

American Jewish
YEAR BOOK

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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PREFACE

Church-state relations, particularly in the field of public education, were widely discussed in Jewish as well as non-Jewish circles and were a subject of study by Jewish national and local communal agencies during the past year. In recognition of the lively interest in this subject, the editors believed it timely to present, in this volume, an examination of this question in the light of American history and legal precedent down to the contemporary period. The editors were fortunate in securing for this assignment the services of Dr. Nathan Schachner, author of several historical works, including biographies of Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton, the latter widely acclaimed as one of the outstanding books of its class published in 1946. The editors believe that Dr. Schachner's article will contribute to a better understanding of this perplexing problem. It may be well to add that the author's conclusions are his own and do not necessarily represent those of the editors, or the organizations sponsoring the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

Of the remaining five special articles, four are biographical sketches of distinguished American Jews who passed away during the year. Three of them,—Morris Raphael Cohen, philosopher and teacher; Sidney Hillman, labor leader; and Emanuel Libman, physician,—achieved national and even international renown in their chosen professions and made notable contributions to the fields of philosophic thought and scholarship, labor relations, and medical science which have immeasurably enriched American life. The fourth, Henry Monsky, a leading lawyer and highly useful citizen, chose, in the last years of his life, to devote much of his considerable talent and energy to Jewish communal problems, and quickly became one of the recognized leaders of the Jewish community.

The unique careers and contributions of these men are interestingly described by writers who are eminently fitted to deal with their subjects, namely, Dr. Milton R. Konvitz, associate professor and director of research in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University, and a profound student of law and philosophy; A. H. Raskin, labor correspondent of *The New York Times*; Dr. George Baehr, distinguished physician and president of the New York Academy of Medicine; and Henry W. Levy, director of publicity of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and seasoned observer of Jewish communal affairs.

The final special article deals with the Jewish Institute of Religion, one of the great American institutions for the training of rabbis and Jewish scholars, founded by Dr. Stephen S. Wise a quarter of a century ago. This article was contributed by Rabbi I. Edward Kiev and Dr. John J. Tepfer, librarian and professor of Jewish history, respectively, at the Institute.

The Review of the Year again represents the largest single section of the YEAR BOOK. In it the editors have sought to present reviews of the important activities of, as well as the significant events affecting, Jewish communities of the United States and other parts of the world, many of which are in the process of recovery from war and from the cruel Nazi campaign of extermination. It has been possible to secure for this volume reports from competent observers in many more countries than ever before. In addition to the on-the-spot reports from Great Britain, Canada, South Africa and Palestine, published in volume 48 and previous issues, articles have this year been secured from the following countries and areas: Sweden, Belgium, The Netherlands, France, Switzerland, Italy, North Africa, the Middle East, the Far East, Australia and the Jewish Displaced Persons in Germany and Austria. The articles on the countries of Latin America, Germany, Austria, and Eastern and Southern Europe were prepared by American authorities, as it was not possible to secure first-hand reports from those areas.

The present volume again gives special coverage to the problem of Palestine. In addition to the usual article dealing specifically with the Palestine Jewish community, we present another, summarizing the international political aspects of the Palestine problem. This article includes a summary of the hearings before the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine as well as of the conclusions of the committee, which were made public on September 1, just as this volume was going to press. The local events affecting Palestine are discussed in the articles on the various countries. The International section of the Review includes a number of other special summaries, particularly one on the Jewish DP's and another on the possible areas of Jewish immigration.

In a Review of the Year consisting of some 37 separate articles, each devoted to one topic or one country, it is extremely difficult to obtain an integrated view of the Jewish scene the world over. The editors have therefore invited Dr. Salo W. Baron, Professor of Jewish History at Columbia University, to contribute an introduction to the Review which would give readers a summary in brief compass of the year's developments in Jewish life.

The Supplements to the Review of the Year were again prepared by Mrs. Rose G. Stein, who compiled the lists of special events; and Miss Iva Cohen, who compiled the annual American Jewish Bibliography.

In the present volume the reference features have been somewhat expanded. The number of directories and lists have this year been increased to four compared to the single directory in volume 48. These consist of directories of Jewish national organizations, local federations, welfare funds and community councils, Jewish periodicals, and a list of Jews in American public service, past and present. For the first time, the directories of national organizations and periodicals include information on Latin American countries, completing the coverage of the western hemisphere in these particulars. The calendars, prepared by Dr. Julius H. Greenstone, are this year placed in the back of the volume with the other reference features. The statistical section includes up-to-date estimates of the European Jewish population, prepared by the Joint Distribution Committee, and revised figures on the Palestine Jewish community, based on Jewish Agency and Palestine Government sources. Unfortunately, up-to-date population data on the United States do not exist but the editors have included, for historical purposes only, several tables of estimates of the Jewish population compiled in 1937 by the Jewish Statistical Bureau.

The editors desire to record their grateful appreciation of the cooperation of all those who contributed to this volume, many of whom interrupted already crowded professional schedules, on short notice, to do so. We are especially glad to welcome the new contributors from overseas and to express the hope that their work for this issue will be the beginning of a long and mutually agreeable association.

The editors gratefully acknowledge valued assistance of Maurice Basseches and Maurice Spector. The former edited the special articles and directories and suggested changes in the typography and layout which it is believed have improved the appearance of the present volume over its predecessors. Mr. Spector edited the sections of the Review of the Year and performed other useful and necessary editorial services.

Thanks are due also to the following persons who gave research assistance or editorial service and advice: Maurice J. Goldbloom, Rabbi Arthur J. S. Rosenbaum, Diana Bernstein, George J. Hexter and Harry J. Alderman

The editors wish again to express to Mr. Maurice Jacobs, executive

vice-president of the Jewish Publication Society, their grateful appreciation of his wholehearted cooperation, especially in connection with typographical improvements, and for his helpful suggestions and advice.

As will be seen from the title page, Mr. Morris Fine has been deservedly promoted to the position of a co-editor of the YEAR BOOK. Mr. Fine's association with the publication began in connection with volume 40; he was assistant editor of volumes 44 and 45, was absent on war service during the preparation of volumes 46 and 47, and served as associate editor of volume 48. The writer heartily welcomes Mr. Fine as a co-worker and expresses the hope that his association with this publication will be a long and satisfying one.

HARRY SCHNEIDERMAN

August 31, 1947

New York, N. Y.

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