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Preface

SINCE the appearance of the fiftieth volume of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK in April, 1948, its function and contents have been subjected to a thorough re-examination by a number of authorities in the fields of Jewish and general scholarship and Jewish communal affairs, and the editorial and publishing world. These discussions have resulted in a reaffirmation of the primary function of the YEAR BOOK as a volume of reference summarizing developments in Jewish life and those larger events of Jewish interest. A number of modifications were suggested, however, in order to make the series even more comprehensive, authoritative, and usable than it has been in the past. In the present volume an attempt has been made to incorporate as many of these suggestions as possible.

To achieve greater comprehensiveness many new topics have been added, particularly in the review of events in the United States. To increase the reference value of the articles the factual information has been presented in as standard and usable a style as the contents would permit. In addition, the statistical material, previously appearing at the end of the volume, has been integrated with the main body of the articles. The articles in the section dealing with the United States have been divided into four principal topics, while the regional arrangement has been continued and refined in the articles dealing with foreign events. Finally, the present volume for the first time contains a detailed index, thus increasing greatly the accessibility of the information.

Though primarily concerned with the events of the year under review, the YEAR BOOK continues to present special studies on topics not susceptible of adequate treatment within the limitations of a review of a single year. Of special interest in the present volume are the first two articles, which contain a great deal of unpublished statistical and socio-economic data concerning the Jews of the United States. In the first of these, "The American Jew: Some Demographic Features," Ben B. Seligman, of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, presents the results of his analysis of fifteen demographic surveys of local Jewish communities made during and since the war, and compares the data thus obtained with a number of earlier local surveys published in 1943 in *Jewish Population Studies*, edited by Sophia M. Robison. In the second article Eli E. Cohen, executive director of the Jewish Occupational Council, presents additional data on the economic position and occupational structure of Jews secured from the files of Jewish vocational adjustment agencies and independent sources. The Editors hope to present in succeeding volumes summaries of whatever data on this subject may be produced through basic research.

The YEAR BOOK also continues to publish certain basic compilations, such as

obituaries, directories of organizations and publications, and bibliographies, which are much in demand and deemed useful in rounding out a summary of the year's events. Here, again, volume 51 contains innovations in the use of a classified arrangement for the United States national Jewish organizations, the extension of the directories to include selected national Jewish organizations throughout the world, and a more selective compilation of the obituary notices. These notices are in the present volume introduced by brief biographical appreciations of two distinguished Jewish leaders who passed away during the period under review (June 1, 1948, through June 30, 1949)—Judah L. Magnes and Stephen S. Wise. A number of lists, such as those dealing with anniversaries, appointments, honors, and bequests, are no longer being carried.

The Editor also wishes to call attention to the change in the format of the *YEAR BOOK*, by means of which it is hoped to present more material in a less bulky volume, without at the same time sacrificing readability to any appreciable extent. In connection with this change the Editor wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance of Meyer Wagman, of Kurt Volk, Inc., who served as typographical consultant; and of Leonard D. Weil and Mrs. Carol S. Diamond of the Production Division of the American Jewish Committee, who have been most helpful in connection with the typography, as well as with all the details of production.

For the past fifty years the *AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK* has been a publication of the Jewish Publication Society—printed at its press and distributed by the Society. With the present volume, however, as the result of a special agreement between the Society and the American Jewish Committee, the latter, in addition to continuing to serve as editor, joins the Society as co-publisher of the *YEAR BOOK* and will also be responsible for the printing of the volume and the distribution of all copies not reserved for the Society's membership. The Editor takes this opportunity to acknowledge the cooperation of Dr. Maurice Jacobs, executive vice-president of the Jewish Publication Society and Benjamin W. Huebsch, vice-president of Viking Press and a member of the advisory committee of the Library of Jewish Information of the American Jewish Committee, in facilitating this revised arrangement.

In the preparation of this volume the Editor has enjoyed the splendid cooperation of his colleagues on the editorial staff of the *YEAR BOOK*—Jacob Sloan, Irving Kaplan, and Dora Cohen. In particular, he is grateful for the collaboration of Mr. Sloan, who did the major editing of the articles. Thanks are also due to Herbert Poster, Harry J. Alderman, and Esther Frid of the Library of Jewish Information for their assistance to the editorial staff; to Dr. Julius Greenstone for the preparation of the calendars, and to Ernest Maass for the preparation of the index. In addition, the Editor wishes to thank the following persons for their advice in connection with the two special studies: Professor Albert Abrahamson, of Bowdoin College; Dr. Max Baer and Robert Shosteck, of the B'nai B'rith Vocational Service Bureau; Dr. Uriah Engelman, of the American Association for Jewish Education; Nathan Glazer, of *Commentary*; Nathan Goldberg, of the American Jewish Congress and Yeshiva University; Harry L. Lurie, of the Council of Jewish Federations

and Welfare Funds; Walter Lurie and Samuel Spiegler, of the National Community Relations Advisory Council; Elias Picheny, of the National Jewish Welfare Board; Professor Nathan Reich, of Hunter College; and Dr. Sophia M. Robison, of the New York School of Social Work.

The Editor is also grateful to the advisory committee of the Library of Jewish Information of the American Jewish Committee and to its chairman, Professor Salo W. Baron, for their examination of the contents of the past volumes of the YEAR BOOK and their helpful suggestions in connection with this one.

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