

care the funds are to be placed; the details are now being arranged and will be fully completed and the foundation in operation in the very near future.

"My first contribution to this foundation is the sum of \$100,000."

Mr. A. C. Ratschky has been for many years the untiring head of the Federated Jewish Charities and under his leadership the Federation has become a great factor in the alleviation of need and suffering among our poor brothers in Boston.

The announcement of his gift caused tremendous enthusiasm on the part of all Jews in Boston and it is to be hoped that his generous deed will act as an inspiration to the other Jewish philanthropists of our city, who, following the example set by him, will endeavor to make all the institutions of our Jewish community in Boston as models of their kind in the United States.

BOOK REVIEWS

By Charles S. Bernheimer

IMMIGRATION

The H. W. Wilson Co., of White Plains, N. Y., publishes a series of debaters' handbooks (\$1.00 net). One of the series is a volume entitled "Selected Articles on Immigration," compiled by Mary K. Reely. It contains articles and addresses carefully selected from current periodicals and from reports on the subject of European and Asiatic immigration. Besides being valuable to club members, the volume is useful as a reference book on the various phases of the subject of immigration as considered both by those who favor immigration as well as those who espouse restriction.

LAWS RELATING TO SEX MORALITY

Arthur B. Spingarn, Esq., has compiled for the Bureau of Social Hygiene a little volume, published by the Century Co., New York, entitled "Laws Relating to Sex Morality in New York City." Mr. Spingarn states that the manual is intended primarily for the social worker so that he may be informed as to Federal, state and local laws relating to the subject so far as they apply to New York City. He calls attention to the relation between mental deficiency and prostitution. He hopes that

the grouping together of the laws for the first time may lead to careful and scientific study and to the establishment of a legal policy which will ultimately result in laws looking toward prevention rather than mere suppression.

"LEARNING BY DOING"

Under the above caption Prof. Edgar J. Swift has recently published a second edition of his book (Indianapolis, Bobbs-Merrill Co.). As the title indicates, the author believes in a theory of education that includes industrial or vocational training to fit young persons for their life work. He, however, feels that there is no necessary contradiction between this theory and that advocated by philosophical educators who insist upon making thoughts and aspirations the matter for developing the education of the child. He calls attention to the changing industrial conditions and to the necessity of adapting our schools to these conditions. The book is another one of those means by which both professional educators and laymen are being educated into making schooling useful as well as cultural.

The Jewish Teachers' Association (356 Second Avenue, New York City) issued in January, 1916, Volume I, No. 1, of a semi-annual publication. The magazine is to appear later quarterly and is to serve as a means for stimulating discussion on the problems of the Jewish school. The first issue contains articles by qualified scholars on various aspects of Jewish education in this country and includes an abstract of a report made by Dr. S. Benderly on "The Gary Plan and Jewish Education," in which the conclusion is reached that even if a plan of co-operation between the public schools of New York City, based on Mr. Wirt's ideas, is agreed upon, there should be "an official understanding between the Board of Education of the city and the Jewish religious schools that once this plan is introduced it will not be altered, within the next five or ten years, in such a way as to upset the plans for Jewish religious instruction" and that public school officials will adopt an attitude of co-operation with child-welfare agencies that concerns themselves with Jewish children.

(Continued from last issue)

THE JUVENILE COURT AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Julius Drachsler

Secretary the School for Jewish Communal Work, New York City

In the investigation of social phenomena a study of income is of fundamental importance. This is particularly true when the subject is delinquency, since insufficient wages have often been mentioned as a factor contributing toward crime.

Table VIII gives the total yearly income of the homes of 265 Jewish boys placed on probation in the Children's Court of New York County during the year 1913. The salient points brought out by this table may be set down as follows:

1. Of the total number of families, 118, or about one-half (44.5 per cent.), had a total yearly income of from \$500 to \$1000 a year. These families have from four to seven children.

In this connection it may be of interest to note that in the report of the Special Committee on the Standard of Living of the Eighth New York State Conference of Charities and Corrections, November 12-19, 1907 (Chapin, R. C., "Standard of Living Among Workingmen's Families"), the following conclusion is stated in reference to the income group having \$800 to \$900 a year income: "In view of all these facts the Committee is of the opinion that it is fairly conservative in its estimate that \$625 is sufficient for the average family of five individuals, comprising the father and the mother and three children under fourteen years of age, to maintain a fairly proper standard of living in the Borough of Manhattan." The characterization by the Special Committee of the \$700 to \$799 income group was: "The Committee believes that with an income of between \$700 and \$800 a family can barely support itself, provided it is subject to no extraordinary expenditures by reason of sickness, death or any untoward circumstances. Such a family can live without charitable assistance through exceptional management and in the absence of emergencies." The family considered by the Special Committee was one of five. It would hardly be exaggeration to say that the characterization by the Committee of the \$700 to \$799 income group would fit fairly closely almost one-half of the families considered in Table XVII (keeping in

mind that the size of these families is not five, but six, seven, eight and nine), namely, "that the family can barely support itself, provided it is subject to no extraordinary expenditures by reason of sickness, death or any untoward circumstances."

Table IX

Showing Nature of Guardianship of 500 Jewish Boys Placed on Probation in the Children's Court of New York County During the Year 1913.

		Per Ct.
Boys living with parents...	413	82.9
Boys living with father....	6	1.3
Boys living with mother...	39	7.8
Boys living with father and step-mother.....	21	4.2
Boys living with mother and step-father.....	8	1.6
Boys living with other relatives.....	8	1.6
Boys living with strangers.	3	.6
No record.....	2	
Totals.....	500	100.0

From Table IX it appears to be established that in more than three-fourths of the cases of the boys placed on probation for more or less serious offenses the home is normal as far as the physical presence of the parents is concerned. It seems that a broken home is not at all a big factor in producing delinquency among the descendants of Jewish immigrants.

Table X shows that only a very small percentage of the families received assistance.

Table X

Showing Charitable Aid Given to Families of 500 Jewish Boys Placed on Probation in the Children's Court of New York County During the Year of 1913.

Aid given by United Hebrew Charities		Per Ct.
in.....	19 cases	3.8
None given in.....	478 cases	96.2
Total.....	497 families	100.0
No record.....	3	
	500	

TABLE XI

List of Contributing Factors Tending to Produce Delinquency Among the Children of Jewish Immigrants, Derived From a Study of the Chronological History Sheets in the Cases of 500 Jewish Boys Placed on Probation in the Children's Court of New York County During the Year 1913.

<i>A. Lack of Control by Father—</i>		
(Mentioned as ONE of the contributing factors) in.....	119 cases,	27.4%
(a) Because of ill health, mentioned in.....	26 "	
(b) Because of death, mentioned in.....	17 "	
(c) Because of absence from home, mentioned in.....	10 "	
(d) Because of some personal quality (such as unreasonableness, lack of interest in the boy, over-indulgence, etc.), mentioned in.....	53 "	
(e) Because of stress of economic life (paying too much attention to business), mentioned in.....	13 "	
<i>B. Lack of Control by Mother—</i>		
(Mentioned as ONE of the contributing factors) in.....	143 cases,	33%
(a) Because of ill health, mentioned in.....	29 "	
(b) Because of death, mentioned in.....	8 "	
(c) Because of absence from home, mentioned in.....	3 "	
(d) Because of defectiveness (mental), mentioned in.....	5 "	
(e) Because of some personal quality (such as unreasonableness, over-indulgence, etc.), mentioned in.....	75 "	
(f) Because of stress of economic life, mentioned in.....	23 "	
<i>C. Lack of Harmony in Family Life, Due to the Following Causes—</i>		
(Mentioned as ONE of the contributing factors) in.....	26 cases,	6.0%
(a) Attitude of parents toward each other.....	9 "	
(b) Attitude of step-father toward boy.....	5 "	
(c) Attitude of step-mother toward boy.....	5 "	
(d) Attitude of children toward one another.....	7 "	
<i>D. Neighborhood Influences—</i>		
(Mentioned as ONE of the contributing factors) in.....	303 cases,	69.9%
(a) Bad associates (gangs).....	234 "	
(b) Bad girls.....	2 "	
(c) Under influence of older boy.....	67 "	
<i>E. Personal Characteristics of Boy—</i>		
(Mentioned as ONE of the contributing factors) in.....	227 cases	52.4%
(a) Mental deficiency.....	31 "	
(b) Mental retardation.....	14 "	
(c) Physical defects.....	10 "	
(d) Suggestibility.....	17 "	
(e) General poor health.....	18 "	
(f) Some unsocial quality or qualities (such as quarrelsomeness, stubbornness, sneakiness).....	137 "	
<i>F. Financial Stress of Family.....</i>	161 cases,	37.1%
<i>G. Lack of Adequate School Facilities.....</i>	3 "	.6%
No record.....	68 "	
Single factors in this list are mentioned in.....	160 cases,	36.9%
Combinations of factors in this list are mentioned in.....	273 "	63.1%

The list of contributing factors (Table XI) which tend to produce delinquency was derived from a careful analysis of the chronological history sheets. Under each general factor sub-divisions show more clearly what specific factor was included. As was pointed out in the beginning of this paper, each chronological history sheet was carefully read and analyzed. Every statement in the report that had any bearing upon the origin of the offense was extracted. The statements were ordered, classified and arranged in a number of categories. It must be noted that this list represents the composite judgments of the responsible court officers who actually supervised the boys. In some cases the chronological histories were fuller than in others and therefore the list gives only a rough judgment upon the question involved.

Lack of control by the father, for various specific reasons, is mentioned by the probation officers as one of the contributing factors in 27.4 per cent. of the cases. The most frequent specific reason for lack of control seems to be some personal quality, some flaw in the character of the father which unfits him, more or less, to exercise normal and efficient control over the boy.

Lack of control by the mother is pointed out to be one of the contributing factors in 33 per cent. of the cases. Again, the most frequent specific reason for this is some personal quality of the mother.

Lack of harmony in the family is mentioned in a very small percentage of the cases.

Neighborhood influences are selected as one of the contributing factors in 69.9 per cent. of the cases. Gangs play a very decided role in the production of the Jewish delinquent boy.

Some personal characteristics, peculiarly some unsocial quality or qualities, is mentioned as one of the contributing factors in 52.4 per cent. of the cases.

In 36.9 per cent. of the cases single factors in the list are mentioned as the predominant force that produced the difficulty; in 63.1 per cent. of the cases a combination of some of the factors listed.

It will perhaps be profitable to group these factors in such way as to give a more coherent picture of the complex of social forces working to produce the delinquent child. Such an arrangement is suggested in the appended Chart A, which is arranged in the form of a pyramid, representing the various social forces working toward the apex, namely, the delinquent child.

If now, the pyramid is reversed, so to speak, that is, if the corresponding social forces working to produce the normal child are listed, we have, approximately, the following arrangement (Chart B).

Upon a closer analysis of the appropriate methods of social reform that must be followed to accomplish the much-desired result—to eliminate the juvenile delinquent and to assure normal child life—it is seen that juvenile delinquency among the Jews is essentially a social problem. The Jewish community, as such, can do very little to eradicate bad housing conditions, to supply better transit facilities and school facilities. In all these matters, members of the Jewish community must work as citizens of the larger city to improve the general living and working conditions.

What, then, is the specific work left for the Jewish community, as such? It consists in the cultivation of sound ideals of family life and in the re-interpretation to the Jewish parents of life in America from the point of view of the child.

This double task is to be accomplished by communal activity in the field of Jewish education and in Jewish community centre work (Y. M. H. A.'s and kindred institutions). In the narrow sense of the term, Jewish education attempts to transmit to the child the traditional, cultural background of the Jew and thus encourage each individual to live in the light of Jewish ideals. It is largely upon the results of this work that Y. M. H. A.'s and kindred institutions have to build. It is their work to offer appropriate channels of expression for the expanding nature of the adolescents in the Jewish community and to give meaning and purpose, from the point of view of Jewish life in America, to the leisure-time activities of the Jewish youth.

CHART A

THE JUVENILE DELINQUENT

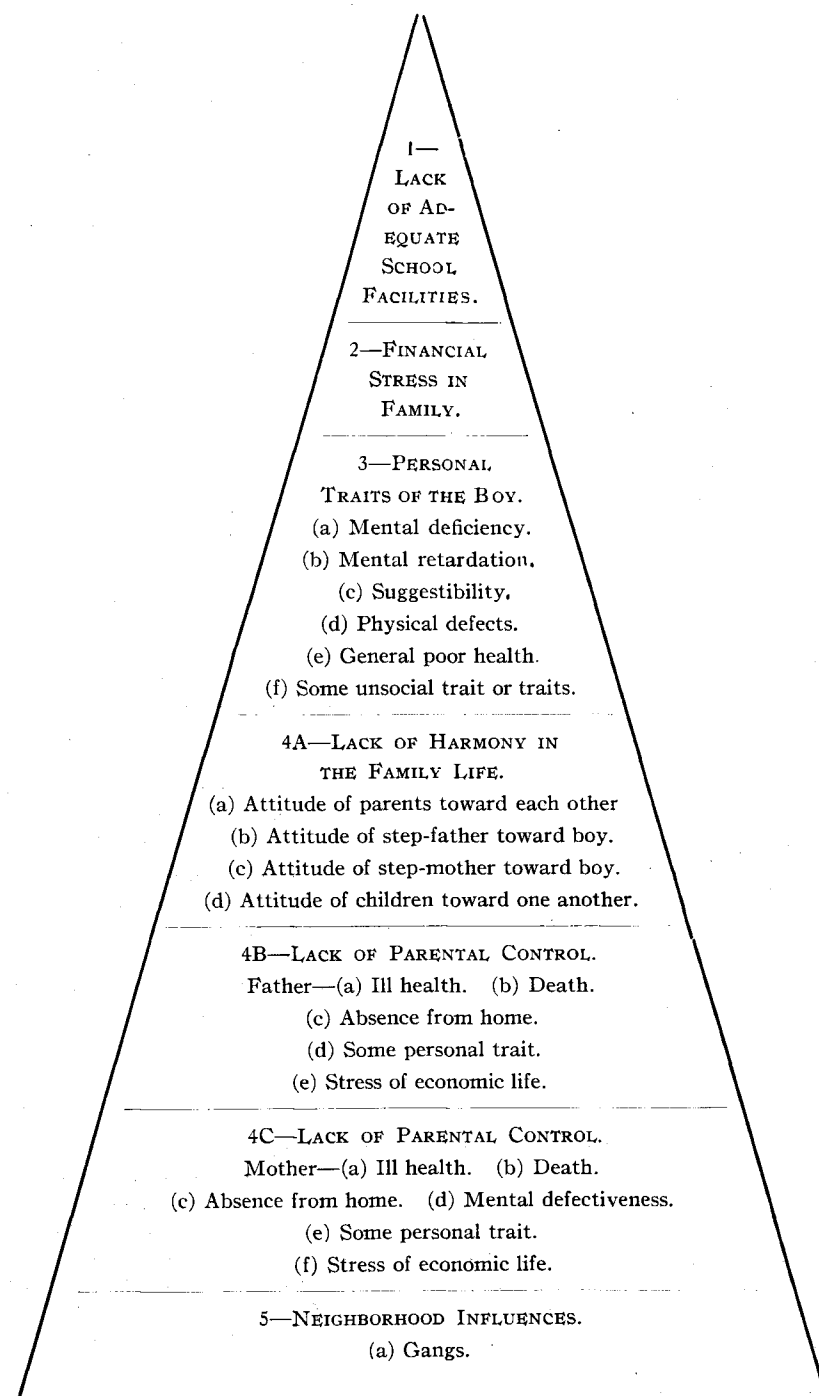
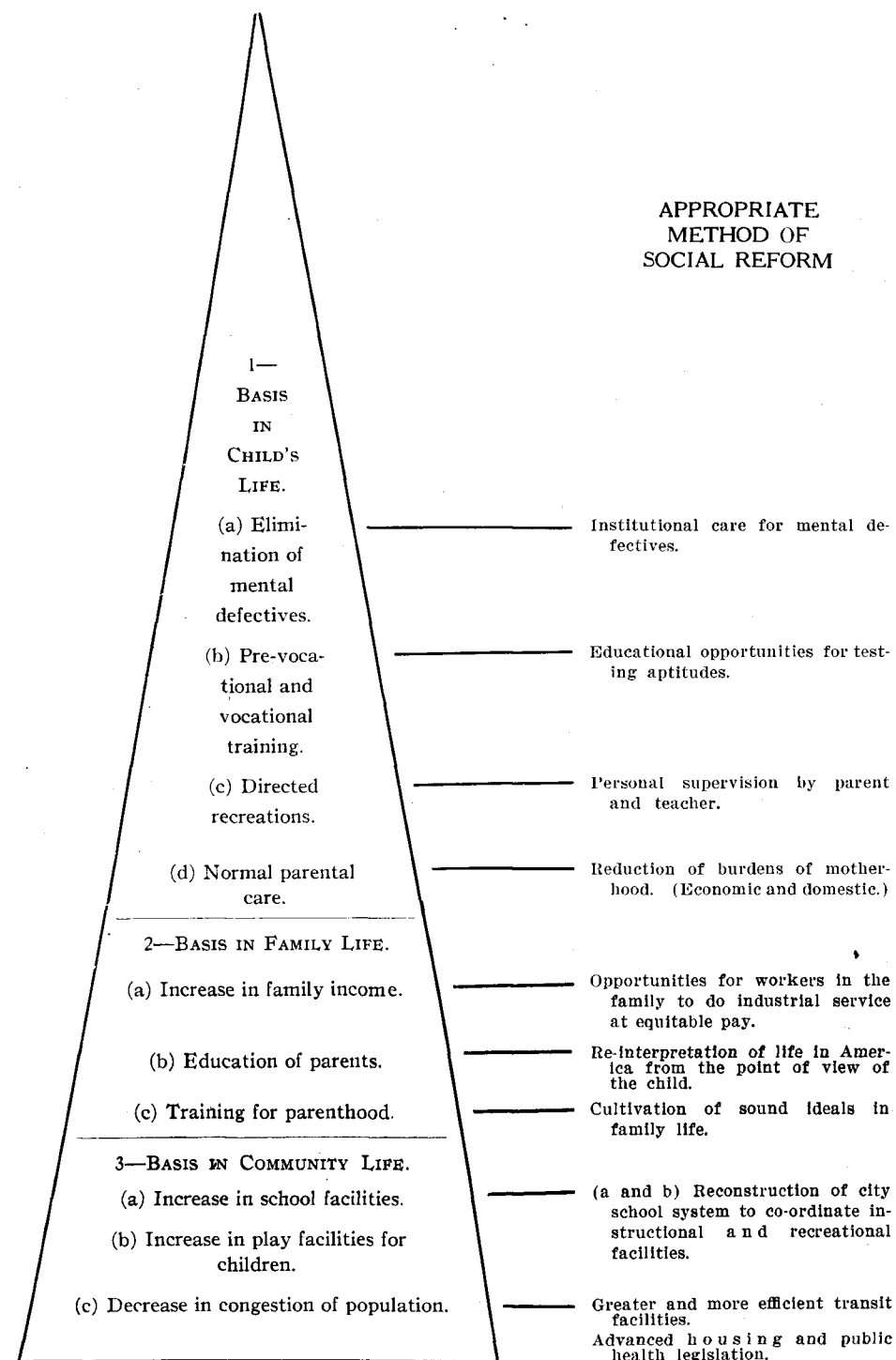


CHART B

APPROPRIATE
METHOD OF
SOCIAL REFORM

CONCLUSION

It is quite clear that from the data presented in this paper no sweeping generalizations can be derived, primarily, because a broad-enough basis in factual material is not at hand. Nevertheless, the treatment of the facts shows certain possibilities of making use of the information gathered from the records of the Children's Court. Enough material has already been brought together to enable a student of the question of juvenile delinquency to approach with some profit the problem of criminality among the descendants of the foreign born and to get an insight into the relations, in a broad way, between delinquency and the new environment in America. Of course, the results cannot be absolutely accurate,

simply because some basic figures, such as the total foreign population, the number of foreign-born children and native-born children in definite age groups, and other figures are not as yet available and must be used in the form of estimates.

When the full story is told of how our juvenile delinquents are made, the evidence will probably point to the fact that the immigrants and such are not more criminally inclined by original nature than the native born and that if we desire to have them grow into a useful body of American citizens the poor economic conditions under which they labor in our great modern cities must be improved and their children taught to respect the old heritage and at the same time cherish the new ideals of their adopted fatherland.

SOCIAL SERVICE SMILES

Oscar Leonard
St. Louis

As soon as this particular knight of the road walked into the office I knew he was not a Jew. His name, too, indicated that he was not Jewish. I directed him to the Provident Association. He protested he was a Jew.

"Can you speak Yiddish?" I asked.

"No," was the decisive reply.

"Can you read Hebrew prayers?"

"I was born here, and my parents didn't care for such things."

As a last resort, I thought by asking something about Jewish holidays I might learn whether he was a Jew. I asked:

"Did you eat 'matzos' last Yom Kippur?"

"Sure."

She was a "missus," who had run away "mitn boarder" from New York. At the request of the National Desertion Bureau we found her and the boarder: They were living like cooing doves. She had her three children with her. We asked the Chief of Detectives to have the entire outfit arrested. We did not want her to go to the holdover. I suggested that she be taken to the prisoners' department in the City Hospital. They were all held for two or three days until instructions came from the

Desertion Bureau. When they were released at our orders the "missus" came to my office and after much talk she reproached me for sending her to "such a place, where she nearly starved."

"Did they not give you any food?" I asked, rather astonished.

"If they did give, who could eat it?"

"Was the food bad?"

"Good or bad, how did you expect me to eat it? It was not kosher!"

While Mary Antin was in Kansas City recently a club woman called up Mr. Jacob Billikopf and insisted that she wished to speak to Miss Antin. He explained that Miss Antin was busy, but that he could take a message to her. She said she had read "The Promised Land" and had three questions to ask of Miss Antin. After much insistence on his part and assurances that the questions would be asked and answered by Miss Antin, Mr. Billikopf succeeded in getting the three "kashes" as follows:

"Are the Jews still persecuted in Russia?"

"Why are they persecuted?"

"Do the Jews believe in the immaculate conception?"

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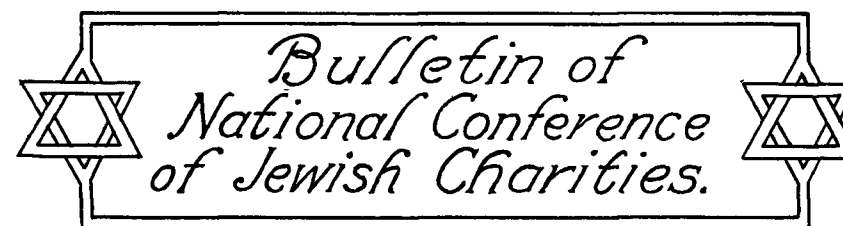
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Housing and Employment of Immigrant Girls

Helen Winkler and Ella Alsberg

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