

THE INSTITUTIONAL I.S.

"THE PLACE FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE FAMILY"

Vol. 15—No. 39

JUNE 5th, 1931

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I. S. TO BE AMONG CONTESTANTS AT METROPOLITAN LEAGUE TRACK AND FIELD MEET

All Athletes Are Urged To Participate In One of the Many Events

The 17th Annual Track and Field Meet of the Metropolitan League of Jewish Community Centres will be held on Sunday afternoon, June 21st, at McCombs Dam Park. The Institutional Synagogue is now forming a team that is expected to do honor to the Building that it is representing.

Enter Immediately

Through the medium of the Institutional, a general call is issued to the members of the Institution who are athletically inclined in track and field events. These members are urged to see Mr. Silbert immediately, in order that the proper application and entry blank be filled out. The Physical Education Department asks that every man come down in reference to entering this meet.

propagation.

Among the Features

The program of events closed to members of the Metropolitan League are:

- 100-yard dash.
- 440-yard run.
- One mile run.
- 60-yard dash for novices.
- 220-yard dash for novices.
- The field events are:
- 12-pound shot put.
- High jump.
- Running broad jump.
- High jump for novices.
- 80-yard run for novices.

Boy Scouts Too!

The Boy Scouts of our Institution may enter the 400-yard relay. For this event the Lodge and Ascher Trophy will be awarded.

The events closed for the female members of our Building are:

- 50-yard dash.
- Basketball throw.
- 440-yard representative relay.

The open A. A. U. events for this meet are the two-mile walk handicap, 2-mile run handicap and the 100-yard dash handicap.

Fame and Medals Await You

Prizes for the Metropolitan League events are gold, silver and bronze medals respectively to first, second and third in each event. A trophy will be awarded to the association securing the most points.

ATTENTION VACATIONERS

No doubt many members and seat holders are making preparations for leaving the city for the summer. In view of this fact, the Institutional desires to make the following announcement and request. Please make your reservations for your seats for the coming High Holy Days, to insure your getting the proper seat. A short note to Mr. Bernstein will save you the trouble of attending to this matter after the summer.

Please send us your vacation plans for this summer, in as much as we intend to publish a special summer issue sometime in June.

INSTITUTIONAL DEBATORS DEBATE 92nd ST. "Y" FOR CHAMPIONSHIP

I. S. Team Has Four Consecutive Victories

Last Tuesday evening the Institutional Synagogue Debating Team met the 92nd St. "Y" Team at their building for the final debate of the Northern Division of the Metropolitan League.

* * *

Because of the close proximity of the debate to the press time of this issue, we cannot announce the results of the debate.

Morris Urieff and Charles Cohen, who have constituted our team in all of its victories, represented the Institution in this debate.

The "Y" team was represented by Norman Hollander and Ben Weinberg.

The topic for discussion was: "Resolved, that Water Power Development in this State be under a Policy of Public Ownership." The I. S. upheld the affirmative of the argument, and the "Y" upheld the negative.

Congressman Isaac Siegel, President of the I. S., and Vice-President of the Metropolitan League, was the Chairman of the Debate.

The 92nd St. "Y" team was coached by Mr. Moses Beckelman, Membership Director of that institution; the I. S. team was coached and directed by Mr. Abraham I. Kirschenbaum, Assistant Headworker.

CHILDREN OF

TALMUD TORAH AND SOCIAL DEPT. TO ENJOY ANNUAL JUNE-WALK

The Stein Family Again Take Active Part in Leading Outing.

The Fourteenth Annual Outing for the children of the Talmud Torah and the Social Department will be held Sunday, June 7th. This outing is being arranged by Mrs. I. Stein, President of the Parents Association and her committee.

Hail the "King"!

Those who recall the outing of last year will pleasantly recollect over eight hundred eager and happy faces that marched from the I. S. building to the north meadow at Central Park. They will recall the "King and Queen," beautifully canopied upon a banner-laden throne followed by a flock of "subjects" joyously dressed for the occasion.

And Goodies, Too!

The more prosaic will recall last year's triumph by its beautiful music and plentiful amount of goodies present. There was ice cream, milk, fruit and we must not forget the beautiful toys and games that were given to each one present at the conclusion of the outing.

The committee in charge of this function consists of Mesdames Levine, Vosberg, Saslovsky, Fleisig, Simpson, Tanenbaum, Wartels, Harris, Bernstein, Jordan, Vogel and A. B. Stern. The Junior League, represented by Miss Edith Stein, and by Miss Gertrude Stein, are cooperating with the Association in insuring an enjoyable event for the boys and girls.

Strawberry Festival for Parents

The committee just mentioned is also preparing for the Strawberry Festival (um! um!). This highly popular event will take place on June 10th.

These two events will climax an eventful season for our active Parent's Association.

FRIDAY EVENING, LIGHT CANDLES 8:26

JUNE WALK, SUNDAY, JUNE 7th

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LATE BULLETIN I. S. DEBATERS WIN MANHATTAN - BRONX LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP

URIEFF AND CHARLES COHEN BEAT 92ND STREET Y. M. H. A.

The Institutional takes pleasure in announcing the wedding of Mr. Seymour Michael Blankfort, son of our Director and Mrs. Henry Blankfort, to Miss Loretta P. Spingarn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Spingarn. Mazel Tov!

The Pros and Cons of JUDAISM AND BIRTH CONTROL

Two Authoritative Views on a Provocative Topic Now Widely Discussed

ED. NOTE: These articles appeared in the "American Hebrew." Rabbi Edward L. Israel's article will appear in our next issue.

By HERBERT S. GOLDSTEIN
President, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations; Rabbi of the Institutional Synagogue, New York; Professor of Homiletics at Yeshiva College

Judaism is in principle opposed to birth control. It recognizes, however, exceptional cases where birth control is permissible. Birth control carried to an exereame means race suicide, and is therefore out of harmony with the scheme of creation. In its general aspects birth control is a violation of the very first commandment given to man as we read in the 28th verse of the first chapter of the Book of Genesis—"Be fruitful and multiply." "Be fruitful is both a blessing and a command to have children; "and multiply" means that we are to leave the race more numerous than we found it. After the Flood, this blessing was again pronounced, as we read in the opening verse of the 9th chapter of the Book of Genesis, "And the Lord blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth." Further in verse 7 of this same chapter we have the blessing put in the form of a commandment: "And you, be ye fruitful, and multiply, bring forth abundantly upon the earth, and multiply thereon." The prophet Isaiah gave a generalization of the Divine policy on this subject as follows: "For thus hath said the Lord who created the heavens, God Himself who formed the earth and made it; He hath established it; not in vain hath he created it, He formed it to be inhabited." All this has been incorporated into our Codes. (See Maimonides Chapter 15 of the Marital Laws, Schulchan Aruch Eben Haezer, Chapter 1, Hinuch Commandment 1, and Talmud Yevamos 63 to 65.) In the 6th verse of the 11th Chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes we read, "In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand; for thou knowest not whether this or that one shall prosper, or whether both of them shall be alike good." From this the Rabbis inferred that even though one had children in his youth he was not to discontinue from having them in his old age. The Rabbis point out in the Talmud, Niddah 13a, that the gravest sin which caused the destruction of the generation of the Flood was that husbands and wives lived the married life without the possibility of

In certain cases, however, where health is involved, the Rabbis (see the Responsa literature) have indicated methods for legitimate birth control. In such cases, laymen should not take the law into their own hands, but should seek counsel from the proper religious authorities.

Judaism has definite and detailed laws concerning the marital relationships. According to our religious law, the husband is separated from his wife, as far as conjugal relationships are concerned, for twelve days each month, thus safeguarding the woman from the passions of man.

These laws, as practised by the orthodox Jew, are intended to protect the woman, and to bring into the relationship of husband and wife, periodically, the renewed newly-wed state of happiness and domestic felicity.

Indiscriminate birth control is against the law of nature, and is, therefore unnatural. At first the female was called "Ishah," "Woman," the companion to Adam, and later she was called "Chava," "Eve," the mother of all living. Woman reaches her highest and most exalted function in the institution of motherhood. This lofty and eternal privilege of woman cannot be degraded either because of ignoble and selfish ease on the part of our young people, or because of modern unbelief. On the contrary, there is a universal sense of shame and sin implanted in the conscience of men and women who practice birth control.

The Committee on Marriage and Home of the Federal Council of Churches, certainly lost itself in disbelief in Providence, when among the reasons for birth control it gave the economic question and the fact of over population. These are satanic. As a matter of fact, it is the well-to-do and not the poor who usually practice birth-control.

As to the over-population bugaboo, there is no evidence to prove it. On the contrary, the scientific studies and reports of the day indicate just the opposite, for the food production of the world is increasing at a much more rapid rate than the increase in population, as is evidenced by the marked decline in the price of wheat, for instance.

It has often been stated that the mother who bears many children loses her health. There are statistics to prove that maternal longevity is associated with large families. Not the bearing of children, but ignorance and the lack of medical care, have in most cases been the real causes of disease and death. A physician of standing wrote in one of the British Medical reviews as follows: "An experience of well over forty years convinces me that the artificial limitation of the family causes damage to a woman's nervous system. Such a woman is not only sterile, but nervous and generally in poor health." Fibroids and neuroses of various kinds are traceable according to the testimony of leading physicians to birth control.

I have found that birth control is largely responsible for the breakdown of the stability of the marriage bond. Our one-room hotels or two-room expensive apartments occupied by tens of thousands of married people are evidences of pre-conceived determination, on the part of the so-called better classes, for birth control. As a result there is no real home life and a total loss of the joy children bring into a home. What are our findings? Incompatibilities leading to the all too many divorce and separation suits. Where these are not in evidence, both husband and wife are very often simply "keeping up appearances." The rearing of a large family invariably cements the love of husband and wife, for it gives them an opportunity of unconsciously showing each other their better natures and unselfish qualities.

(To be Continued)

Scout Photo Studio in Game Room.

TROOP 525 OPENS SUMMER SEASON WITH FIRST OVERNIGHT HIKE OF THE 1931 SEASON

Despite discouraging weather reports troops 525 and 601 ventured forth for its first week end hike. From Friday noon till Sunday at Sunset the Scouts frolicked and cavorted.

The twenty-one hardy souls, under the leadership of Mr. Benjamin Berk and Mr. Benjamin Gold, arrived at Nepera Park and pitched camp. The evening meal over outdoor services were held. Then songs and entertainment until taps sent the boys to bed. Thus ended the first day.

Up at sunrise Saturday, and what a glorious morning. Breakfasted and then went on a nature study hike. Specimens of leaves were collected for further work. We returned tired and happy to camp for the next filer, luncheon being then in order. We spent the afternoon rather quietly, it being the day of rest. Immediately after the evening repast a game of Reds and Blues was arranged and resulted in minor casualties but brought success to the Blues and incidently the prize—right—ice cream.

Great excitement Sunday morning when Troop 214 attempted to raid the camp at 1 A. M. They were repulsed with disastrous results to the invaders. A surprise party successfully retaliated at 3 A. M. Damage done—many bruised shins and four tents were cut down.

Sunday morning after breakfast a treasure hunt was conducted and the prize, a compass, was won by number three team, led by Scout Miller. Lunched on pancakes and Burgandy omelets (for recipe see Mr. Berk). At this time Scout Murray Kleinrok came into the limelight. He was discovered flat on his stomach, dipping his head in the creek and so was aptly named Scout "Goof." Notwithstanding this he was the life of the party.

As evening approached the sky became overcast and we hastily made preparations for the departure. Not hastily enough as we were drenched to the skin before we reached the car-line. No amount of rain could quench the boys' spirits and the ride home was every bit as enjoyable as the hike itself. We are all looking forward to the next week-end hike.

Ben Berk and Benjamin Gold

JUNIOR CLUBS REHEARSE FOR ONE-ACT PLAY CONTEST

If you see any Junior walking around mumbling, looking inspired or emulating the gestures of John Barrymore, this may mean that Spring is here or that he is one of the cast of any of the Junior clubs participating in the One-Act Play Contest for Juniors to be held Wednesday evening, June 17th, in the Auditorium.

The Juniors are eagerly looking forward to that night when they shall step upon the stage and show their friends and parents that amongst other achievements accomplished in the I. S., they can also produce and act well.

Admission is free to all. If one can judge the bustle of rehearsal as a criterion, then this one-act play contest will hold the audience's attention to the very end.

pose.

No Comment on This Note From I.X.B.

"The U. S. Government recently conducted an ironic prelude to the Memorial Day Celebrations conducted throughout the country. An aeroplane "warfare" costing more than three million dollars diverted the minds of our citizenry from a consideration of hard times and no money to a grand and undeniably colorful spectacle of aeroplane maneuvers. This is splendid altruism. But there are unpatriotic citizens who would maintain that three million dollars could be put to better use. For example, three million dollars can construct thirty community centers to educate that many communities; further, the average community center could continue its program work for about 300,000 days, presuming, of course, the average daily expenditure; further, schools for the high percentage of illiterates could be established. Which proves what? Well, people don't know how to spend money where that money would do the best possible good. Your average citizen would rather be heavily taxed to pay for the upkeep of persons, delinquency schools, asylums and Detention Homes than contribute one-tenth that same amount for the upkeep or the construction of religious and educational centers and institutions."

We have a chip on our shoulder—so here's some more straight talk:

With all due respect to the one-time active I. S. workers, may we respectfully suggest that they step out of the melancholy role of "old-timers" and the incidental depressing recollections which generally end up with the maudlin observation: "The I. S. isn't what it used to be," or "This place USED to be active and serve." In the light of the great expansion and membership increase the past year the "has-been" attitude is ridiculous.

JUNIOR DEBATING TOURNAMENT TOPICS SELECTED

Outdoor Juniors vs. Happy Wanderers: Resolved, That a Jewish Homeland Be Established in Palestine. Juniors—Negative; Wanderers—Affirmative.

Troop 658 vs. Sunshine Girls: Resolved, That New York Pass a Law to Provide for Compulsory Automobile Liability Insurance. Troop 658—Negative; Girls—Affirmative.

Troop 525 vs. Agudath Naarei Israel: Resolved, That School Examinations Be Abolished. Troop 525—Negative; Agudath—Affirmative.

Iroquois vs. Seacs: Resolved, That David was a Greater King than Solomon.

I. S. ALBUM

Ridiculous? Mild term. It's destructive and dangerous. There will be about three or four more issues of the Institutional before we close this volume. And in those remaining issues we will conduct an educational campaign for the benefit of the "has-beens" and others interested.

The Institutional Synagogue is experiencing an interesting transition from a local center to a city-wide Institution. Membership has doubled and almost tripled this year.

There are twelve clubs meeting this Summer in the Institution. In past years, there were either none or very few clubs that desired to take advantage of the Institution's Summer program. An extensive club-campaign amongst the local Juniors will double the number of Junior clubs meeting here for the Summer. Local Institutions have very few clubs meeting at this time of the year. There will be no let down in the I. S. this Summer.

While you are having your rest this summer, why not give a thought to the kids dodging autos on Harlem's streets. We are trying to adopt an attractive all-day Summer program which will bring these youngsters into the I. S. We must furnish our game-room with new games. We must supply our library with more books. We are anxious to carry a beneficial program of projects through the Summer.

But—

Those friends who contribute during the year very often do not help during the Summer. The I. S. needs their aid this Summer.

To the responsive friends and members we extend this invitation: Drop around any time this Summer and witness what your contributions are doing for the "kids." Their smiles and activity are the dividends of your humanitarian investment.

MEPHISTOS.

Send an I. S. Junior to Camp. Fund

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SpartansProceeds of raffie
Boy Scout Troop 525

Proceeds of photo studio

WILL YOU HELP TOO? ACT NOW

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
JUNE 10th

Have Your Photo Taken Now.

DO YOU KNOW THAT:—

1. Einstein, besides being the author of the theory of relativity is also an accomplished violinist?

2. Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute of New York, was elected to the French Academy of Science?

3. The first synagogue established since the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 was dedicated on May 1st?

4. A Jewish party has been formed in Roumania?

5. Lt. Gov. Lehman was awarded the Gotthiel Medal? (This award is given to the American, regardless of creed, who has done the most for Jewry and Judaism during the past year.)

6. Palestine was the only country flying the British flag represented at the Inter-Colonial Exhibition?

7. There are 9,785,000 Jews in Europe?

8. A bronze tablet has been erected to the memory of Ernestine Rose, Jewish leader of woman suffrage in this country?

9. There are 1,800 Americans residing in Palestine today?

10. The first trolley car to run in Philadelphia was invented by Dr. Kitsee, a descendant of Moses Maimonides?

11. Jugo-Slavia was the first country, after Great Britain, to recognize the rights of the Jew to Palestine?

12. A policeman in Hamburg was dismissed because he slandered Henrich Heine missed because he slandered Heinrich Heine for being born a Jew?

13. Forty Jews served under Washington during the Revolutionary War?

14. Uriah P. Levy was the first Jewish Commodore in the American Navy?

15. The Jewish Theological Seminary was the first orthodox theological school for rabbis in America?

16. The original Yiddish is a combination of Hebrew and German?

17. Austria was the first country to abolish the "Jew's badge of shame?"

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SUNSHINE GIRLS HIKE

The active Junior girls, "The Sunshine Girls" went ahiking. When they left the building the sun was out to do them justice. During the hike the sun impressed a tan on everybody's cheek. As soon as they got into the subway after the hike, the sun went behind the clouds and then the rain came down. Miss Goldberg and Mr. Urieff (who, incidentally, is not one of the Sunshine Girls) conducted the hike.

18. Theodore Roosevelt was the first president to appoint a Jewish ambassador? Everybody had a good time. This is their 20. Soviet Russia and Austria are the first hike for the season. There are more only two governments opposed to Zionism? to follow.

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