

JEWISH EDUCATION SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH

Eighty representative local men and women gathered together to discuss the problems of Pittsburgh Jewish education at a dinner given at the "Y," Thursday evening, December 20.

Dr. Ludwig B. Bernstein, director of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, chairman, spoke of the efforts made in Pittsburgh to organize a Bureau of Jewish Education and the difficulties the Bureau has encountered.

Professor Israel A. Abrams, of the Hebrew Institute, presented a report of actual conditions existing in the city today, stating that there are sixteen daily Hebrew Schools and fourteen Sunday Schools besides a number of private teachers operating in the community at present. There are 1351 enrolled in the Hebrew Schools; 1490 in the Sunday Schools; and an estimated number of 500 children receiving private instruction. "Thus," Dr. Abrams, indicated, 3341 out of a total Jewish child population in the city of 8707—or about 40 percent—receive Jewish training." Mr. Abrams also emphasized the fact that this year the Jewish Community has spent \$78,000 on Jewish education as compared with the normal budget of approximately \$150,000.

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof, of Temple Rodef Shalom, spoke of the importance of Jewish Education and of the necessity of co-ordinating the forces interested in Jewish education while continuing the present autonomy of the schools, and emphasized the importance of having the Jewish community create facilities which would enable every Jewish child to receive a religious training.

Others who participated in the discussion were Rabbi Herman Halperin, Tree of Life; Rabbi Goodman A. Rose, Beth Shalom; Rabbi Benjamin A. Lichter, B'nai Israel, Mrs. Charles Buerger, Mrs. Saul Lavine, Attorney Leon Tolochko and Chester G. Bandman, educational director of Rodef Shalom.

On Motion of Mr. Tolochko, seconded by Mrs. Lavine, it was unanimously decided that all present organize into a Jewish Education Society, and that the present steering committee continue with plans for developing the organization.

The steering committee is busily engaged in drafting plans which will be submitted at a subsequent meeting to which about 500 representative men and women of the Jewish community will be invited.