

medy? It is true we have such organizations as Aleph Zadik Aleph, Hillel Foundations, Young Men's Hebrew Associations, and so forth, but though they are doing good work in counteracting the situation, they are really dealing with the effect rather than the cause. Their cure is external whereas the ailment is internal. The real trouble lies in the psychological conflict affecting the race.

What is the answer? There is only one—Palestine. I anticipate all objections. Firstly, it may be urged that the Jews have existed in exile for two thousand years without immediate hope of succour, and yet have not been troubled by psychological worries. But conditions to-day are different. No one can doubt that this is an age not of belief but of reason. What the Jews unquestioningly once accepted, they now wholly disregard

in the absence of a plausible explanation. Whereas the Jewish beliefs, rituals, and ceremonies formerly bound the Jew to his religion, now only a Jewish National Homeland can make him feel his race and tradition. And when he feels Jewish, Jewish culture and Judaism will follow.

Recent events have given rise to another objection. I refer, of course, to the Arab uprisings in Palestine. To the pessimists they impart the end of Zionistic hopes. But the fair-minded will see in them a futile attempt to terrify the Jewish population and to overawe Great Britain into compliance with Arabic demands. Serious as were the riots, the Jews suffered similar pogroms with as serious results for two thousand years. And as for England, the mandatory power has too much at stake in the East to abandon Palestine. It must be admitted that for a while

Jews will probably cease to immigrate to the Holy Land, but a reformed British administration will slowly win back lost confidence, and the work of rebuilding will continue with renewed vigour. Especially so since the recent Zionist Congress has almost unanimously endorsed the Jewish Agency. The main difficulty confronting the Zionist movement has been overcome. Its partisanship—apparently a trait of our people—has disappeared. Modern methods of organization have aided even the Jews in the solemn and urgent task of reviving the Jewish race by giving them a National Homeland. Zionists and non-Zionists have pledged their aid. On the success of this undertaking depends our future existence. For when the Jews will be at one both in mind and in body, their life as a people will be assured; and with their life, their culture and ideals.

What is Wrong With Us?

(Continued from Page 24)

I remember the pre-war days on the other side of the Atlantic, and I see the Jewish youth disjointed into sections and factions for cultural purposes. Different spheres of activities. I say disjointed, this is not for the sake of disparagement. On the contrary, it was a sign of life and activity. There were those whose effort centered around the Zionist movement; those endeavoring to bring more social justice to our world, the Socialist movement having among its ranks the cream of Jewish intellect. Progressiveness and idealism was the path of their life. There were others who had a great struggle in their hearts and minds in trying to combine

religious with secular knowledge, the latter still being a forbidden fruit in some places. All their activities were the result of an intense cultural life.

Now, I am not sure whether the type of youth in question was the ideal one. They also had their shortcomings. Sometimes they indulged in too much speculation and discussion and forgot about activity. The Canadian youth is probably a healthier type, both physically and spiritually, except that its energies are not directed properly.

What are the ideals and aspirations of our youth in this country? An individual may live sometimes without any aspirations. There is the type of individual who is satisfied completely by having reached his personal selfish ends. But a whole generation cannot live and continue such a self-centered existence, and one, therefore, asks: Whither does the current of time lead our youth? We have a healthy energetic youth, endowed with many shining excellencies, but to my opinion,

one which is too materialistically inclined—a result of the American philosophy of life.

Now, while materialism is a legitimate and proper criterion when it concerns the precautions one ought to take to assure his physical subsistence, for in many respects man is an animal endeavoring to protect himself against nature and against his fellow men, it may, however, become a very dangerous and destructive criterion, as soon as it passes its legitimate limits, and attempts to comprehend the whole of one's life, to dominate every corner of it.

Especially is it pernicious when it dominates the life of a whole generation, for the accumulated will of a whole generation is more than the sum total of all the individual wills. Such a collective will can perform miracles if properly directed by unity and organization, but when youth is indulged in gross materialism, no good results can be expected. It is like grains of sand, out of which no-

thing will come. But add to it a grain of idealism and it will germinate and bring results as a living seed thrown into the ground.

The Canadian Jewish youth must awake from its cultural slumber, and who knows? There may come a day, and it will come, when our youth will suddenly realize the great task that is upon its shoulders, to enrich our own culture, to work our own fields, and to tend our own vineyards.

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"You tell 'em! I found that out my first day at sea."

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