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BULLETIN

ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING

VOLUME VII, No. 2

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NOV.-DEC., 1953

## New Institute for Teachers in Paris

A new ORT venture gets under way shortly, with the opening in Paris of an advanced institute for the training of women teachers.

The school will operate as a section of the famous Central ORT Institute at Anieres, Switzerland.

The new institution aims at providing a well-trained teaching staff for ORT girls' schools. It will be an international school with students coming from Israel, Morocco, Tunisia,

Algeria, France, Italy, Holland and Iran.

It will be a one-year school. Students will be between 23 and 30 years of age and in order to be accepted must submit proof of graduation from at least three years of trade schooling and five years of on-the-job experience. Each applicant will take examinations in practical work and theoretical subjects and will be tested for aptitude for a teaching career.

### French Government Helps

Subjects to be covered include refresher courses in workshop practice, draftsmanship, technology, history of fashion, educational psychology, book-keeping, concepts of ready-made clothing manufacture, Jewish studies and aspects of vocational training.

The French Ministry of Education, in accepting ORT's application to establish the new school, expressed its satisfaction and offered to provide assistance. As a practical measure the Ministry has set up a simplified procedure for the granting of visas to students.

## Voyage to Israel



Fourteen students of Tehran ORT were awarded a free trip to Israel by the Jewish Agency, in recognition of exceptional accomplishment in their studies. They visited schools, factories, kibbutzim and brought back their personal experience of Israeli progress and promise. They are shown above waiting on deck for departure.

## Trieste Jews View Training With Hope

The Jews of Trieste, caught up in the international strife over the city, may once again find their economic position affected adversely by developments beyond their control. In this situation, the ORT vocational program is part of a long-range plan for economic rehabilitation of the community.

Once a flourishing community, occupying an important position in Trieste's civic and commercial life, the city's six century-old Jewry has been reduced in the last decade to a fraction of its former number. While a few Jewish families of wealth remain, poverty is the condition of most.

The latest move by ORT to bring industrial skills to Trieste's Jews, as a way of creating new livelihoods, is the first effort in adult training. An initial course in the upholstery trade is already under way for unemployed Jews receiving community assistance. Full scale schooling for youth was instituted three and a half years ago in radio and dress-

(Continued on Page 6)

## Advanced Classes Open at Bramson School

A new specialized course in needle trades has been instituted at the Bramson ORT School in N. Y., it has been announced by Joseph Tuvim, school chairman. The course in operation of specialized machines for tucking, lock-stitching, shirring and multiple needle work, was opened in cooperation with the trade group in this branch of the industry, the Pleaters, Sitchers and Embroiderers Association, thanks to Jack Schwartz, executive director of the Association, who has shown a special interest. Association members are interested in helping graduates in this specialty get jobs in their shops.

The latest course is the third advanced practice course at the school. Classes in cutting and pattern-making continue to be very popular. To qualify for training on the new machines students will have had to complete basic studies in power sewing machine operation.

This new course is in line with the policy worked out by Mr. Tuvim and the school committee for expanding the variety of specialty training so as to open new job opportunities to students, all of whom are recent immigrants requiring aid in their economic adjustment.

# Coast-to-Coast Round Up

## Broad Aid Program Voted By Women's Conference

Two hundred and fifty leaders representing 170 Women's American ORT chapters from coast to coast, assembled in New York, October 5-6, to assess the reports of their overseas delegation and to lay down a framework of working principles and goals toward which the organization's more than 35,000 members will work this year.

Proposals adopted by the National Board and Second Biennial Presidents' Conference will affect the welfare of students in ORT schools in all key operations. These include 1) Support of a school health program. 2) Support of the Women's Teacher Training Institute. 3) A Social Assistance program for Israel. 4) Canteens for schools in Israel and North Africa. 5) Tool kits for graduates. 6) Assistance to the budget of the Lyons school, France. In addition the delegates voted plans for stipends to girl students at the Casablanca school, social assistance to 400 apprentices in Tunis, establishment of a recreation room and canteen in Algiers and equipping of rooms for medical examinations.

## Young People Sponsor Lab Technicians' School

Nat Roven, president of Young Men's and Women's ORT, announces an ambitious project for establishing a school for laboratory technicians at Ramat Gan, Israel. The project got underway at a special membership meeting addressed by Dr. William Haber, AOF national president.

## S.F. Men Support Bramson

Just the other day, the San Francisco chapter remitted its first membership payment, earmarked for the Bramson School in New York. The group has allocated its membership dues for this purpose before, and we hope other chapters will follow suit.

## Labor ORT Launches West Coast Section

A conference on October 18th of fifty delegates representing 17 trade unions and fraternal organizations in the Los Angeles area launched the first American Labor ORT on the West Coast, it is reported by Samuel Milman, executive secretary, who laid the groundwork for the organization. A goal of 500 members was adopted.

Delegates were greeted by Mark Carter, AOF vice-president. John Ulene, manager of the Women's Sportswear Council, I.L.G.W.U., and chairman of the group, presided over the sessions. Delegates heard a report by secretary Joseph Offman of the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers.

Among the top rank of leaders to greet the meeting were Samuel Otto, Pacific Coast director of the ILGWU; Jerome Posner, manager of the Amalgamated Joint Board; Isidore Stenzor, manager of the Cloak Joint Board; Leo Walt, Southern California Director of the Workmen's Circle; Hyman Schneid, Jewish Socialist Farband; Meyer Weintraub, L. A. Forward Manger; Chaim

Shapiro, communal leader and long time friend of ORT.

The delegates elected a full slate of officers headed by John Ulene, chairman; Isidore Stenzor, treasurer; Joseph Offman, secretary. Vice-chairmen are: A. Babitz, Fanny Borax, H. Brown, David Goldman, Samuel Otto, Jerome Posner, and Meyer Weintraub.

The Executive Board consists of: B. Surasky and L. Babitz, representing the ILG Cloak Joint Board; N. Stern, representing the ILG Sportswear Council; Philip Weinstein for the Amalgamated; A. Filler for the W. C. District Committee; Leo Walt for the W. C. English-Speaking Division; Nellie Feinberg, representing the Jewish Socialist Farband; Fanny Schneid, Mendelson Reading Circle; and representing their respective W.C. branches: Zelda Cobrin, S. Cohen, S. Gillis, Bess Goodman, L. Levine M. Morovnik, W. Orlinsky, H. Rosenfield, H. Schneid, M. Wanamaker.

## Welfare Fund Commends New Haven Chapter

New Haven Men's ORT is off, in high gear, on a program of social and community activities.

A man-by-man membership recruitment job is being done by the membership committee, headed by Samuel Mininberg.

In recognition of effective contributions to the campaigns of the local Welfare Fund, the New Haven Community Council welcomed the chapter with a message expressing the community's "appreciation for the cooperation and assistance you have given in the fund-raising job of the Jewish Welfare Fund. Your aid is invaluable to the Fund. . . ."

Officers re-elected were Jacob Sharp, president; Abraham Alderman, secretary; Bernard Shapiro, program director.



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ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION  
THROUGH TRAINING

Volume VII, No. 2 Nov.-Dec., 1953

OFFICERS—Dr. William Haber, *President*; George Backer, *Honorary President*; Mark Carter, Adolph Held, Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, Abraham C. Litton, William R. Sinkin, *Vice-Presidents*; Joseph Weinberg, *Secretary*; Alexander Dolowitz, *Treasurer*; George J. Mintzer, *Chairman Exec. Comm.*; Julius Hochman, *Vice-Chairman Exec. Comm.*; Harry Greenberg, *Chairman Admin. Comm.*; Paul Bernick, *Executive Sec'y.*

The American ORT Federation represents the World ORT Union, with which it is affiliated, in the United States. ORT is devoted to the vocational training and economic reconstruction of Jews throughout the world. The American ORT Federation currently receives its funds, exclusive of membership dues, by special agreement with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a member agency of the United Jewish Appeal.

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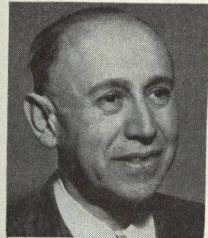
Reentered as second class matter February 16, 1951, at the post office at New York, N. Y. under the Act of March 3, 1879.

# After the First Five Thousand

The entrance to the New York ORT Trade School, just a few steps west of Carnegie Hall, does not look particularly imposing. Yet each evening it comes alive with eager people arriving to take up studies that hold so much hope for themselves and their families.

More than five thousand people have passed through these doors since the school's establishment thirteen years ago. It is the first ORT school instituted in the U. S.

The students are newcomers to our shores—refugees, displaced persons, escapees from totalitarianism. They come from 30 different countries. Together with the Bramson School for needle trades, the school serves the special vocational needs of the large number of Jewish immigrants who have come here in recent years by teaching them industrial trades.

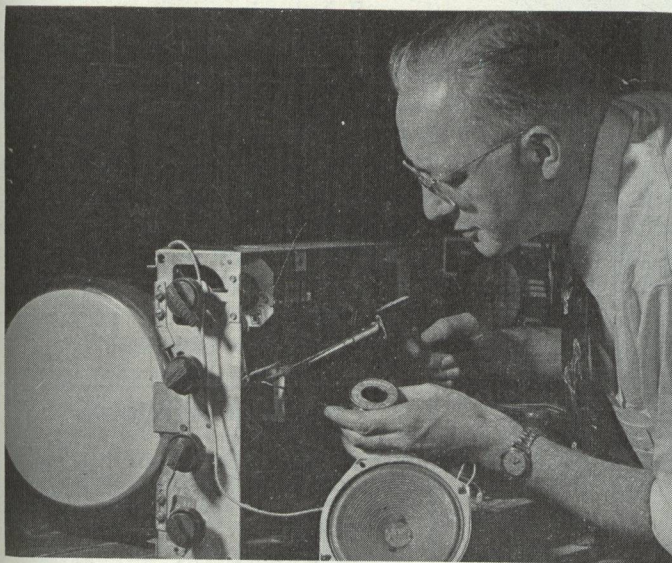


A. C. Litton

The school has carved for itself a key place in the process of Americanization, which benefits the individual student as well as the community at large. No other institution exists to do this vital job.

Demand for the school's services continue high. There are no vacant machines in the machine shop. Workbenches in the radio, television and jewelry making courses are fully occupied. Drafting boards in the class for mechanical and architectural drafting are all taken.

While immigration has slowed down, it takes time for men to get on their feet economically. Many who, with a little training, were able to get their first job, are now



The course in radio and television attracts the largest number of students. To keep up with this rapidly changing industry equipment must be constantly brought up to date.

## A Report on the New York ORT Trade School

By Abraham C. Litton

School Chairman and President of the American and European Friends of ORT

returning to the school for more intensive and advanced practice so that they may upgrade to better jobs. The prospect is that changing economic conditions will increase pressure on recent newcomers to raise their level of skill. Employers are more choosy; demanding more, particularly of immigrants. Minimum knowledge of

the trade is no longer sufficient and it is perceptibly more difficult for the new American to get a decent job without advanced training.

The latest immigration law to admit 214,000 persons in the next period will, on the basis of past experience, bring to the school a large number of applicants seeking help in their economic adjustment.

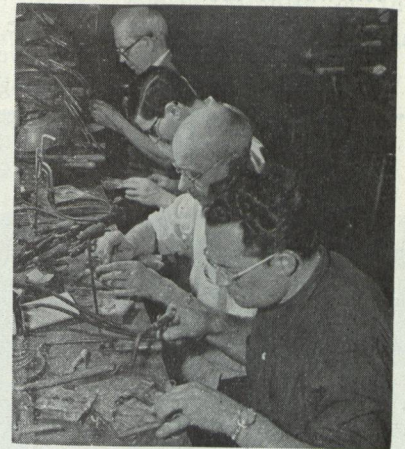
We met this responsibility for the first 5,000 students. To do so properly, for those who come now and in the future, at an ORT standard and up to the higher requirements of the present labor market, a number of changes must be made.

For a long time, the school has of necessity subsisted on limited and limiting budgets, a decisive share of which has been provided by the American and European Friends of ORT.

What our New York schools have accomplished has been done on a financial shoe-string. Cost of training per student is extremely low, far less than in any comparable establishment.

We have reached a point where, to fulfill the purpose of the school, we must be ready to make a serious re-investment. Worn out machines must be replaced; new up-to-the-minute models must be installed. Students must have practice on the same kind of machines they will find in the factories in which they will eventually work. Staff must be enlarged if we are to give the kind of intensive instruction called for. This can be done only if the necessary funds are found.

Such an investment is eminently worth-while. The effort we put into the N. Y. School today will bear fruit for years to come in the living standards and happiness of the newest members of the community.



Busy hands making jewelry, a good trade for recent immigrants. Alertness to changes in styles and patterns requires that the school replenish its stock of tools and materials.

# Change Comes to Shiraz

By A. Blass

Director of ORT in Iran

It is now one year since ORT set up a school in the city of Shiraz, in which live about 17,000 Jews. Neither Western nor Jewish culture has ever penetrated here. The population lives in utter ignorance. Even the religious aspect of their lives is based on superstition. Persian Shiraz is known as a city of poets and roses. But Jewish Shiraz has neither.

Education for youth is a dreary and bleak affair. The teachers are not educators but people who managed to complete a few classes more than their pupils. Some 750 children receive no schooling whatsoever. Perhaps 700 are enrolled in traditional *chederim* and another 500 are in two Jewish schools taken over by the Ministry of Education, in which the youngsters must be constantly on the alert to retain their Jewishness.

The ORT schools alone are modern, teaching our 275 youngsters the ideas and attitudes that conform to a modern way of life.

The economic situation of the Jews is bad. The small number of wealthy Jews are not interested in the plight of

the rest. There is a vast gap between this handful at the top and the next economic level of small shopkeepers whose stock is worth perhaps \$200 to \$250.

Then come the musicians. The best musicians of Shiraz, and in fact the only ones, are Jewish. At the bottom is the working class, and it must be put on record that this is perhaps the only town in Iran where Jews do manual labor. The best masons and mason's helpers are Jewish. There are also many Jewish unskilled.

## Depressed Jewish Status

It cannot be said that Shiraz is anti-Semitic. There is no hate against Jews. As in any fanatical Moslem environment, the Jews are simply considered impure. Since they are impure, everything is done to avoid contact with them. This, perhaps, is one of the reasons why cases of conversion cannot be found in Shiraz.

In this place where Jews have never had a chance for vocational training, our trade schools are of incalculable importance for raising economic standards.

ORT was organized last year in Shiraz after many requests made by the community. And these requests were one of the hopeful signs of change in the long depressed history of local Jewry. We were enabled to undertake the Shiraz program, thanks to the financial support of the Jewish Colonization Association.

## Crowded Conditions

The first problem was to find an adequate building. According to our estimate, ORT had to provide instruction for a minimum of 500 students to perform the job that must be done. It was impossible to find a building for a school of this size, so we did the best we could. As it is, space is insufficient and the students are crowded. We have been promised another building, close to the present school, where we hope to open a school for shoemaking and a school for auto or agromechanics.

The greatest problem is presented by those youths who have no education, but in whom the coming of ORT has aroused new hope and aspiration.

## U.N. Official on ORT in Iran

The following statement, giving the impressions of United Nations Resident-Representative in Iran, M. deBoer, speaks for itself.

"... As my occupations here include representation of UNESCO, I have taken much interest in the questions of technical and agricultural education and was anxious to compare the results obtained by private institutions such as ORT and the existing governmental schools. I have visited your school in Tehran twice. They are efficiently run, well attended and the best proof of the excellent education which is given there is the fact that you find no problem in placing the pupils after they have finished their schooling. I have constantly recommended to my experts that they should visit your schools often and keep in touch with your directors in order to observe your methods."

Their reasoning is entirely logical: ORT has come to teach trades and help relieve economic distress; then why should not we, the poorest, be the first? The difficulty lies in that it is precisely these young people who are illiterate, and lack the educational prerequisites for vocational schooling. Yet who is to provide them with literacy so that they can qualify?

## Help for Illiterates

We have had to open special classes outside the school proper for illiterate youth. They are given intensive instruction for 3 to 4 months, and gradually we work them into technical training.

Our students now attend 12 classes in four trades. Our plans call for increasing the present enrollment of 275 to 400 in the next few months.

We look back upon our first year of work in Shiraz with great satisfaction at progress achieved against great obstacles. Yet we are only at the beginning here. ORT's long-term effects can, in time, help alter the entire course of life for the Jews of Shiraz.

## Reports Available

A limited number of copies of the American ORT Federation's annual report, with charts and diagrams, entitled "A Summary of ORT Activities and Financing During 1952," are still available at the national office, 212 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Copies will be sent on request.



Example of the work done at the Shiraz school for marquetry work in inlays, is this "Throne of the Safavid Kings," rulers of Persia during the 16-18th centuries. Of the highest artistic quality, output of the school has been widely praised for giving new spirit to a national art.

## ORT in the U.N.

ORT has taken an active role in recent sessions of working bodies of the United Nations.

Vladimir Halperin of the Geneva office lead one of the working parties that prepared a report to the recent sessions of the Fourth International Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations Interested in Migration.

The general session of the meeting of UNESCO and its related voluntary agencies in Paris several weeks ago chose ORT Union delegate, C. L. Lang, as presiding officer. A main concern of this group was technical information for under-developed areas, a project toward which ORT has much to contribute.

## Argentina Courses Open for Jewish Farmers

For the first time, Argentine ORT has been able in recent months to develop a vocational program in the interior provinces. Major step in this direction was the inauguration of a school in dressmaking for girls in the agricultural settlement at Clara, Entre Rios. 35 students were enrolled in the first class. Last month a second school for girls was opened at Dominguez with 64 students.

These two steps mark a new stage in ORT development in Argentina. ORT's work in Argentina was until now restricted to Buenos Aires.

Jewish agricultural colonies have existed in the province of Entre Rios for more than 50 years. They are the result of the generosity of the renowned philanthropist, Baron de Hirsch, whose work is carried on by the Jewish Colonization Association.

The new training centers will be financed by the Jewish Colonization Association and other communal funds. Argentine ORT has, for the past several years, completely supported its own operations from membership dues and funds raised locally.

In line with the new training program a school in agricultural mechanics will shortly be established at Dominguez. This will be the first Jewish school of its kind in the country despite the many decades of Jewish agriculture in Argentina.

The Buenos Aires Vocational Center, the oldest ORT institution on the

## Greece

## U. S. Gov't Sponsors Training For Escapees from Iron Curtain

Twenty-six refugees from Iron Curtain countries, 13 Albanians and 13 Bulgarians, are currently enrolled in trade courses at the ORT Vocational Center in Athens, in a project sponsored by the U. S. Escapee Program.

Directors of the program selected the ORT school for this work as the only one in the city up to the desired standard in all respects. Last July, 30 were enrolled. Students are now billeted in the city, facilitating the training process. Courses are given in oxyacetylene and electrical welding and in electrical work.

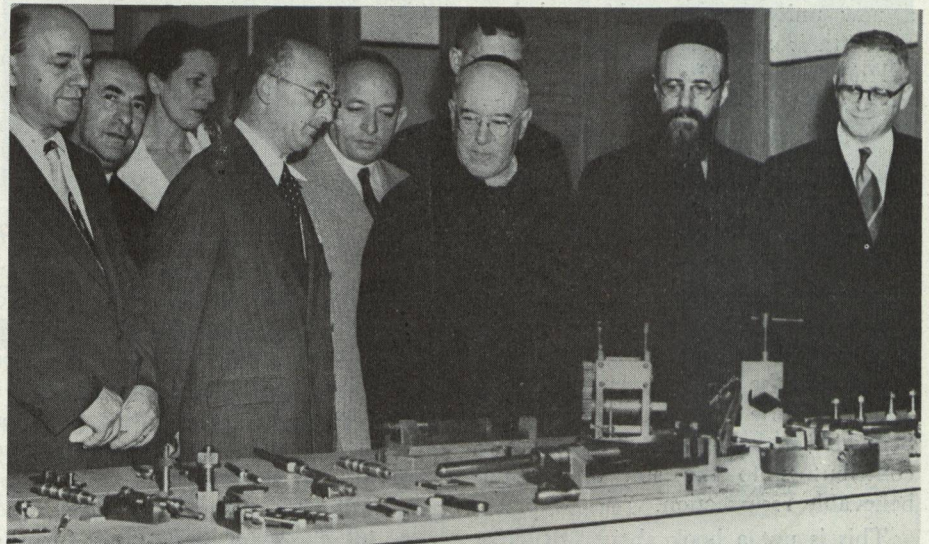
Before entering training in their specialty, all students take an introductory course in general mechanics in which they learn the use of hand tools and precision instruments. Special accelerated six months curricula have been worked up. Supplementary language courses in English and Portuguese are given in the hostel, where the students live, preparing them for emigration to Brazil. Technical instruction is given in Bulgarian and Greek. Lunches are provided at the school.

The ORT Center in Greece was first established in December, 1948 with three year courses in mechanics and dressmaking and a short-term course in other needle trades. 215 students have gone through the school.

Last May a new workshop for 25 adults was opened in shirtmaking. The school has been officially recognized by the government Ministry of Industry and is widely supported by the Jewish community.

## Brazil

## Catholic Cardinal at Rio School



Cardinal Don Jaime Camara visits the ORT School at Rio de Janeiro. It was the first time in the over 300 year history of Jews in Brazil that a Roman Catholic Cardinal visited a Jewish institution. Cardinal Camara, who came to the school at his own request, is shown here viewing an exhibit of student's work, together with Jewish leaders who received him. To the Cardinal's left is Jacob Parnes, editor *The Yiddische Zeitung*, and to his right are Rabbi Jacob Fink and Rabbi Dr. H. Lemle.

## Light for the Aged



Upper class students at the Electrical School of the Tunis ORT Center install the first electrical facilities in the Tunis Home for the Jewish Aged.

## NOL Conference Hears of Work Progress

Leaders of central communal organizations attend the conference of the Administrative Council of the National ORT League on October 29 at the Jewish Club in New York, issued a call to their branches and memberships to join the League.

Judge Herman Hoffman, chairman of the Council, presided.

Guest speakers included Zvi Rivlin and Paul Rausnitz of Israeli ORT and Moshe Starkman, of the editorial staff of the Day-Journal, who participated in the UJA overseas delegation.

### Leaders Report

Charles H. Kremer, president of the United Romanian Jews of America and Rabbi Hersh Kohn reported on their trips to Israel and Europe. Chaim Weintraub reported on recent developments in the League and progress made in its efforts to equip the Israeli schools with machinery and tools.

A membership report was delivered by Philip Braver, and Herbert Sussman put into nomination for vice-

chairmen of the Council, Louis K. Bleecker, president of B'nai Zion; Irving L. Hodes, Newark, N. J., Grand Master of Brith Abraham; and Dr. Charles Kremer; all of whom were elected unanimously.

### Committee Formed for Israel School of Dental Technology

Prominent representatives of all branches of the dental profession met under the auspices of the National ORT League on November 12th at the Hotel New Yorker to hear a first-hand report by Paul Rausnitz on the work of the ORT Institute of Dental Technology in Jerusalem and to decide on ways to aid the school.

A committee of leaders in the profession was elected to obtain instruments and materials for the school, and to assist its development. The Dental Institute enjoys a reputation for highest professional standards and has the recognition of the Israel Dental Association.

Dr. Charles H. Kremer will serve as committee chairman, with Louis Guterman of the Guterman Dental Supply Company and Israel Margoshes of the firm of Margoshes and Son, as co-chairmen. Other members are Dr. C. Berman, Dr. Maurice S. Calman, Abe Guterman, Martin Reise, I. Rubinstein, M. Shnaper and B. L. Spitzer.

### Trieste Problem . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

making. Pre-apprenticeship training for primary school youngsters in ceramics and leatherwork likewise has proven effective.

### Economic Decline

Alarmed at the continued deterioration of the Jewish economic position, community leaders recently made clear that preference in relief grants would be accorded families whose children are studying trades. The alternative for many youth after 14 years of age is street peddling and similar degrading work.

With a rise in unemployment anticipated as an outcome of present political tensions, vocational programs initiated by ORT are expected to assume even greater significance.

## Chronicle of the Survivors

The Redeemers, A Saga of the Years 1945-52. By Leo W. Schwartz. Farrar, Strauss and Young. \$4.50.

How, out of the savagery and ruin visited upon European Jewry by the Nazis, the displaced survivors forged a new unity as a people; and how out of their resources of will and spiritual heritage they formed a spearhead of the victory of Israel, is the theme of "The Redeemers," by Leo Schwartz.

The book has the documentary quality of a story told from within. The author witnessed the events as a JDC worker. As a chronicle of the era when so great a proportion of European Jews were inhabitants of DP camps, it affords an understanding of the magnitude of the achievement of ORT and JDC, the two agencies to which Schwartz makes repeated reference as contributors to the still almost unbelievable resurrection.

This is not a book about ORT (or JDC), but whoever eventually writes that chapter of ORT's history, has been given a good start in this book. Schwartz describes the process of rejuvenation in detail, in which the al-

most spontaneous creation of trade schools had so large a part for the mending of spiritual hurts and revival of self-confidence. He testifies to the importance of the support given by American Jewry through ORT and JDC.

Here one can find the background for the story of Landsberg, where the first ORT classes were created in a matter of days after the liberation by Jacob Oleiski, former head of the Kovno school, now Director of Israeli ORT. Familiar names parade across the pages—Dr. David Lvovitch, who arrived on the heels of Allied armies to put the aid of American ORT and the ORT Union behind the training program; Dr. William Haber, Advisor on Jewish Affairs to General Clay; Rabbi Philip Bernstein, first Advisor to General Clay and member of the AOF Board; Max Braude, then Chaplain with the 7th U. S. Army and now in charge of operations for the ORT in Geneva; and innumerable others.

The book reads easily and is hard to put down. The drama lies in the material itself.

# A Teacher's Eye View

The arrival here of Zvi Rivlin, director of the Jaffa school in Israel, afforded a rare opportunity to view ORT through the eyes of a man whose job is the translation of general principles into day to day teaching for boys and girls.

Mr. Rivlin is here on a 6 months' study mission of American vocational school practices, under the auspices of the Technical Cooperation Administration Point IV Program.

He came to his post as ORT school director through an unusual combination of experience as educator and engineer.

A graduate of the Kiev Technical Institute in his native Russia, and a practicing engineer in Palestine since 1925, Mr. Rivlin began to apply his professional experience to education more than 20 years ago. When Dr. Syngalowski came to Israel in 1948 to start the ORT program there, he appointed Mr. Rivlin the first director of an ORT school. His assignment was to create a modern vocational center of Jaffa.

His presence here is partial evidence of how well he has succeeded, for it is a tribute to his school, and an important recognition of the place ORT has achieved, that when the Point IV people in Israel were searching for two specialists to send to the U. S., Mr. Rivlin was selected, along with the director of the workshops of the Technion high school.

## Broad Philosophy

His school, with its 310 pupils, is the focus of all his interests. He is completely involved with its problems and sees everything from the point of view of: How can I use it at my school? Nevertheless, Mr. Rivlin's educational philosophy is far from narrow.

He sees the aim of vocational training as development of a generation of craftsmen who have respect for the creativity of labor, have confidence in their own abilities, yet are conscious of deeper cultural values.

From his experience he extracts the lesson that the student with a good head on his shoulders is most likely to have a good hand for his tools. He denies that a student at his school should hold the prospect of remaining

at a machine indefinitely. School training should enable the graduate to fill managerial and supervisory responsibilities, but above all each student who completes his studies has a mission to be a teacher to the workers around him.

Mr. Rivlin feels this is a necessary purpose of vocational training in Israel today because the country suffers from a severe dearth of craftsmen with inventiveness and knowledge combined with skill, qualities essential to industrial progress.

Mr. Rivlin is now on a cross country tour, inspecting trade and technical school of all kinds. Of one thing we are certain, his visit here is a sound investment. The dividends will be reaped not alone by ORT but by all vocational schools in Israel.

## Two Visitors From Israel

We have the pleasure of welcoming two men who are here on missions related to the operation of the ORT schools in Israel.

Zvi Rivlin, director of the ORT Vocational Center in Jaffa, has been assigned by the U. S. Point Four Technical Cooperation Administration to survey American trade and technical school methods of teaching and administration with a view to adapting what is suitable to Israeli conditions. Mr. Rivlin is now on a coast to coast tour.

Paul Rausnitz, instructor in dental mechanics at the ORT Institute of Dental Technology in Jerusalem has been studying methods employed in American dental laboratories.

They have addressed meetings of the AOF executive committee, Women's American ORT, National ORT League, Young Men's and Women's ORT and many others.

We greet them and wish them success on their missions.

## The Jaffa Class of '53



Class portrait of the graduating group from the Jaffa Center in Israel. Upper two rows show the instructors, with Zvi Rivlin, school director, in upper row center.

## Iran Youth Get Chance for an Education

Youths from distant provinces of Iran have now been given access to vocational schooling. The manner of their recruitment is a dramatic example of how ORT adapts its practices to unique conditions.

This past summer commissions of ORT instructors toured distant centers of Jewish population where they interviewed and examined applicants.

This screening procedure netted 29 initial students. In this way an education that would normally be inaccessible to these young people has been opened to them.

This was made possible by the establishment at the beginning of the school year of new dormitories within the compound of the Tehran center. The dormitories were set up with the help of the Jewish Agency.

## Tintype of a Prize Winner

Alexander Weiss is top student in his class at the ORT School for Refrigeration Mechanics at Givatayim, Israel. Alexander is not quite 18 years old. A quiet, slender young man, with piercing dark eyes, he made a bit of a name for himself recently when he came out first in the nation-wide ORT competition for the best pupil.

To win he had to take top place in a whole battery of mathematical, mechanical, theoretical and manual tests. Alexander took the first prize, a Swiss chronometric watch with his name and the ORT emblem engraved on it.

Other than this, one might ask, what can one expect to have happened to so young a lad. Yet powerful historic forces have imprinted themselves on Alexander's eighteen years and he has been granted two events that are barely short of miraculous.

In 1944, at the age of 6, his mother somehow managed to take him from Poland to Hungary, under the noses of the Nazi Gestapo. The extermination policy was then in full swing and they had barely gone into hiding in their new refuge when Alexander's mother was seized and sent to a death camp.

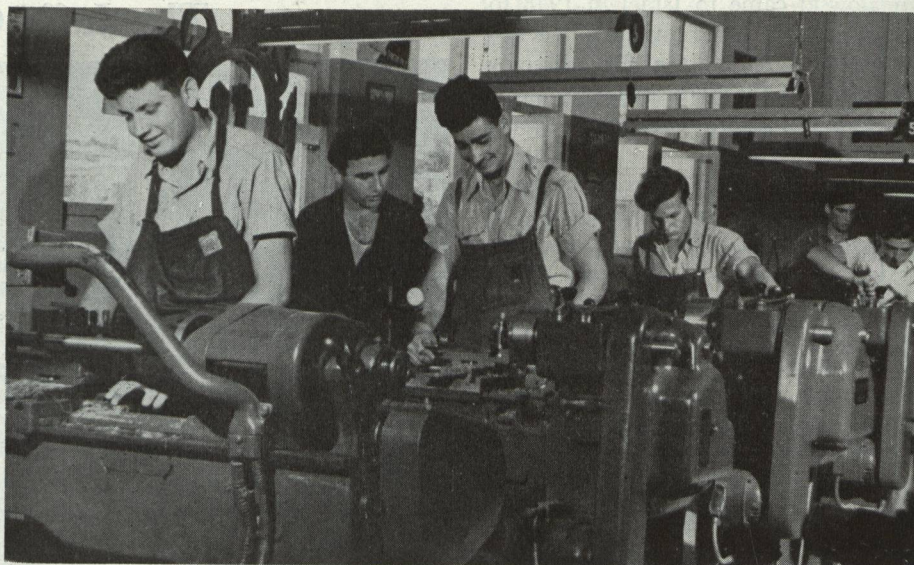
The boy was left abandoned and alone. But the Nazis did not overlook him, and shortly afterwards he too was seized and taken to infamous Bergen-Belsen.

How the boy remained alive and through an almost unbelievable series

of events finally arrived in Israel—all this is a dramatic story in itself. As if the "miracle" of survival and rescue were not enough to compensate for the things that had happened to one so young, one day, 6 months after his arrival in Israel, Alexander, quite by accident, came upon his mother. She, too, had somehow been saved from the ultimate.

All this is behind him, and now in his young manhood, if it is recalled, it is only because Alexander himself feels he has finally found a creative outlet for his talents in work for the building of the new Israel.

He will graduate shortly with honors from the Givatayim school. There will be much for him to do. There is good reason to hope that he is equipped to fulfill himself.



A row of lathes in an up-to-date machine workshop at the Givatayim school for refrigeration, attended by Alexander Weiss.

### Judge Meiss Honored

Paris — Leon Meiss, president of the Central Board of the World ORT Union and Presiding Judge of the French Supreme Court of Appeal, has been promoted by his government to the rank of Officer of the Legion of Honor.



Judge Meiss

He is recognized as one of the leading jurists in France and is an outstanding leader of the Jewish community. He presides over the French ORT Committee and is honorary president of the Consistoire Central, the council uniting in one body all the leading elements in French Jewry.

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## Judge Rifkind Gives Israel Impressions

During a recent tour of Israel, former Federal Judge Simon H. Rifkind, renowned community leader, visited a number of the ORT schools. On his return he expressed his gratification in a letter to the American ORT Federation.

Judge Rifkind wrote: "Let me say to you that my visit to the ORT schools was an eye opener. I had not realized that so extensive a program of vocational training in all its departments was so skillfully conducted.

"The quality of the workmanship was highly impressive, the enthusiasm of the students was contagious and, of course, Mr. Oleiski himself infects everyone with his own high enthusiasm and devotion.

"There can be no question at all that the ORT schools are making a vital contribution to the economy of Israel and to the training of its young people."

### ORT BULLETIN

212 Fifth Avenue  
New York 10, N. Y.

# Board of Directors Ratifies ORT-JDC Pact . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

made available for the training program by the American community, of which \$9,300,000 came from JDC in the last seven years. He underscored the magnificent contribution of Women's American ORT, which contributed over one million dollars in these years, and whose membership, and therefore allocations, has been rising steadily.

One hundred and fifty persons attending the evening dinner session heard the guest address by Dr. Abram L. Sachar, president of Brandeis University. The session was presided over by Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, Women's American ORT national president. The subject of Dr. Sachar's spirited address was "Challenges to the Future of the American Jewish Community."

The Board adopted a special resolution of appreciation of the work of the World ORT Union, commending Dr. Syngalowski for "the excellence of his leadership." Fraternal greetings were sent to ORT organizations in all parts of the world.

## Mr. Hochman's Report

Julius Hochman, national vice-president, and a prime mover in the eminently successful ORT-UJA dinner last year, announced plans for an even more sumptuous affair to be held on April 15, with Senator Herbert H. Lehman as guest of honor.

Adolph Held, American Labor ORT national chairman, presided over one of the highlights of the evening session, the presentation of Citations of Merit to Max Herzfeld, Brooklyn ORT Society president and Abraham C. Litton, president of American and

## The Job Before Us

In recommending ratification of the new ORT-JDC pact, Dr. Haber declared, in part:

"Each agreement that we have reached with the JDC has been a milestone marking off a particular phase of ORT development. We had two major objectives for 1954: a greater measure of financial stability and assurance of continued growth. These aims were advanced by the terms of the 1954 pact.

"However, the financing problems that have so severely handicapped ORT's work in recent years are not solved by the agreement. It will be our responsibility to assure the funds to meet the budgets of the two New York schools. It will take all the energies of Women's American ORT and all of ORT's friends and organizations throughout the world to fulfill the great obligations assumed."

European Friends of ORT and chairman of the New York ORT Trade School. Mr. Held, who has been associated with American ORT since its founding in 1922, reviewed the contributions made to its history by such among its outstanding men as B. Charney Vladeck, Louis B. Boudin, and Henry Moskowitz. He recalled the early missions here by Leon Bramson, David Lvovitch and Dr. Syngalowski.

The citation to Mr. Litton was made on the occasion of his "completing four decades of devoted service in the cause of Jewish reconstruction. . . . His labors both here and abroad, to bring new hope to displaced and refugee Jews, stand out as splendid humanitarian achievements."

Mr. Herzfeld was saluted "on his seventieth birthday in recognition of fifteen years of sincere devotion to the ideal of ORT."

## Cited for Merit



A. C. Litton



Max Herzfeld

## ORT Sabbath Celebrated

In more than 100 synagogues and congregations throughout the country, ORT Sabbath was observed recently at the inspiration of Women's American ORT.

Israel's Chief Rabbi Halevi Herzog, blessed the work of ORT in a cablegram to Mrs. Henry Earle, ORT Sabbath Chairman.

Rabbi Herzog said: "Heartiest felicitations ORT Sabbath. Your work embraces *torah mlacha* (learning and labor). Institutions most highly commendable. Heaven bless you with maximum success."

This year's celebration of ORT Sabbath observances involved 180 chapters of Women's American ORT, with a membership of 35,000 and reached many congregations and communities which had not before heard the ORT story.

The annual ORT Day celebration is planned for March 10.



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**ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING**

Volume VII, No. 3 Jan.-Feb., 1954

**OFFICERS**—Dr. William Haber, *President*; George Backer, *Honorary President*; Mark Carter, Adolph Held, Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, Abraham C. Litton, William R. Sinkin, *Vice-Presidents*; Joseph Weinberg, *Secretary*; Alexander Dolowitz, *Treasurer*; George J. Mintzer, *Chairman Exec. Comm.*; Julius Hochman, *Vice-Chairman Exec. Comm.*; Harry Greenberg, *Chairman Admin. Comm.*; Paul Bernick, *Executive Sec'y.*

The American ORT Federation represents the World ORT Union, with which it is affiliated, in the United States. ORT is devoted to the vocational training and economic reconstruction of Jews throughout the world. The American ORT Federation currently receives its funds, exclusive of membership dues, by special agreement with the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, a member agency of the United Jewish Appeal.

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Officers and leaders in community affairs on the dais at the evening dinner session of the annual meeting of the American ORT Board of Directors. Dr. Haber is shown reporting on ORT prospects for the year ahead.

# Apprenticeship Programs Bring New Opportunities

Complementary to the regular vocational schools and courses, ORT has, in recent years, been developing apprenticeship programs for youth. Beginning on a modest scale in France in 1946, this program now covers 1,338 youngsters enrolled in apprenticeship service in Tunis, Algiers, and Casablanca, while the French program has come to cover 727 placements in Paris, Marseilles and Strasbourg.

France, with the oldest and largest ORT program, has placed 6,000 young people in the last seven years, and boasts that a number of its former apprentices have acquired their own workshops and are now taking in apprentices of their own, on ORT's recommendations.

Apprenticeship is a relatively new facet of the programs in Algiers and Casablanca. Begun only a year ago, with 350 youth, the Tunis plan now covers 444 teen-agers, the second largest in ORT.

The work being done in Tunis exemplifies what apprenticeship can mean to the community and the individual. Applicants for placement come from the infamous *hara*, the ghetto of Tunis, many from families who require community support to make ends meet. Few have had more than the most cursory education, and none can meet the educational requirements for admission set up by the government as



A first year workshop in the carpentry and woodworking school at the Algiers ORT Vocational Center, where apprenticeship programs have been introduced in recent months. Apprenticeship has permitted extension of ORT services to new sections of Jewish youth in depressed areas of North Africa and France. Plans for 1954 call for further expansion of this work.

prerequisites for all vocational secondary schools, including those of ORT. Many are referred to the placement service by the community relief authorities.

## Community Income Rises

After locating a position for the youngster, ORT has the job of frequent inspection to assure that the terms of apprenticeship are being fulfilled by the employer. Most important, the young boy maintains a direct relation with ORT by attending supplementary classes after his working hours, where he is taught the whys and wherefores of his craft.

The results have contributed to the tremendous popularity ORT has come

to enjoy among Tunis Jews. Weekly income of apprentices has been increased from 200, to as much as 2,000 and 2,500 francs *per week*. What this means in terms of conditions of life may be grasped from the fact that the average income of a Jewish family of ghetto dwellers is about 6,000 francs a *month*.

Apprentices' wages now bring over 2 million francs into the Tunis community, each month with that much less required from relief funds and that much gain in independence and dignity.

## Albany Park Success

More than 100 persons attended the annual membership affair of the Chicago Albany Park chapter last December 6, to make it one of the most successful and effective in recent years.

The program was opened by Max Natkin, chapter president, who turned over the chair to Mrs. Lillian Weingartner, secretary, who served as the toastmistress. Guest speakers were Zvi Rivlin, director of the ORT center at Jaffa, Israel, who is in this country on a Point Four mission sponsored jointly by the U. S. and Israeli governments; and Paul Bernick, American ORT Federation executive secretary.

In addition to Mr. Natkin and Mrs. Weingartner, the other officers of the chapter for 1954 are: Abe Saffrin, vice-president; Jacob Zake, treasurer; and Louis Milstein, financial secretary. Outgoing president is Jack Pines.

## More French Jewish Youth Seek Training

Impressive increases in enrollment were recorded by all the ORT schools in France at the start of the new school year. Marseilles led with a rise of 28 per cent, while Montreuil registered 18 per cent more compared with the preceding year.

The exact figures for all the French schools are instructive.

| School           | Current Year | Preceding Year |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Montreuil .....  | 650          | 550            |
| Marseilles ..... | 147          | 114            |
| Strasbourg ..... | 104          | 86             |
| Lyons .....      | 46           | 27             |

This trend is attributed by French ORT, as reported in the publication

*L'Ort a Ses Amis*, to the ease with which ORT school graduates have found good jobs in recent years, and the growing conviction among French Jews "that the only way to put the Jewish communities on a sounder basis is to create a class of highly skilled and well remunerated workers."

A poll conducted among registrants at Montreuil posed the question: Why did you register at an ORT school? A reply given most frequently was because ORT conducted a Jewish school "with a special atmosphere and understanding for the problems of its trainees." Others noted that it was only the existence of ORT that prompted them to consider vocational training at all.