

WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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OVERSUBSCRIBED

The spirit of enthusiasm that has overwhelmed our institution so that it is now being familiarly called "The House of Smiles" seems to reverse the old adage and makes molehills out of mountains. When everyone says it cannot be done, it is done.

We were advised not to attempt to hold Congregational Seders; that people would not come; that . . . well, what's the use of repeating all the dire prophesies? Nevertheless, basing our judgment on the apparent joy of our workers at the very idea, we went ahead. Our maximum was 200. We felt a greater number would be unwieldy. The result, 229 the first night and 198 the second. And that, after turning away several large family groups.

Which proves what? That our institution and the conception underlying its foundation is meeting a crying need in this community.

The Seders were gorgeous. Rabbi Goldstein was inspired. Cantor Yavneh thrilled with his golden notes. The celebrants responded with great emotion. The questions were asked the first night by little Barbara Sanders in a manner which indicated in no uncertain terms that the answer must be right. And how we all answered. The second night, the honor was given to little Gabriel Goldstein, grandson of our friend and worshipper, Mr. Louis Cohen.

Oversubscribed is right. Oversubscribed in attendance, enthusiasm and support for the Rabbi's efforts and ideals.

THE CONGREGATIONAL GROUP

This group, the newest young people's organization of our Synagogue, had a regular meeting on Thursday evening, April 14. Simeon Goldstein spoke on "Parties and Factions in Everyday Jewish Life." His talk, which was very enlightening, touched upon many parties not generally known by the average Jew. Discussion followed in which all members participated.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday evening, April 28.

Gift

Our thanks are extended to Mrs. Max E. Sanders for her generosity in donating \$50 for the purchase of Prayer Books in memory of her mother in-law, the late Bertha Sanders.

DEDICATION CEREMONIES NEXT WEEK-END

COMMENCING FRIDAY EVENING WITH CLIMAX, THE DINNER-DANCE, SUNDAY NIGHT

The most impressive event connected with our new institution, its dedication, will take place next week-end. Under the leadership of Rabbi Goldstein, our President, Lester Udell and the Committee Chairmen, Messrs. Sanders, Appel and Ullman, and with the driving power of Joseph Settel and Morris Jablow, plus the help of a host of others, no detail has been overlooked to make the ceremonies memorable.

Commencing Friday evening, the Services and Ceremonies, the details of which will be announced in next issue, will continue until Sunday night, May

1st., when the Grand Finale, the Dedication-Dinner-Dance will take place at the Waldorf-Astoria. About 1000 persons are expected to attend but, judging by every other affair we have heretofore run, the last minute reservations may well cause us to exceed that number.

The Committee are very anxious to make the affair a great social success. To do so, seating arrangements must be carefully made so that people may be seated with their friends and acquaintances. Hence, it is most advisable to send in your reservations at once, as waiting till the last minute makes the job more difficult for us.

Needless to say, the Dinner will be unsurpassed. Mr. Trotzky has promised to outdo himself and we have always found him to be depended upon. As to music, we have none other than the celebrated Joe Moss and his toe-tickling dance artists — guaranteed to tickle even the most rheumatic of toes.

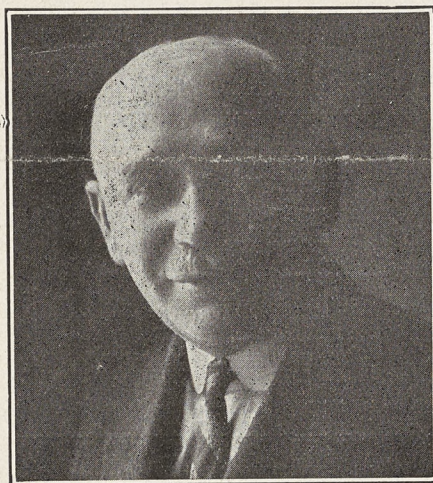
Next week we shall publish a list of stars who will perform, about eight of them, who will make you gasp with astonishment and dance with joy. All first grade talent.

The younger generation, who will attend the Dance following the Dinner, are all agog at the imminence of this, the Social Event of the Season. To the young men who haven't made their dates yet, we issue a warning. You may be too late if you don't hurry up.

TALMUD TORAH NEWS

Model Seders were held by the Talmud Torah pupils on Wednesday and Thursday, April 13 and 14. Observances in miniature were carried out from the Kiddush to the Afikoman. The following participated: Master Mandel, K. Cohen, J. M. Cohen, Bedrick, Golding, Jagendorf, Bizgyer, Reichlin, Josephson, Berman, Cantor, Horwitz, Tilem, Wiener and Rosen and Miss Marilyn Mirken.

A Passover question contest was held in all the classes. Winners and prizes will be announced later.



AARON "POP" WARTELS

Oh, what a Monday night!

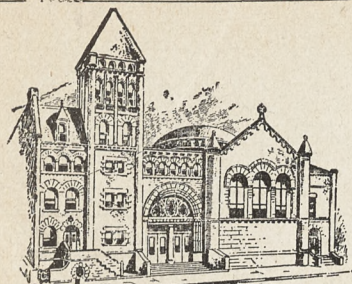
How Slivowitz

Produces wits

When you're celebratin' right.

And

What could be better celebratin' than "Pop" Wartels 69th. birthday which was celebrated in grand style last Monday night after Rabbi Goldstein's Bible Class.



WEST SIDE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

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MONSIEUR FISHHOOKS

In the picturesque history of slang in New York, Chicago and other centers of pungent expression, the term "fish-hooks" either as a first or second name of an individual, has assumed very significant meaning—to wit, extreme unwillingness to be separated from any coin of the realm. A famous gentleman, by the name of "Fishhooks McCarthy" was well known in the last generation for his extreme unwillingness to part with any money regardless of the incentive.

However, regardless of the passage of time, the term still survives and does yeoman service. The reason is very simple. The species to whom the term is applicable likewise still survives.

When a group of earnest, hard-working, self-sacrificing persons get together to organize an institution of worship, or education, or relaxation, or anything else, it behooves all of us, and especially those of us, who make use of the institution, to loosen up, chip in, come across or shell out, as the expression may be, to perpetuate the institution for our own and everyone else's enjoyment.

That does not mean large or burdensome donations. It simply means to do your little bit as best you can. Then only will you avoid the appellation

JEWISH PHYSICIANS OF THE MEDIAEVAL PERIOD

by Dr. NATHAN SETTEL

The Jews of the Middle Ages were deeply interested in the study of medicine. During the Mohammedan and Jewish period of European medicine (732-1096) many of the prominent physicians were of Jewish origin. Their expert knowledge of Hebrew and Arabic as well as of Latin and Greek enabled them also to act as competent translators of medical works of Jews and Arabs into Latin and Greek, which were understood by all scholars of the period. In the great medical schools of Salerno and Montpellier the first instructors were mainly the learned Arabian Jews.

One of the most prolific writers on medical subjects in the 10th century was the Sicilian physician *Shabbethai ben Abraham* or *Schabtai Donnolo* (913-982), a Jew, who, as a boy of twelve, had been captured by Moslem raiders and carried off with his parents to Palermo. During his captivity he learned Arabic which laid the foundation for his future career as an astronomer and a distinguished physician, who became one of the founders of the famous medical center at Salerno. In his "Sepher-ha-Yaqar" (Precious Book) he gives an interesting description of 120 drugs most of which are derived from plants. About the same period lived *Isaac Judaeus*, whose treatise on fever was deservedly popular. Born in Egypt, he was physician to one of the Kings of Africa, Sultan Abu Mohammed el Mahdi and was especially skilled as an oculist. He is said to have been the first to introduce the drug senna. His pupil *Dunasch ben Tamim* was court physician to the caliph Ismael Almansur. Other Jewish physicians of this period were *Jehuha Chaioug* of Fez, who taught medicine in the School of Kairuan, and *Amram ben Isaac*, who was killed by the Government of Seville in 997.

The supremacy of Moslem culture declined in the 11th century, but Jewish intellectual progress continued to be conspicuous. The study of medicine was introduced into the schools of the rabbis at this time. The Jews became so far superior to the physicians of others sects that laws began to be made to prohibit them from practicing medicine. The Jewish physician thus became what the historian Billings calls "a sort of contraband luxury, who was resorted to and protected by prince and prelate alike on account of his superior scientific knowledge." Every king and other notable had his own body physician who was a Jew. The Pope himself had his private Jewish physician. Jews founded the plan for the famous medical school at Montpellier in France, which came to out-

(Continued on page 3)

"AS
R'CHASH
SEES
IT"



By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein
WHAT IS AMERICANISM

II

Americanism means non-sectarianism, good will to all faiths and justice to all mankind.

To my Christian neighbors let me say that if you find prejudice rancoring in your hearts, know that it is un-American.

Speaking now, to my Jewish brethren let me say that when I see some of them breaking their religion because they think that is American, I become very much distressed at their misconception. I become sick at heart to witness Jewish youth thinking they become better Americans by becoming poorer Jews. True Americans do not scorn any religious or racial group nor mock their sacred traditions. True Americans appreciate and respect every religious body which has gone into the cauldron to make up that compound which we call America.

Yes, the Jew differs. He observes another Sabbath. He conforms to certain dietary rules. He bases his entire philosophy upon the Old Testament, which also served as a pattern to the Founding-Fathers, of this our blessed republic. True, America will be glad to recognize and respect the Jew. The secret of Americanism for the Jew lies in his observance of Judaism coupled with his undying allegiance to this land in which he has made his home.

Therefore, I say to some of our young people, do not abandon your Jewishness . . . Centuries cannot be turned back. The mission of Israel can not be tossed aside simply because some young Jews have been deluded into the belief that to be truly American means to be falsely Jewish. The Jew who tries to slip out of his Jewishness as though it were an outworn cloak, will not thereby deceive the Gentile world. It will not accept him. He will be regarded with suspicion.

The final thought I would leave with you, before I close, is this: Do not think that you must practice an inferior Judaism to possess a superior Americanism. Be proud that yours is a Jewish life, and be thankful that you live in a land where you may still walk with your God along your private path, and at the same time know that you have not turned aside from the broad highway that is America.

INTERESTING STAMPS

By JOSEPH E. DAVIDSON

2nd Series — Bible Scenes
XXIV: THE PHAROAH OF THE DREAMS



The Stamp: Scott's
Egypt A-47
AMENHOTEP IV

Our next stamp, that of Amenhotep IV, the Pharaoh of the Dreams, who made Joseph Viceroy of Egypt, may be used to illustrate many stories and at least one moral.

What food for thought there is in the fact that Amenhotep's descendants and those of his people are all mummies and dust, and the glories that were the Egypt of thirty-four centuries ago are only sensed by one's looking at inanimate obelisks, pyramids and the like, while Joseph and his Brethren still live!

The Egyptian of today is the direct descendant of Ishmael and not of the people of Amenhotep, and I doubt if there are any persons alive today who have any trace of the blood of the ancient Egyptians in their veins.

We Jews may still pride ourselves that we belong to a race which, despite its many vicissitudes in all ages, is today almost as pure as it was in the days of Joseph and Amenhotep. In fact, less than five hundred years ago Abarbanel claimed direct descent through King David from Judah, the brother of Joseph!

XXV: THE "PHAROAH WHO KNEW NOT JOSEPH"



The Stamp: Scott's
Egypt A-35
RAMESSES II

Rameses the Great, the "Pharaoh who knew not Joseph," is the tyrant mentioned in the first chapter of Exodus, after whom one of the two treasure cities (Pitom and Rameses) was named.

Why historians refer to him as "Great" is one of the mysteries which has always baffled me. Peter I of Russia, who killed his son and heir with his own hand, is also called "Great." So is Catherine II, who caused the murder of her husband (Peter III), and would have also done away with her own son (Paul I), had she not had

(Continued on page 4)

Jewish Physicians of the Mediaeval Period

(Continued from page 2)

rival the school at Salerno.

At this time the important Jewish physician *Dschanach* flourished in Cordova, and *Isaak ben Jaschusch* of Toledo was physician to Mudschahid al Amiri. Charlemagne retained two Jewish physicians as his personal attendants. *Abraham Ibn Ezra* (the Rabbi Ben Ezra of Browning) was a celebrated physician and traveller, who wrote in Hebrew. *Jehuda Halevi*, distinguished as a physician, philosopher, and the greatest post-Biblical poet of Israel, also lived at this time (1086-1142) and wrote in Hebrew.

But greatest of all was *Maimonides* (*Rabbi Moses ben Maimon*) sur-named *Rambam*, the most skillful physician of his day and the prince among Jewish physicians of all time. Born in Cordova in 1135, he, with his parents, was forced on account of religious persecution to flee to Fez, and finally to Cairo, where he became a resident. Here in the course of years his medical skill and his moral integrity brought him to the notice of Alfidhil, the Vizier of the great Saladin, Sultan of Egypt. He became court physician to the former and later to the sons of Saladin, not, however, without arousing the bitter jealousy of other resident physicians, which caused this blameless man so much mental suffering that he was prostrated for a year with severe illness. *Maimonides* is renowned alike for his skill and devotion as a physician to rich and poor, and for his important philosophical writings, which have brought him lasting fame in this field. His *Guide to the Perplexed* stands out pre-eminent among his works. He also wrote important treatises on dietetics, the treatment of poisonous wounds, and other medical subjects. He believed that prevention was the first step in the cure of disease. In his later years his name became known in almost every civilized land, and the sick and suffering flocked from far and near to this gentle old man, who could turn none away. His son, and his grandson (*Rabbi David*) as well as two great-grandsons, all became capable medical practitioners, and his pupil *Jussuf al Sebti* was a well known physician.

The list of renowned Jewish physicians of the late Middle Ages could be prolonged almost indefinitely, if space permitted, but *Maimonides* was the last of the great Jewish stars of this period.

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Following up the same slogan, Mr. Landowne, 49-year-old native New Yorker, has been very insistent that our Shul shall be impressive, attractive and comfortable—a fitting container for a house of worship.

We are glad to welcome his co-operation, as well as the enthusiastic help of his charming wife, Sarah Bloom Landowne, and his clever young son Louis, a sophomore at N. Y. U.

GETTING PERSONAL

By HANK EPSTEIN



Our Passover Services were crowded. Saturday and Sunday mornings brought out a host of distinguished personages whom we were pleased to welcome. Included among them were: Justice Bernard L. Shientag of the Supreme Court, Justice Max Salomon of the Court of Special Sessions, Commissioner William B. Herlands and Mrs. Herlands, Mr. A. M. Davis, Mr. William P. Goldman, Mr. William Horowitz, Mrs. Price and her family, Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Lewis and their distinguished sons, Mr. G. Richard Rubenstein and his father; Mr. Ben Lunitz, Mr. Edward Rosenberg, Mr. & Mrs. Harry Josephson and Mr. Max Stavish.

Two inspiring sermons were delivered by Rabbi Goldstein. Cantor Yavneh was in good form and is entitled to a hand . . . Mrs. Harold Kaplan was in Shul last Saturday morning, but she left little Barbara home . . . Glad to see Harry Ward back on his feet and with us again . . . We are pleased to note the recovery from illness of Mrs. David Cohen, Mrs. Annie Mirken and Mrs. Joseph Sedwitz . . . Mrs. Sedwitz' recovery has no doubt been hastened by the engagement of her son Sidney to Charlotte Mae Friedman. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Sedwitz and the happy couple . . . My good friend Mrs. I. Salenka and her daughter were in Shul last weekend . . . Mrs. Ruby Richmond and daughter attended also . . . Mr. and Mrs. Markowitz' daughter and son spent the holidays away from home . . . Buddy Udell delivered a fine little talk last Saturday afternoon . . . My good friend and co-worker, Julie Horowitz, ex-president of Young Israel, became a proud father. The best of luck to you Julie, and to you also Irene . . . Congratulations to Max Sanders on his Birthday . . . Ditto Aaron "Pop" Wartels . . . The new election for the Young Board of Directors will take place some time next week. So I want all paid up members to get in and vote. The old officers did a fine job.

THE JUNIOR COUNCIL

This group of young people, one of the most active in our Synagogue, has been holding meetings regularly every Sunday evening. Recently they have been devoting their meetings to Professor Quiz and speaking contests, emphasizing a cultural rather than social program.

Plans are being discussed for a summer dance to be held at a downtown hotel early in June. A definite announcement will be made in the near future.

THE REUS SOCIETY

An "Open House" is being planned by this group for the near future, tentatively May 8.

The next meeting, that of April 24, will be a social one. All young people of the Congregation, 21 years of age and over, are most cordially invited.

INTERESTING STAMPS

(Continued from Page 3)

sense enough to realize that doing away with two Romanoffs might be a little too much even for Russians to allow without a murmur.

Rameses, with more justice might be termed Rameses the (Great) Tyrant.

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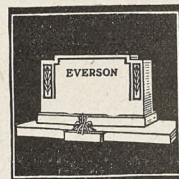
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