

## LOEB BUILDING AND BLOOMINGDALE AUDITORIUM

Edgar S. Barney  
New York

The Hebrew Technical Institute dedicated its new annex, situated at Stuyvesant and Ninth Streets, on February 27th. This new building is a memorial to the late Dr. Morris Loeb, while the auditorium in the building is a memorial to Joseph B. Bloomingdale, who was president of the Institute for many years prior to his death. The lot on which this new annex has been built was purchased some years ago by the Institute, while Dr. Morris Loeb was its president, at a cost of more than a hundred thousand dollars. The building itself and its equipment have cost \$175,000. The building contains a large auditorium that will seat 500 people, a gymnasium, shower-baths, classrooms, shops, drawing-rooms, laboratory and a roof-garden.

The Hebrew Technical Institute was organized in 1884 and held its first session in a small room on East Broadway. In 1887 the Institute moved to a private house on Stuyvesant Street and in 1896 a new building was erected on the site of the old private house. Subsequently, Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Steinam gave to the Institute a large building on Ninth Street connecting with the Stuyvesant Street building, and now, with the new annex completed, there is a large school plant, six stories in height, which will accommodate 400 students.

The present enrollment is 300 boys in the day school and seventy men in the evening school. The total cost of operation is about \$60,000 per year. The Institute is supported by a membership society of 2000 persons and an income from a few endowed departments. There are seventeen instructors who are training boys from fourteen to seventeen years of age in a three years' course in the mechanic trades of machine work, toolmaking, instrument-making, pattern-making, mechanical, architectural and free-hand drawing and electrical construction work, while at the same time they have a thoroughly practical course in the academic subjects of English, mathematics, physics, electricity, history and civics.

The Institute has graduated more than 1200 young men, more than 75 per cent.

of whom are following some mechanical line of work and practically all are meeting with a greater degree of success than the supporters of the school expected. Some of them are occupying positions of great responsibility and prominence both in the field of the mechanic and artisan trades and as educators. Many volumes and many inventions are the products of the graduates of the Institute.

The Institute is intended primarily for poor boys of New York city and it is a well-known fact that no family of a graduate of the Institute has sought relief at the charities after the boy has gotten started in his life work, thus proving that, after all, education is the surest form of relief and is a preventive of charity.

The new building will be used not only by the Institute during the day but by the Educational Alliance and the Teachers' Institute during the evenings and on Sundays. The Educational Alliance will conduct its activities for young men in the vicinity of the Institute and in connection with Columbia University will give courses in English and in citizenship. The Teachers' Institute will train young men and women for religious service. For many years the Council of Jewish Women have conducted a Sunday-school on Sunday mornings for 300 young girls and boys in the vicinity.

#### New York Social Workers

The Society of Jewish Social Workers of Greater New York held a meeting on Saturday evening, April 15th, at the Hebrew Technical Institute, Dr. C. S. Bernheimer presiding.

Dr. L. B. Bernstein discussed the controversy between the New York City and State Departments of Charities with reference to child-caring institutions.

Mr. Joseph W. Pincus announced the furtherance of plans for the formation of a Jewish Social Workers' Savings and Loan Association.

Dr. Edgar S. Barney, director of the Hebrew Technical Institute, explained the recent extension of the Institute.

## AFTERNOON SOCIAL CENTER

Mrs. Benjamin Auerbach

The purpose of the Afternoon Social Center Work is twofold; the first, to prove to the Board of Education that children of school age desire the use of the public school building after school hours; the second, to give children in the congested districts the play and study hour that our own more fortunate little ones find at home.

On the opening afternoon, November 8th, more than 250; the following day, 300, and on Wednesday, November 10th, nearly 400 children came to study and to play. During the seven weeks of our work these numbers have regulated themselves into an average of 340 daily attendance, a total of 9180 children; therefore we have every right to believe that this proves conclusively to the Board of Education that the boys and girls, given the opportunity, will use the school buildings.

To accomplish our second purpose, that of giving the children a play and study hour, we have had the assistance of Miss Augusta Gottlieb as supervisor, three public school teachers, students from the School of Civics and the Columbia College of Expression, a story-teller from the Public Library and members of the Chicago Woman's Aid.

On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons the John Smyth School is open from 3.30 to 5 o'clock. On Mondays nine rooms are occupied, on the other three days seven rooms. The hour and a half is divided into two periods: The children above kindergarten age who take the first period for study will take the second for recreation, and those who have played the first period will study the second. In the study room for girls and the study room for boys, both under the direction of teachers in the John Smyth School, there is an average attendance of 178 girls and 162 boys. Any quiet work is permitted; they may study their lessons for the following day, practice penmanship, do number work at the blackboard, or just sit quietly in the peace and warmth of the school-room.

At the sound of the gong, the boys and girls who have been in the study rooms the first period will leave their desks and file

out of the room ready for their recreational period, while those who have been at play will leave gymnasium and game-room and stand in line ready to enter the study rooms. On Monday and Wednesday the girls have use of the gameroom under the direction of two members of the Chicago Woman's Aid and the boys go to the gymnasium led by a John Smyth School teacher. On Tuesday and Thursday the boys use the gamerooms and the girls use the gymnasium under two students from the School of Civics. A student from the School of Civics has charge of the girls of kindergarten age, using the regular kindergarten plays and games, while students from the Columbia College of Expression take the boys of corresponding age, using gymnastic games for their entertainment.

On Monday a story-teller from the Public Library has a group for each period; here no attempt is made to segregate.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Fred Michael, a sewing class for mothers has made excellent progress; there is an average attendance of ten women. Material is supplied them to make clothes for their babes or older children. Mrs. Michael and her assistants teach them how to sew both by hand and by machine and help them cut and fit.

This work has been carried on for seven weeks at an expense of \$214.25, which, for 9180 children, averages two and one-third cents per capita.

### Officers and Directors of Organizations

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