

Lend a Hand

A PLEA FOR CO-OPERATION.

VOLUME 1

PITTSBURGH, PA. JULY, 1915

NUMBER 1.

JOSEPH D.—PATRIARCH

The task of the charity worker is often hard and discouraging, but it is not always so, for he sometimes comes across such pleasing personalities as Mr. D. He will be sixty before long and is only five years from Russia. Mr. D. originally came from Odessa, where he carried on an extensive business. In his old age he decided to try his luck in America. He brought a few thousand dollars to New York with him, and there leased a number of tenement houses, in an effort to gain a financial footing through the real estate business. A rent strike in the winter of 1910 blighted his hopes and consumed all his worldly possessions. A job at buttonholes in a garment factory was the only thing open to him. Pride prevented him from remaining in New York where so many of his "landsleute" lived who knew him. He came to Pittsburgh with his wife and the two worked in a stogie factory for a number of years, living in very humble fashion. Last winter he became very ill with rheumatism and for a number of months the United Hebrew Relief Association supplied the needs of the family. We visited his home often, for we confess this afforded us considerable pleasure. The old patriarchal gentleman frequently treated us to dissertations on life in general, interspersed with biblical and talmudical quotations. A broad knowledge of Hebrew literature, coupled with extensive experience in life, added to fine personal qualities, made him a brilliant conversationalist.

Mr. D. had hoped that when spring would come his health would return, and through the medium of the stogie factory he would regain independence and self-support. But age decreed otherwise, and he secured admission to the Home for the Aged instead.

JACOB S. CHANGES HIS NAME

Will be Known as Jacob G. Instead.

Jacob S., the youngest of eight S's, will be 2 years old this month. He boards in a private home as a guest, since he was a few weeks old, of the United Hebrew Relief Association. He is a buxom little chap with beautiful dimples; and with these he won his way into the hearts of Mr. & Mrs. G., who are preparing to adopt Jacob as their own.

This is the last act in a drama full of sordid facts,—of family desertion, physical and moral weakness, incontinent

living, et alia.

Some weeks before Jacob came into this world his father deserted his family. About a year later his mother died. Four of the children are now inmates of the Gusky Home. The father was brought into Court for desertion and non-support. The mother, poor soul, was on three occasions arrested for keeping a speakeasy.

For Jacob's older brother, aged three and a half, we have found a very satisfactory foster-home with a family in a suburb of this city.

It cost the United Hebrew Relief Association several hundred dollars in relief, three and one-half year's service of one kind or another, only to find that the parents were beyond redemption. It was our endeavor to do our full duty by the second generation and to save the innocent children for a better life.

BEFORE THE FORTS OF PRZEMYSL

According to information received from a Rabbi in Lemberg, erstwhile in Austria, Mr. S. is fighting the Russians under the banner of Francis Joseph.

When Harry S. first left Pittsburgh in 1911 in order to escape paying alimony to his wife and three children, leaving the burden of the support and the protection of his family to the United Hebrew Relief Association, he thought that in Cincinnati he would secure the necessary freedom. When he was brought back to Pittsburgh in handcuffs he was very penitent and promised to amend his ways. He walked in the path of righteousness for eight months, when he again skipped. When we heard of him again he was posing before the maidens of Lemberg as a single man. The climax in this drama was reached when he was drafted into the army of the dual monarchy.

Which shows that the law of retribution works out through the medium of war, as well.

A PLEA FOR CO-OPERATION

Lend a Hand

Published occasionally in the interest of the

UNITED HEBREW RELIEF ASS'N,
of Pittsburgh, Pa.

BY A FRIEND OF THE JEWISH POOR.

CHARLES I. COOPER EDITOR.

602-3-4 Washington Trust Co. Bldg.

Vol. I. JULY, 1915. Number 1.

There is an opinion current in certain quarters that the public at large is interested but little in charity problems. The contributor will send his check once or twice or four times a year, and thus discharge in full his obligation to the unfortunate, to those who have fallen by the wayside, who have been wounded in life's battle. Charity reports, in consequence of this notion, must be brief and condensed, so as to take as little time and effort to read and listen to as possible. We hold that this is an erroneous impression. Matters affecting the welfare of the Jewish poor, their life, their health, their ambitions and aspirations, are of vital interest to the enlightened and to the intelligent among us. In an age when social welfare and social service are the dominant issues in politics and in religion, it were incongruous for a social agency to hold that its problems and workings are of interest only to the few who are active members of its Directorate.

If, however, there are some who are not interested, who don't care, then what shall we do? Shall we descend to their level? Shall we, because of this condense our statements to the public in the form of concentrated pills, or shall we, instead, redouble our efforts to make them realize that they must know "how the other half lives"; nay more, they must know what is being done in their behalf, so as to help them

out of their condition. Matters of policy and administration, and the methods employed in the charity office must be of interest, not only to the professional social worker, but to every citizen.

This, then, we believe, fully justifies the publication of this paper, made possible by the contribution from a friend of the poor, a business man, who believes in publicity applied to philanthropy as well as to business.

The effectiveness of the efforts of organized charity depends upon the co-operation that it receives from the community at large. Are you co-operating?

The Mothers' Assistance Commission of Allegheny County has shown a splendid spirit of co-operation. In this respect its work merits unstinted praise.

The Vacant Lot Garden Association, recently launched, has started its work with vim and vigor. The president and superintendent of the U. H. R. A. are represented on the Board. Last month Mr. Aaron Cohen contributed the sum of \$50.00 to the maintenance fund.

Mr. Morris Neaman of this city donated to us the use of a house for another year. This furnishes shelter to two families in whom the Relief Association is interested.

We learn with pleasure that some lodges of the Independent Order B'nai B'rith are considering the establishment in this city of a Jewish Court of Arbitration (Beth Din) — a tribunal patterned after those established in Baltimore and elsewhere. Need we say that this meets with our hearty approval and we hope to extend it our full co-operation?

Two delegates represented the United Hebrew Relief Association at the meeting of the National Association of Jewish Social Workers, held in Baltimore, early in May.

An old Yiddish proverb, "A sack full of holes cannot be filled." But it can be mended.

"The function of a Relief Society is to help the helpless. The aged and the infirm call forth our sympathy. But the assistance given a child in need stirs the imagination as no other kind of relief. For in the child lies the hope of the future. From 60 to 70 per cent. of the expenditures of the Association have been applied to the help of children below 15." Extract from the Superintendent's annual report for 1914 to the United Hebrew Relief Association.

A WORD WITH YOU !

You are no doubt quite often accosted by some stranger and are asked to give to a needy person or family.

Such request sometimes comes from a resident or "transient" man who seeks a place for "a bite to eat" or a "night's lodg-
ing" or for carfare to another town.

Then, on the other hand, the request comes from some individual who is collecting for another person or family. The plea is some one is suffering. You are asked to order to make up a month's rent, or for "Shabbos," or what not.

Some of these are really in need. Others are possibly entirely able to take care of themselves.

In some instances you are told that the Association has a collection is being made because the person in question applied for help was refused.

- Please remember, then,
1. That this Association never helps applicants whose need is legitimate.
 2. Organized charity is infinitely more effective, than private charity.

H. F., MEXICAN REFUGEE

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Some of these are really in need of help.
Others are possibly entirely able to take care of
themselves.

In some instances you are told that the old
fashioned handkerchief collection is resorted to
because the person in question applied to us and
was refused.

Please remember, then,

1. That this Association never refuses relief
to applicants whose need is legitimate.

2. Organized charity is infinitely better able
to help effectively, than private individuals.

H. F., MEXICAN REFUGEE

Some itinerant beggars are satisfied with a little—sometimes a few cents, or some cast-off garments, which are at times turned into cash. Henry F., originally from Mexico, a refugee to America during the last revolution, is after big game. When he first came to Pittsburgh he asked the charities to start him up in business. There were some discrepancies in his account of himself and his family, which put us on our guard. A little investigation brought out the very painful fact that though it may be true that he was very unfortunate in having his jewelry establishment ransacked by the Mexican revolutionists, it is also true that now Mr. F. is trying to gain a livelihood by imposing on charitable agencies and charitably inclined individuals. We learned further that Mr. F. secured considerable relief from the office of the American Red Cross in a small town in California. He then proceeded to the East, and in every city of importance he stopped off to secure further assistance from the local agent of the Red Cross. One Eastern agency writes that they gave him \$75.00. Writes a lady from San Diego, "He impressed

me as being a very shrewd man, who gets what he wants."

On comparing notes with the Chicago office of the Jewish charities we are told ". . . . we were well impressed with F.'s story, but since reading your letter, realize that he is an impostor."

We faced the man with this information and offered him a little help to go out peddling if he wished to remain in Pittsburgh. He wanted time to consider, and we learned later that he went to Cincinnati. We advised Cincinnati immediately of the character of the man. After similar experiences there, Louisville and Indianapolis were warned. We last heard that Mr. Henry F. was "working" small towns in Texas.

WANTED

WANTED POSITION AS BARBER—by one who has had considerable experience. H. S., care United Hebrew Relief Association, 927 Fifth Ave. Grant or Main 3034.

WANTED—A LADY OF TACT AND ABILITY. to volunteer in social service for one hour every morning. Enquire of Superintendent. ,

BABY CARRIAGE for a pair of twins. Enquire of the above.

BABY CARRIAGE WANTED for one set of TRIPLETS. Please phone immediately.

BABY CARRIAGE WANTED for a baby a few weeks old. Phone 3034 Main or Grant, or write 602 Washington Trust Co. Building.

CITY DIRECTORY, BLUE BOOK AND DIRECTORS' REGISTER, WANTED in this office.

ENGLISH DICTIONARIES WANTED.—

INVALID'S WHEEL CHAIR WANTED by a lady, who is assisted by the United Hebrew Relief Association with all other necessities.

CARPET WANTED by a widow. This one keeps her home spotlessly clean; and the frequent scrubbing of the bare floor taxes her energies excessively.

WINDOW CURTAINS AND BED CLOTHES WANTED in several homes of our pension cases.

MEN'S CLOTHES of all kinds are always in demand.

WANTED EMPLOYMENT—Young man, speaks English and writes a good hand, seeks work of any kind. Salesmanship for Saturdays will be acceptable. Write Robt. L., 7 Trent St., or through the office of the United Hebrew Relief Association.

MONTHLY REPORT FOR MAY, 1915.

Presented by the Superintendent to the Executive Board of the United Hebrew Relief Association.

The services of the office were extended during the month of May to 206 families or individuals. Of these 61 required service only, (no monetary assistance.) These were requests for legal aid, hospital service, the advice of physicians, calling to account intermittent husbands, visits to relatives who should assist, collection of insurance on live stock, intercession with authorities in case of peddling without license, etc.

The sum of \$1,514.99 was spent in direct relief, in 145 cases. An increase of \$189.19 over the expenditures of May, 1914. In some instances we gave total support to families, including an allowance for rent, food, and other necessities (pension cases.) In some we contributed a monthly allowance in order to raise the standard of living and thus to prevent sickness or other deterioration. In 75 cases the relief granted was of a temporary nature only. Three cases cost last month over \$40.00 each, nine between \$30.00 and \$40.00, thirteen between \$20.00 and \$30.00, twenty-seven between \$10.00 and \$20.00, and ninety-three less than \$10.00 each.

In 4 cases we paid for the materials used in dental service. In 5 cases we procured care for convalescent women. One woman was supplied with a pair of glasses. In two cases we supplied hands, as prescribed by physicians. We purchased 39 pairs of shoes. We paid for 501 quarts of Milk. In 12 cases transportation was purchased. We supplied special clothing for two patients receiving treatment at the Leo N. Levi Memorial Hospital, Hot Springs. In one case we supplied the fee to an employment agency. In 6 cases we paid for medical service. In 19 cases we paid for prescriptions. We furnished the cost of a bond in order to safeguard the inheritance of an orphan girl. One tubercular man was supplied with gardener's tools. One man suffering from rheumatism was given a course of treatment with an Osteopath. Five families were supplied with coal. A tubercular girl who was leaving the city to join relatives, was supplied with special clothing. We purchased two licenses, one for a woman who supports an aged husband and minor children by peddling. In one case we supplied an imported drug for the treatment of a certain blood disease. We purchased three stoves for so many families and supplied an invalid man with notions to peddle.

We investigated the applications of 5 Jewish widows and returned them with our recommendation to the Mothers' Assistance Commission, of Allegheny County. Sixteen investigations were made at the request of societies out of town.

Of the above amount (\$1,514.99) the sum of \$451.55 was spent for rent, \$617.99 for food, \$75.26 for fuel, \$75.99 for wearing apparel, \$119.83 for medical aid, \$57.34 for transportation, and \$117.03 for miscellaneous relief.

DREAMS OF THE FUTURE.

Some Things We Need Badly

1. A Jewish Children's Bureau, which would co-ordinate the work of all agencies dealing with children.
2. A Big Brother organization.
3. A Big Sister organization.
4. A Building of our own wherein our increased activities may be housed properly.
5. A budget 50 per cent larger.

THE PUSH-CART PEDDLER.

Early during the present administration we had before us the problem of the push-cart peddler. Twice a week we found that several dozen Jewish push-cart peddlers had been haled to court. The office of the United Hebrew Relief Association was visited daily by these peddlers whose cry was "Please ascertain what are our rights, and what may we not do." One Saturday morning we led a delegation of twenty-two peddlers to the office of director Hubbard. Our plea was not only for these twenty-two peddlers and their families, but the fact that the general question of the high cost of living enters into consideration. Logan St., Clark St., and Townsend St. are the so called Ghetto market, to which district all the Jewish housewives of the Hill flock to purchase their food supplies. It is a well known fact that here these supplies are bought more cheaply than elsewhere, made possible by these push-cart peddlers. Director Hubbard and Civilian Aide Archibald Mackrel were quick to see the social significance of this question, and have issued orders to the police which have resulted in a clearer understanding by these peddlers of what they may and what they may not do. We, in this office, fully appreciate the co-operation that was afforded us by the police, for we have from time to time showed them our willingness to co-operate with them.

In passing, let us say, however, that one of the crying needs of the district is a place that would afford suitable marketing facilities where fish, poultry, and vegetables could be sold by peddlers.

DON'T THROW AWAY YOUR SURPLUS CLOTHING, FURNITURE, ETC. Let us have it for the families in our care. We can use anything you have to give away, provided it is in reasonably sound condition and free from infection. Phone (Grant or Main 3034), or write (602-3-4 Washington Trust Co. Bldg.), or call in person.