

DICKENS DICTIONARY OF LONDON 1888

Article on "Jews"

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those who give a satisfactory account of their conduct how to find employment. To do other beneficent works according to circumstances and means.

ITALIAN COURIERS' SOCIETY, 38, Golden-sq, W.C.

ITALIAN RESTAURANTS (CHEAP). The Café de la Paix (G. Pirovano's), 203, Oxford-st, and the Hotel d'Italie and Restaurant, 52, Old Compton-st, Soho, have been recommended to the EDITOR as good and cheap.

PREVITAL'S HOTEL, 14 to 18, Arundell-st, Coventry-st.

PROVISION DEALER: B. Perelli Rocco, 8, Greek-st, Soho.

SCUOLA SERALE E DOMINICALE GRATUITA PER GL' ITALIANI IN LONDRA, Little Saffron Hill, Hatton-gdn.

SOLFERINO HOTEL, 7 and 8, Rupert-st, Haymarket.

Japan.—MINISTRY, 9, Cavendish-sq, W. NEAREST *Ky. Stn.*, Portland-road (Met.); *Omnibus Rtes.*, Oxford-st and Regent-st; *Cab Rank*, Regent-st; CONSULATE, 84, Bishopsgate-st-within, E.C. NEAREST *Ky. Stn.*, *Omnibus Rte.*, and *Cab Rank*, Bishopsgate-st.

Jews.—The tangible benefits which flow from civil and religious liberty may be seen in the improved social and political status of the Jews of London, since the abolition of the Test Acts and the passing of the Jewish Emancipation Bill. Until within a comparatively recent period the Jews were deprived of the privileges of the universities; and as that of the capital was the first to break down the barrier of caste, the Jews affect the University of London more than any other seat of learning in the United Kingdom. A large number of Jewish youths pass through the City of London School, whence they have carried off many of the most important prizes, scholarships, &c. The community have their own colleges for the study of the Hebrew language and Rabbinical law in St. James's-place, Aldgate, and at Tavistock House, Tavistock-sq. Within the memory of living man the Jews of the metropolis were scarcely ever to be found resident outside their own quarter, at the east end of the City, embracing Bevis Marks, Aldgate, Houndsditch, the Minories, Haydon-sq (thirty years ago a garden surrounded with

substantial houses, now a busy railway centre), Goodman's-fields, Whitechapel, Petticoat-lane (since called Middlesex-st, but dear to the heart of Israel as "the lane"), part of Spitalfields, &c. A large number of rich Jewish families have migrated from the "four streets" (rows of handsomely appointed residences, which encompass Goodman's-fields, formerly a green space used as a military exercising ground, but since built over), and taken up their quarters in Bayswater, Bloomsbury, and Maida-vale, Sopotifulare Jewish households in the west district, that certain streets and terraces where they have formed colonies are playfully called the "New Jerusalem." Social persecution kept the chosen people together as in a sort of Ghetto; but the large spirit of toleration has scattered them broadcast over the City. Rag Fair, as it is called, the greatest old clothes market of the metropolis, is held in an open space close to Houndsditch. Sunday morning is its busiest time. There are also Sunday morning bazaars, for the sale of second-hand jewellery and plate, held in public rooms of certain well-known Jewish coffee-houses of the district, where valuable and portable property readily changes hands. Houndsditch is the head-quarters of the fancy warehousemen, mostly Jews, who supply the hawkers and small shopkeepers of London with combs, razors, sponges, and mock jewellery for the ornamentation of the ambitious poor and others. An immense trade in new and second-hand clothing, and in new boots, shoes, furs, caps, &c., for exportation to the colonies, is carried on in this quarter. The London artisan often purchases the tools of his trade in Petticoat-lane on Sunday mornings; where also may be bought the highly spiced confectionery in which the children of Israel delight—the brown and sweet "butter cake," the flaccid "bola," the "stuffed monkey," and a special pudding made of eggs and ground almonds. The poorer Jews of London eat Spanish olives and Dutch cucumbers pickled in salt and water, as food rather than as a relish. They love herrings steeped in brine, German sausage, the dried flesh of beef and mutton, smoked salmon, and, indeed, fish of all sorts, stewed with lentils and

eggs, or fried in oil. Every Jewish luxury may be obtained in perfection in Petticoat-lane, besides "cosher" meat, and matsot or unleavened cakes, used at the Feast of the Passover, which falls about Eastertide. The Jews slaughter their beasts by cutting the animal's throat; the slaughterers being officials of the community, who affix seals to every portion of the carcass. The rabbis are also most particular in supervising the manufacture of the unleavened bread for the Passover. Raw and fried fish are staple commodities of "the lane," and several fried-fishmongers have been known to amass large fortunes. "Cosher" rum and shrub, and liqueurs, such as cloves, aniseed, noyau, &c., of which the Jews are exceedingly fond, may be obtained in this quarter. Drunkenness, however, is an offence all but unknown. The Jews of London are among the best fathers, sons, and husbands in the metropolis. They are a most affectionate, home-staying, sober people; but their wealth has been much overrated. Since the persecution of the Jews of Russia in 1831, large numbers of their co-religionists, not over-burdened with worldly possessions, have settled in this country. Their poverty, however, is seldom obtrusive because of their many noble charities, the personal generosity of the great families among them, and their own natural thrift. There are shops for the sale of Hebrew books, and articles used in the rites of the synagogue, in Bevis Marks and in the streets abutting on Whitechapel and Commercial-road. The Jews of London support two newspapers, *The Jewish Chronicle* and *The Jewish World*, and they have several burial grounds devoted exclusively to their own use. They have no need of funeral reform, their religion enjoining the greatest simplicity in burying the dead; the use of feathers and bands is never permitted, and the coffin is always of plain unpainted and undraped wood. Thus, the Jews of London, even when ostentatious in life, practise humility in death.

HISTORY AND STATISTICS.—The question when the Jews first settled in England has not yet been satisfactorily answered. But it is beyond question that, soon after the Conquest, William I. invited large numbers of them to

come over from Normandy. It is said that he appointed for their residence that part of the City termed the Old Jewry, and that their first synagogue was erected in the N.W. corner of the street. Their burial-ground, called "the Jews' Garden," was in St. Giles's, Cripplegate, on the spot now occupied by Jewin-st. After suffering great persecution, the Jews, numbering about 16,000, were banished from England by Edward I. in the year 1290, and for a period of 365 years but few Jews resided in this country. When Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector, he was induced by Manasseh ben Israel, a rabbi of Amsterdam, to permit the Jews to return. In February, 1657, a piece of land was granted them for a burial-ground, and in the same year a synagogue was erected in King-st, Duke's-pl, by Jews who had originally come from Spain and Portugal. They were, at that time, treated by the law as aliens; but every restriction has gradually been removed, and they are now placed on a footing of perfect equality with their fellow-citizens. The number of Jews resident in the metropolis is probably not less than 50,000.

RELIGIOUS ORGANISATION.

1. The great majority of English Jews are Ashkenazim, whose ancestors came over from Germany (Ashkenaz), Holland, and Poland. They are under the spiritual supervision of the Chief Rabbi, Rev. Dr. Nathan Marcus Adler (formerly Chief Rabbi of Hanover), who was installed in his office in 1845. His health having begun to fail, he asked, in 1879, for a suffragan to aid him in the discharge of his duties. His son, the Rev. Dr. Hermann Adler, Chief Minister of the Bayswater Synagogue, was accordingly appointed his delegate.

The principal synagogues belonging to the Ashkenazim were incorporated into the United Synagogue by Act of Parliament, dated 14th July, 1870, 33 and 34 Vict. c. 116. The president of the United Synagogue is Lord Rothschild, and the secretary Dr. A. Asher. The synagogues at present comprised in the Union are: The Great Synagogue, St. James's-pl, Aldgate, E.; Hambro', Church-row, Fen-

church-st, E.C.; New, Great St. Helen's, E.C.; Bayswater, Chichester-pl, Harrow-rd, W.; Central, Great Portland-st, W.; Borough, Fowler-st, Walworth-rd, S.E.; North London, John-st, West, Thornhill-road, Barnsbury, N.; East London, Rectory-sq, Stepney-gn, E.; St. John's Wood, Abbey-rd, St. John's Wood, N.W.; New West End, St. Peter'sburg-pl, Bayswater, W., and the Dalston Synagogue, Poet's-road, Canonbury, N. The following synagogues, though under the spiritual supervision of the Chief Rabbi, are not constituents of the United Synagogue: Western Synagogue, St. Alban's-pl, S.W.; Maiden Lane, Maiden-lane, Covent-gdn, W.C.; Besides the above, there are over fifty minor synagogues, which have recently been united. The president and vice-president of this federation of *Chevras* (as they are termed), are Lord Rothschild and S. Montagu, Esq., M.P., respectively.

2. The Sephardim Community includes those Jews whose ancestors originally came from Spain and Portugal. The Sephardim differ from the Ashkenazim in the pronunciation of Hebrew and in some points of liturgy. Their leading member was Sir Moses Montefiore, Bart., who died 28th July, 1885, in his 101st year. Their ecclesiastical chief is the Rev. Dr. Moses Gaster, who was appointed in 1887. Their place of worship is in Bevis Marks, with a branch synagogue in Upper Bryanston-st, W. In addition to these places of worship, there is the West London Synagogue of British Jews, in Upper Berkeley-st, W., the members of which differ from the before-mentioned congregations in some matters of ritual. Their Chief Minister is the Rev. Prof. Marks.

These synagogues furnish sitting accommodation for about 15,000 adults.

The Jewish Cemeteries in London are: Willesden-lane, Willesden; Forest-gate, West Ham; Mile End-rd, E.; Kingsbury-rd, Ball's-pond; Bancroft-rd, Mile End; and Jeremy's-green-lane, Edmonton.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—The following is a list of the more important Jewish educa-

tional institutions in the metropolis:—*The Beth Hamidrash College*, St. James's-pl, Aldgate, at which classes are held three times a week for the exposition of biblical and post-biblical works in Hebrew; lecturer and librarian, the Rev. Dayan Spiers. *Jews' College*, Tavistock-ho, Tavistock-sq, for the training of Jewish ministers; principal, Dr. Friedländer. *Jews' Free School*, Bell-lane, Spitalfields; the largest elementary school in England, the average daily attendance being 3,150 children. The Government grant received by the school in 1885 was £2,988. Head master, Mr. M. Angel. *Jews' Infant Schools*, Commercial-st, E., and Tenter-st, Goodman's-fields, E. *Jews' Hospital and Orphan Asylum*, Lower Norwood, "for the support of the aged, and the maintenance, education, and employment of youth;" 250 inmates. *Jews' Deaf and Dumb Home*, Walmer-rd, Notting-hill. *Stepney Jewish Schools*, Stepney-gn, E. *Westminster Jews' Free School*, Hanway-pl, Oxford-st. *Borough Jewish Schools*, Heygate-st, Walworth. *Bayswater Jewish Schools*, St. James's-ter, Harrow-rd, W. *High Class School for Girls*, Cheneis-st, Tottenham-ct-rd. The following schools are attached to the Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Synagogue: *College*, Heneage-la; 1885, in his 101st year. Their ecclesiastical chief is the Rev. Dr. Moses Gaster, who was appointed in 1887. Their place of worship is in Bevis Marks, with a branch synagogue in Upper Bryanston-st, W. In addition to these places of worship, there is the West London Synagogue of British Jews, in Upper Berkeley-st, W., the members of which differ from the before-mentioned congregations in some matters of ritual. Their Chief Minister is the Rev. Prof. Marks.

Gates of Hope Incorporated School, Heneage-la; *National Infant and Villareal Girls' School*; *Spanish and Portuguese Jews' Orphan Inst.* In addition to these schools there are the following institutions: *Jews' College Literary Society*. This society has been organised with the object of delivering lectures and reading papers on subjects connected with the Hebrew literature and Jewish history. *The Association for the Diffusion of Religious Knowledge*. Under the auspices of this association, Sabbath schools are held every Saturday. The association has also formed classes for instruction in Hebrew and the Jewish religion in connection with several Board schools. *Jewish Working Men's Club*, 45, Great Alie-st, E.; *Working Ladies' Institute*, Hutchison-st, Aldgate; *Girls' Club*. There are libraries containing the standard works of Hebrew literature at the Beth Hamidrash, Jews' College, Jews' Free School, and the New West End Synagogue.

CHARITIES AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS.—The more important of these associations are as follows : *The London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews*, consisting of representatives of the metropolitan and provincial congregations of Jews. It is the purpose of this board to "watch over the interests of the Jews in this empire, and deliberate on what may conduce to their welfare and improve their general condition. The board also use their influence and exertions in favour of Jewish communities or individuals in foreign countries in cases of oppression, wrong, or misfortune which may come under their notice." President, Arthur Cohen, Esq., Q.C., *The Anglo-Jewish Association*, "for the promotion of the moral and social advancement of the Jews throughout the world, and for the removal of the disabilities under which they are still labouring in many countries." President, Sir Julian Goldsmid, M.P. *The Board of Guardians*, for relief of the Jewish poor, Devonshire-sq, Bishopsgate, E. President, Benjamin L. Cohen, Esq. *Bread, Meat, and Coal Charity*; the expenditure £1,700 per annum. President, J. De Castro, Esq., *Institute for the Relief of the Indigent Blind*. President, Alderman Sir B. S. Phillips. *Jewish Ladies' Benevolent Loan Society*. President, Lady de Rothschild. *Jewish Convalescent Home*, Portland-rd, S. Norwood; founded in memory of Judith, Lady Montefiore; President, Mrs. Adler. *Convalescent Home for Infants*, Lower Tooting. *Jewish Home for the Aged and Disabled*, Stepney-gn, E. *Hand-in-Hand Asylum*, for reduced Jewish tradesmen. *Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter*, Leman-st, E., and *Jewish Ladies' Association for Preventive and Rescue Work*. President, Lady Rothschild. Various almshouses to accommodate about 150 inmates. The Spanish and Portuguese "*Beth Holim*" Hospital, Mile-end-rd, E. Three of the great London hospitals have specially-endowed wards set apart for Jewish patients, viz., the London, Metropolitan Free, and Evelina Hospitals. The latter was founded by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild in memory of his wife, whose name it bears. Besides the above, there are upwards of a hundred minor charitable and

friendly societies, chiefly in the east of London, in connection with the Jewish community.

Judge Advocate-General's Office.—This department is charged with the administration of military law. The office is at 35, Great George-st, S.W., and the hours are from 10 to 4. NEAREST Ry. Stn., Westminster; Omnibus Rtes., Whitehall and Victoria-st; Cab Rank, Palace-yd.

Junior Army and Navy Club, 10, St. James's-st, S.W.—Members must be commissioned officers in the Regular Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, and Royal Indian Forces, and those who may have retired from the same. The admission of candidates is now vested in the committee. Number of members, 1,500. Entrance fee, £21; subscription, £8 8s.

Junior Athenæum Club, 116, Piccadilly, W.—Members of both Houses of Parliament, members of the universities, fellows of the learned and scientific societies, and gentlemen, are eligible for election. The committee elect. Number of ordinary members, 1,000. Subscription, £10 10s.

Junior Carlton, 30, Pall Mall, is a political club in strict connection with the Conservative party, and designed to promote its objects. Gentlemen of position who acknowledge the recognised leaders of the Conservative party are alone eligible as candidates. Entrance fee (including subscription to library), £38 17s.; subscription, £10 10s.

Junior Constitutional Club, 14, Regent-st, W.—Established in 1887 as a political club for gentlemen professing Conservative principles. No entrance fee at present. Annual subscription: town members, £3 3s.; country members, £1 1s.

Junior Garrick Club, 1A, Adelphi-terrace.—Proprietary. "All members of the dramatic profession, or any branch of the dramatic art, as actors, vocalists, dramatic authors, managers of theatres, acting managers, composers, instrumental performers, and scenic artists, practically pursuing or having practically followed as their vocation any of the above branches of dramatic profession shall always be eligible for admission as members of the club." The committee elect. No en-