDOM'S CALL

"And it came to pass after these things, that God tempted Abraham, and spake unto him, saying, 'Abraham,' and Abraham said '*Heenennee*,' (Here am I.)—And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife,—And 'the Angel of the Lord' called unto him out of the Heaven, saying: 'Abraham, Abraham!' And Abraham said '*Heenennee*' (Here am I).

In the August number of "Distribution," edited in the interest of the Industrial Removal Office, our much beloved President, Mr. David M. Bressler, with his characteristic foresight, with his sound reason and broad mindedness has this to say, under the caption, "The fate of the Jews." Without pretending to forecast the future, it seems to us that history will repeat itself and that the immigration of Russian Jewry, (kindly add, "and Galician Jewry") to this country will remain for some time to come, their only source of economic and spiritual freedom. Time and again we urged. (It sounds very much like "Abraham, Abraham!") And up to this writing the march of events has not indicated any reason for minimizing our call, etc., etc."

That this call, coming as it does from the "Angel of the Lord," even if it is not from heaven, is a just call, a timely call, a humane and Jewish call, none of us can or dares to deny. It is, what I would call: "The call of Wisdom: 'Prepare for war in times of peace!'"

In this enlightened Twentieth Century we do not believe in the literal interpretation of the call of Abraham. With our understanding of a God-Head, we would consider it nothing short of blasphemy to ascribe to a just God the act of tempting his beloved son. To put a stumbling block, as it were, in anyone of his beloved children's path and the only way to reconcile the above quoted passage with our own reason, is to understand what we mean by God. And the best definition of that word is that it stands for that still small voice within our own hearts, which we, all of us, so often hear calling to us "Abraham, Abraham!"

These are the times in which every true Jewish heart bleeds for the misfortune that has befallen their brothers and sisters in

Europe and elsewhere. For how can we clog our ears to the bitter cry of the widow and orphan? Of the sick and destitute? Of the crippled and maimed? How can we shut our eyes, if there is truth in the reports which reach us from the warring countries, to the picture of murder, carnage, rape and rapine perpetrated upon our brethren, without feeling a sense of horror and indignation mingled with contempt?

Abraham answered the call, with "*Heenennee*," (Here am I) the children of Abraham, from time immemorial, were the first and the last to rush to the rescue of their persecuted brethren the world over. And, now, knowing "that history will repeat itself;" knowing that, while formerly we had to deal with the individual immigrant, our problem was but to establish him in some line of endeavor and he will, invariably, make this country his, and his family's home. He would, in a short time send for them and, by sending his children to the American schools, would raise worthy sons and daughters; after this war our problems will be whole families. If there is to be an immigration, common sense will teach us that the whole family will come together. And this Twentieth Century Exodus will be the largest and worst ever recorded. Will we withhold our proverbial "*Heenennee*?"

Solace yourself, my dear Mr. Bressler! It is true you had to call "time and again," but did not "The Angel of God from Heaven call Abraham, Abraham," before the answer came "*Heenennee*." I have all the faith in our Jewish workers. Their, as well as mine, hearts go out to our coreligionists, and as soon as the call will come from that still small voice, from their own hearts, if it has not come up to now, they will, each one of them, answer: "Here am I." We will not suffer the "call of wisdom" to go unheeded, and we will all stand "by the colors, as true sons of Abraham."

George Ellman.

Mr. Blank Resigns

Mr. David Blank, by reason of going into business, has resigned his position as superintendent of the Society of the United Hebrew Charities of Philadelphia.

INTERESTING BUT STARTLING

Edward Hochhauser

New York

Dr. Fisberg's paper is as intensely interesting as it is startling. He is an indefatigable reader and student, not content to complacently accept the beliefs of others, who enjoys jolting and challenging the drifting selfapplauding conservatives. When we analyze his paper carefully we find much that is suggestive, it seems to cloud, but really clears our views. There are many among us who feel that when the medical profession disagrees we must take the middle course, and steer safe. The lives and destinies of many individuals are in our hands. We are looked to for guidance and advice, and if we err at all it must be on the side of too great precaution. I take for granted that we have kept in touch with the progress in the tuberculosis field, and have long passed beyond the "don't spit" stage of the tuberculosis campaign.

"I wish I knew as much about tuberculosis today as I knew about it ten years ago when I was new in the work," was the attitude of one of the oldest workers in the tuberculosis field. In the beginning we were carried away by our enthusiasm, and many a slogan such as "No Tuberculosis in 1915, or 1920" was accepted. Now we realize that tuberculosis can not be treated or prevented by laboratory methods. Its control is as complex as modern civilization.

The air borne theory of germ infection has been pretty well exploded not only in tuberculosis but in all infections and communicable diseases. The new contagious disease hospitals have demonstrated that it is personal contact with neglect and filthy habits that are the chief avenues of infection. Just as they have demonstrated that it was the nurse who spread the disease in the New York Infant Asylum, which Dr. Fishberg cites. Of ten infants in one ward three reacted positive to the tuberculin test. A new attendant was placed in this ward for six weeks, after which time another *Von Pirquet* was made, and all ten reacted positive. This attendant was found to be tuberculous with a positive sputum. Here again through personal contact the disease was spread, for we read that all these children had stomatitis, and the nurse was entrusted with the care of their mouths.

The danger of infection is greatly exaggerated, although the ignorant are still careless and through neglect of personal hygiene spread the disease. As Dr. Fishberg points out there has been a "reaction" he calls it—stocktaking would be more correct. We found that tuberculosis was so easily cured that it was cured three and four times in the same individual. In other words we are just waking up to the waste of sanatorium treatment. Half of our patients discharged as improved or arrested relapse or die in two years after discharge. At the time when the patient needs most care, when he must readjust himself to economic life, we drop him.

Many charge the crusaders with combining with the ignorant and selfish in penalizing those afflicted with tuberculosis, and creating phthisiophobia. This exaggerated fear is a big obstacle in the campaign for better treatment for the sick and the control of the disease. All of us can understand why the "consumptive" lies about his condition, and tries to evade the Health Department. My own experience helps me to appreciate how hard is the way of the righteous "T. B. ite." I was invited to the home of a man I met while returning from a conference. The family was very kind, but when they learned that I was connected with a Tuberculosis Committee, they did not invite me again. Often we find the syphilitic boycotting the consumptive.

That tuberculosis is a communicable disease all are agreed. That bovine tuberculosis is transmissible to the human life is still denied by some, yet our province is quite clear. Until there is positive proof to the contrary we must make every effort to exclude the milk of tuberculous cows. That the most susceptible or rather most fatal period of infection is in childhood is now accepted; that few, or none, receive their primary infection after puberty is still an open question, hence we must control the patient who is a menace. That the open case with the positive sputum, who is careless in his personal habits, is a menace is clear, hence we must focus our attention on this case.