

# Jewish Education Is In Deplorable State Here

By PROF. ISRAEL A. ABRAMS

Principal, Hebrew Institute

See editorial, Page 6: "Challenge To Parents."

**T**HE HEBREW INSTITUTE, WITH THE COOPERATION OF DR. BEN Graham, superintendent of the Board of Public Education, has again taken the census of the Jewish children, who were absent from the schools on Yom Kippur.

This census reveals a number of interesting facts.

The Jewish child population in the city is decreasing steadily. During the past five years, the number has diminished from 9,018 in 1932 to 8,033 in 1937—almost 1,000 less. The decline is noticeable not only in the elementary schools, but in the high schools as well. It seems that the Jewish child population in the high schools reached its peak in 1934 with a registration of 2,624,

plorable state of Jewish Education in our community. We are faced with two main difficulties: first, the lack of facilities in the newer sections of the city, and second, the problem of impressing upon the parents the importance of Jewish Education. The Jewish parents are no longer Jewish-education-minded. They permit their children to

School District	Elementary	High School	Total
Squirrel Hill .....	2,274	872	3,146
Hill—Herron Hill & Bluff.....	1,296	372	1,668
East End .....	900	419	1,319
Oakland .....	704	446	1,150
North Side .....	120	77	197
South Side .....	39	24	63
Beechview & South Hills.....	114	54	168
Homewood .....	80	37	117
Lawrenceville .....	40	27	67
Shadyside .....	63	28	91
<b>The remainder are scattered all over the city.</b>			

and during the past three years has decreased to 2,370.

The 8,033 children come from 11 different sections of the city with Squirrel Hill, East End, Oakland, and the Hill District as the leading centers. The accompanying table is worthy of attention.

### 29.5% Attend High

IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE that out of all the Jewish children in Pittsburgh, 29.5% are attending the high schools. The large percentage of our children enrolled in the high schools proves the ability and eagerness of our Jewish children for study. In addition, it calls to our attention the deplorable condition of Jewish education in our community.

Of the 2,370 children registered in the high schools, only a small minority is receiving some kind of Jewish Education; their number does not exceed 400. Of the 5,663 children enrolled in the elementary schools, about 1,400 are receiving an intense Hebrew education in the seventeen Hebrew schools of the city. Another 1,500 are receiving a Sunday School education in the eighteen Sunday Schools of the city. About 2,500 Jewish children are not receiving any Jewish education whatsoever. In other words, almost 2,000 Jewish children of high school age, and 2,500 of elementary school age—a total of 4,500 out of 8,033—are neglected as far as their Jewish education is concerned.

### Figures Speak Out

THESE FIGURES SPEAK FOR themselves. They tell of the de-

grow up without any knowledge of Jewish history, Jewish traditions and Jewish customs. The Torah is a closed book to them and the words of the prophets are beyond their understanding. Ignorance is taking the place of learning and if we continue in this direction, we will soon become a People of Amai Haaretz instead of the People of the Book.

I believe it is high time that the leaders of our Jewish Community get together to discuss seriously the problem of Jewish education and to provide not only the facilities and the means to take care of every Jewish child in the city, but also to map out a program which will impress upon the parents the importance of Hebrew learning.

## McKeesport Brotherhood Lists Six Lecturers

Dr. Glenn Frank, former president of the University of Wisconsin, speaking on "The American Outlook," October 26, at the Shaw Avenue High School auditorium, McKeesport, will open McKeesport Temple Brotherhood's fourth annual community lectures.

Other visiting lecturers and their dates are: Meryle S. Rukeyser, financial authority and writer, November 17; Lord Marley, leader of Parliament, December 15; Dr. Frank Bohn, author, January 20; Cornelia Otis Skinner, famous actress, February 25; and Dr. A. L. Sachar, historian and educator, March 15.