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ORT**BULLETIN**

ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING

VOLUME XI. No. 1

Published by the American ORT Federation

Sept.-Oct., 1957

Israel's President Sees ORT Delegation

Israel's President, Itzhak Ben Zvi, recently held a lengthy discussion on problems of vocational training among Jews in various parts of the world with Max A. Braude, ORT Director-General, and Jacob Oleiski, Director of ORT in Israel.

The President was deeply sincere in his concern for increased vocational training activities in Israel and in other countries. He asked many questions about ORT and strongly urged that consideration be given to extending the program to such depressed communities as the Falasha Jews of Ethiopia.

At Official Residence

Mr. Ben Zvi received the ORT delegation at his official residence in Jerusalem. The President has visited the ORT schools in Israel and has, in other ways, shown his interest.

Earlier this year he cabled the convention of American ORT: "People of Israel greatly appreciate ORT's contribution to vocational education for its youth and newcomers. With increased immigration reaching Israel's shores from persecution and danger there is great need for addition to our educational facilities."

NEW ADDRESS

The American ORT Federation, and its nationally affiliated groups, has relocated at new offices at 222 Fourth Avenue, New York 3, New York. Telephone: ORegon 4-5750. Cable address: AMORTFED.

The new quarters are spacious and tastefully arranged in a modern decor. The larger space was required by the expansion of organization and activities in recent years.



PRES. BEN ZVI with Jacob Oleiski, Israel ORT Director (left) and Max A. Braude, World ORT Director-General.

MOSLEM PRINCESS HEADS COMMITTEE

The elder daughter of Sultan Mohammed V, Princess Aicha, has accepted the Honorary Presidency of the Women's Committee of ORT Morocco.

The Moslem princess assumed her post as head of a Jewish organization at a reception in the home of Jules Senouf, president of the Moroccan ORT, and in the presence of many notables and a delegation of Women's American ORT.

The princess graciously accepted an insignia presented by Mrs. Victor Segal, WAO president. The princess was escorted to the reception by the Minister of National Education Mohammed El Fassi; Minister of Communications M. Benzaquen and the Governor of Casablanca, Si Ahmed Bargach. Princess Aicha was the patroness of an exhibit at the ORT School for Girls at Casablanca last year.

Women's Convention to Mark Growth

Over 800 delegates are expected at the 30th Anniversary Convention of Women's American ORT in Chicago, to take place October 21-24.

The convention program will feature such outstanding men in public life as Israel's Ambassador Abba Eban and the former head of the U. S. Operations Mission to Israel, Dr. Lincoln Hale. American ORT president, Dr. William Haber will address the sessions. WAO president, Mrs. Victor Segal, will report on her recent inspection of ORT installations abroad.

A message of greetings from President Eisenhower has been received. The delegates will see the premier presentation of a new film, *Eliahu's House*, describing the impact of ORT in Israel. In charge of the multitude of arrangements is Mrs. Joseph Gayl, convention chairman.

The delegates from every part of the country will represent a membership of 45,000 organized in 300 chapters. This is the first national convention of the organization to be held outside of New York, and this fact symbolizes the tremendous growth of Women's American ORT in recent years. It is likewise indicative of its nation-wide character, which has brought ORT into every Jewish community of size from coast to coast.

To Set Goals

The convention will assess the many accomplishments of the last two highly productive years and set the goals for the next period. WAO, through its membership work, makes a major contribution in support of the vocational training and education program of ORT overseas.

Dr. Aron Syngalowski

On October 27th, the first anniversary of his death, a memorial will be unveiled at the Jewish cemetery in Geneva for Dr. Aron Syngalowski, chairman of the World ORT Union executive committee and its guiding spirit for many years. Following are excerpts of a eulogy by Julius Hochman at the recent meeting of the World ORT Central Board in Paris.

IN THE DEATH of Aron Syngalowski, we have lost a great leader. Many of us have also lost a friend and a teacher. . . .

FOR DR. SYNGALOWSKI, the roots of ORT lay deep in the Jewish tradition. He found its sources in the basic Jewish concepts of work and freedom . . . the oldest principles on which Judaism is founded. He pointed out that the Jewish nation had its beginning in a revolt against slavery and forced labor. With this revolt, the Jewish people elevated work to its highest dignity and placed it on a level with learning.

Syngalowski pointed out that the word *m'lacha* (labor) is applied in the book of Genesis to the creation of the world by the Almighty: "And God finished on the seventh day His work which He has made." Therefore, in the *Torah* itself, work is a process of creation.

Modern psychology confirms this point of view. It is today recognized that work to the average person is what creativeness is to the great artist. That work for the average man is not only a way of making a living, it is a way of life.

Syngalowski cited, as another pillar in support of this philosophy, the Fourth Commandment: "Six days thou shalt labor and do all thy work—but the seventh day is the Sabbath."

. . . This has been interpreted in Talmudic literature as being as much a commandment to work as it is a commandment to rest.

Out of the depths of his great scholarship, he drew upon talmudic and post-talmudic sources to support the thesis that work is sacred. Syngalowski tied up the whole of Jewish existence with the ORT idea.

What started as a movement for the solution of a particular problem of Jewish life in a given country and was extended by necessity to take in many other countries, was raised by Syngalowski to a philosophy of life in which the "work idea" became a condition for the fulfillment of human existence. . . .

IN RECENT YEARS, one of the big events in the life of American ORT was the annual visit of Dr. Syngalowski. . . . These yearly visits were the result of a resolution adopted at the international confer-

ence in 1948, providing that the World ORT Union should participate in future negotiations with the Joint Distribution Committee.

We urged Dr. Syngalowski then to come for the next negotiations. But he hesitated. He was not sure how he would be received. He came finally in the winter of 1949. And he was pleasantly surprised at the warmth of his welcome.

With the passing of the years, he came to love New York and to feel at home in it, as he would say, "Because there are so many Jews there."

He was fascinated by the development of Jewish cultural life in America. He came to understand the reasons for the sense of security that the Jews of America feel because they live in a "nation of nations," where Jews are expected to retain much of their original cultural and spiritual values.

During his yearly visits, from the first moment of his arrival until the last moment when he stepped into the plane to leave, Syngalowski was in a rush. There was so much to be done, so many calls on his time.

There were, first of all, the negotiations. There were meetings with Women's American ORT and luncheons with Labor ORT. He gave lectures to Jewish cultural groups on general Jewish problems. And through his room flowed a stream of writers, poets, journalists, friends

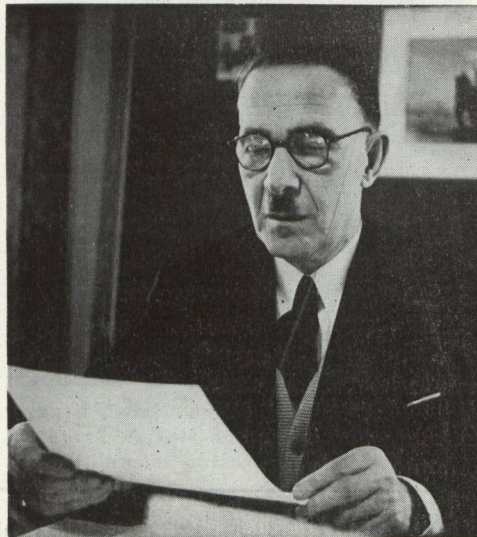
of his youth . . . and just people who wanted to shake his hand.

He refused no one. Yet he was, especially in the last years, a weary man and a sick man. Syngalowski did not spare himself. I wish to God he had. . . .

ARON SYNGALOWSKI belonged to a generation of giants and pioneers in Jewish life. In a time filled with shattering events, he was one of the trailblazers of Jewish survival.

He was the last of the founders of our movement. He not only continued the tradition of ORT, but gave to it a poetic cast and a practical guidance to provide not only for the now but for the years to come.

He left us a rich inheritance. Let us cherish it, build it, enrich it, expand it. And in that way we shall honor his memory.



Hungarian Refugees Crowd New York School

The Bramson ORT school in New York has begun its fifteenth year with a capacity enrollment of Hungarian refugees.

New Stage of Work

Originally conceived, a decade and a half ago, as an emergency program to aid survivors of Nazism and other Jewish victims of the European tragedy, the arrival of the recent Hungarian immigration has opened a new phase

in the school's history. It is a bustling, busy place today, with classes filled to overflowing.

In many ways, the latest immigrant differs from his predecessor. He is generally younger, more resilient, and his spirit has not been sapped by years of war and concentration camps. There are many, however, for whom migration has been a ruthless personal tragedy.

Only Refugee School Here

Bramson is the only trade school where newcomers are welcome to receive free vocational instruction and where everything is arranged to meet the special needs of people recently come to a strange land, with little or no knowledge of the language, but who must find work as soon as possible.

Has High Standing

Located on the fringe of New York's famous Garment District, at 1170 Broadway, the school teaches needle trades skills. Because it has an excellent reputation in the trade and has the cooperation of trade unions and manufacturers, it is in a good position to place students in jobs as soon as they have mastered the elements.

Canadian Premier Lauds Israel Program



THE NEW PRIME MINISTER of Canada, on a recent visit to Israel, toured the ORT schools and came away deeply impressed. He declared: "A fine achievement of imagination and effective action."

New Course Announced

Jerusalem—A course in watchmaking will be instituted at the ORT vocational school here during the coming year in cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Labor.

ORT has agreed to invite an instructor from Switzerland to take the class which will be limited to 15 pupils.

PLANNING TO VISIT ISRAEL?

If you are planning to visit Israel for the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations next May, it is best to place your reservation immediately through your travel agent.

The office of ORT in Israel writes that many visitors are expected and that hotel reservations will become difficult to get unless made very soon.

If you plan to go abroad, by all means include a visit to the ORT schools in your itinerary. Contact the national office of American ORT for information on the schools.

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ORGANIZATION FOR REHABILITATION THROUGH TRAINING

Vol. XI. No. 1 Sept.-Oct., 1957

OFFICERS—Dr. William Haber, *President*; George Backer, *Honorary President*; Mark Carter, Adolph Held, Max Herzfeld, Julius Hochman, Louis Hollander, Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, David Rosenstein, Mrs. Victor Segal, William R. Sinkin, *Vice-Presidents*; Charles Kreindler, *Secretary*; Alexander Dolowitz, *Treasurer*; George J. Mintzer, *Chairman Exec. Comm.*; Julius Hochman, *Vice-Chairman Exec. Comm.*; Harry Greenberg, *Chairman Admin. Comm.*; Paul Bernick, *Executive Director*.

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.

Annual Subscription Price — 50c

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Graduation of Teachers at Anieres



GRADUATION DAY at the Central ORT Teacher's Training Institute at Anieres, Switzerland. Seated at the dais are the Grand Rabbi of Geneva, the heads of the government of Geneva and French diplomatic representatives. Americans present included: Dr. William Haber, Julius Hochman, and Mrs. Victor Segal.

World Conference Votes Major Decisions

Central Board Meeting Reviews Critical Problems; Acts to Strengthen Operation

Eighty-eight delegates, representing ORT operating programs and organizations in 27 countries, assembled in Paris, July 1st, for a three-day conference of the Central Board of the World ORT Union. Meetings were held at UNESCO Hall.

Dr. Syngalowski Eulogized

This was the first major international ORT gathering since the death a year ago of Dr. Aron Syngalowski, chairman of the ORT Union executive, and his absence was felt in every aspect of the proceedings. A moving address by Julius Hochman, vice-president of American ORT, memorializing Dr. Syngalowski, recalled how much of present-day ORT was due to his leadership.

Board sessions took up a wide range of problems, indicative of the serious tasks in which ORT is presently engaged and the central place it holds in Jewish life today. Three areas of primary concern were pointed up in reports presented by Dr. William Haber, Central Board president, and Max A. Braude, Director-General.

1. Accelerating vocational training in Israel to meet the urgent need for skilled people and as a vital measure for the economic integration of new immigrants.

2. Intensification and elaboration of the ORT program among the 600,000 Jews of North Africa and Iran as a key to the modernization of these communities.

3. Meeting the emergency problem of training the new Jewish refugees from Hungary, Egypt and Eastern Europe.

Major Decisions

The conference voted a series of steps to strengthen the organization to carry out these crucial responsibilities. A new, enlarged executive committee was elected. A number of prominent communal leaders were co-opted to the

Central Board. Resolutions adopted spell out the line of action and development for ORT in the chief critical areas of Jewish life. Questions of organization, membership expansion and fund-raising were reviewed and their implementation assigned top priority.

With regard to the chairmanship of the executive, left vacant by Dr. Syngalowski's death, the delegates agreed that this post could only be occupied by a person of exceptional caliber and outstanding prominence in the Jewish world; that determination on such a person should await the most careful exploration.

Impressive Recognition

An impressive tribute was paid ORT at the public session. Diplomatic representatives were present from many of the countries of ORT operation. The U. S. Ambassador sent his personal representative. Israel's Ambassador Jacob Tsur delivered the greeting of his government. The representative of Sweden announced his government's gift of 50,000 Kronen to ORT.

Judge Leon Meiss, president of French ORT, welcomed the delegates and guests. Daniel Mayer, chairman



CENTRAL BOARD IN SESSION. Julius Hochman, American ORT vice-president, delivering his address at the public session. On the dais, left to right: Dr. Haber, Judge Leon Meiss, president of French ORT; Grand Rabbi of France, Jacob Kaplan; and Max A. Braude.

The U. S. Delegation

Americans attending the Central Board meeting were: Mrs. Gustave Gettenberg, Baroness Pierre de Gunzburg, Dr. William Haber, Mrs. Hyman Hilf, Julius Hochman, Ephim Jeshurin, Mrs. Ludwig Kaphan, Mrs. Alexander Konoff, D. Beryl Manischewitz, George J. Mintzer, Dr. Simon Segal and Mrs. Victor Segal. Staff members included Paul Bernick and Dr. Jacob Frumkin.

Many members of the U. S. delegation had toured ORT schools in various countries prior to the meeting. A Women's American ORT group inspected operations in Israel and North Africa. Mrs. Leon Bader saw the schools in Teheran, Isfahan and Shiraz, in Iran.

of the Commission on Foreign Affairs of the French National Assembly, delivered a major address. An invocation was made by the Grand Rabbi of France.

U.N. Agencies Represented

Spokesmen for a number of United Nations and international agencies who addressed the meeting included Luther Evans, Director General of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; James Read, Assistant U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees; Helen Wilson for the Inter-governmental Committee for European Migration.

Former Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, the Honorary President of World ORT, recalled the growth of ORT as an instrumentality for Jewish reconstruction during his 35 years of association with it.

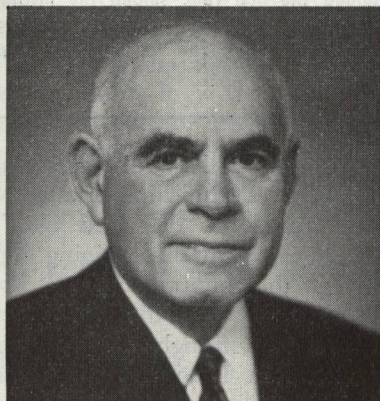
Communal Leaders

Community leaders and heads of Jewish organizations who brought greetings were Charles Jordan, Director General of the Joint Distribution Committee; Eugene Weill for the Alliance Israelite Universelle; Abel Shaban for the Union OSE; George Wormser for the Jewish Colonization Association; Maurice Orbach for the World Jewish Congress; and Rabbi M. C. Weiler for the S. A. Jewish Appeal.

Sen. Lehman Addresses Sessions

Former Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, Honorary President of ORT, spoke with warmth and intimacy at the Central Board meeting. Following is a brief extract from his address.

One of the reasons I, and others of the American Jewish community, feel such a kinship for ORT is because it



carries on a work of rebuilding the inherent strength of each community. That is one of the important objectives of the international philanthropic work supported by American Jewry.

Key Task in Israel

America has made a notable march toward world leadership. . . . To maintain a leadership of free nations takes great experience and wisdom, much of which can only come with time. On the part of our allies, it requires patience and a will to understand.

I am particularly happy that ORT has grown into the foremost educator of youth in trades in the new state of Israel. Israel in many respects is like my own country, America. It is a country of youth and what is done with

Sweden Honors

Stockholm — Two Jewish brothers have been honored in the list of distinctions published here in connection with Sweden's National Day.

Mr. Gunnar Josephson, President of the Stockholm Jewish Community, was named a Commander of the Order of Vas. His brother, Dr. Ragnar Josephson, Professor of Art at Lund University, was appointed Commander of the Order of the North Star.

Mr. Gunnar Josephson is a member of the Executive Committee of the World ORT Union.

that youth is a matter of great moment indeed. In this respect, what ORT is doing today has great bearing not only on the economics of Israel, but in shaping the outlook and the ways of making a living for thousands of Israel's most precious asset, its youth.

Analogy with U. S.

It is a great and challenging experiment with young people who spring from so many lands who are becoming one integrated nation, Israel. In this respect the educational system can and does occupy a pivotal position, just as the public schools of America did in the Americanization of our immigrants.

Dr. Haber Hailed on South American Tour

American ORT president, Dr. William Haber, and Mrs. Haber have just returned from a tour of South America that took them to Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Buenos Aires and Lima, cities with significant Jewish communities.

Warmly Received

At each stopover, Dr. Haber was welcomed as a "guest of the community," as one newspaper expressed it. Receptions were held by ORT, B'nai B'rith and other communal groups. Both the Yiddish and Spanish press carried extensive reports of his talks and his accounts of ORT activities.

This was Dr. Haber's first trip to South America and he returned with great respect for the vibrant and distinguished communities he met. He was greatly impressed with the quality of the communal leadership.

At B'nai B'rith Conference

Dr. Haber, who is chairman of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Commission, was the principal speaker at a Latin American Conference of B'nai B'rith in Lima, Peru.

In Buenos Aires, a press conference for Dr. Haber, conducted in the ORT office, turned into a lively discussion on ORT activities. Dr. Haber's theme was received with great interest. He

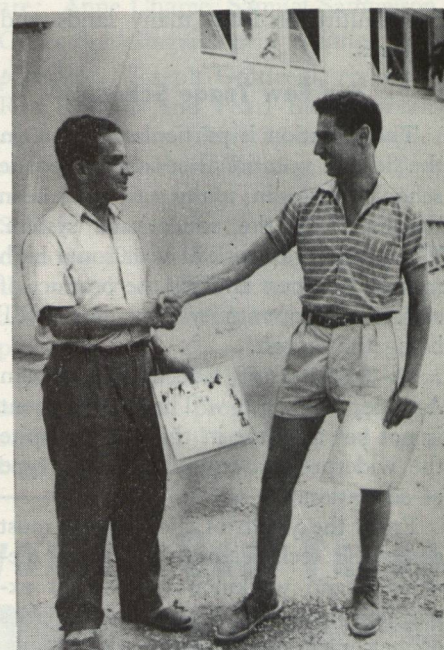
Father and Son

The Meloudi family are proud ones. The Jews of the Tunis ghetto speak of them with respect. Here Jacques Meloudi and his father congratulate each other on a family success.

Father and son took accelerated vocational training courses at the ORT school in Tunis. Both of them passed with honors. The elder Meloudi as a welder, Jacques as an electrician.

Continues Studies

Jacques became so thrilled with his new skill, he studied harder. He has just successfully passed the state ex-



amination and has been enrolled at the television school of the Montreuil ORT Center in Paris.

When there is talk of the Meloudis in the ghetto of Tunis, their names are mentioned with respect.

began his talk by reference to the universal effort today for the raising of living standards and improvement of livelihoods, a goal that is contingent upon a great increase in production and productivity. The work of ORT, particularly in Israel, is directly concerned with this problem.

Dr. Haber had been preceded by the visit to South America of F. Schragger, director of the World ORT Union office in Paris, last spring.

The Challenge Ahead in Israel

Trade School enrollment Expected to double in Next three year period

Israel may well be heading for a crisis in education such as has bedeviled the U. S. and many other countries in recent years . . . with the all important difference that Israel's material and technical resources for meeting such a crisis are of a far different order than those of the U. S. and that education for Israel is not only the fulfillment of a basic aim of the young society, but a decisive means for creating a homogeneous nation out of the multitudes from many lands and cultures.

Too Few Trade Schools

The situation is particularly acute in the field of vocational education. Trade schools have, in many respects, been "orphans" of the educational system. The present network of vocational high schools is almost entirely the product of efforts by community agencies, ORT being the largest.

As Minister of Education, Zalman Aranne, has said: "The Government is not yet a factor in this field, despite the widespread trend toward this type of education."

From the youth of the country must come the technicians, the skilled mechanics and workmen for Israel's expanding economy. There are scarcities of men even now in many occupations. Labor Minister Mordecai Namir stated last spring: "Israel is still suffering from a severe shortage of trained personnel in nearly all branches, and the expansion of the training program is a priority target." Yet Israel is but at the beginning of its industrialization, with a consequent rising demand for skilled people.

Demand for Skills on Rise

The vocational school structure, which must supply a large portion of this growing demand, is hardly sufficient for today's requirements, let alone the problems it must be prepared to meet in the very near future.

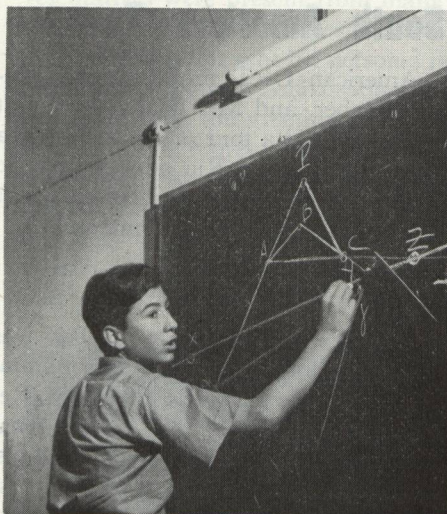
Total enrollment in trade high schools runs somewhat under 6,000 students, attending 40 schools. Accord-

ing to Labor Ministry figures of last year, 1,903, or about 34 per cent, were in ORT schools. Fifteen of the schools listed were ORT. The second program in size is the Amal schools of the Histadrut, with about 900 students or some 16 per cent.

Two Real Systems

The ORT enrollment figure and proportion are considerably higher now since a number of new facilities have been opened and existing schools enlarged. Furthermore, the Labor Ministry figures do not include about 1,000 youngsters in ORT schools for immigrant youth, since these come under the jurisdiction of the Education Ministry.

ORT and Amal are the only ones that can properly be described as voca-



HIGH STANDARDS are maintained at ORT schools through effective combination of theory and practice. This youngster is in a mathematics class at the Jaffa school.

tional high school systems. ORT for example has schools in 22 localities; Amal in ten. Technion, Alliance, Hadassah operate one or two schools each, with smaller student bodies.

Advantages of ORT

Other factors, too, make ORT stand out as the leading organization in the field. Vocational training is ORT's exclusive concern, to which it brings 77 years of experience. The ORT Teachers Training Institute in Switzerland is a valuable asset not alone for the ORT schools but for Israel's vocational education as a whole.

The Employers View

"Hata'assiyah," the publication of the Israel Manufacturers' Association, writes: "Quietly and energetically, the program of ORT attacks the problem of trade education in the country. ORT in a short time has with great imagination and drive established a network of trade schools and has from its inception assumed the first rank among the institutions whose task is vocational training and preparation for technical employment."

Dr. Lincoln Hale, until recently head of the U. S. Technical Assistance Mission to Israel has described ORT as the foremost vocational training organization in the country, that it is doing a "quality job" and that its influence and standards strongly effect all training schools in Israel. Prime Minister Ben Gurion wrote this past August: "ORT's vocational training schools have become landmarks in Israel's expanding economy."

The ORT program in Israel has in fact grown by giant strides from 665 students in 1949, when the first classes were opened, to a current annual enrollment of 5,500 counting all courses, youth and adult. Two hundred and fifty teachers are employed.

Gratifying and significant as these achievements are, the underlying challenge remains: the manpower needs of the country already outstrip present trade school capacities and in the not too distant future the demand for admissions is expected to skyrocket.

Measure of Problem

Some idea of how many applicants may be anticipated and how soon, can be gleaned from a projection of the present school population. Max A. Braude, Director General of ORT, puts it this way: "Today Israel's elementary schools have 16,000 pupils in the final year; the fifth grade has 32,000. It is a simple calculation and correct assumption to state that by 1960, over 3,000 candidates for trade schools will have to be turned aside unless every single agency, municipality or organization succeeds in doubling its facilities in the period of the next three years."

This is the measure of the challenge. Not even in the U. S. has education faced tasks of such magnitude.

Milwaukee Sets A Fast Pace

The Men's Chapter in Milwaukee is setting a fast pace of activity and growth. It is rapidly becoming one of the well-known and highly respected organizations in the community, which is making an increasing contribution to the overseas program.

The annual installation dance on September 14th drew a crowd of almost 200. Credit for the enormous success of this affair belongs to Al Sucher, chairman of arrangements and to the entire executive board and dance committee.

The Milwaukee chapter has discov-

Sobel Reports "Profoundly Impressed"

Sigmund I. Sobel, member of the American ORT Board, chairman of the Landsmanshaften Division of the National ORT League, and president of the United Galician Jews of America, made a tour of Israel recently during which he saw ORT at work.

School "Ingathering"

At Givatayim, he was amazed by the many classrooms and shops, the modern establishment and equipment. The students, coming from various countries, made an impression of a real "Kibutz Galioth."

At Ramat Gan, he found a combination of Jewish "traditional" trades and the most modern. He was delighted by the variety of work done in the dress-making classes, while the Laboratory Technicians School was a surprise for being the very last word in technical achievement.

Double Role Seen

Mr. Sobel was profoundly impressed and said that ORT work in Israel is a most significant contribution to both the formation of a modern industrial state and the capacity to absorb the new immigrants.

He was accompanied by Mrs. Sobel. During his stay in Israel, he participated in ceremonies of the first planting of a forest bearing his name, arranged by the Jewish National Fund.

ALBERT FELDMAN

News of the death of Al Feldman came as a terrible shock. He was a charter member of the Boston Men's Chapter, a hard worker and a leader of the group. He was a young man in years and spirit, a warm human being.

We extend sincere heartfelt condolence to his wife and family and to those fortunate to have worked with him in friendship. We mourn his loss.

ered a formula for involving many of its members and officers in activities and this is a key to its growing effectiveness.

The chapter recently inaugurated a sports program under the direction of Lou Fine. Plans call for dartball, bowling and golf.

Corp of Leaders

Heading the chapter is a core of energetic, experienced men. We congratulate incoming president Nathan Schnoll and his entire slate. With him are: Harry Edelman and Alvin Sucher, *vice-presidents*, Frank Haber, *recording secretary*, Dr. S. J. Marks, *financial secretary*, A. Randy Chase, *treasurer*. Outgoing president George Zurkoff and former president Al Goldberg, remain active in the chapter's leading councils.

B & P Elects New Slate of Officers

Business and Professional ORT of New York has just begun its twentieth year as an ORT organization. For the past several years, it has contributed \$5,000 annually out of its membership income to the support of the ORT Institute for Training of Laboratory Technicians at Ramat Gan, Israel.

New Slate Elected

A convention last June elected a new president, Irving Braunstein, prominent Bronx attorney. Serving with him are: Anne Charee, Samuel Samuelson, Claire Schlesinger, Irwin Wepner, *vice-presidents*, Joseph Gottfreid, *treasurer*, Rae Rochlin and Pearl Bloom, *financial secretaries*, Ida Mandell, *office secretary*, Shirley Tandey, *recording secretary*. Outgoing president is Rose Seidel. The convention heard an address by David Bernstein, member of the American ORT Board and former advisor to two presidents of the Philippines.

The organization is now launched on an exciting fall program of meetings, social and cultural activities, and membership expansion.

Reception for Mayor of Gan Yavne



THE MAYOR OF GAN YAVNE, Israel, was warmly welcomed at a reception tendered by the American ORT executive committee. ORT has established a trade school for immigrant youth at Gan Yavne, in partnership with the Local Council. The school has also had equipment contributed by Morris B. Newman and Morris Massin, both of New York. Left to right are: Mayor Joseph Yavnal, Mr. Massin and Mr. Newman.

Yearbook Highlights Achievements

Single copies of the "ORT Yearbook—1957" may be obtained by writing the American ORT Federation, 222 Fourth Ave., New York 3, New York.

Because the problems with which ORT is concerned are crucial to Jewish life in many parts of the world, large cataclysmic events such as those of the past year are immediately reflected in its activities.

This is strikingly apparent from the facts presented in the newly published *ORT Yearbook—1957*. The booklet is profusely illustrated with scenes of ORT at work, charts and tables on every aspect of the program.

Shifting Danger Zones

Early last year, ORT carried through an intensive expansion and development of the vocational program in North Africa since this was then the most critical area. Whole new programs were established to encompass almost every layer of the impoverished population of the *mellahs*.

At the year's end, the scene had shifted as thousands of refugees from Hungary and Egypt posed emergency tasks. The schools throughout Europe were suddenly faced with a new mass of refugees. Existing facilities were overtaxed and new training centers opened.

At the same time, the long-range problems of economic security, education and training of Jewish youth in

modern technical skills remained the primary focus of ORT work.

This was conducted in 391 trade schools, workshops, apprentice projects and farms located in 19 countries.

23,000 people were enrolled, studying 60 different trades.

757 teachers were employed.

In Israel, ORT has built the largest vocational school system in the country, with schools in 22 localities.



Yet, the report finds, there is an inherent threat to Israel's future industrial growth in the fact that too few youngsters are studying technical skills. The continuing influx of large numbers of immigrants likewise poses the urgent necessity for more training facilities.

At the opposite end of the Mediterranean, life remains a desperate struggle for survival in a rapidly changing

society for the great mass of Jews of North Africa. Training for new occupations, in line with modern standards, is one of the great hopes for rehabilitating these communities.

Primitive Life in Iran

In far-off Iran, the *Yearbook* reports a survey found 700 of 960 families studied so poor as to be barely able to meet the most primitive physical needs. The ORT schools here represent the spearhead of an offensive against an ancient, corroding poverty and the backwardness of mind and spirit this has engendered.

In reviewing the work of ORT in 19 countries, the *Yearbook* reads like a catalog of the economic problems faced by many Jewish communities overseas.

"Mellah" in South Africa

South African Jewry has been seeing the film "Mellah" this summer and the impression left has been a profound one.

In Johannesburg, the premiere showing at the large 20th Century Theatre evoked an outpouring of praise. The film played to a full house. Headed by the Chief Rabbi, the leaders of Johannesburg Jewry turned out to see this deeply moving picture of ORT's work in freeing the youth of the Casablanca ghetto from poverty and degradation.

In Capetown, long before starting time, the theatre displayed "Full House" notices. Many were turned away. The Capetown office of ORT-OZE has been flooded with enquiries about a re-showing.

ORT BULLETIN

222 Fourth Avenue
New York 3, N. Y.

**Cordial
Best Wishes
For a
Happy
New Year
From
American ORT
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