

They Knew the Answers

He turned to the ladies. His eye lighted on a middle-aged woman with a coloured skin slightly lighter than usual—known as a "high yaller"—and he said: "Sister Jacobson, how do you kasher your steak?" And without stopping the Sister told us how she brought the steak home from the kasher butcher, washed it, salted it, put it on the draining board, and so on. "Very good, Sister Jacobson," commented the Rabbi. He asked a Miss Tomkins—I made a careful memory-note of the name—why she mustn't eat meat with butter. Miss Tomkins, looking as if she had just stepped out from the coloured revue running at Harlem's popular music-hall the Apollo (Props.: Schiffman and Frankel, two fine fellows and great friends of the coloured folk in Harlem), started giggling coyly, and after being admonished by her spiritual chief, lisped the biblical prohibition. "Very good, Rebecca Tomkins." He explained that the Commandment "Thou shalt not see the kid in its mother's milk," when violated, caused the spirit of the mother animal to hate the man who did so. That is why, he explained, the white man always needs the coloured man to lead him and protect him through the jungle. Animals spring upon the white man in revenge for the violation of the seething law, while leaving the black man alone "because he no do these things."

The time was well past one o'clock, the proceedings taking over two and a half hours.

"Afternoon service at four o'clock. Good appetite," said the Rabbi.

Many of the congregation wished me "Shalom Shabbat."

Rabbi Matthew, saying that he felt I was a genuinely sympathetic soul, invited me to that chicken dinner for which so many fine birds had been "rustled up." He accepted my polite refusal with dignity. "Kol Yisroel Chaverim," he said. I agreed.

—By courtesy of the "London Jewish Chronicle."

Serious and Otherwise

* by ben dor *

Rescued Scroll

ON the night of June 6, 1943—a most tragic and violent day—a young woman stole into the smoking ruins of the synagogue in Herkalon, Crete. There she found what she was looking for—a Scroll of the Law. Risking death with every step she brought the Holy Torah to the Greek home where she was sheltering.

This scroll from which the books of Genesis and Deuteronomy had been torn out and the cover of which bore a dedication to Palestine Jewry, was brought to Haifa by the crew of the s.s. "Aliza" of the Atid Navigation Company, which had called at Harkalion two weeks before.

Rena Ellhaim, who had rescued the Scroll, told the second engineer of the "Aliza" that on June 6, 1943, the Germans rounded up the Jews of Crete and shot all the men. The women and children were placed in an old boat which was scuttled at sea.

The girl handed the engineer a letter addressed to the Palestine Rabbinate in which she asked them that the tragic day be commemorated and that Kaddish be recited for her father and her brother who had been massacred with the rest of the men. She also pleaded that she and three other survivors should be assisted to go to Palestine.

These four people, stated the engineer, were in desperate plight, as was the eighty remaining Jewish families on the island of Patras, where the "Aliza" had also called.

American Statistics

I HAVE just received a copy of the latest American Jewish Year Book (published by the Jewish Publication Society of America)—a 620-page book containing a mass of interesting information.

In addition to calendars, reviews and statistics, directory of organisations and list of periodicals, the Year Book contains special articles of topical interest; facts about the Jews in the American Public Service; a complete enumeration of Jews who have been honoured or decorated for war service, both in the United States and other countries, a necrology, domestic and foreign; an extensive American Jewish bibliography and a list of special bequests and gifts in America and abroad.

The Year Book has paid much attention to statistics. In the six years ending June, 1943, the Jewish population of the United States, it reveals, has risen to 5,199,000, representing an increase of 428,344. The ratio of the Jewish to the general population in 1943 is estimated at 3.7 per cent. In 1937 it was also 3.7 per cent.

"There is hardly a Jewish family that is not represented among our gallant American men and women fighting in the onward march to victory," writes Louis Kraft, Executive Director of the Jewish Welfare Board, in a detailed article on Jews in the armed forces. More than 2,800 Jews of the U.S., he states, received decorations for bravery in action—thirty of them winning ten awards or more each.

Mr. Kraft reports also that approximately 335,000 servicemen attended religious services in all parts of the world during the high festivals of 1943. The American army has a force of 214 chaplains. Four have died—two being killed at the front line.

The domestic section of the Year Book reviews religious, educational and cultural activities, anti-Jewish manifestations, inter-faith activities, reactions to overseas events, overseas relief, and Zionist and pro-Palestine activities. The Foreign section provides accounts of Jewish life in 27 countries, including occupied lands, with special additional chapters on Palestine and Latin America.

Two gifts of a million dollars each by Jews are among the long list of Jewish benefactors mentioned in the book. One of the gifts was made by Louis Bamberger who bequeathed his complete estate to Jewish institutions and charities as well as to all leading universities, and the other came from Bernard M. Baruch, who directed this fortune to be used for medical research and the training of specialists.

This is the 46th volume of the Year Book. It has been edited by Harry Schneiderman for the American Jewish Committee.

Shoshtakovich

DIMITRI SHOSHTAKOVICH, Russia's greatest living composer, discussing his trio written in memory of a dead friend, told Moscow's correspondent Robert Magidoff that the trio contains some Jewish folk-songs. "I like Jewish folksongs, I don't know exactly why. Possibly it's that I heard a great deal of Jewish folk music . . . from a man named Berezovsky, who collected three volumes of such music and showed them to me."

Among U.S. Experts

FOUR Jews are among the twenty-one U.S. experts appointed by President Truman to work with the United States Reparations Committee in Moscow to determine what Germany must pay in materials, and probably with labour, for damage done in Europe.

They are Dr. Isador Lubin, White House economist, who will be top assistant to Edwin W. Pauly, Chief of the U.S. Delegation, and three State Department officials: Abraham Bergson, expert on German economy and industry; Seymour Rubin, who will handle legal phases of reparations, and Moses Abramovitz, also an industrial expert.

The Only Snag

WALTER WINCHELL has the following story to tell about his old pal Max Mekufsky.

He suffered from insomnia. Who doesn't? He went to his doctor who advised him to count sheep. A few days later he returned to the medico. "I did what you said; the first two days I slept like a baby, but last night I couldn't sleep a wink."

"How was that?" asked the doctor.

"It's like this," answered Max. "The first night I not only counted the sheep but I also sheered the wool—then I wove it into cloth. On the second night I put the cloth on the table—I cut out the suits and sent them to the factory, but last night again I couldn't sleep one wink."

"I don't understand at all," said the doctor.

"How could I sleep," wept Max, "have I got lihings?"

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Mr. F. Williams, of Burlington Street, Sydenham, writes: "I thought you would be interested to know that I think R.U.R. is easily the best remedy on the market for constipation. I wish I had known sooner, as it would have saved me a lot of suffering." In the pink of health to-day, Mr. Williams gratefully attributes it to R.U.R.

R.U.R. is quite harmless and is not unpleasant to take; it can be used by young or old. If you are feeling "out-of-sorts," give R.U.R. a trial. You can get it at all chemists. The prices are: 5/6 small size (for 2½ weeks' treatment) and 10/6 large size (for 5 weeks' treatment), which carries a money-back guarantee. . . if, after taking a 5 weeks' course of R.U.R. your health does not improve, your money will be refunded.

Area P.O.W. Comes Home

