

NUMBER 2

# "THE BROOK"

THE MAGAZINE OF  
THE HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON  
SYNAGOGUE.

INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORT



תש"ח

PASSOVER 5708

APRIL 1948



It is the duty of everyone in each generation, to look upon himself as if he went forth from Egypt.

THE PASSOVER HAGADAH.

**HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON  
SYNAGOGUE,**

**71, BROOK GREEN, W.6.**

**Ministers:** Rev. S. VENITT, B.A.  
Rev. B. PALETZ.

**Secretary:** Mr. M. SHARPE.

**Wardens:** Mr. L. L. LOEWE and Mr. A. SHEINFELD.

**Financial Representative:** Mr. N. PAROS.

**Board of Management:**

Mr. F. J. BENZIMRA.      Mr. SEBAG SHAW.  
Dr. L. FREEMAN.        Mr. H. CAPLAN.  
Mr. D. SHOCKET.        Mr. N. PAROS.  
Mr. B. BERNARDI        Mr. P. WENDER.

**Representatives at the Council of the United Synagogue:**

Mr. F. J. BENZIMRA      Dr. F. HODES.  
Dr. A. M. FILER.        Dr. G. H. DYMOND.  
Mr. A. COLEMAN.        Mr. I. GASSMAN.  
Mr. S. GROSE.

**Representatives at the Board of Deputies:**

Mr. F. J. BENZIMRA.      Mr. SAUL HARRIS.

**Religion Classes Committee:**

**Chairman:** Dr. L. FREEMAN. **Supt.:** Rev. S. VENITT, B.A.  
Mr. S. SAMSON.            Mr. L. L. LOEWE.  
Mr. A. SHEINFELD.        Mr. N. PAROS.      Mrs. L. FOX.  
Rev. B. PALETZ.            Dr. A. M. FILER.

**Combined Charities Fund Committee:**

**Chairman:** Mr. S. GROSE.  
**Vice-Chairman:** Mr. F. J. BENZIMRA.  
**Treasurer:** Mr. A. COLEMAN.  
**Hon. Secretary:** Mr. P. WENDER.  
Mr. H. BAYES.      Mr. J. MITCHELL.      Mr. J. GASSMAN.

**Youth Committee:**

Mr. S. SAMSON.            Mr. G. BELCHER.  
Mr. D. SHOCKET.        Mr. H. H. TOPPER.  
Mr. H. MIRWITCH.        Mrs. L. L. LOEWE.  
Mr. S. RICHMOND.

**Editorial Board:**

Rev. S. VENITT, B.A.      Dr. L. FREEMAN.  
Rev. B. PALETZ.            Mr. A. SHEINFELD.  
Mr. L. L. LOEWE.            Mr. I. GASSMAN.  
Mr. SEBAG SHAW.            Mr. M. SHARPE.

**HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE**

The Honorary Officers and Board of Management beg to submit to the members the Annual Report for the past year.

The figures for the three years are as appended:—

1947 Receipts	...	...	...	...	£4,520	5	11
1946	..	...	...	...	£3,951	9	5
1945	..	...	...	...	£2,707	11	4

The Synagogue has had a successful year. Membership has increased to 520 largely as a result of a series of pastoral visits which the Rev. S. Venitt and the Rev. B. Paletz had the zeal to make, while Mr. M. Sharpe has taken care to see that income has increased in proportion. Men, women and money are three of the essentials if the work of the Synagogue is to go forward, so we must be grateful to those who have striven to secure them.

Rev. Venitt has also founded another section of the Western Area Jewish Centre in the shape of a club for juniors of the age-group 13 to 17. It is to be hoped that this will provide a "nursery" which the Synagogue can look to for its future workers and worshippers. Further indications of Rev. Venitt's success with the young is to be found in the roll of children attending the Hebrew and Religion Classes, which he has been able to step up to 70. The good quality of the teaching is attested by the favourable report made by the visiting inspector from the L.B.J.E. In this work, Rev. Venitt has had the whole-hearted and energetic support of Dr. L. Freeman, the Chairman of the Classes Committee.

Everybody, and particularly the Honorary Officers, will lament the death of Mr. R. Winston, who was Financial Representative when the last report was issued. He was indeed a most lovable person, who combined in a singular degree the qualities of amiability and efficiency. Beneath his quiet and self-effacing manner there lay a devotion to communal duty which without doubt over-taxed his strength, but he never spared himself. The congregation offers its deepest sympathy to Mrs. Winston and the bereaved family.

A memorable and edifying event in the history of the Synagogue was the gathering which met on 27th April, 1947, to mark the 27th year of the Rev. B. Paletz's ministry. It was the desire of the congregation to show their esteem and gratitude by presenting him with a cheque, but the Rev. Paletz wished that the sum of money collected by the congregation amounting to over £300 should go, not to him, but to endow a bed at the Norwood Jewish Orphanage. This remarkable act of self-denial cannot but serve as an inspiring example. The gathering was attended by over 250 people, including Dayan H. M. Lazarus, Deputy for the Chief Rabbi. The Rev. Paletz was presented with an illuminated address expressive of the sentiments of the congregation, and he in turn presented the Synagogue with a Kiddush Cup.

The congregation will be glad to learn that the Rev. Paletz, who was due for retirement, has complied with the wish of the congregation and has consented to serve for another year.

During the winter months worshippers had to rely for warmth on the spiritual fire within. This was due to the heating system having become worn out. The pertinacity of Mr. P. Wender at length succeeded in moving the Building Committee of the United Synagogue to do the necessary repairs, upon which a sum of over £400 was voted, and the congregation may look forward to a tolerably warmed building next autumn.

There have been a number of benefactors to whom the congregation would like to express their thanks. On Shevuoth Mr. F. J. Hawkings provided floral decorations; at Simchas Torah, Messrs. Coleman and Benzimra were respectively Chasan Torah and Chasan Berishith, and entertained the congregation most generously, thereby adding another to their long list of generousities; on the High Holydays, Mr. G. Belcher acted as Segan and Mr. S. Topper as Beadle at the overflow service in the Communal Hall, stray visitors, such as Wardens, to these services are always impressed by the atmosphere of undemonstrative piety, which must be partly due to the example of these gentlemen and to the manner in which Mr. W. E. Levy and Mr. I. Pepper read the service.

Mr. H. Schneiderman provided refreshments to the Children's Chanucah treat, which was much appreciated, while the catering for Chanucah and Purim was done by the Ladies' Guild, who are always to be seen busily helping wherever such help is required.

Much needed gifts of Siddurim were received from the Ladies' Guild, Mr. and Mrs. H. Caplan, Messrs. L. Greenbaum, D. Tesler, S. Kadish, A. Stanley and H. Mandelson.

Mr. H. Caplan has very kindly had the ornaments of the Scroll's polished and burnished. This is a work which will give everybody pleasure, and we hope Mr. Caplan will see the gratitude of the congregation reflected in these shining surfaces.

To all these ladies and gentlemen, the Honorary Officers, on behalf of the congregation offer their hearty thanks.

#### YAHREZITS

The Board desire to draw attention to the advantage of informing the Secretary of the dates with the Hebrew names of the deceased, in order that a notification may be sent to members in due course. Such notifications should be replied to at least two days before the day of the Yahrzeit, so as to ensure Minyan, and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Synagogue. The Honorary Officers and Board of Management desire to express their deep appreciation to those Members who have volunteered to take part in services to ensure a Minyan.

#### COMMUNAL HALL

The Communal Hall is available for engagements. For terms, please apply to the Secretary at the Synagogue.

#### Number of Meetings held — 7.

	No. of Attendances		No. of Attendances
Mr. L. L. Loewe ...	6	Mr. S. Grose ...	7
Mr. A. Sheinfeld ...	6	Mr. B. Bernardi ...	4
Mr. N. Paros ...	7	Mr. H. Caplan ...	5
Mr. F. J. Benzimra ...	4	Dr. L. Freeman ...	7
Mr. A. Coleman ...	5	Mr. D. Shocket ...	6
Dr. A. M. Filer ...	4	Mr. C. A. Horwitz ...	1
Dr. G. H. Dymond ...	4	Mr. S. Shaw ...	2
Dr. F. Hodes ...	2	Mr. P. Wender ...	5
Mr. I. Gassman ...	6		

A cheerful heart is as a good medicine.

PROVERBS xvii, 22.

#### HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE HEBREW & RELIGION CLASSES

The religious nurturing of our youngsters is so vital a problem that the Committee of the Hammersmith Synagogue Religion Classes now under the Chairmanship of Dr. L. Freeman, has held meetings at frequent intervals during the last year in order to focus its attention on and to discuss every possible angle of the subject whereby our classes may be improved in their cultural standards and numerical strength. Closer co-operation with the Ladies' Guild has been effected by the co-opting on the Committee of Mrs. L. Fox to represent them.

Under the supervision of the Rev. Venitt as Headmaster, assisted by an enthusiastic staff in Mrs. Venitt, Miss Belcher and Mr. Lipschitz, the groups in the Classes have expanded, the total roll now mustering over 70 children.

The Religion Classes function at the Communal Hall at the following times:—

Sunday:	10.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Tuesday:	5.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.
Thursday:	5.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.

Despite the difficulties of geographical distribution, there is a good attendance on Sundays. With the advent of summery conditions, a marked improvement is anticipated during the week. Tea is provided (through the unfailing kindness and care of the Ladies' Guild) on these weekday sessions. The whole problem of mid-week attendance is engaging the earnest attention of the Committee.

The Classes were honoured by the visit on the 15th February, 1948, of Dr. E. Kurzwel, who came as inspector of the London Board of Religious Education. The children rose to the occasion and much impressed our distinguished visitor by their insight into and knowledge of the intricacies of the "Siddur," "Chumash," Hebrew Reading and Grammar, Jewish Calendar and Religious Observances.

The homely atmosphere of the Classes, the enthusiasm of the staff, and the eagerness of the children were commented on by Dr. Kurzwel, who has sent a most encouraging and congratulatory report.

An outstandingly successful function at Chanucah took place on Sunday, 7th December, 1947. The traditional service in the Synagogue (conducted by the Rev. Paletz) was followed by the children's contribution in the Communal Hall, where there was a crowded gathering of proud parents and other members of the congregation. They witnessed the juvenile kindling of the Chanucah Lights (performed by Master Yudkin), followed by a series of traditional Chanucah sketches (directed by the Rev. Venitt and Miss Belcher), which brought back many nostalgic memories of happier times. A fine response was made to the appeal made by the Rev. Venitt for generous donors of school desks to enhance the existing Classes' equipment; as a result, 36 desks have now been added to our equipment. The service was followed by a "Kiddush" in the Communal Hall.

The Annual Prize Distribution took place at the Communal Hall on Sunday, 28th March, 1948, under the Chairmanship of Mr. A. Sheinfeld. There was an enthusiastic gathering of young and old to watch the proud recipients of prizes, distributed by Mrs. Freeman. Dr. L. Freeman gave an address which outlined the aims of the Religion Classes, and asked for communal encouragement and support. An intriguing Purim play, "Casting of Lots," followed, competently played by a juvenile cast culled from our Classes (under the splendid direction of Miss Belcher).

Tea for all and a Fancy Dress competition (with much originality of design and thought) concluded the proceedings.

#### FOR THE CHILDREN

My dear Boys and Girls,

Six months have gone by since our last chat, but now, with another issue of the Magazine, we can renew our acquaintance. The last time I wrote was on the Eve of our New Year. Now we are about to celebrate Pesach, a festival which stands out as a landmark in our history. You know, an alternative name for it is "The Season of Our Freedom," because it was then that our ancestors went out of Egypt as Freemen, after many years of slavery. Now this aspect of the festival is one that may cause us to stop and think. In these days when we read almost daily of the sufferings of our fellow-Jews in other countries, we may wonder whether such freedom still exists. Many Jewish people hold the view that not until we have our own country and are recognised by the nations of the world as a real nation, can we consider ourselves truly free. In the light of this, you can see why the struggle over Palestine has become so important. What do you think and feel about this? In days gone by, when I was a boy, Pesach was a festival which we looked forward to with great excitement. First of all, there were all the preparations in the home to ensure that not a trace of Chametz or Leaven would be found, and then, best of all, there was the eagerly awaited Seder. The atmosphere at the Seder Table, when all the best cutlery and crockery and linen were used, can never be forgotten, and what of the lovely foods, the special dishes which mother spends hours in preparing. And then the Hagadah, with its interesting stories and rousing songs. Truly no other night in the year can compare to the Seder Night. I wonder how you celebrate the Seder. I think that would make a good subject for a competition. A prize will be given for the best description of a Seder—telling of the preparations, everything that is on the table, something about the service and its meaning, and, of course, all about the special foods. I hope there will be lots of entrants and perhaps I will be able to persuade the editor to publish the best effort in the next issue of this Magazine. I wish you all a very happy Yomtov, and hope to hear from many of you very soon.

UNCLE.

#### B'NEI AKIVAH

In October of last year, with the Rev. and Mrs. Venitt's kind help, an Oneg Shabbat was held for the children of the Community. From this has developed the B'nei Akivah Group, holding a weekly Oneg Shabbat and meeting at least one Sunday per month in addition. There are now sixteen boys and girls between the ages of 9 and 13 who have passed their entrance test. All further tests are graded so that a thorough knowledge of basic Jewish religion, history and Palestino-graphy, together with scouting ability, is obtained. During the summer months we hope to go on rambles with other groups, have sports events, etc.

The principle aim of the Oneg Shabbat is to teach the Chaverim by observation and practical participation the meaning and joy of a real Shabbat. A Sedrah report and news report, together with Hebrew songs, stories and grace over the Seudah Shlishit, are taken over by the Chaverim each week. So pleased are the H.Q. with the progress of the group that we are to present a Purim play at the B'nei Akivah function on the 30th March at Woburn House.

May I take this opportunity of appealing to all parents living in this district to send their children every Shabbat at 3.30 p.m.? Then may the group progress Mehayil el Hayil.

S. BELCHER (Madrichah).

#### HAMMERSMITH SYNAGOGUE—LADIES' GUILD

During the past year, the Ladies' Guild has made much progress. An outstanding social and financial success was the dance in aid of the Central British Fund. Many parcels of clothing have been forwarded to the Central British Fund for distribution on the Continent.

Our ladies have knitted an assortment of baby-clothes for the children born in the camps; some of these knitted clothes were sent to the babies from the Exodus ships. We sew for the London Jewish Hospital, and have repaired mantles and curtains for the Synagogue.

Our Flag Day for Queen Charlotte's was a record, and the highest collection from any group in the district.

Appeals answered by us include Youth Aliyah, Jewish Blind Society, Home for Incurables, Home of Rest, U.J.R.A., Polish Jewry, Bachad and local relief to deserving cases.

The children of the Religion Classes were provided with a very fine tea on Chanukah and Purim.

We urgently require more workers. Any lady wishing to enrol please communicate with the Hon. Secretary, Mrs. H. Caplan, 61, Lowther Road, Barnes, S.W.13. (Tel.: RIV 5878).

#### HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON SYNAGOGUE COMBINED CHARITIES FUND

If we can be sure of anything at all in a changing and uncertain world, it is that there is a continuing and urgent need of charity. It is in order to deal efficiently with this obligation that the Combined Charities Fund was inaugurated over a year ago. It mainly benefits those institutions which may be termed "hardy annuals"—the type of institute exemplified in the appended list of organizations to which donations have already been sent. It is not meant to supplant appeals of very great immediate importance, but, we pray, of a less permanent nature, arising from the plight of our kinsmen in Central Europe and the efforts to rehabilitate them in Palestine; nor does it supplant the separate appeals made by a few old-established institutes which have chosen to remain outside the scope of this Fund, such as the Norwood Orphanage and the Jewish Board of Guardians. There is, nevertheless, no reason why support to all these should not be given by the Fund at the discretion of its Committee.

During the year of its existence, a total of just under £400 was donated by some 110 members. For the present year we confidently anticipate a generous response from every single member of the Synagogue. No one can stand aside from such vital communal endeavour with an easy conscience.

Kindly make your cheque payable to The Combined Charities Fund and address it to the Hon. Secretary, c/o The Synagogue.

SIDNEY GROSE (Chairman).

#### ALLOCATIONS

##### Sectarian:

- Bearsted Memorial Hospital.
- Home for Aged Jews.
- Jewish Blind Society.
- Soup Kitchen for Jewish Poor.
- Bikur Cholim Society.
- Palestine Child Rehabilitation Trust Fund.
- Home and Hospital for Jewish Incurables.
- London Jewish Hospital.
- Hammersmith & West Kensington Synagogue Ladies' Guild.
- United Jewish Relief Appeal.
- Tree of Life College.

Jews' College, London.  
 Free Children Kitchen—Tashbar.  
 Children and Youth Aleyah.  
 Jewish Bread, Meat and Coal Society.  
 British Aid Committee Vaad Hayeshivoth.  
 Jews' Temporary Shelter.  
 Bachad Fellowship.  
 Jewish Aged and Needy Pension Society.  
 Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children.

**Non-Sectarian:**

Mayor of Hammersmith's Fund for Distressed Cases.  
 Cancer Free Hospital.  
 West London Hospital.  
 Metropolitan Hospital.  
 Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund.  
 Marie Curie Hospital.  
 St. Dunstan's.  
 Dr. Barnado's Homes.

**SUBSCRIBERS**

H. Aaronson, Esq.	Z. Aarons, Esq.	A. Alberge, Esq.
H. Bayes, Esq.	H. Benkwich, Esq.	B. Bernardi, Esq.
J. Bogash, Esq.	L. Boxer, Esq.	J. Bankover, Esq.
A. Baron, Esq.	G. Bravo, Esq.	A. Berks, Esq.
L. Berks, Esq.	F. J. Benzimra, Esq.	B. J. Benzimra, Esq.
Miss F. Benzimra	Mrs. F. Benzimra	Mrs. G. Beverley
Mrs. L. Bobrofsky	D. Cohen, Esq.	H. Craps, Esq.
B. Citroen, Esq.	M. J. Citroen, Esq.	H. Caplan, Esq.
H. Cooper, Esq.	A. Coleman, Esq.	E. Cowan, Esq.
N. Cohen, Esq.	D. Cook, Esq.	I. Collins, Esq.
S. T. Caminer, Esq.	Mr. & Mrs. F. Cohen	H. Davies, Esq.
H. Dembina, Esq.	Dr. G. H. Dymond	I. Enfield, Esq.
J. Eckert, Esq.	J. Eisner, Esq.	Dr. L. Freeman
M. Fisher, Esq.	G. Feldman, Esq.	Dr. & Mrs. Filer
L. Fox, Esq.	S. Fireman, Esq.	Mrs. H. Franks
S. Grose, Esq.	I. Gassman, Esq.	S. Gold, Esq.
Mrs. Gut	F. J. Hawkings, Esq.	S. Harris, Esq.
S. Hyams, Esq.	Dr. L. Harris	Dr. F. Hodes, Esq.
Mrs. Hertz	H. Isaac, Esq.	S. Kaplan, Esq.
Dr. M. Klein	M. Kurland, Esq.	H. Kaufman, Esq.
D. Kershberg, Esq.	S. Klein, Esq.	Mrs. A. Kutner
L. L. Loewe, Esq.	S. H. Levy, Esq.	B. Lourie, Esq.
J. Levy, Esq.	Mrs. Leberman	J. A. Mitchell, Esq.
M. Mitchell, Esq.	L. Marcus, Esq.	J. Mirelson, Esq.
S. Moss, Esq.	Mrs. Moseley	Mrs. Mosbacher
H. Myers, Esq.	A. Nathan, Esq.	A. Nieberg, Esq.
O. Nitkewitch, Esq.	O. Press, Esq.	Rev. B. Paletz
A. Portarit, Esq.	H. Rose, Esq.	E. Rome, Esq.
S. Rome, Esq.	P. H. Rayman, Esq.	L. Rose, Esq.
Mrs. G. Rose	Mr. & Mrs. Flack	Mr. & Mrs. D. Shocket
H. Schneiderman, Esq.	S. Samuels, Esq.	S. Samson, Esq.
J. Shooman, Esq.	Dr. E. Sommer	Dr. L. Sommer
N. Sogan, Esq.	A. Sheinfeld, Esq.	G. Snoeck, Esq.
I. Silver, Esq.	M. C. Scott, Esq.	Mrs. M. Shocket
G. Topper, Esq.	L. Tenenbaum, Esq.	D. Tesler, Esq.
Mrs. Venis	R. Yakubovitch, Esq.	C. Yewdall, Esq.
P. Wender, Esq.	Mrs. R. Wender	R. Winston, Esq.
Dr. Woolfson	A. Wartman, Esq.	L. Winton, Esq.
Dr. H. Waters	H. Woolf, Esq.	Mrs. D. Warshawski
A. J. Woolf, Esq.	M. Whitby, Esq.	P. Whitby, Esq.
H. Wills, Esq.		

**METROPOLITAN AREA COMMITTEE OF THE  
 JEWISH DEFENCE COMMITTEE**

**Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush & Chelsea District Committee  
 (including Fulham, West Kensington & Victoria)**

The Defence Committee is now having to shoulder an enormous amount of work, and earnestly apply to all active young men and women in the above neighbourhood to help in this vital work, as unless we get the requisite number of people able and willing to cooperate, the few people who are shouldering the responsibilities at the moment will find they are undertaking a burden which is being more and more difficult owing to the lack of help from the rest of the Community. You will, no doubt, appreciate that this work must go on, and we trust you will show your appreciation of the grave matters at stake by coming forward wholeheartedly.

ALFRED COLEMAN (Chairman).

**RIVERPARK JEWISH YOUTH CLUB  
 ANNUAL REPORT**

In March of last year, Hammersmith Young Israel Society became The Riverpark Jewish Youth Club. It was hoped that a change in name would bring forth a change in heart and that the existing apathy would be brushed away. These expectations were fulfilled, and since then progress in almost every aspect of the Club's activities is reported.

As a result of a very enthusiastic publicity campaign, the membership of the Club was increased from about twenty-five active members to our present figure in the region of one hundred. This increased membership has given rise to many problems, the most serious at the moment being the limited time at our disposal. Our other main problem is Money. One very generous donation has been received from the Western Area Jewish Centre, and it served to provide us with much-needed equipment. However, we are still very short of the many amenities and comforts which turn an empty hall into a friendly and congenial club-room. We can but appeal to the senior members of the congregation for their active support in this matter.

We have come a long way this past year. In cricket, football, table-tennis, athletics and other such-like sports we have more than held our own with other youth clubs. Our literary functions, to which many well-known and distinguished persons have contributed, have been surprisingly well attended, and have been moreover of great value and enjoyment to all. It has been a point of great satisfaction to note that we have held our members without resorting to a series of dances, and this does prove without doubt that the youth of today is prepared to take a more serious outlook on life than they are usually given credit for. However, the two dances that we held—one in November and the other on New Year's Eve—were of great social value, and many creditable comments were passed on the high standard that was set.

It will be realised, therefore, that we are being successful in our object of making for the youth of this Community a Club of which they and their parents can be justifiably proud. The confidence in the

Let thy friend's honour be as dear to thee as thine own.

TALMUD.

past year's Committee has been shown by their almost unopposed re-election at the Annual General Meeting held in February, and we look forward to another year of progress with the continued co-operation of members, their parents and the Synagogue authorities.

HON. SECRETARY.

#### HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON MUTUAL BENEFIT BURIAL SOCIETY

Despite the increase of 15 per cent. on the 25 per cent. War charge (making 40 per cent.), the Hammersmith and West Kensington Mutual Benefit Burial Society is in such a strong financial position that it will NOT increase its subscriptions of £1 1s. 8d. per annum.

The benefits, which includes wife, sons up to the age of 21, and unmarried daughters, is as follows:—

Funeral Expenses ... ..	£24 3 0
Shiva Grant ... ..	£5 5 0
Tombstone Grant ... ..	£3 3 0

All members of the Synagogue under 50 years of age are eligible to join this Society, and it is hoped that full advantage of this scheme will be taken.

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Rev. B. Paletz, 18, College Court, Hammersmith, W.6.

#### WEST LONDON ZIONIST SOCIETY

The West London Zionist Society continues to meet at the Communal Hall by courtesy of the officers of the Synagogue. Lectures, Debates, Brains Trusts, Propaganda Meetings, and Living Newspaper Evenings have been held, and among those who have addressed the Society have been Ivan Greenberg, Dr. Dov Biegun, Rev. E. Einhorn, M.A., N. Goldenberg, M.Sc., S./Ldr. Saul Myer, B.A., LL.B., Dr. H. Capell, and Dr. Basil Bard.

It has been the task of the Society to keep its members informed on the tremendous and historical developments of the past year, and support is given to all Zionist activities.

The new Jewish State faces great responsibility for new large-scale immigration of D.P.s, and we in this country must demonstrate our solidarity with the Yishuv. New members of the West London Zionist Society will be very welcome. The Chairman is Mr. H. Bayes, and the Hon. Secretary is Mr. P. Ferst, 20, Greyhound Road, W.6 (Tel.: Fulham 3990).

#### HAMMERSMITH & DISTRICT WOMEN'S ZIONIST SOCIETY

We are pleased to report that the Society has made very steady progress during the past year.

Through the holding of card parties and "bring and buy" sales at members' homes and in the Communal Hall, participation in the Federation of Women Zionists' Annual Bazaar at the St. Pancras Town Hall, and the sale of theatre tickets for special productions, substantial material assistance has been rendered to women and children in Pal-

Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth.

PROVERBS xxiv, 17.

estine. We have been particularly concerned recently with the task of sending emergency funds to the Palestine W.I.Z.O., who, in addition to other branches of their vital work, were given the special responsibility of caring for babies and children up to kindergarten age who were evacuated from the danger zones, and their need for assistance was desperately urgent. It is gratifying to record that, as a result of our energetic Committee, under the Chairmanship of Mrs. G. H. Dymond, our Society has fully justified its existence in the district as a unit of Women Zionists, and our efforts in this labour of love for our sisters and their children in Eretz Israel has been most worthily spent.

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. D. Shocket, 74, Esmond Road, Bedford Park, W.4, will be pleased to receive enquiries from ladies who are interested in our work.

#### HAMMERSMITH & WEST KENSINGTON NORWOOD ORPHANS' AID SOCIETY

##### Hon. Officers:

President: Rev. B. Paletz

Vice-Presidents: Mr. A. Coleman and Rev. S. Venitt

Hon. Secretary: Miss D. Grose, 10, Watchfield, Sutton Court Road, Chiswick, W.4

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. Samson

In most London districts where there is a Synagogue, as well as in a few provincial towns, a Norwood Orphans' Aid Society exists. During the year 1947, these groups have raised several thousands of pounds by means of subscriptions, donations and functions.

Your Norwood Aid Society sent a cheque to the Orphanage for £60 during the year 1947. I would ask you to consider this amount in relation to the Synagogue's membership of about 500 people. I am sure you will agree with the Executive that we have not pulled our weight by giving adequately to this very worthy cause. To subscribe or donate to Norwood is not to give charity, but it should be regarded as a privilege by those who are secure in their own family circle to help others to whom the word "family" is but a name, and for whom the Orphanage stands "in loco parentis."

It is with the idea of raising more money that the Executive arranged a function on the 29th February last, when a Social and Card Evening was held at the Communal Hall. The evening was very successful, both socially and financially, as over £330 was raised. The Committee worked very hard indeed to arrange this function, and thanks must also be given to the Ladies' Guild, who provided the excellent refreshments, which in no small measure contributed to the success of the evening. The Committee also wish to record their heartfelt thanks to those people who generously provided the many valuable articles for the Auction, so ably carried out by Mr. Sharpe at the Card Evening. Special thanks are due to Mr. H. Jerrold Annenberg for his

Whether it be non-Jew or Jew, man or woman, free or bondman, it is according to their acts that the Spirit of God rests upon them.

TALMUD.

magnificent co-operation in approaching his various friends through the trade—his tenacity obtaining over 30 gifts.

Donations and subscriptions are very welcome. The Executive would also be glad of active help on the Committee, which is very small. If you can help in any way, please communicate with the Secretary.

DORIS GROSE (Honorary Secretary).

### WESTERN AREA JEWISH CENTRE

The many difficulties of organisation are now largely overcome, and we look forward with confidence to the holding of many happy and successful functions.

The Purim Dance, held recently, was an unqualified success, as all know who were fortunate enough to have attended.

However, the fullest support of the senior members of the Community is absolutely essential if we are to meet the urgent needs of the youth for sports gear and all those items of equipment so necessary to the maintenance of their respective programmes.

The W.A.J.C. can be fashioned into something of which the whole community may be proud, providing it receives the assistance such a project richly deserves.

### COVENANTS

As the result of a drive made over the past few months, the number of covenants signed has been increased from seventeen to seventy-three, which should yield in a full year some £350 additional income in the form of refunds from Inland Revenue. This is rather gratifying, as only about one-fifth of the congregation have so far been approached. The Honorary Officers wish to thank members for their co-operation, and hope that many more will agree to sign covenants, and thus help the synagogue at no cost to themselves.

Please contact the Secretary for details.

### A MEMORABLE ENCOUNTER

Have you ever, while on your travels or in the course of your daily round, been confronted by someone who, although crossing your path for a brief moment, immediately becomes for you the impersona-

---

One lesson, and only one, history may be said to repeat with distinctness, that the world is built somehow on moral foundations; that in the long run it is well with the good; in the long run it is ill with the wicked. But this is no science; it is no more than the old doctrine taught long ago by the Hebrew prophets

J. A. FROUDE (1889).

tion of a single type? The characteristics of a whole profession, race or religion seem suddenly to take shape and become embodied in one person. To experience such a phenomenon is, of course, a form of hallucination, for one is attributing to an individual the complex ideas formulated about a number of people over a period of time.

Thus it was that, after seeing it for the first time many years ago in The National Gallery, I used to think of Rembrandt's portrait of "A Jewish Rabbi" as symbolising the ascetic, contemplative and mystical qualities of many of our famous teachers and sages. But it was not until a few years ago that I encountered what was to me the complete epitome of the Jew—the Jew of all ages and of all countries.

The circumstances were unusual and undoubtedly accounted for the deep effect caused by that brief meeting. I had just been to visit in the Jewish quarter of the Mousky, the bazaar district of Cairo, the study in which Maimonides had lived and written, among other things, his "Guide to the Perplexed," some 750 years earlier. Over this historic building has been erected a modern synagogue, in the courtyard of which sat a large number of beggars. Their presence was clearly discouraged by the synagogue authorities, for within the building itself I had found an alms-box, over which was a notice asking visitors to put their donations there and to refrain from giving money to persons outside.

The sight of so much misery and poverty affected me deeply and, sad at heart, I was threading my way back through the narrow, dusty, noisy streets, when suddenly there appeared coming towards me a tall, majestic figure with head erect. It was evident that he was not a man of means, but his high forehead, long, sensitive features, flowing beard and, above all, the gentle look in his eyes personified for me at that moment strength, dignity, wisdom and consciousness of purpose in a world of suffering.

Perhaps it was fitting that this personage, about whom I knew nothing but who left such a remarkable impression upon me, was walking the streets of the Cairo ghetto, where Karaites, Samaritans and fugitives from Damascus, Constantinople, Salonika and Spain have sought refuge these many centuries past.

I. GORMAN.

---

The Passover affirms the great truth that liberty is the inalienable right of every human being. The Feast of Israel's freedom, its celebration is Israel's homage to the great principle of human freedom.

MORRIS JOSEPH (1903).

## WESTBROOK JEWISH YOUTH CLUB

This club was recently launched at an "At Home" arranged by Rev. and Mrs. Venitt in the Communal Hall, and has now a membership of over fifty. Youth of both sexes between the ages of 14 to 18 will be welcomed. The range of activities is wide and varied.

All enquiries and communications should be sent to the Secretary, "Westbrook," c/o Synagogue, 71, Brook Green, W.6.

DAVID FILER (Chairman).

## THE KETHUBAH IN ENGLISH LAW

People who are interested in Anglo-Jewish history might like to have a note on what is probably the first occasion on which the common law of England judicially recognised the Kethubah. In 1807 there was a lawsuit entitled *Horn v. Noel*; it was an action on a bill of exchange, and one Amelia Noel was being sued as the acceptor. Her defence was that she was a married woman and, as the law then stood (it was before the Married Women's Property Acts), not liable. Amelia Noel, however, was a Jewess (the name had been down-graded from Noah) and produced two witnesses who swore (to quote the words of the contemporary report) "that they were present in the Jewish Synagogue in Leadenhall Street in 1781 when the defendant was married by the High Priest to Henry Noah . . ." But it was held that this evidence was insufficient, and that what took place in the Synagogue was merely a ratification of some previous contract. The prudent Amelia thereupon produced her Kethubah and, to continue the words of the report, "the contract in the Hebrew tongue was accordingly put in and translated by an interpreter." This was held sufficient, and thus for the first time in English Law the Kethubah was held to be valid evidence of a Jewish marriage.

**Moral:** Ladies, take care of your Kethubah. (N.B.—There is a good picture of the Leadenhall Street Synagogue in Hyamson's book, "History of the Jews" in England).

It is possible that "Get" is mentioned in an earlier case.

In *Ganer v. Lady Lanesborough*, a case decided in 1790, one John King had to prove that he had been divorced. His former wife produced an "instrument under the seal of the Synagogue" at Leghorn to whereby the couple were said to be divorced. This document, however, was not admitted on the ground that judicial recognition could not, in the absence of further evidence, be accorded to the laws obtaining in Leghorn. It was, however, held that a Jewess might give parol evidence of her own divorce. But people are much more interesting than laws, and for my part I should like to know who this John King was, and why he had that disarming non-Jewish name, and yet was Jewish enough to marry a Jewish wife in one Synagogue and take the trouble to go all the way to Leghorn to get divorced in another. John King indeed! There is not a single Jew of the name King in the Jewish Encyclopædia.

L. L. L.

What doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

MICAH vi. 8.

Dear Reverend Sir,

Perhaps I am somewhat privileged by the fact that for an uninterrupted period of fifty-five years I have been a member of the Hammer-smith and West Kensington Synagogue.

From early boyhood until the present day I have watched with pride the growth of our Community from such small beginnings.

Needless to state, it would be invidious on my part were I to make comparison of the several paid officials and honorary officers during the Synagogue's long existence.

Nevertheless, it is most noticeable that the present officials, both paid and otherwise, have in the publication of "The Brook" at last found a way, through the written word, of bringing together into one complete whole, each individual congregant.

In particular the young men and women of our community to whom we look to for the future well-being of Jewry, have now at long last, an outlet through "The Brook" whereby religious and social thought can best be expressed.

I have no doubt many of our congregants think likewise, for it must be our earnest wish that the new Magazine will be successfully published at regular intervals for many years to come.

Yours sincerely,

HARRY AARONSON.

Whether a man accomplish great things or small, his reward is the same, if only his heart be directed to Heaven.

TALMUD.



CALL AT

**J. ROSE**

FOR ALL KINDS OF  
BRITISH, JAMAICA, INDIAN  
and other Imported CIGARS.

A LARGE SELECTION  
TO BE SEEN AT

265, HAMMERSMITH ROAD,  
W.6.

WITH ALL GOOD WISHES

**A. W. GODFREY**

39, WATCHFIELD, W.4.

WITH COMPLIMENTS

**I. GASSMAN**

8, CASTLENAU,  
BARNES, S.W.13.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

**H. Aaronson**

6, SEAFORTH LODGE,  
HIGH STREET, S.W.13.

Have You Seen

**"Chromene"?**

.....  
IT BRIGHTENS YOUR  
LIFE, YOUR CHROMIUM  
AND ALL PLATING.

.....  
Ask your stores for the  
2/6 size  
or write to :-

**Lytrex Products**

265, HAMMERSMITH ROAD,  
LONDON, W.6.

**GORDON**

(G. Feldman)

HIGH CLASS  
LADIES & GENTS TAILOR  
8/9, BARNES HIGH ST.,  
S.W.13.

Phone: PRO 2121

Customers own material made up.  
Repairs, Renovations, Alterations  
of every description undertaken.  
Fur Work a Speciality.  
MODERATE CHARGES.

With the Compliments of

**L. ROSE**

12a, Kensington Hall Gdns.,  
W.14.

CLISSOLD 5538

WITH COMPLIMENTS

**SHARP &  
DELLA**

PRINTERS AND  
Manufacturing Stationers.

550, KINGSLAND ROAD,  
DALSTON, :: E.8.

**MAX COHEN**

63, HIGH ROAD,  
CHISWICK,  
W.4.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF

**M. BROWN**

**Expert Furriers & Skin Merchants**

221, HIGH STREET,  
KENSINGTON, W.8.

Telephone: WES. 0141

Wishing The Magazine  
Every Success.

## HYAMS STORES

GROCCERS AND  
TEA MERCHANTS.

694, Fulham Road,  
S.W.6.  
and branches.

Tell Your Hairdresser We  
Deliver All

HAIRDRESSING SUNDRIES

In His Area

At Least Once A Week.

\*\*\*\*\*

ASK HIM TO PHONE

**J. Sulkin & Sons, Ltd.**

93/95, BOLSOVER STREET  
W.1.

MUSEum 2151 (3 lines)

*With the Compliments of*

## BENMAX BROS.

Manufacturing  
Upholsterers.

22, Mare Street,  
E.8.

Tel.: AMH. 2086

WITH BEST WISHES

**S. FORREST,**  
M.P.S.

DISPENSING CHEMIST  
& OPTICIAN.

67, BLYTHE ROAD,  
W.14.

Tel.: RIVerside 2493

### ORGANISATIONS.

**Hammersmith Synagogue Ladies' Guild.** Meet alternate Tuesdays in the Communal Hall. Hon. Sec.: Mrs. H. Caplan, 61, Lowther Road, S.W.13. Tel.: RIV. 5878.

**Western Area Jewish Centre.**

All communications to the Organising Secretary, Mr. M. Sharpe, 71, Brook Green, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 1405.

**Riverpark Jewish Youth Club.** Hon. Sec.: Mr. R. Morhaim, 3, Godolphin Road, W.12. Tel.: SHE. 4008.

**Hammersmith and District Women's Zionist Society.** Hon. Sec.: Mrs. D. Shocket, 74, Esmond Road, W.4. Tel.: CHI. 6161.

**West London Zionist Society.** Hon. Sec.: Mr. P. Ferst, 20, Greyhound Road, W.6. Tel.: FUL. 3990.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Districts—Norwood Aid Society.** Hon. Sec.: Miss Doris Grose, 10, Watchfield, W.4. Tel.: CHI. 0073.

**Hammersmith and West Kensington Mutual Benefit Society.** Secretary: Rev. E. Paletz, 18, College Court, W.6. Tel.: RIV. 4728.

**Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush, Chelsea District Defence Committee,** under the auspices of Board of Deputies of British Jews. Hon. Sec.: Mr. H. H. Topper, 15, Dunsany Road, W.14. Tel.: RIV. 6717.

**B'nei Akiva.** Meet Saturday afternoons at 3.00. Apply for particulars to Miss S. Belcher, 4, Lakeside Road, W.14.

**Religion Classes** (Supt.: Rev. S. Venitt, B.A.).

Classes meet every

Sunday	...	...	10.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
Tuesday	...	...	5.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.
Thursday	...	...	5.15 p.m. to 6.45 p.m.

## Times of Services.

### WEEKDAYS.

Morning	...	...	7.30 a.m.
Evening	...	...	By arrangement.

### SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

8.30 a.m.

### SABBATH AND FESTIVALS.

Evening	...	...	At the commencement of Sabbath. During Summer Months; 8 p.m.
Morning	...	...	9.30 a.m.

### CHILDREN'S SERVICE.

Sabbaths	...	...	11.00 a.m.
----------	-----	-----	------------

A Study and Discussion Group is held at the Minister's residence (71, Brook Green), 90 minutes before Mincha.

Sabbath Afternoon Service—One hour before termination of Sabbath. This is followed by a Shiur and Evening Service.

The Secretary can be seen on weekdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. or by appointment.

The Ministers can be seen by appointment.

Rev. S. VENITI, B.A. ... .. RIV. 7601

Rev. B. PALETZ ... .. RIV. 4728