

West Side Institutional Review

Vol. X, No. 13

Friday, December 6, 1946

Kislev 13, 5707

"CONFESSION"

I

Introduction

We are giving our readers extracts of "Confessions" which have just been published. It was written in German in 1917, by Dr. Nathan Birnbaum.

Birnbaum helped create the major Jewish movements of our time, Zionism, Autonomism, and Yiddishism. He gave to all of them of his profound humanity and understanding of life. But he passed from one to the other, a modern Odysseus in the search for truth, driven by his inexorably logical mind and incorruptible honesty, until he found his way home, to the simple yet sublime teachings of Jewish tradition. It was at the end of his road that he came to write Gottesvolk, his great manifesto to the Jewish people, of which Confession is a somewhat abridged translation.

THE ROAD HOME

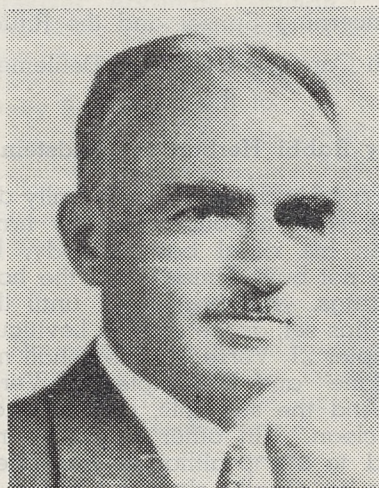
There was a time, at first, when I used to believe that all those who recognized the Jews as a people, with a claim to the individual life of its own, were full, national Jews—no matter in which soil they had their spiritual roots. At that time I did not think at all about religion. To be sure, I knew that in earlier times religion occupied the foremost place in the life of the Jewish people, and it seemed that even today it still wielded a considerable influence. But that did not concern me, nor those who thought as I did. After all, we were national Jews—national loyalty, not religious conviction, was to us the criterion of a Jew.

I could not cling to this view for long. It became clear to me that the history of humanity, of all the nations, all the efforts and achievements of culture, had crystallized and developed around religious, spiritual centers. But I was still too deeply steeped in the spirit of materialism to draw practical conse-

(Continued on Page 2)

DR. ISRAEL WEINSTEIN TO LECTURE MONDAY NIGHT

TOPIC: WHAT PEOPLE OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH.



Dr. Israel Weinstein

Commissioner of Health, N.Y.C.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Joseph Settel, Chairman of the Opera Committee is pleased to report that he has completed arrangements for the presentation of the Opera, "MADAME BUTTERFLY" for our Benefit Performance at the Metropolitan Opera House, on Sunday Evening, March 2, 1947. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$20.00 each.

ADDITIONAL DONORS TO THE SHEMINI ATZERES APPEAL

We have already received practically the entire \$10,000, that was pledged by the Congregation as a result of the appeal in our Synagogue on behalf of Vaad Hatzala and Agudas Israel, Refugee and Immigration Division.

The following have sent their donations since last week. Harry Cohen, Isidore Lauer, Rabbi Samuel Hurwitz, Mrs. Estelle Lunitz and Leonore Mendelsohn.

This week our guest speaker will be Dr. Israel Weinstein, Commissioner of Health of New York City. He has been associated with the staffs of Bellevue, Montifiore and Sea View Hospitals, and with the Pasteur Institute in Paris. He has been on the teaching staffs of Columbia University Medical School, and New York University.

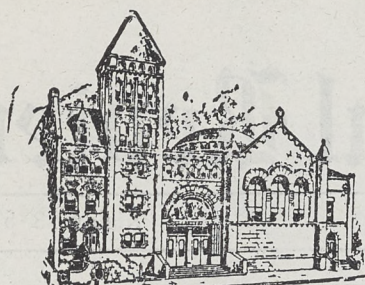
Dr. Weinstein served with the United States Army in the first and second world wars. In the latter he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and saw service with the 71st Infantry Division in France, Germany and Austria. He was wounded in action. After the surrender of the Germans he was made Typhus Fever Control Officer for the Augsburg district in Germany, in addition to his other duties. For his service he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star.

In his Citation for the award of the Bronze Star Medal it is stated, that he gave, " . . . (U)nstintingly of his time and effort inspecting and supervising the health and sanitation of the front line troops. . . With complete disregard for personal safety rode through wooded areas occupied by enemy snipers to reach front line units. . . Major Weinstein's untiring effort and personal interest in the welfare of the troops during combat reflects great credit on himself and exemplifies the highest tradition of the Armed Forces."

The Discussion on "What is Orthodox Judaism" led by Rabbi Goldstein begins promptly at 8:30 P. M.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE

A regular Executive Board meeting of our Women's League will be held at the home of Mrs. Jack Levine, 230 West 79th Street, Monday afternoon, December 9, 1946, at 1:30 P.M. sharp.



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Rabbi H. S. Goldstein Editor
Lester A. Lazarus.....Ass't. Editor
Morris Jablow Managing Editor

JEWISH POCKET BOOKS

The Agudath Israel Youth Council is to be congratulated for embarking upon the publication of a series of pocket-size books on Jewish subjects. To the Spero Foundation, we owe our gratitude for underwriting this undertaking. These books cover a wide range of subjects from "Confessions" of Dr. Nathan Birnbaum to such classical works as Jehuda Halevi's Kuzari, and Maimonides' "Faith of a Jew."

This is the first attempt to give to the English reading public Jew and Gentile, in easy reading form, the great works of Judaism, modern as well as ancient. These handy, readable, and inexpensive pocket-size books, will also mark the first step in reaching the masses of people who rarely enter a synagogue.

We hope that our readers will not only subscribe personally for the entire series of 12 booklets at twenty-five cents each, but send them to friends as a Chanukah gift. During these days of Anti-Semitism, when the existence of the Jew is challenged, these booklets will help to give stamina, faith and courage to our people.



265th COMMANDMENT

Concerning Sunset and the Ritual Bath Connected with the Defilement of the Dead

By Rabbi Herbert S. Goldstein

If a priest has become ritually defiled, even although he may have taken his ritual bath already, he may not busy himself with the holy offerings. He must wait, until the sun has set, as we read in Leviticus, Chapter 21, Verse 6, "They shall not profane" and in Chapter 22, Verse 7 "And the sun sets, and he shall be clean." In other words, in regard to קדשים although the priest may be ritually clean by virtue of the ritual bath, he is not regarded as clean as far as performing his Temple duties are concerned until

"AS
R'CHASH
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the sun sets. The "קרבן" "the offering" atones. The priest is the one who brings the "קרבן" "the korbon,"—"the offering." In that way the priest brings Israel קרבן "close" to G-d, for the word for "offering" קרבן also means "being brought near." The question may be asked, if the person took the ritual bath, why should he have to wait until the sun sets? G-d knows the time. The answer is, that the bath alone does not remove the ritual impurities entirely.

This commandment not only refers to the priest who became unclean by coming in contact with a dead body but also if he suffered an emission, or leprosy. Then in addition to the ritual bath, there sunset must follow the purification.

Further details concerning this Law, are to be found in the Treatise in the Talmud called T'vul Yom. This law prevailed in regard to the demeanor of the male priests, during Temple times. They were warned to avoid defilement. Of course this does not refer to a female in the priestly family for she does not minister. A priest who trespassed this commandment was punished with excision from heaven.

CONFESSION

(Cont. from page 1)

quences from my new wisdom. I knew well enough now that religion could not be explained away as a useful invention of man; and I realized that its teachings on the unity and meaningfulness of historic developments were true. But I did not act upon these teachings, because I did not, at this time, **truly believe**; I did not **know God** yet.

Today I do; I have meditated much about the matter and, if necessary, I can defend my belief in God and all its implications by all manners of rational arguments. For example, I can note the fact that the plan of a man's life, the development of his spirit, is already determined at the moment of his coming into existence; why, then, should nature and history as a whole be considered to be planless, accidental, without a living spirit to direct them from the first? Actually, if there were only a purely mechanical process of world development, we could not speak of moral laws (as we in fact do); these only make sense if we consider humanity capable of

freely realizing given spiritual goals. We may consider the development of our world very much like the unreeling of a string from a spool; more and more of the string appears to us, but all of it had already existed before, although invisible to us—and, in the same way, world development may be conceived as the gradual expression of a prior plan laid down by the Eternal Spirit. It can hardly be denied that where there appears a plan there must be a planner, that the immense structure of the world presupposes a world builder. From this idea of God as planning for eternity, I can derive the omnipotence, omniscience, justice and mercy of God.

(To be continued)

BASKETBALL LEAGUE BOOMING

The W.S.I.S. Talmud Torah team opened the official league competition with a double victory for the varsity and a single for the J.V.'s. Our varsity beat the Jewish Center and the Beth Hillel fives to take the opening league lead, while the Juniors beat the Jewish Community School to lead in that division.

JUNIOR WOMEN'S LEAGUE TO PROVIDE LAYETTES FOR NEW-BORN BABIES ABROAD

Mrs. Edward Weinstein, President of our Junior Women's League, announces that the League voted to adopt the very humanitarian project of providing layettes for new-born babies, overseas.

Captain Monheit, Chaplain of the American and French Zones of Occupation sends to the Agudath Israel Youth Council in this country each month the names and addresses of expectant mothers. Our Junior Women's League will take some of these names and send layettes directly to the individual mothers.

Blossom Minchenberg Grayson has assumed the Chairmanship of this project. The other members of her committee are Shirley Wohl Schraub, Geraldine Gewirtz and Rita Spiegelman.

The young married women of the Congregation who wish to join our Junior Women's League may do so by sending their names and addresses to the Secretary, Mrs. Bernard Udell, 350 Central Park West.

WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE

Light Candles Friday Eve 4:09 P.M.

Weekly Portion: Vayishlach

Friday Evening Service 4:15 P.M.

Saturday Morning Service 9:00 A.M.

Junior Congregation 10:00 A.M.

Rabbi Hurwitz's

Talmud Class 3:15 P.M.

Mr. Isaac Allen's

Talmud Class 3:15 P.M.

Mincha Service 4:15 P.M.

Reader of Torah: Lawrence Kobrin

Reader of Service: Harvey Shapiro

Speaker: Abraham Coifman

The Sabbath Terminates 4:55 P.M.

Sunday morning

Service 6:45, 8:45 A.M.

Daily Services:

Mornings 6:45, 8:00, 8:30 A.M.

Mincha 4:20 P.M.

Followed by the Explanation of the Shulchan Aruch by Rabbi Goldstein.

CONDOLENCE

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to our esteemed member Edward H. Dunn upon the loss of his wife

Tessie Dunn

TALMUD TORAH NOTES

Library Opening Announced

On Sunday morning Nov. 17, 1946 our Hebrew School observed "Jewish Book Month" with a special assembly. The program consisted of plays, poems and songs about Jewish books and the "Book of Books," —the Bible.

We want to call the attention of the children of our Synagogue to our library which is open daily for circulation of Jewish books.

We want to welcome Mr. Stanley Chazan to our Talmud Torah faculty. Bracha Vhatzlacha.

Officers

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CHATS ABOUT W.S.I.S.

By Morris Jablow

Last week, Mr. Joseph Settler, chairman of the Opera committee, closed the contract with the Metropolitan Opera House for the presentation of the complete opera "Madame Butterfly" at our benefit performance on Sunday evening, March 2nd, 1947. When he made that announcement to several gentlemen, one of them said:

"As a member of this Synagogue I want to congratulate you upon your action. I think it is a splendid way for all the friends of our institution to get together for the purpose of enjoying an evening of beautiful music, and at the same time render financial aid toward our work for Traditional Judaism. The additional amount over the regular price of the tickets that you ask us to pay, will I am sure be cheerfully paid by all."

Those of you, our readers, who enjoy music will do well to make your requests for tickets promptly. Because our cost is almost three times as much as in previous years, the price of the tickets will have to be increased considerably. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$20.00 each.

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GETTING PERSONAL

We are happy to congratulate and extend our very best wishes to Rabbi and Mrs. Herbert S. Goldstein, upon the engagement of their daughter Josephine Hannah, to Rabbi O. Asher Reichel, Spiritual Leader of the Congregation Zichron Ephraim of East 67th Street where he is the successor to the late Dr. Bernard Drachman. . . . We were very pleased to see Joe Tillem in Schule Shabbus. . . . We were also delighted often. . . . We were also delighted to see Mrs. Eva Katz, President of the Brooklyn Branch of the Yeshiva University Women's Organization, accompanied by her daughter, at Services. . . . We missed Mrs. Minnie Hurwitz in Schule this Shabbus. We hope that she will have a speedy recovery from her illness. . . . Congratulations are in order to one of the younger people of the Congregation, Abram Coifman, who has passed his examinations for the Bronx High School of Science. . . . We extend our good luck to Dr. Morton Minchenberg who has recently opened his Dental Office. . . . Among those we missed the Thanksgiving week-end were Mr. & Mrs. Saul Bergman, Jules Cohen, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob Kaplan, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Silver and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Ward. . . . Thanks to Jack Berlin for assisting the ushers at our Services. . . . By the way, the decorum in our Synagogue has improved considerably in the past few weeks. Is it because our Chief Usher, Max Lazarus is getting more cooperation? . . . Welcome back to Henry and Joseph Blankfort, both of whom have just flown in from sunny California, where they visited their children and grandchildren. . . . Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schreibersdorf upon the birth of a daughter. . . . Don't forget those tickets to the Metropolitan Opera House for March 2, 1947. . . . Congratulations to Moe Oltarsh, our Director and Men's Club President upon his forthcoming birthday. . . . Bon voyage to Abraham Levy, who left for Florida. sharp.

Sunday Evening

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