

REPORT OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON
3rd JULY, 1950, AT WOBURN HOUSE, UPPER
WOBURN PLACE, W.C.1.

Mr. Marc M. Woolf, the Vice-Chairman, took the chair in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. A. J. Halpern, who was prevented by illness from attending.

Mr. Woolf gave a review of the work of the British O.R.T. during the past two years, with special reference to the work of the World O.R.T. Union as a whole. He stressed the importance of making the work of the World O.R.T. Union better known among members of the Anglo-Jewish community, so that the appeal for funds which was at present being carried on to commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the O.R.T. would meet with success.

Mr. Woolf informed the members that the London O.R.T. School in Kensington would be closing down shortly, and that new premises had been taken in the Hampstead area, where it was intended to open an Evening Institute for adult refugees living in North West London. Applications were being received every day, and it was gratifying to see the results of the training which for the majority of adult refugees meant all the difference between living on charity and becoming self-supporting.

The Chairman then introduced Mrs. Rose Henriques, who gave a most interesting address on the work of O.R.T. in Germany after the liberation in 1945. In the course of her remarks Mrs. Henriques laid great emphasis on the foresight and genius of O.R.T. administrators who had employed first-class technical men to teach a variety of trades to displaced persons. At first the DPs seemed reluctant to attend any course with regularity, as they were all expecting to emigrate. Events proved however, that emigration was a slow process, and gradually inmates of the Camps in Belsen and other parts of Germany came to realise the advantage of having a trade in their hands when opportunities to emigrate to other countries became available. It was also realised that representatives of the receiving countries were more anxious to admit displaced persons who were skilled or semi-skilled artisans, who could when once admitted to a new country take their place as productive citizens. It was then that the foresight of the O.R.T. leaders came to be thoroughly appreciated.

The World O.R.T. Union has trained tens of thousands of people during the course of the last few years, and Mrs. Henriques concluded her report by saying that everywhere she had seen the O.R.T. Schools were excellent, and she sincerely hoped that more obvious support would be given by the Anglo-Jewish community.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. Thomas Hetherington, the Accountant, to give a report on the Income and Expenditure Account, copies of which had been circulated prior to the Meeting.

Annual Report: The Annual Report was adopted.

Election of Council: Eighteen members were elected (as per attached list). It was further recommended that the following persons be invited to join the Council as co-opted members:-

Mr.A.G. Brotman,
Rabbi Dr.S.Gaon,B.A., Ph.D.,
Sir Ben Lockspeiser, M.A., M.I.M.E., etc.
Mr.A. Robinson.

Election of British O.R.T. Executive: Nineteen members (as per attached list) were elected to serve on the Executive for the current year.

It was noted with regret that Mrs.M.G.Soskin, Miss Ann Goldman, Mr.A.G.Brotman, and Mr.F.Ashe-Lincoln,K.C. had indicated their wish to resign from the Executive, due to pressure of work and other causes. The Chairman wished to place on record the thanks of the Committee for the help that these members had given O.R.T. over a number of years. Their resignations were accepted with regret.

In closing the Meeting Mr.Woolf referred to the fact that a number of apologies for inability to attend the Meeting had been received; among these were the following:-

Mr. & Mrs.S.Beloff,
Professor Norman Bentwich,
Mrs.I.Brodie,
Mr.Anthony Greenwood, M.P.,
Mr.Halpern,
Mr.Barnett Janner,M.P.,
Mr.J.Leftwich,
Rabbi Dr.Lehrman,
Dr.J.J.Mallon,
Alderman Moss,
Dr.I.Mattuck,
Rev.Dr.James Parkes,
Mr.J.Perelman,
Mr.Oscar Philipp,
Mr.Leonard Sainer.

The Chairman also thanked the members of the staff for their co-operation and tireless efforts. It had often meant their working a considerable number of extra hours, which they always did willingly.

The Chairman terminated the Meeting at 9.45 p.m. with a reminder to all present that a fund-raising concert was being organised for October, 1950, and active help from all members would be appreciated.