

ALONE

A True Story from Jewish Life in Germany
By MARCELLE BLANK

IT HAD BECOME a daily occurrence. Even the town folk, for whom every newcomer and every one who moved away meant an important event, no longer paid attention to it. Except the janitor and his wife, who for thirty-eight years had taken care of the factory and the adjacent home, nobody even spoke about it. At first some women of neighboring houses peeped through the curtains, but then they, too, went back to their work, paying no attention to what was going on. Even the urchins in the street, watched only out of interest in the dexterity of the moving-men. For it was nothing new anymore, to see people moving away; Jewish homes dissolved.

Mrs. Schoenfeld had hesitated for a long time before she finally decided to

go to a Home for the Aged. But what else could she do after her children had left, and her money had shrunk to almost nothing? When people asked her where she was going to, she answered "to a pension." In a pension one retained, after all, one's liberty — also on trips one staged in a "pension" — but a Home for the Aged signified the end of one's individuality, the relinquishing of all desires.

The excitement of moving and despoiling the home had for a time kept the old woman from thinking. But now, at noon, after everything had been attended to, except the carrying out of the furniture, she sat down near the window to rest. Her gray transformation had shifted somewhat to the side and from under it her silky, snow-white hair was visible. Under her misty eyes were deep rings, and her wrinkled cheeks hung down like sacks. Looking at the charming little photograph which stood on the table, one would never have believed that the beautiful, stately, young woman, with the large, big eyes that looked so naively into the world, was Mrs. Schoenfeld's likeness.

Deep in her thought, she took the picture and looked at it. Then she put it down again, saying to herself: "I think I'll take it with me to the Home, because he always liked it so much."

There were a few more things she planned to take along: two persian rugs, the chair in which her late husband used to sit during his long sickness and a few family pictures. Everything was already packed for moving. Forty-five years ago, when she first entered this house, she would not have believed that some day she would leave it like that. Proud, happy and like on wings, she had stepped down from the carriage, supported by her husband and entered this spacious, beautiful house, which was now to belong to her and the man she had just married to. She still remembered the soft, tender touch of his hand, and still visualized the

house as it looked then. Yes, even now after forty-five years she could sense the contrast between the coolness of the house and the heat that burned outside on the day they returned from their honeymoon.

Above the office on the ground floor were the living quarters. Through the open windows one heard all day long the noise of the hand looms of the adjacent factory. Over the uneven stones in the yard there was a constant going and coming of working men and employees. On Mondays and Thursdays the bundles, which were lowered from a window on the third floor, were taken away in a factory truck. "Twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six . . ." it was still ringing in Mrs. Schoenfeld's ears, although twenty-three years had elapsed since she had last heard of it.

Mrs. Schoenfeld disliked machine noise. She blamed the advance of technique for all the world's misfortune. She leaned back, closed her eyes and heard again the rattling of the hand-loom. The noise of a heavy object dropped in the next room brought her back from her reveries. She rose and went into the dining-room to give the moving-men directions how to take the buffet apart, that it should not get damaged. On the door she met the gentleman who had purchased the furniture a few days ago. She recalled that the furniture, as everything else in the house, no longer belonged to her. She was neither obliged nor entitled to look after its proper care. Slowly she went back to the window. The buffet was already standing on the sidewalk. A magnificent piece of furniture, made of black-brown oak. Her husband had given it to her a present at Irving's "birth." It was the work of a Viennese artist. She had to force herself not to think of the ridiculous price she was paid for it.

She saw herself sitting next to her husband at the big, round table in the dining room. The children stood around the father to receive his Sabbath blessing. Grete wore a light-blue dress. Hans and Irving still wore short pants. The eyes of the children reflected their feeling of security with father praying for them.

"Jesimechs elohim" . . . It seemed (Continued on Page 10)

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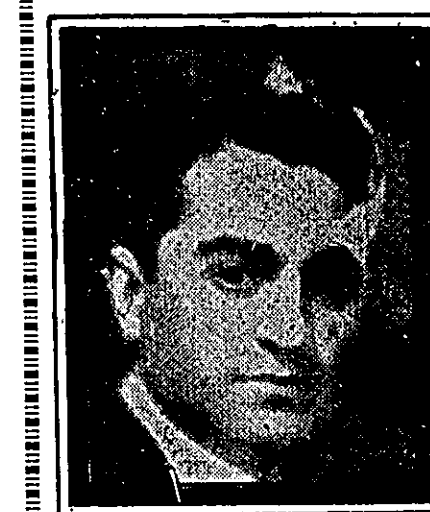
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Cleanings

BY
RABBI JACOB J. EISEN
"It is better that I should suffer for speaking
the truth than that the truth should suffer
for the want of my speaking."

Ten Commandments for Industry

More and more we begin to realize the important place Industry plays in the life of the world. I am one of the many who feel that Industry, with all its advantages of wealth, leadership, social standing, education, and influence, ought to assume a larger responsibility than it has up to this time in the promotion of justice, co-operation, and peace. From Zion's Herald I "clean" Ten Commandments for Industry to guide itself for the betterment of Man:

1. Thou shalt not exploit women and children.
2. Thou shalt not deny the laborer's right to more than a mere "living wage."
3. Thou shalt not make a machine out of him.
4. Thou shalt not impair his health and steal his prospects in life by forcing upon him long hours and unhealthy working conditions.
5. Thou shalt not spy upon him, or bear false witness against him.
6. Thou shalt not suddenly throw him out of work through the "shutdown" or "lockout," and then wash thy hands of all responsibility for him. Neither shalt thou be unmindful of the helplessness of his old age.
7. Thou shalt not employ high-priced legal talent to find a way to "beat the law" whilst thou holdest up thy hands in holy terror over the "sit-down strike."
8. Thou shalt not decide critical issues in industry solely from the angle of money-making.
9. Thou shalt cease looking at labor from the master-slave point of view, and begin to regard industry as a stewardship for the common good.
10. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and all thy soul, and all thy might, and thy neighbor as thyself.

LETHBRIDGE NEWS

(By Sylvia Keel Shechter)

The Hebrew Ladies' Aid gave a farewell party on Wednesday evening in the Community hall in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Liehstein who are leaving for Edmonton where they will reside. Cards were enjoyed during the evening with prizes going to Mrs. A. David and Mrs. S. Cooper. On behalf of the Ladies' Aid, Mrs. H. Goodman presented the honor guest with a waffle iron.

Mrs. Wm. Balcovske and Miss Claire Balcovske were recent visitors in Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gelfond are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter, Doreen.

Miss Pearl Crystal of Calgary was a visitor in the city for a few days, the guest of Mrs. P. Liehstein.

The Hebrew Ladies' Aid are sponsoring a Midnight Preview at the Capitol theatre on Sunday, April 25. Arrangements are in charge of Mrs. P. Liehstein.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Shechter were Sunday visitors in Calgary.

Mr. M. Averbach of Winnipeg was in the city on Sunday. He gave an address in the Community hall on behalf of the Jewish workers in Palestine. Lethbridge community responded to his appeal.

SASKATOON NEWS

Covers were laid for 32 when Mrs. M. Gropper and Miss Tillie were hostesses at dinner and bridge one evening last week in complement to Miss Beulah Adilman, bride-elect of next month.

The dinner table laid with a maderia hand-worked cloth was made effective by a basket of red tulips and daffodils at one end and a candelabrum holding three blue green candles at the other. Later in the evening bridge was enjoyed, honors going to Mrs. Fanny Shore and to Mrs. B. Adilman.

Miss Tillie Gropper of Regina spent a few days in the city, the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. Gropper.

The Saskatoon Hadassah chapter held a very successful tea at the home of Mrs. P. Chetkov, on Sunday, April 11. The hostesses were Mrs. P. Chetkov, Mrs. B. Ames, Mrs. L. Bogoch, Mrs. M. Sharzer and Mrs. J. Goodman.

A men's tea for the Talmud Torah was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Davidner on Sunday, April 18. The affair was a financial and social success. The men received the guests, poured tea and served.

FULL PROGRAM PLANNED FOR A.Z.A. CONFERENCE AT REGINA

Some of the highlights for the forthcoming Western Canadian Regional Conference of A.Z.A. will include: Dance at Trianon; basket ball finals (regional championship); House to House parties; Luncheon at Kitchener hotel; banquet and dance. Information as to dating, housing, may be obtained from Samuel J. Hamer, 2242 Quebec Street, Regina, Sask.

She wants to share his troubles

The bride notices that her husband is worried by something. "Darling," she says, "tell me what bothers you. Your troubles are now also mine."
"All right," he answers, "we are sued for breach of promise."

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