

## THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS

### REDEEMING THE ERRING.

Rabbi Jacob I. Meyerovitz, of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Leavenworth, Kansas, who for two years has been active in co-operating with the activities of the Department of Synagog and School Extension, among the various prisons in his vicinity, reports of his work in part, as follows:

"Leavenworth, Kansas, has the dubious distinction of being the prison center of America. There are four institutions in its vicinity. Two of these belong to the state; the others are of national importance. At the Industrial Farm for Women there are none who are Jewish; the State Penitentiary at Lansing contains four Jews, two of who are serving sentences for life. No regular work is carried on here. We see to it that they have Matzoth for Passover; and on the High Holidays and also on Passover they are permitted to come to our Temple in the company of the Chaplain, if they so desire. At our community Seder held for civilians and soldiers, two of these attended. They were well dressed, well-mannered and few knew they were prisoners.

Two other institutions are the Disciplinary Barracks of the United States Army and the United States Penitentiary. The former is a prison for purely military offenders. There have also been a great many draft-dodgers and conscientious objectors confined here.

Confinement at the Disciplinary Barracks does not stamp one as a criminal or felon nor does it cause one to lose his status as a citizen. Prisoners may work their way up to honorable restoration and discharge from the United States Army, if they are so minded, by means of the Battalion attached to the Barracks. Normally, there are from twenty to thirty Jewish inmates at the Disciplinary Barracks. But owing to the War the number was increased.

The Jewish Welfare Board has been very helpful in the work here. On

Chanukah and Purim they have sent up sweets and goodies. They have paid for special messes on Rosh Hashanah and Erev Yom Kippur and provided for the Sedar we gave the men. Not only do we remind these men in a material way that they are Jews; but I am particularly anxious to have them understand their spiritual heritage which will keep them true to duty and out of disciplinary and penitential institutions. And some of them are pathetically eager to learn. That is what makes the work so hopeful. To this end I have had the Sisterhoods collect books of Jewish interest and at some of our meetings we have had reviews and discussions based on these books. My method varies. Sometimes I will give a set sermon. Sometimes a short talk and that followed by discussion and at other times I have the men give us something from their experiences. I hold services here the second and fourth Saturday afternoons of the months, but come up frequently to investigate cases for the Jewish Welfare Board, to interview prisoners, and to act as their intermediary when necessary, between them and prison officials. Sometimes I communicate in their behalf with administration officials, parents, relatives and friends.

At the United States penitentiary, we meet every first and third Sabbath in the month. When I cannot attend, Mr. Morris Abeles, of Leavenworth, conducts the services and is helpful in many other ways.

To the Department of Synagog and School Extension we look for aid in this spiritual reclamation. This offer all is the great end. In intelligence, at least the prisoner compares favorably with the average and at the United States Penitentiary, well above the average. But what he lacks as a class is the development and support of the moral sense. And religion is the only agency that can, and in cases where it is tried, does give him that."

### MEN'S CLUB AT GARY (IND.) TEMPLE.

The "Temple Club," the membership of which is open to all Jewish men 21 years of age and older, was organized as a subsidiary to Congregation Israel of Gary, Ind., on November 3rd. At a "smoker" held on that date a permanent organization was formed, a constitution adopted and officers were elected. Mr. Jack Cohn is president.

The purpose of the club is to foster the interests of Temple Israel, to effect co-operation among the Jewish institutions of Temple Israel, to effect co-operation among the Jewish institutions of Gary, to encourage sociability among Jewish men, and to promote civic service. The organization will meet at a dinner and entertainment once a month.

Rabbi J. Max Weis, of Temple Israel, (H. U. C. '18) has founded "The Scroll," a periodical which aims to enlist the interest of religious school

pupils in events of significance to the Jew and Judaism.

Professor Rabbi Dr. Jacob Guttmann died in Breslau last month at the age of seventy-four. He was president of the Union of Rabbis in Germany, and second president of the Society for the Promotion of the Science of Judaism. Among his works the most notable are those on the Jewish religious philosophy of the Middle Ages.

The cornerstone of the Alfred Benjamin Dispensary has been laid at Kansas City, Mo. The dispensary, which will cost \$75,000 is the gift of Mr. Benjamin and will replace the temporary quarters occupied during the last two years.

The French government has created Dr. Alexander Lyons of Brooklyn, a chevalier of the Legion of Honor, and conferred the cross of the same order on Prof. Richard Gottheil of Columbia University.

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