THE BERNHARD BARON ST. GEORGE'S JEWISH SETTLEMENT



FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY REVIEW

1914-1964

Foreword

To tell the story of the birth and development of the Oxford and St. George's Clubs and of the Bernhard Baron St. George's Jewish Settlement in the compass of this 50th Anniversary Review has been no easy task.

Members and Managers of the Clubs would gladly browse through the many volumes of Minute Books and Log Books and examine the thousands of photographs that depict the facets of life within the Oxford and St. George's Clubs; but to the great body of friends and supporters whose financial and otherwise helpful participation has enabled the material aspect of the work to go forward, too many details would be an embarrassment. This publication also must arouse the interest of new friends.

It is hoped that the selection of episodes and pictures within these covers will form a compelling narrative, carrying its readers back with nostalgic affection to the early days of experiment and the building up of the work among the inhabitants of St. George-in-the-East, and then leading them, through its present virility, to visions of future development with higher standards and even greater success.

Owing to the drastic changes in the use of the Settlement premises during the Second World War, some of the records and Minute Books have unfortunately disappeared. Regretfully, therefore, the list of those who gave their services is of necessity incomplete. Sincere apologies are tendered to any such reader whose name cannot be found within these pages, and to others of whom no mention has been made but whose efforts have helped to set up this house of service dedicated to the Glory of God.

The publication of this Review has been made possible by the magnificent generosity of a friend who wishes to remain anonymous, and who is defraying the entire cost of production.

THE FIRST STEP

HAVING DECIDED to dedicate himself to a life of service to the youth of St. George-in-the-East, Basil Henriques approached his friends among the members of the Councils of the West London Synagogue and the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, with a view to enlisting their support for his project to open a Boys' Club sponsored by the two Synagogues.

He also obtained the approval of the Chief Rabbi, Dr. Joseph Hertz, who realised the many problems that beset the British-born children of foreign-born parents living in the surroundings then prevalent in East London and particularly in St. George-in-the-East.

Laying the foundations

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF A MEETING OF THE WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 12th, 1913

A largely attended meeting of the members, with Mr. C. G. Montefiore, President, in the Chair, was held at the house of Miss Goldsmid

—20 Portman Square—last Sunday afternoon, when a highly interesting address was delivered by Mr. Basil L. Q. Henriques of Toynbee Hall on a proposed Jewish Club for boys to be established in St. George-inthe-East.

Mr. Henriques said that there were three things which he desired to bring to the notice of the Meeting. He had to convince them, in the first place, that a club was needed in St. George-in-the-East. Secondly, he proposed to give an outline of the kind of club it was supposed to be, and thirdly he would endeavour to show how it was in the power of each one of them to help in establishing and managing the Club. From what he had seen he was convinced that unless there were some other influence in the boys' lives, it was impossible for lads leaving school at the dangerous age of 14, to grow either into healthy men, or useful citizens. The district was very largely populated by Jews. The poverty of the district was well known. There were eight schools and there was not a single Jewish boys' club in St. George's.

Dealing with the aims of the Club, he said that the principal aim would be to make its members good Jews, good citizens, good sportsmen, and by good sportsmen he meant that they should play the game of life as well as in sports, to make them happy.

The club would stand for those combined purposes, and unless it could achieve them all, it would not have achieved its end, and would not have justified its purposes. What he especially wanted was to give as little as possible, and for the boys to do as much as possible for themselves. The promoters, therefore, intended to furnish one room and hand over the remaining rooms to the boys, telling them that if they wanted them they must decorate them for themselves, at the same time, however, giving them all the means for doing so, including it was hoped, a carpentry class.

The organisation would be similar to that of most of the existing clubs. It was hoped that, as far as possible, the club would be managed by the boys themselves. The attitude of managers should be the same as the attitude of the members towards each other, one of brotherhood. It was not necessary to say much as to the activities of the club as they would be very similar to those of other clubs, but above all there would be a religious influence in the club.

There were several reasons why there should be this religous influence. The club was to be The Oxford & St. George's Jewish Boys' Club. How could that name be justified unless there was a Jewish influence in the club, and by that he meant a Jewish religious influence. It had been suggested, and the suggestion supported by the Reform Synagogues in Upper Berkeley Street and Hill Street, an attempt would be made to introduce Reform Judaism into the East End by a kind of side door. He could not too emphatically declare that this was not the motive of the promoters. Nothing was further from their minds, and they would not do anything so mean. They would not seek to destroy any portion of the boys' faith nor to interfere with any religious practice or rite.

Their work would be constructive. They wanted to deepen and fortify, not to undermine. They would lay before the boys an ethical code of morals recognised by most of the civilised world and help them to live up to that code, not only for the honour of their club, not only for the honour of the Jewish religion, but above all for the sake of

their God.

Speaking on the third and last part of the address, he said that men were most urgently needed as managers. It was hoped to convert the top storey of their premises into a bedroom and a sitting-room, for those who did not wish to live in the East End, but would prefer to stay there on the nights when they came to the club, and for those Oxford Undergraduates who did not live in London, the bedroom

would be of considerable use, besides being used by permanent residents. The sitting-room would be used as a Common Room where they would be able to know each other better and live over again the Oxford life, and where later on they would invite the Senior members to get to know them better also.

To women also, he would like to make an appeal. He especially wanted them to be connected with the club because he felt that they might have a most refining influence on the lads, and with their sympathies, they might be able to awaken in them, much good which at present might lie dormant.

If he had been able to persuade them that the club was needed, if they approved of the methods by which the managers hoped to run it, then he said to them all "give with your hearts as much as and for as long as you can afford it".

Extract from Jewish Chronicle Report October 1913

"The following resolution pro-posed by Mr. A. I. Belisha, Senior Warden of the West London Synagogue and Bursar of the proposed club and seconded by the Rev. Morris Joseph, was carried unani-mously: 'That this Association approves the establishment of the club, and will gladly give its support to the undertaking.'

Report of West London Synagogue

The Association met again on the 11th November at the house of Miss Goldsmid, 20 Portman Square, when Mr. Basil L. Q. Henriques spoke on a Club for Jewish Boys which was in course of being established, on religious lines, in St. George-in-the-East. It was proposed that the West London Synagogue, through the Association, should be closely connected with the Club in conjunction with the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. It was unanimously resolved "That this Association approves the establishment of the proposed Club, and will gladly give its support to the undertaking".

Many contributions to the funds of the Club were promised by those present.

Amongst those from the two Synagogues who supported the resolutions were:

WEST LONDON SYNAGOGUE

Rev. Morris Joseph Rev. Vivian Simmons Albert Belisha, Esq. Elkin Mocatta, Esq. Philip Waley, Esq.

LIBERAL JEWISH SYNAGOGUE Rabbi Israel Mattuck Dr. Claud S. Montefiore The Hon. Lily Montagu Louis Gluckstein, Esq.



1914

THE FIRST CLUB HOUSE AND ITS SETTING

After many premises had been viewed, a building in Cannon Street Road was rented from the Trustees of Raine's Foundation, part of whose former school premises it comprised. When the school moved to Arbour Square, the main part of the building was let to a tailoring factory. The cutting room was overlooked by the rear windows of the Club premises, and there one could watch alarming electric band knives being steered with great skill to cut through the huge piles of cloth, creating the parts of about 20 khaki coats at a single cut.

The visions of this hive of activity, and the smell of Goldstein's fried fish shop opposite the Club will always remain in the memories of the generations of members who used the Club.

Gymnack's Steam Baths, Kudish the Chemist, and the pawnbroker's shop made up the immediate neighbours, whilst the aroma of fresh bread from Griller's bakery opposite, mingling with the smell from the fried fish shop, made an enticing and seductive lure to the everhungry youth surging in and out of the Club doors at 7 and 10 p.m., clutching their supper pennies.

The letter-box outside the Club was used by day as a vantage point for the bookies' touts, who could thus see in three directions whether it was a "betting slip runner" or a policeman who was approaching.

Round the corner was Hessel Street Market, teeming with produce, customers, cats, chickens, dogs, children and dumps of garbage. Tenement houses and streets of tiny three-roomed houses inhabited often by three families, jostled the Georgian and early Victorian grandeur of Cannon Street Road, at the end of which the beautiful Hawksmoor Church of St. George-in-the-East dominated the dockland area, fathering a number of small churches, missions and chapels throughout the area.

Poverty was rife because of the seasonal rise and fall in employment. Overcrowding was chronic. There were a great number of undernourished children in the eight large schools which were within five minutes' walk of the Club, and both parents and children were often cold and ill-clad. A Synagogue with a proper building and a full-time Shammas acted as a sort of cathedral to the other tiny places of Jewish worship round about, each of which had its own customs, according to the part of Russia or

Poland from which its congregation hailed.

This was the scene of the labours started by one man and carried on by thousands with, and after him.

INSIDE THE CLUB

Immediately on entering, one was in the "Canteen", a bare room furnished with two small tables and four chairs, with a bar counter at one end.

This led into the ping-pong room, which became a boxing ring or synagogue at will. It housed three 6-foot benches.

Behind these two rooms, a primitive changing room and shower-bath had been installed, together with a geyser, which suffered from a chronic tendency to explode.

On the first floor there was a "library" without books, and a billiards room with a 6-foot table. A workshop in the rear was used as a gymnasium. It contained a pair

of parallel bars and the remains of what was once a vaulting horse. Above this, was one room which was occupied by the housekeeper, Mrs. Julia Cohen, and her two children, and another which had the split personality of Warden's bedroom/office/dining-room, managers' common room, hall of residence for managers or visitors, and general office. Behind this was a tiny room used as a kit store.

3rd MARCH, 1914

Description of First Night (taken from a letter written by B.L.Q.H. to his mother)

"The Club is open! I had a terrible time, the first day. No gas -but a long row of candles, and then worst of all, no games, as the ones ordered never arrived until too late. However, I was able to borrow some from Victoria Club, and at about 8, I opened the doors to let in nearly 50 boys! Imagine the muddle-semi-darkness, all those new faces, no one with the least idea what the Club is; me trying to take names, trying to keep order, trying everything at once. In the end I turned out over 20 boys either on the excuse that they were too old or too young, or because they belonged to some other club, or had not been especially sent to me.

"The boys, thank goodness, soon made themselves at home and we continued on until about 9.45. I started straight off with prayers on closing. They very seriously said the Shema together, and then I started an extemporary prayer. This made them roar with laughter! Most disconcerting, and I finished as quickly as I possibly could."

March 4th, 1914—Second Night

"Last night we said the Shema, and I read a prayer from Singer's Prayer Book which I thought they would know, and the behaviour was perfect. The Club went beautifully last night, and I was very happy and not quite so absolutely dead as after the first evening. The boys are most keen, and very anxious to do all they can to make it a success. Of course we are only in one room at present, but the thought of the rest of the premises makes the lads all the keener."

Once the Club was open B.L.Q.H. visited the parents of all members and so laid the foundations for an essential part of the work, namely, the co-operation of the parents.

Order of Service

CONSECRATION

OF THE

OXFORD & ST. GEORGE'S JEWISH LADS' CLUB,

125, Cannon Street Road, E.

on Wednesday, May 13th, 1914,

ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF RABBI.

Printed by R. Masin & Co. Ltd. 141, Whitechapel Rd. E.

MRS. JULIA COHEN

It is quite impossible adequately to describe the wonderful and unstinting work that Mrs. Cohen did to help in the domestic side of the undertaking. She tried to make the Warden's one-roomed home into a place of comfort, although considering that the one and only table was piled high with books and papers, which she was forbidden to touch, she often had to place a tray of food on any corner which might happen to be free at the moment.

Her loving interest in all that pertained to the members, the managers, and the Warden, was a most precious gift to those she considered to be her charges. The Club would never have been a success without her constant en-

ORIGINAL MANAGERS

B. L. Q. Henriques F. W. Haldinstein S. Lyons B. Mocatta (Hon. Secretary) H. Harrison P. Schindler David Hirsch H. Bernheim, Jun. Rev. Vivian G. H. Blank E. Horwitz J. Lemburger Simmons W. Chadwick M. Levy H. Singer N. Davis Sydney E. Franklin H. K. Stein R. Levv

J. E. Lowy

I. Gourvitch

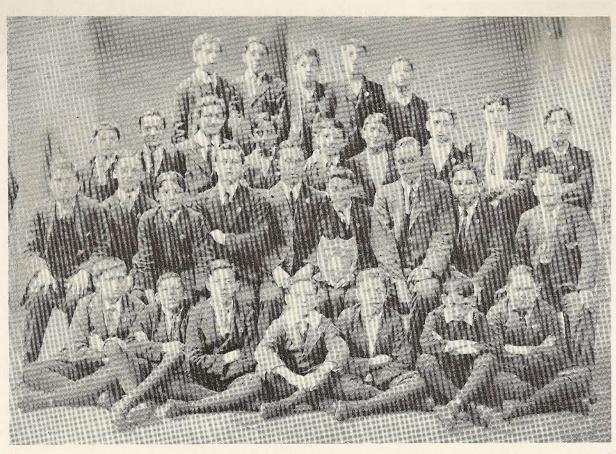
ORIGINAL OFFICERS

M. Zacktrager

P. Bloomberg B. B. Flom E. Lutski
D. Caminer D. Jacobs H. Morris
H. Cash S. Kosilovitch D. Mylofsky
I. Cohen W. Levy N. Reubin
D. Rosenberg

ORIGINAL MEMBERS

C	RIGINAL MEN	IBERS
Aaronofsky	Garvin	M. Rosinsky
C. Abrahams	J. Gilbert	M. Salada
M. Abrahams	R. Gimnack	H. Sashun
J. Abramovitsh	M. Gold	S. Schlaff
Audinsky	I. Goldberg	A. Schwartz
A. Bellman	L. Goldberg	D. Schwartz
J. Benjamin	B. Goldstein	A. Selukowsky
B. Benson	W. Goldstein	H. Shaffer
I. Berman	H. Granberg	D. Sheinberg
A. Bernstein	Hamer	L. Sheinborn
P. Bloomberg	J. Hildebrand	I. Shindler
Bramson	J. Hollick	B. Shinkerman
A. Caminer	E. Jacobs	E. Singer
A. Cohen	P. Kempner	M. Smorovitz
B. Cohen	Lassman	Smorovitz
H. Cohen	A. Lassover	R. Solomons
J. Cohen	A. Levy	E. Stein
P. Cohen	B. Levy	W. Stein
S. Cohen	I. Levy	I. Stern
J. Davis	J. Levy	J. Stern
M. Davis	S. Lutsky	B. Strauss
J. Diamond	A. Margolis	E. Tobert
J. Ephron	J. Needleman	H. Waxman
M. Fetbrot	Negus	J. Wahle
H. Forman	S. Nossick	A. Weinstein
M. Forman	S. Reuben	H. Weinstein
H. Freedman	H. Rome	W. Weinstein
N. Freedman	H. Rose	J. Williams
A. Gallant	J. Rosinsky	W. Wolfsberg



couragement of all concerned, combined with her active life which entailed working for very long hours year in, year out.

Her two children, Dolly and Phil, were with her; and the remarkable thing was, that despite her duties to them and her duties to the Club, she neglected neither. Everybody had cause to love and bless her.

Although the Warden had not been brought up to keep the Jewish dietary laws, he realised that in coming to live in a neighbourhood in which most of the residents were orthodox Jews, it would be right for him to establish his household on such lines that his local guests would feel at home, and would be able to partake of any of the refreshments offered them.

WAR DECLARED

The outbreak of war did not interrupt the functioning of the Club, but it did send many of the managers and members into the Forces. Some schoolchildren were evacuated. Maroons were fired to announce the onset of an air-raid and policemen on bicycles rode through the streets blowing whistles to announce "all clear".

When the maroons were heard, people flocked to Prescot Street. There they sheltered under the arches of the loading bays, which they termed "The Tilbury", because the railway line which served the Goods Yard went, among other places, to Tilbury.

1915

EXTRACTS FROM B.L.Q.H. DIARY

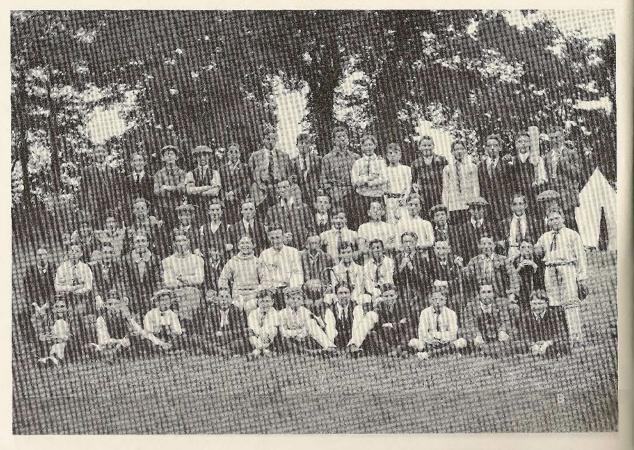
March 16th, 1915

"The Chief Rabbi and Mrs. Hertz visited the Club. Mr. Herbert Adler also came for the first time. The Chief Rabbi gave the address at Prayers.

March 17th

Herbert Loewe gave a most interesting lantern lecture on Palestine.

He brought his sister to see the Club. Miss Rose Loewe kindly promised to take a class in First Aid. The boys were delighted with the idea, and the class which was inaugurated tonight promises success. The evening concluded with Prayers.



March 20th

A great many boys went to Stepney Synagogue for the Sabbath afternoon service for members of clubs.

Reuben Levy came to stop at the Settlement.

April 12th

Issy Goldberg developed double pneumonia, from which he died in the London Hospital four days later.

A Memorial Service was held which was attended by the whole club and all managers.

Rev. V. Simmons took part of the service, at which B.L.Q.H. preached.

VISITORS FROM BERMONDSEY

A party of members and managers of the Oxford and Bermondsey Club visited the Club for a tournament, and one of the items was a team run to the Bank and back. Combined Prayers were held in the gym.

A party of Jewish undergraduates from Oxford visited the Club and took part in Purim parties.

One was held for 120 brothers and sisters aged 6–10, from 3–6 p.m. and a later one for the older boys.

B.L.Q.H. ENTRIES IN CLUB DIARY

"The awful news received of the death of dear Leonard Stern, from wounds received last Sunday. It is impossible to realise what his loss will be to the Club. As a spiritual and lay leader he was looked up to by all. He was the friend of all who knew him. There is no one who has watched so sympathetically the growth of the Club. No one believed so thoroughly in the absolute necessity of a religious basis for the Club. We shall evermore mourn his loss. His place can never be wholly filled. His end was as glorious as his life."

Memorial Service for Leonard Stern

The Quiet Friday Evenings to be re-named in Memory of Leonard Stern.

Mrs. James Loewe visits the Club.

The Hon, Mrs. Ernest Franklin visits the Club.

May

A number of boys were addicted to gambling outside the Club.

B.L.Q.H. DIARY

It soon became clear to me that not only did girls need a Club as much as boys, but also that it was little use to educate boys to a certain way of life if girls were not being trained to strive for the same ideals, and one day to share their lives with them.

Rose Loewe was at that time taking a First Aid Class in the Boys' Club. I asked her to open a Girls' Club. She said she did not know how to do it. Nor did I, so in 1915 we started one in two rooms in Betts Street.

EXTRACT PROM GIRLS' CLUB DIARY, 1915 Sunday, July 18th 26A Betts Street

Overheard through letter-box—time 10 a.m.: "This ere won't be a Refuge after today, it is going to be a Girls' Club. The long man, what lives in the Club where Mr. Salamans teaches, it's 'is club."

Overheard through letter-box—time 6 p.m.: "There's a whole hour to wait yet, we'd better go for a walk."



Miss Prins



Miss Simons

E. K. S.

Ernest Sawady, a German teacher who had managed to get to England, was engaged to act as Minister, although at that time he was not yet ordained.

He became beloved by everyone, and had a tremendous influence on the congregation.

1940

The Army Cadets went into Camp at "The Cottage", South-

They slept in the empty horseboxes at the Stud Farm of which the Cottage formed part, and were looked after, as far as commissariat went, by May Allman and Annie Dombey, whilst Mr. Kent considered them more valuable than his beloved thoroughbred colts.

The number of serving Fratres increased,

As happened in the 1914–18 war, home leave was inconceivable without part of it being spent in the Mettlement.

The size of "Fratres" increased, and S.E.F. was fully occupied to keep the ever-changing addresses up to date, whilst "the Gaffer" spent his time, day to day, reading and editing the incoming letters for the next issue of the magazine.

Admiral Evans, Civil Defence Commissioner for the District, came to see the Settlement A.R.P. Post and the shelters when he was inspecting the local Ambulance Station, which "the Missus" ran.

Mr. Harriman, then U.S. Ambassador in U.K., and his daughter also visited the Settlement.

Alas, news began to arrive of the death in action of some of the Fratres, and each one felt the loss as of a dear member of one's own intimate family.

Their memory, we knew, would ever be kept alive wherever O.St.G. existed.

The work for the outside shelters grew in magnitude, the problem of transport becoming acute. At last a brilliant idea eased the situation. A delivery-boy's tricycle (very decrepit) was hired into the box which the urns, cups and sandwiches were loaded. This was pushed round to the shelters, and although it was not a dignified sight to behold, it certainly eased the



"Fratres"

strain on the arms of the "Soup Brigade".

More and more people wished to use the Settlement shelter, but as its prime purpose was to serve our own members and to keep them out of the public shelters, the number of adults had to be limited to a few of their parents who for one reason or another could not get to a public shelter.

Huge supplies of clothing were received for distribution to air-raid victims. The whole of the Girls' Club Floor was used, so that, with the articles properly stored away to size, etc, people could be fitted out quickly.

Splendid gifts of blankets and quilts came from Canada, some of the quilts in beautiful "patch work", for which Canadian women are famous. They must have been greatly prized possessions.

Many of the white blankets were made up into sleeping bags for the hundreds of small babies who were brought into the public shelters.

From America came a stream of



Charles Dreyfus

"Bundles for Britain" and also valuable cases of dried milk and other foodstuffs.

It would have been impossible to continue the shelter feeding without this timely aid.



The Army Cadets who were called up, entered the Forces with a degree of priority, owing to their Cadet training.

up, I just look back to the spirit of the Club I left behind me, and something inside me starts ticking."

"I still have my badge and I am never without it. Even now, as I write, I have it in front of me, and it seems to say, 'Don't worry, I am here; I am Fratres'."

An officer who was active in the world of Boys' Clubs wrote:

"I knew R.H. in France, where he made himself known to me as



Oueen honoured the Artists by

An exhibition by these artists was held monthly at a commercial gallery, and it was amazing how the men and women painters were able to produce such fine works whilst at the same time carrying out their very arduous duties in the various branches of Civil Defence. All pictures had to be passed by the Censor lest they depicted anything that might give information to the enemy. One artist was nearly arrested in Highway because the police had been informed that there was an enemy spy in British uniform making drawings. A police officer was immediately sent to accompany the agitated informant, but when he arrived (and it happened to be Chinner who was sent), he exclaimed, "Why, it's only "the Missus".

Stepney the demand for clothing

"Brothers' Keeper" Fund con-

tinued to function. Four hundred members now in the Forces.

coming to view the paintings, and none happier to welcome Her Majesty than the Wardens and residents of the Settlement.

Following the bombing of increased.

"No battlefront would be complete without a bloke waving a copy of 'Fratres' in one hand and slinging lead at Jerry with the other."

Many O.St.G. members were in war-work. Eva Levy was in a Naval Dockyard as Welfare Officer.

"Princie" was solving the billeting problems of evacuated schoolchildren.

Lila Greenberg was a Red Cross nurse.

Myer Sopel was in the Auxiliary Fire Service.

"The Missus" switched over to the Wardens' Service.

Enid Abrahams was a driver in the Auxiliary Fire Service.

And many more O.St.G. folk were on essential work,

American soldiers were invited to Seder each year.

It was noticeable how quick they were in realising how pretty O.St.G.

The Mixed Club functioned very well. The Committee met on the stage and passed innumerable resolutions. Otherwise they behaved like normal Club members!

Celia Diamond was in charge of the War Savings Dept., and woe betide the one who was not saving.

Unfortunately, some local clubs were hit, so the Settlement became the temporary home of Brady and Victoria.

Three subs. tables were set up in the Hall, so that every boy could feel his Club and Club Leader still had an entity, even if the club house had disappeared.

When one watched the V.1s com-, ing across the sky from the south, it looked as if they were all aimed at the Settlement. It was interest-



The Ministry of Food recognised that the shelter feeding was eligible to receive a permit to draw supplies for the soup and sandwiches.

The Synagogue Choir went round to the "Tilbury" shelter on Friday nights occasionally, to sing some of the Sabbath songs.

A Playcentre in the stage shelter was organised.

CHEERFUL NEWS FOR B.L.Q.H. AND S.E.F.

News arrived from various Army addresses in the following sense:

"Not only do I await the arrival of 'Fratres' with the utmost impatience, but the whole of my Company does too, and I have to pass it round as soon as I have glanced at it. Only then, when everyone has had it, can I sit down and devour every word of news".

"You can't imagine how delighted I was to receive the Comforts Fund parcel; it contained everything I needed most."

one of 'Basil's boys'. He did very well, and was worthy of the O.St.G. and Grenadier tradition."

"The aims and ideals which we are fighting for in this great struggle we learned from those glorious and memorable services on Highdown, when we had peace and happiness, and hatred for no one."

GREAT OCCASION

The gloom of wartime drabness was somewhat lifted when a blaze of colour filled the large hall. The colour came from the paintings of the Civil Defence Artists' Exhibition of War Pictures which were arranged round the walls.

To the delight of the whole "Whenever I feel down and fed neighbourhood Her Majesty the

ing to note that they came in from different angles as our Air Force destroyed the launching sites.

Part of Phyllis Assenheim's job in the Forces was to drive an ammunition lorry from Scotland to London. When that period ended, she drove a General about his avocations. It seemed as if she was fated to drive something likely to explode.

THE WAR CONTINUES

At last a Mobile Canteen was issued to the Settlement, and the Soup Round could be done in style. Several of the ambulance drivers helped by driving in their off-duty hours Notable among them-The Hon. Ursula Chaloner and Miss Mollie Tyler.

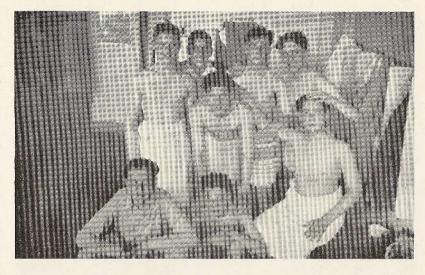
The stream of men and girls coming home on leave and coming to the Settlement grew to a torrent.

Among the many visitors to the "Youth Shelters" were Lord Bridgman, Joan Hammond, Josephine Southey, and C. H. Cunningham.



Mearly 600 hoys and girls in the Forces, Many in Civil Defence and essential war work

Those who dealt with the thou-



sands of people whose homes and possessions had been destroyed could not fail to be awed by the stoical dignity with which they bore the shock of coming out of the shelters to find that they had nothing in the way of worldly goods.

They were able to rise above selfpity to the heights of sincerity when they would exclaim "Thank God we are alive, that's all that matters".

When one was offering such a person a few second-hand garments

HOMAGE TO MEMBERS

OF H.M. FORCES

Tune: Aso Ani
You Girls and Boys who serve our land, In honour of you we rise and stand And pray to God to be by your side And hold your hand, whate'er betide.

Be brave, be calm, be staunch, be true; Remember your Club and its love for

you: No trials can kill the visions we see: See Home, see Camp, see O.St.G.

for which one was given grateful thanks, the welfare worker felt not only humble but full of profound admiration for the homeless faithful.

By the time the war drew to its close in Europe 668 O.St.G. members had served their country.

Thirty-eight per cent became either officers or N.C.O.s.

Many received decorations or were Mentioned in Despatches.

Twenty-one lost their lives.

Some had work waiting for them, and they easily slipped into the routine of regular hours of employment. Others were not so fortunate. Not only had they to seek a job, but they themselves had become undecided as to their future career, and they went through a most difficult period of conflict within themselves.

Many a problem was voiced, dissected and threshed out in "the Gaffer's" room. New opportunities began to present themselves in the developing techniques made imperative as a result of scientific progress, and into some of these a number of the returned warriors were absorbed.

MUSIC

When a building possesses a Bechstein grand piano, a large Hall, a small music room and is used by people who love music, it is natural that famous artistes were ready to come to the Settlement and perform for our pleasure and edification. Among those who played to enthralled audiences were Miss Adele Verne, Miss Beatrice Harrison and Miss Margaret Harrison.

The dual advantages of "making music" oneself and also of "taking other people's music" were manifest. The girls, boys and Synagogue members were now able to enjoy



The incident officer's vision of peace

both means in the comfortable and aesthetically decorated surroundings of the Settlement premises.

The "making" of music oneself was an English characteristic from the early days of our history, when strolling players entertained the great families in their widely dispersed country houses and castles, and when, on nights when there were no visiting players, the master of the house would call for the "Chest of Viols", as the collection of instruments was termed, and the whole household, from master to



WHEN FRATRES CAME MARCHING HOME

Gradually some of the sailors, soldiers, airmen and women stationed in Europe began to be discharged. Civvy Street, which had been the "Shangri La" of everyone during the years of fighting, seemed a funny sort of place, once the first excitement of getting back to home and Club was over. The change back from a life of strict discipline to a comparatively free existence took some people a long time in which to feel at ease.

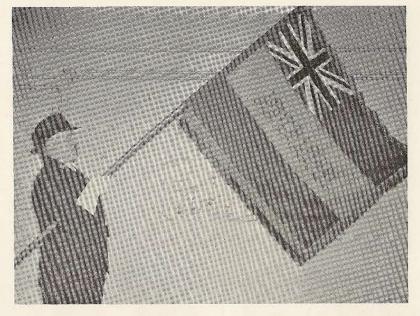
stable boy would gather in the Great Hall and "make music" together, whether they played their allotted instruments well or badly; whether they sang well or ill.

Translated into the world of 1944, the need was still there. In the early days of the Settlement, when poverty reigned supreme and homes were often of necessity cold and dark, the Club was the only really warm and light spot to which the children could come for the recreation their homes could not provide, however loving the parents might be. It was therefore understandable that whatever simple means were found of "making music" were eagerly pounced upon -forthwith by the girls, and later by the boys, after much misgiving on the part of the boys' Managers lest the boys should become unmanly, and scorn their football and boxing if they learned to enjoy music. But experience proved that this danger did not exist and that, as has been mentioned in the diaries of earlier years, music flourished.

There was little money to spend, in those early days, on the few gramophone records that existed, but little by little a small collection was formed which was the foundation on which many a concert and lecture was based.

By 1944, the position had already changed greatly. During the war a great deal of commercial entertainment was available for the public, especially for the Forces on leave, and as is always the case in times of stress, emphasis is often on a wrong aspect, and standards get lowered. This happened during the war years. Jazz had come and had conquered. Furthermore, transport had developed greatly, and it was quite easy to get to the West End for more sophisticated entertainment than the Clubs provided.

So the Clubs had to face the opposition attractions of the many newly-opened dance halls, with their blazing lights and their blaring bands. In some halls there would be two bands playing alternately so that the dancers did not even have time to pause between tunes. The large and luxurious super-tea-shops lured one to spend a pleasant hour or so after the movies, and the newly-fashionable coffee and milk bars encouraged one to spend best part of the evening sitting on a mushroom stool, or lolling up against some chromium-plated excrescence, made specially for the purpose of being lolled against.



In face of these glamorous counter-attractions the more sedate joys of the Settlement tended to fight a losing battle. Steps had to be taken to encourage such of the up-to-date methods of enjoyment as were not too extreme in their expression. Therefore the brass band, the jazz band and the O.St.G. version of the latest American dance steps were allowed to fill the building with ear-shattering sounds and strange rhythms, to which the members danced with solemn or frenzied dedication as was the fashion at that time.

Classical music tended to take a back scat, especially as it had had to be relegated to the limbo of wartime retrenchments. All the more valuable were the occasional visits of the famous artistes who brought the saner sounds of classical music once more within our walls.



NEW DEVELOPMENT

A number of boys had formed the local branch of the British Legion. On being demobilised this number grew so large that it was thought better to apply for registration as a House Branch. In this way the Oxford and St. George's Branch received its Charter and its proudly-owned banner.

POST-WAR LIFE IN THE HOME

When at last the bombing had ceased we were able to look round and take stock of what was left of the Borough and of its inhabitants and institutions.

Being situated so near the Docks, many bombs destined for the Port of London overshot their mark and landed in Stepney, besides those that were intended for Stepney.

The damage was terrific—nearly two-thirds of the area being either flat or grossly damaged.

Many people had left the borough, but in view of the hundreds of houses that no longer existed, the citizens who remained had to double up into the available, usually very shabby accommodation that remained.

This applied to so many large families, and although the love and affection were there, the problems were increased when young adult elder children, home from the war, had to live with the rest of the family.

Mothers were discharged from their war work in the factories where, because the children were evacuated and the adults were away fighting, they had been used to getting their social life in the factory canteens and from their immediate neighbours in whatever air-raid shelter they habitually used. Shelter-life friendships were a very real asset in those long nights of incarceration, and after the war the mothers, glad enough in one way to return to their homes, sadly missed the comradeship and good fellowship to which they had become accustomed. Household duties for a large family, although equally as tiring as a day at an armaments factory, were dull in comparison, when once her family had left home after breakfast.

Children came back from evacuation, and had during their absence of four years to a certain extent grown apart from their own family, in spite of the periodic visits of their mothers to the places where they were billeted with kindly foster parents. The young ones had largely forgotten what their homes were like, and the older school boys and girls had developed a degree of independence just because paternal influence had been removed, and the extra gentleness of foster parents tended to let the youngsters "get away" with more than their own parents would have permitted.

The young people, newly demobilised, used to complete independence as regards their personal arrangements, found that not only had the hanging out of the "Welcome Home" banners which they were accustomed to see when they came on leave, ceased, but that they were now considered no more important in their homes than any other member of the family, and were expected to pull their weight in the household chores instead of being waited on. Their arrangements and wishes within the home had to fit in with those of the rest of the family. Being, for the most part, nice and affectionate people, they tried their best to fit in with the new conception of the old way of family life, and they found it very difficult.

Fathers had been away for so long, whether in the Forces or on distant war work, that they too had tended to revert to their bachelor days.

So the mother of the family was faced with the problem of baking the cake of family unity according to her former successful recipe, but finding when she set to work that all the ingredients, though the same in name, had developed somewhat different qualities, and some did not blend well with the rest; some rose above their normal habit and others were sour instead of sweet.

The family cake often turned out either charred by the hot fire of impatience, or chilled by the cold of the Settlement group of the Hospital Savings Association.

The residential quarters have been filled to capacity both by those assisting in the Settlement activities during their leisure, and also by men and women students who are training for social work. By converting a gymnasium into a dormitory it has been possible for many week-end conferences and training courses to take place,

Probation Officers under training have visited the Settlement and have been shown the part that clubs play in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

Under the 1945 Education Act, grant aid in the service of youth can be obtained through the Local Education Authority, and the Settlement is seeking the assistance which it is thus entitled to have, there is a need, as there never has been before, to maintain, in co-operation with the Statutory Bodies, the voluntary spirit in social work.

The re-consecration of the Synagogue, which during the war was used as an air-raid shelter where the members used to live and sleep each night, has strengthened the heart of the Settlement.

During the year there has been an increase of 103 families, and it is comprised today of 1,200 individuals. A lorry collects the children of the Religion School from different parts of London.

During the year Mrs. Baron, who has been Secretary for more than 20 years, and Miss Pile, who has been Matron for 10 years, retired.

Dr. Sam Smith and Dr. Harding and his wife have acted as Honorary Medical Officers.

Gabriel Aitman, an old member of the Club, has been selected by the National Association of Boys' Clubs as a student for St. Pierre.

Leon Joseph, who has been a member of the Clubs all his life, has won his Cap as an International Amateur soccer player.

Leighton Buzzard

Mr. Anthony de Rothschild has continued to let the Warden have the use of the Cottage at Leighton Buzzard, where tired or convalescent members and Leaders go to recuperate.

Hannah Hyam Memorial

The first annual lecture in memory of "The Beloved Fairy" was given by Miss Myra Curtis on January 7th, 1947. Her subject was "The Deprived Child". Lord Justice Cohen presided. About 500 people were present.

Voluntary Workers

The Settlement is closely associated with the Alumni Society of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue and with the Berkeley Re-union Group of the West London Synagogue, many of whose members assist in the work. The Old Boys and the Old Girls give most generously of their money and of their services.

1948

During the past year the process of re-establishing a stable Settlement life has continued. This has not been easy in an area so seriously affected by bombing as St. George's. The neighbourhood's population is always fluctuating. This is reflected in the greater variety of children who come into the Clubs. The membership is still predominantly Jewish, but the trend is definitely for the non-Jewish membership to increase.

But there is still, unfortunately, a large section of the young members of the Community who do not become attached to Clubs. We are continually seeking to bring them within the influence of the Settlement.

The Warden and Mrs. Henriques decided that the leadership of the post-war generations of boys and girls should be in the hands of younger people than themselves. They therefore retired from Wardenship of the Settlement, which office was undertaken by Mr. Lionel Henriques.



Reception at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue, the President, Col. Louis Gluckstein, T.D., Q.C., D.L., and Mrs. Gluckstein, with the guests of honour

Miss Nancy Leverson has taken over the duties of Deputy Warden and the posts of Boys' Club Leader, Girls' Club Leader and Playcentre Leader have been filled by Mr. Gabriel Aitman, Miss Eva Levy, Miss Irene Polack and Miss Helene Nyman respectively.

The most important step forward has been the re-opening of the the Hannah Hyam Playcentre.

The effects of evacuation and bombing on the behaviour of members is already less marked, and the younger boys are better self-disciplined than in the early post-war days. The excellent Senior Boy Training Courses run by the N.A.B.C. and the London Federation of Boys' Clubs are being enthusiastically supported by our boys.

The Girls' Clubs have made very great strides in the last year, and now have a large and regular membership with an excellent range of activities, and long waiting lists.

The Mothers' Club was restarted at the end of 1948, and holds regular Cooking, P.T. and "Make Do and Mend" Classes.

The Old Boys' and the Old Girls' Clubs have maintained the traditional Oxford and St. George's ties and have done valuable work in the cultural recreational and physical fields. Excellent work is done by the Oxford and St. George's Branch of the British Legion in rehabilitating men returning from the Forces.

Camp was at Highdown as usual. The rough weather made conditions difficult, but there were no less than five Oxford & St. George's Camps, one after another, all of which were thoroughly enjoyed. A week for Old Boys and Girls with young children was particularly successful.

There have been four Voluntary Lawyers in the Poor Man's Lawyer Service.

Both the Metropolitan Association for the Blind and the Jewish Blind Society hold regular afternoon meetings in the Settlement. The Friends of Yiddish Cultural Society also meet every Saturday afternoon.

There have been two Hannah Hyam Memorial Lectures.

The Standard of the British Legion was dedicated, and the tablet commemorating members of the Clubs who gave their lives in the last war was unveiled at a packed



The Mayor and new Warden and Deputy Warden

service in the Main Hall in October, 1948. This was, perhaps, the most moving ceremony ever to take place in the Settlement. No less than 25 other branches of the British Legion sent their representatives and standard-bearers.

The Settlement Players have produced two excellent plays, The Little Foxes and You Can't Take it with You, at the Whitehall Theatre. These succeeded in raising large sums for the Settlement, the British Legion, and other charities.

An increasing number of students of all nationalities have come to the Settlement for practical training.

Our close liaison with the Nor-wood Orphanage has been maintained. The Boys' After Care Committee meet regularly at the Settlement. Numbers of Norwood children also come to Camp with the Clubs, and there are interchanges of visits between the Clubs and Norwood. A number of children brought over for vacations to this country under the Marrainage Scheme have also attended Camp.

1949

"SHOLEY"

The Boys' Clubs depended very largely on the leadership and help given by the Old Boys. Sholey Maliney, who died suddenly on March 3rd, 1949, at the age of 43, had been a member since he was 13. No one had rendered more unselfish service than he. He had coached victorious teams of Oxford and St. George's boys in every branch of athletics during the past 25 years, and he has been a living example of devoted loyalty to the ideals of the Settlement and of personal friendship to its members, especially to the weak, the downcast and the falling. He will be remembered with gratitude and affection by all who came in contact with him.

When Sarah Greenberg became Sally Maliney two of the finest O.St.G. representatives joined forces.

H.R.H. the Princess Margaret visited the East London Juvenile Court, of which Mr. Basil Henriques is the Chairman.

Between the morning and afternoon sessions at the Court, which was held at Toynbee Hall, H.R.H. honoured Mr. and Mrs. Henriques by taking luncheon in their flat in the Settlement.

After luncheon the Probation Officers of the East London Court were presented, and partook of coffee with Her Royal Highness.

On his retirement as Warden of the Settlement B.L.Q.H. wrote:

Under present conditions it is much harder to get voluntary workers, and trained staff are more highly paid. All wages and costs of material have increased alarmingly. Many of those who have so generously supported us in the past have either died or else their incomes have been greatly reduced.

It would be a great tragedy, which my wife and I could not bear to see, if any of the multifarious activities have now to be cut down for financial reasons. We have retired after 33 years of happiness. The new Warden and his Deputy must receive the support which was so generously given to us. They have new problems to solve, even more difficult than ours, but they are young and we are old.

When I opened the Oxford and St. George's Jewish Lads' Club with 25 boys in one room in Cannon Street Road, on March 3rd, 1914, Sydney Franklin and Sam Lyons were with me then, and they are still serving the Settlement today. About 15 of the original members still actively belong to and help in the Clubs. They have been the backbone of the Settlement all these many years.

As I look back, I can say in truth that the challenge which made me start has been answered. There could not be found nobler men and women than some of our Old Boys and Old Girls. To them goes the credit of the work. In the spirit of the Club motto—"Fratres"—we have been as brothers and sisters to one another all these years, not merely in name but in reality; for as a family we have tried to serve our Father in Heaven in serving one another and all those of His children who came to us for friendship and help

The Neighbourhood

That the need for the Settlement is as great as ever is amply evident to all who roam through the environments of narrow decaying little streets. There is a steady flow of families to new estates in the neighbourhood. The vacated rooms are immediately occupied by newcomers and inflow has exceeded outflow. The Settlement is required to fill the dual role of neighbourhood centre for those who remain

and those who come from outside, and of second homes for its large scattered family, who are drawn to the Clubs from their new homes outside the district by strong ties of affection and loyalty.

Influences on the Adolescent

Easy money for the adolescent without wise guidance in wise spending is no blessing. Too often it leads to irresponsibility, and a reliance on "bought" pleasures. Over-indulgent parents discover that by doing so they have lost the respect of their children, and control has gone with it. One is led to doubt the wisdom of the new approach to discipline in some of the schools, particularly when there is little parental control at home.

It is regrettably true today that every kind of vice is practised openly in the neighbourhood. Throughout the winter months a bombed site at the end of Berner Street has been occupied by a fun-fair. This has been frequented by depraved and criminal types and our children are exposed as never before to the very worst temptations. Unless the Club shows them the decent way to live, they will never learn it.

Resources

Throughout the year 1949, a concerted drive was made to establish the Settlement once more on a sound financial basis. A special appeal was organised by Mr. Basil Henriques, and a further appeal by the Warden. The Berkeley Charities of the West London Synagogue organised a special Concert. The Younger Members' Organisation of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue ran a Dance. Jumble Bazaars were held with the help of the members of the Settlement Synagogue. The members of the Clubs themselves engaged in fund-raising activities of their own. The Alexandra Rose Day Collection once again contributed towards the income. The County Council Grant was renewed, but economy cuts prevented its being increased.

Gifts from Her Majesty Queen Mary
We wish to record our very great
appreciation of several gifts of music
most graciously presented by Her
Majesty Queen Mary during the

Hannah Hyam Playcentre and Oxford & St. George's Clubs

Although the Settlement's membership includes old and young, there are now more than 800 active members between the ages of five and 20. There are six Junior Clubs in addition to the Playcentre.



Another Royal visitor



The C.F.A. makes a presentation to David and Lily Camino

find scope to give happiness to others. Arrangements are made for them to visit the sick and the elderly in their own homes and to offer to do for them any kind of work which will be of help.

"I wish to thank you very much for sending a young couple every Thursday evening to me. I cannot express in writing how wonderful they are. It's like a new life put into me. When I see them I feel very, very happy. I am an old-age pensioner and I have only one son who lives in Canada. It's just like a new world has opened."

Apart from raising funds for the Settlement, members have tried to help others. Over £500 was collected for World Refugee Year; Club members of all ages collected and contributed money for Alexandra Rose Day, the Agadir Disaster, the Research Fund of the Diabetic Association, and the Glasgow Fire Disaster. Club Week resulted in a total collection of £270, of which 70 per cent is returned to the Clubs and the remainder distributed between the National Association of Boys' Clubs, the National Association of Mixed and Girls' Clubs, and the London Federation of Boys' Clubs.

The slums around the Settlement are at last gradually being demolished and an L.C.C. geometric landscape of impressive blocks of modern, self-contained flats is replacing the conglomeration of small terraced houses in narrow streets. We can even see a stretch of green and a newly-constructed infants' playground and miniature "park" from our windows.

Our main social problem is no longer to urge immediate re-housing for people living in unbelievably overcrowded conditions—although unfortunately some still do exist. Life is now burdened by Hire Purchase Payments and Tally Men, and there are always the problems of unhappy homes and of difficult children.

Many Jews live in these modern flats as well as in the still existing slums, and every evening there is a general exodus from the small box-shaped rooms into the spacious lounges, the quiet rooms, and the gymnasia of the Settlement. No visitor could possibly doubt how great is the need for the Settlement and the Clubs today.

David Dryer, now Boys' Club Leader, has been right through the Boys' Club, was officer in each age group and was elected a member of the National Boys' Club. Ronah Green, the Girls' Club Leader, is a graduate from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Sandra McKay, the new Playcentre Leader, has not only been a member of the Girls' Club, but was also a member of the Playcentre she now leads.

It is with great regret that we had to accept the resignation from the Executive of Mr. Sam Lyons, who has been a voluntary helper in the Clubs ever since March 1914.

Honorary Architects and Honorary Solicitors

The Settlement wishes to place on record its appreciation of the help given by our Architects and Solicitors, who are always ready to advise and guide us whenever the occasion arises.

The Children's Fund Association

During the past year their fundraising activities have brought in the fantastic sum of £8,000, and Dr. Sam Smith and his Committee can feel justly proud of their magnificent achievement.

The British Legion

The House Branch of the British

Legion, through the nature of its work and in its quiet and unassuming manner, deals with some of the hard core cases of pensions, and has representatives at the inter-Branch meetings and at the Annual Conference.

CLOSED SHOP

Hetty Skolsky went to U.S.A. There she married Harry Weissman and had a son called Maurice.

Betty Pulvers stopped in London, married Sam Lazarus and had a daughter Ruth.

Maurice came to London, saw Ruth and fell in love.

Now Hetty and Betty spend all their husbands' money travelling to and from U.S.A. to see the grandchildren.



1961

STUART LASHER

It was by a most felicitous stroke of good fortune that Stuart Lasher came from the United States to act as Minister to the Synagogue.

From the moment he arrived, everybody loved him. He was not long in adapting himself to the many "funny little ways" of our Synagogue life which have grown up and to which we ding. He subdued his inlored Americanism with the utmost good humour, however difficult he found it.

In his pastoral work he was quite outstanding, as well as in the many acts of unsolicited help that he gave, without a thought to personal fatigue or long hours of work.

His sermons were always stimulating and his re-modelling of the methods of religious instruction in the Sunday classes, was of immense benefit.

He was a source of comfort to everyone in the time of grievous sorrow that befell us.

When he had to return to U.S.A. to complete his rabbinical training and do his National Service, St. George's was the poorer for his going.

For the first time a mixed senior group from the Clubs was taken abroad, to a youth hostel in Switzerland and this was the culmination of holidays both at Montesiore House and on Highdown Hill which catered for 300 young people of St. George's in the East.

The Children's Fund Association having for many years raised mammoth sums of money to enable the Settlement to carry on its work, beat all records by raising £10,000 during the year.

QUIZZY STOCKTAKING

Who was an Original and an airman, a Warden and is Head of the Foreign Exchange Dept. in a great bank and who married an original Old Girl?

Who was a fine footballer, masqueraded as a foreign emissary and is a Deputy Town Clerk?

Who was an excellent scholar, wore Eton collars, acted and produced plays and is head of a great advertising firm?

Whose grandfather helped encourage "the Gaffer" to start a club in 1913, whose father was on the Settlement Council and Executive Committee and who himself is Chairman of the Council?

Who was Chairman of the Old Boys, 'Treasurer of the C.F.A. and is the most famous producer of elegant out-size ladies' wear?

Who had six brothers at Camp with him, was Treasurer of the C.F.A., is a stockbroker and also a Joint Treasurer of the Settlement?

Which active Old Girl and chorister holds an important post in her section at a famous firm that refines gold?

Which Old Boys lecture in Australia?



What is the name of the man who is the Chairman of the Settlement Synagogue and one of its lay readers and preachers, Chairman of the Norwood Boys' After Care Committee, member of the Settlement Executive Committee and good friend to everyone in O.St.G.?

Who went through all the Boys' Clubs as an officer, who has a brother who is Chairman of a Synagogue, who married a lady who liked sleeping up a marquec tent pole, who goes off to Persia and who nevertheless makes an excellent Camp President?

Who is the girl who always dressed up as a Red Cross nurse for the Camp fancy dress ball, whose mother sang when the Choir first started and still sings in it, whose late father was the finest Games Manager the teams ever had, and who now herself is not only a fully qualified neuro-surgical nurse, but also a doctor and lecturer as well?

Who not only is a splendid actor but a most reliable chartered accountant with a huge clientele?

Which Old Boy has for many years held the important post of Assistant Secretary of Anglo-Jewry's largest charitable organistion?

Which Old Boy who married a Deputy Warden is a T.B. specialist?

Which Old Girl is a famous pathologist?

Who is the founder and conductor of the Haydn Orchestra and guest conductor in many foreign countries?

Which Old Girl who came during the war as a refugee student is now a degree-bearing, qualified, teacher both in secular and religious subjects, and is also married to a doctor?

Which Old Girl who was a good Camper, ballet dancer, and chorister who married a doctor who gives pills and takes Camp films with equal success?



"It is not thy duty to complete the work, but neither art thou free to desist from it."

With his physical strength ebbing, but his overwhelming desire to continue working as strong as ever, "the Gaffer" struggled to fulfil his obligations and to carry on his self-imposed tasks as long as he had life. What this cost him in moral courage no one will ever realise. He said, "I am God's servant, and as long as I live I belong to Him. I must serve Him."

When, on November 6th, 1961, his gallant heart could no longer function adequately and he was taken to hospital, he was full of faith in the justice of whatever was the outcome of his stay there.

His overwhelming gratitude that it had been granted him to see not only his beloved original boys and girls, but their children and grandchildren living good and happy lives, made up to him for the pangs of regret at leaving them.

He knew that Progressive Judaism for which he had worked so faithfully was now firmly established. He knew that his efforts to influence the Government to make certain alterations in procedure regarding juvenile delinquents were being considered, and above all he knew that he was not afraid to meet God face to face.

The Deputy Warden wrote:

"A year which looked as though it was going to be one of outstanding triumphs and achievements but which ended so tragically with the death of our beloved "Gaffer"—founder of the Settlement and dearest friend of all its members.

"It seemed that nothing would ever be the same, and for Oxford and St. George's members it was as if the world suddenly stopped still. Crowds flocked to the Settlement Synagogue to pay their last respects, and as the funeral procession moved off from Berner Street a policeman was heard to remark that a king would not receive more dignity or respect."

The Synagogue Secretary wrote:

On December 2nd, 1961, our beloved President, Sir Basil Henriques, died, and we are left with an empty void in our lives that nothing can replace.

To those of us who knew "the Gaffer" since we were children, the Synagogue and Settlement will not be the same, it is almost unbearable



Sir Basil Lucas Quixano Henriques

Born 17th October, 1890 Died 2nd December, 1961

to think that no longer will we have those beautifully read verses from him, whose merest whisper would carry to the farthest corners of the main hall.

His interest in our members and their families, and his concern for their welfare was a striking example of his selflessness and thoughtfulness. He taught us a way of life that was completely different to anything we had experienced before, with the result that we were imbued with a fuller appreciation of Judaism, and the way to a decent life.

In our sorrow we are grateful that we have had the privilege of his love, friendship and guidance, and are filled with determination that we will do our utmost to see that with the help of God his work will go on, and that his teachings and the things he loved will flourish.

Extract from the Synagogue Annual Report

On Monday, December 4th, 1961,

Basil Lucas Quixano Henriques returned to the Settlement that he founded.

He was laid in the Synagogue which he established.

There, the men and women, the girls and boys with whom he had lived for 48 years and for whom he worked until his death, came by their thousands to pay their last respects to the man they loved. During the night members of the Old Boys' Club and the Settlement kept vigil by his side, with prayer and meditation.

As the morning of December 5th dawned, the streams of people came once more, to pause awhile, pray awhile and go on to their daily toil.

Carpeted with the flowers sent by his friends and by organisations with which he was connected, his bier stood before the Ark amid the Candles of Atonement and Sabbath. On top of the coffin rested the wellworn and well-loved scarlet hood and the mortar-board that had clothed our President whenever he acted as Minister.

Towards one o'clock the flowers were removed and the Synagogue was packed close with those who had come to ride the last journey with their friend.

The Ministers of the West London and Liberal Synagogues (under whose Auspices the Settlement was founded) gathered, together with our own Minister, at the head of the coffin and the short Service of God-speed took place. The Choir sang Psalm XXIII, the first words of which constitute the motto of the Henriques' family Arms. Ben Moss and Sam Kay, who act as Assistant Lay Ministers to the Synagogue, read two of the prayers written by the President in the 1914 war, and which are regularly used in the Synagogue services.

The Rev. Lasher quoted from "Elijah": "I go on my way, in the Name of the Lord", and the mortal remains of Basil Henriques left his beloved precincts for the last time.

Outside, the streets were full of people who had waited for hours to bless him and to take their leave. The courteous and efficient officers of the Leman Street Police Division controlled the traffic so that the long cortège could proceed on its way without hindrance.

At Golders Green Cemetery about two thousand people waited in the icy wind. Only a few of those were able to enter the tiny Chapel for the Service.

The Prayers were read by Rabbis Reinhart, Van der Zyl, Rayner, and an Oration was given by Rev. Vivian Simmons. The Hon. Lily Montagu, the Mayor of Stepney and very many representatives of official organisations were present.

Followed by the Ministers and the Choir, who sang Mechalkayl Chayim and Aso Ani as they walked, the coffin was taken to the graveside accompanied by the oldest members of the Old Boys' Club, whilst the rest of the huge congregation disposed themselves along every path and available space. The Interment was performed by the Rev. Lasher, as had been the wish of the President. The Choir, singing Psalm CIII, led the mourners back to the Chapel for Kaddish.

At eight o'clock in the evening, prayers were said in the Settlement. The Hall was full to capacity, for there were many who had been unable to be present during the daytime. Basil's large "family" mourned their father-figure and gave thanks for his life.

LEONARD GOLDSMID MONTEFIORE, O.B.E.

Three weeks after his lifelong friend died, Leonard Montefiore succumbed to the same illness that had beset "the Gaffer".

Throughout their adult lives they had worked sometimes together, at others in different aspects of social service, but always their personal contact was a close one.

Leonard had devoted himself for many years to the welfare of young refugees whose future he guided

IN MEMORY OF

LEONARD GOLDSMID MONTEFIORE

WHO GAVE THIS HOUSE IN 1950
FOR THE USE OF
THE OXFORD & ST GEORGE'S CLUBS
OF THE BERNHARD BARON ST. GEORGE'S
JEWISH SETTLEMENT
A WONDERFUL FRIEND
TO ALL WHO KNEW HIM
1889-1961

through the many difficulties that beset children torn from their home surroundings. He was a Vice-President of the Settlement.

His gift of Quare Mead will ever make the Settlement his grateful admirers whose memory will always be cherished.

1962

MEMORIAL SERVICES

On January 4th, 1962, a Memorial Service was held at the West London Synagogue by invitation of the President and Honorary Officers of that Synagogue.

H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs, was represented by Mr. James Orr.

H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester, President of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, was represented by Admiral the Hon. Sir Guy Russell, G.B.E., K.C.B., D.S.O.

The Home Secretary, by Mr. Peter Brown.

The Rt. Hon. R. A. Butler, C.H., M.P., by Sir Charles Cunningham, K.C.B., K.B.E., C.V.O.

There were also present many representatives of Official Departments, Statutory Bodies, Voluntary Organisations and individual members of the Committees on which Basil Henriques sat.

On January 22nd, 1962, a Memorial Service was held at the Settlement Synagogue. This took place in the evening. Representatives of all the Synagogue and Settlement Activities formed a Procession and moved to the Stage, where they were seated. A number of them took part in reading the Service.

The Deputy Warden wrote:

The beginning of the year saw the opening of the newly-constructed Girls' Club canteen and coffee bar, an oasis of contemporary colour and design. It immediately became the popular centre of the Clubs, but despite the new design, decor and wider variety of food, hot penny potatoes, baked in their jackets, are still top favourites as canteen refreshment.

Slum clearance schemes in the immediate neighbourhood are well under way, and tall blocks of modern flats can be seen on every side of the Settlement. With new housing projects come new families, many of them "problem" families. Hardship, unhappiness and disharmony are just as frequently found in the modern homes as in the overcrowded inconvenient slums which existed in the past. The Settlement soon became known as a source of sympathetic help and advice and friendship is extended to all, regardless of their creed or colour.

At the same time as new families move in, so do some Jewish families move out of the area, but many children still retain their membership and attendance in the Clubs, and often bring with them newlymade friends from the new neighbourhood.

The "Basil Henriques Memorial Appeal" was launched, the resulting fund will be divided among the six organisations with which he was most closely concerned. Donations ranged from 2s. 6d. to £1,000.



A Kosher Luncheon Club for Old People was opened in the Old Boys' Club. The numbers of old folk coming in daily have been increasing. The hot meal is providing a great service to many old Jewish people living in the immediate vicinity. Several Old Girls act as waitresses.

SIR EDWARD SAMSON BARON

(Born June 22nd, 1892, died June 27th, 1962)

Once again the Settlement has had to mourn the loss of one of its Leaders, for on June 27th, 1962 the death occurred of Sir Edward Baron, who had held the office of President of the Settlement since the death of the late Sir Louis Baron in 1934.



Sir Edward was never a President in name only, for he took a constant personal interest in the progress of the various aspects of the social work and of the welfare of the boys and girls in the Clubs within the Settlement. The Synagogue, too, became dear to him, and together with Lady Baron, who shared his love for and interest in the Settlement, he came to worship with us on many occasions.

He was always at the disposal of whoever needed his help. Wardens of the Settlement turned to him for advice, and his sound judgment was never withheld. Since the reestablishment of the Children's Fund Association, Sir Edward and Lady Baron have supported its endeavours to raise money for the Settlement whenever there was a function to do so, they were amongst its patrons.

Extracts from Annual Report, 1962

The Jewish Festivals are celebrated most eagerly by the children who combine what they have learned in the Religion Schools with practical work by making decorations and models and putting on short plays re-enacting the great Jewish stories that are our heritage.

During the school holidays, Playcentre is kept open all day.

The Junior Girls aged between $10\frac{1}{2}$ and $13\frac{1}{2}$ years are now the proud possessors of the Junior Athletics Cup presented by the Association for Jewish Youth. They have also received first-class awards for drama and art. One mural which was completed by three of the members received special mention, and now has pride of place in the Girls' Club coffee bar.

The Senior Clubs for those over $13\frac{1}{2}$ years have been no less successful during the year, the London Federation's Drama Cup being won by a mixed group of boys and girls.

With the money available under the Henri Raphael Trust, two girls receive piano lessons.

With grants from the Philip Weiner Memorial Trust, two of our senior boys participated in the National Association of Boys' Clubs Annual Canocing Expedition. They attempted to cross the English Channel in both directions by canoe, but unfortunately the weather was so rough that six miles from the French coast they had to complete the journey by launch.

Last summer over 75 per cent of Boys' Club members took part in Club holidays. Two camps were held at Highdown Hill in Sussex for 120 boys. Other senior boys and girls spent a holiday with the Girls' Club in the South of France.

The Old Boys' Club can be proud of those who take part in the activitics of the Children's Fund Association. Some assist in the administration of Montefiore House and others help in the running of Camp.



Old Girls' Club members play a part in many of the Settlement's activities. Discussions, Musical Appreciation, Gramophone Recitals and Lectures took place in the Club.

Special appeals amongst the members were made, the proceeds being distributed to charitable organisations.

During the past year over 600 interviews have been conducted at the sessions of the Poor Man's Lawyers.

HANNAH HYAM MEMORIAL LECTURE

Under the Chairmanship of Mr. John Watson, J.P., F.R.I.C.S., the lecture was given by Mr. David Jones, o.B.E., of the National Institute for Social Work Training. The subject was "Problem Families". A very large audience was again present, as has been the case since the foundation of the lectures.

We wish to record our appreciation for the help we receive from the London County Council and the Stepney Borough Youth Committee. They provide us with Instructors for some of our activities, allow us to use the school playgrounds, help us in obtaining equipment, and grant swimming facilities in the evenings at the local baths.

The Settlement wishes to express its gratitude for the help given by our Hon. Architect and Hon. Solicitor, who for many many years have placed their services at our disposal.

Facilities were once again given for the Jewish Lads' Brigade Banner Competition, the Physical Training and Dance Festival, Music Festival and Fashion Show organised by the Association for Jewish Youth to be held in the Settlement.

Due to circumstances beyond their control, Dr. Sam Smith, Chairman, and Mr. Alfred Marcusfield, Vice-Chairman, have both resigned as officers of the Children's Fund Association, but we are grateful in the knowledge that they are continuing as active Committee members, extending the benefit of their wise counsel and advice.

During the years they led the Committee, the Children's Fund Association raised for the Settlement the enormous sum of £70,000, plus numerous gifts that were used to equip the various clubs.

The new Chairman is Mr. Jack Grant, with Dr. Mark Guter and Mr. Peter Marks as joint Vice-Chairmen, and with the full support of a strong Committee they have already embarked on a large pro-



gramme, and hope to emulate the record of their predecessors.

This is the first year in which we have benefited from the implementation of the Albemarle Report. It is thanks to the London County Council and to the increased contributions from the Children's Fund that we have been able to carry on our activities.

SAM LYONS

Ever since the 1914 Club opened Sam Lyons was active in its interests. The first war saw him in the R.A.M.C., and on the cessation of hostilities, he immediately picked up the threads of his association with the Club, acting as Manager He was a shrewd and practical adviser to worried adults as well as to confused and often truculent youngsters. His ties with O.St.G. were increased when his relative, Abraham Pulverness, threw in his lot with the Settlement, for he was kinsman to Mrs. Pulverness' parents -that delightful aged couple, Mr. and Mrs. Loobliner.

Although Sam's business took him out of London a good deal, he always continued his Club visits whenever it was possible for him to come, because the boys were very dear to him and where he felt he could help, he did so. His great characteristic was his sense of service to others. No trouble was too great for him to take if it would be of the slightest assistance to anyone or give them pleasure. His own convenience never entered into his calculations when someone had asked him to do anything for them.

He was a keen Liberal Jew, and it was through attending services at the West Central Girls' Club, run by the Hon. Lily and the Hon. Marion Montagu, that he met and fell in love with the girl who was to be his wife and helpmate during a long happy life, "Fluff".

As the years passed Sam's work gravitated, together with the boys he knew in the early years, to the Old Boys' Club, the British Legion and the Savings Society. He also was a member of the Settlement Executive Committee.

To "the Gaffer" he was a beloved friend throughout the years of their companionship. So close was the link betweent them that Sam never really got over the shock of his death in 1961, and a year later he too, laid down his life, which had so largely been spent in serving others.

1963

At the beginning of the year one of the senior girls won an A.J.Y. Award of £25 and used this money to launch a campaign in aid of Oxfam. This resulted in the raising of £100.

The Playcentre had its own drive and under the expert guidance of Mr. Lou Baynard succeeded in running a "Playcentre Week" and raising £150. This money is being used to redecorate and improve the Nursery amenities.

THE DEPUTY WARDEN WRITES

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme involved both boys and girls in continuous pursuits including adventure projects, service to others, interests and athletics. Bronze Awards had been obtained by many of the girls and boys, who had met Prince Philip when he visited East London. Many are already working hard for the Silver Award.

LEON REES

Little did we guess that the new member of the House Committee who was introduced in the early days of Betts Street would become one of the greatest friends the Settlement was to possess.



Indeed, so quickly did he grasp the details of the Settlement work, and its potentialities, but he set his ideals as high as those of the Wardens. His generosity was amazing, for in those days of poverty and dreadfùlliving conditions no children had any toys in their homes. But "L.R.", as he liked to be called, showered the most beautiful toys on us, and never grumbled if we asked for more-a pretty frequent occurrence. We knew too, that he helped other organisations in this splendid fashion. His ever available services in an advisory capacity were invaluable in making new contacts for arousing fresh interest in the Settlement.

He was a staunch member of the Liberal Synagogue and that Synagogue is one of the sponsors of the Settlement. For many years he was Chairman of the Executive Committee and we used to look forward to his brief visits before the meeting, when, after hearing all the Warden's worries unofficially, he would usually have evolved their solution on the way up to take the Chair. Our lovely organ was his gift to the new building, and he was often in the congregation when the services did not clash with those of his own Synagogue.

Eventually he became Chairman of the Council and because of his intimate knowledge of the practical work of the Settlement, he was able wisely to guide the policy of the Council.

When his health began to fail him, and he had to resign from

active participation in the Settlement's affairs, his interest in them never ceased. When the Warden died his tenderness and sympathy were of the most helpful, probably just because L.R. was such a fond and faithful friend of such long standing.

When he died a great piece of the closely woven texture of the tapestry of the Settlement's life faded, but, as always in the finest tapestries, the faint traces of the once vivid colours are the loveliest.



The senior boys and girls have always helped their younger brothers and sisters in the Junior Clubs and Playcentre, but now groups go out to help in a club for mentally handicapped children, give voluntary service at Dr. Barnardo's Homes at week-ends, and of course continue with their visits to the old people and the homebound of the district.



On July 1st, by order of the London County Council, Berner Street was renamed Henriques Street.



This token of respect to the memory of "the Gaffer" was the outcome of a Public Petition instigated by a small group of Old Boys and signed by the people of St. George-in-the-East.

DOC. SMITH

Many years have passed since the newly-qualified, politically minded and musically inclined young man presented himself, somewhat aggressively, at the portals of Oxford and St. George's to offer to help in examining boys for Camp. He has done so ever since.

This year he handed over the Chairmanship of the Children's Fund Association to his successor Jack Grant, not because the cause appealed to him any less than it had done for 30 years, but because his own health demanded that he ceased from some of the many voluntary duties with which he had overloaded himself.

Sam gathered around him Old Boys and Old Girls and they decided to re-establish the languishing C.F.A. Infected by his enthusiasm, they expounded on the merits and needs of the Settlement to their friends, with the result that a strong Committee has been active to such good effect that the annually increasing deficit of the Settlement has been covered year after year. Without the help of the C.F.A. the Settlement activities would have to be grievously curtailed and the children of today would lose a great deal of the cultural recreation that has been available to former generations.



Sam not only introduced Jean Smith to the Girls' Club as a manager, but he presently introduced her to his family as his wifeto-be. Their three children follow the Smith family tradition of social service in Camp and Club.

Jean was for a long time after her marriage the Hon. Secretary of the C.F.A. It was a grievous blow to Sam and his children when Jean died, and by her death the Settlement, too, was poorer by the loss of her gentle presence. Knowing that it is not good for a man and his children to be alone, Sam persuaded Margaret Hayton to marry him, and as she is a doctor too, all Sam's patients will be glad to think that he has not only a loving eye to watch over him, but that they have a professional eye to watch him to watch them.



NEWS FLASHES

David Caminer, first night member, former Honorary Warden, clected Chairman of the Settlement Executive.

The whole of the Girls' Camp walked the Arundel ramble!

For the third year running the under-16-year-old boys won the A.J.Y. Swimming Cup.

Not only did Camps and Holiday Abroad take place, but this year an Adventure Holiday was held in Wales, together with the Wessex Club.

Who was an Oxford Playcentre girl?

DORA.

Who went through all the Clubs? DORA.

Who answers the telephone so courteously?

DORA.

Who asks strangers what she can do for them?

DORA.

Who has rolled off 11 million stencil copies?

DORA.

Who is the terror of bold bad boys?

DORA.

Who finds a way to solve everyone's woes?

DORA.

Who can immediately see through a "tall story"?

DORA.

Who is an example of O.St.G. at its best?

DORA.

"AXY"

Enid arrived at Betts Street on a Sunday afternoon to take the girls to play hockey at the Elms. Her hair was auburn, her surname was Abrahams and she was an artist.

Her surname is now Dreyfus (the wife of Charles, the Settlement's Treasurer), and their daughter is



just being initiated into the mysteries of the Girls' Clubs, during school holidays.

Between that Sunday afternoon and this year, Enid has taken part in every side of the work of the Clubs, especially in Camp, Art, Dramatic, in which latter activity she pilots her somewhat absentee cast of boys and girls to great and competition-winning heights. As a member of the Executive and House Committees she and Charles are particularly valuable because as age goes, they are young enough to be liked by the present generation of members and yet "square" enough to withstand the giddy suggestions that sometimes get voiced by young and ardent protagonists of the latest craze in adolescent circles. Her beautiful drawings of the three Homes of the Settlement enhance this volume.

With the passage of time a new generation comes to the fore. A Club grandchild becomes Camp Adjutant while the anxious tent

leaders await her criticism of their blankets. Nearly all the responsibilities of running the Camp successfully are now undertaken by Old Boys, Old Girls and their offspring. None of the old traditions have been lost and the inescapable camp discipline is upheld as well as the age-old "rags" and camp fires.



THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDATION OF THE SETTLEMENT

Preparations and rehearsals have been in progress throughout the year in readiness for our Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Every generation, past and present, participates. No effort has been spared to contact all old friends and members at home and overseas.

In the words of the present Warden, "We hope and trust that 1964 will be the most memorable in the Settlement's history, and that enthusiasm and spirit will be fired in the hearts of the present Club generation so that they carry on the wonderful tradition and achievements of the past 50 years for 50 more years to come".

OUR METHOD

Tune: "The Lambeth Walk" ALL the year down ALDgate way, ALL the year at work we say, "SLEEP on the green, green, CIRASS-THAT'S what we do at CAMP" HEAR all the "Don't beLIEVE its" "TBLL us how you aCHIEVE its'."
FANcy for fresh air CRAving!
POOR souls! RAVing!! ALL the same we DON our reds; Leave the loafers IN their beds, SING as we drive aLONG THAT's what we do at camp.

ONCE we're there the TOWN's forgot. ONE's too cold and ONE's too hot. "BONCH" 'em and say "Shut UP" THAT'S what we do at CAMP. SOON all the grouses VANish, CAMPing all woes will BANish. Camping consists of TALKing, FORKing, WALKing. STEYning's four miles FROM the sea, WHAT is that to YOU and me. SING as we walk along.

THAT's what we do at Camp.



Winant volunteer in action



Dora in charge

1964

Standing on the threshold of our Third Epoch, we try to look into the future.

We know well some of the tasks that we have before us, and we know that we shall need all our wisdom, inspiration and human understanding to tackle the problems of today and tomorrow successfully.

Youth, so virile and keen, has been born into a world still unrestful after the ravages of two wars. They have not known the more peaceful and the less sophisticated times in which former generations of adolescents grew up.

In the world of Entertainment, visual, vocal and movement, they see too much of excesses and crime and a very low standard of morality. They cannot be blamed if they accept what is offered and tend to look upon less drastic and more elevating pleasures as unacceptable.

They have been born into a world of vast scientific progress which has completely altered the pace of life. Technical knowledge is as essential to the schoolchild of today as the three Rs. This makes great demands on mental prowess far in excess of what was formerly needed, and if mental strain is not to triumph, adequate recreation must be provided.

Spiritual guidance is lacking in many homes today and a great withdrawal from "organised" religion has manifested itself in many young people. But given the opportunity to see God in nature, in the goodness of other people and shown the basic principles of their faith in an acceptable modern conception, the boys and girls of 1964 do not deny a Ruling Power, nor the inner voice that prompts them to act virtuously.



They are proud to be Jews.

To be granted strength and faith to prepare these boys and girls for a safe passage through life, and to give them vision to make a better world for their children, is what every man and woman helping to run this Settlement today prays to be given in the years that lie ahead.

"LEDOR VODOR" "From One Generation to Another"

Many of the same family names have appeared in the records and lists and photographs of Council and Committee members, voluntary workers, subscribers and Club members ever since the foundation of the Settlement. The torch kindled in 1913 has been handed down by many of those men and women of the two Synagogues which sponsored the first Boys' Club. From 1914 onwards the boys and girls have themselves held the flame aloft and in due course have passed it on to their own children, and in some cases their grandchildren are now beginning to enrol.

Voluntary workers have encouraged their offspring to become involved in the Settlement at an early age. Those who have given

financial support continue their generosity, and their children often carry on the practice of the parent. This continuity is of immense spiritual power. It is the most precious possession of the few remaining oldest generation of founders and sponsors, and more than amply repays them for the anxieties and labours of the years.

So many thousands of boys and girls have become men and women, parents and grandparents and have "got on in the world", and so few have fallen by the way, that it is a constant source of pride and gratitude to those who review their records and meet them in their new capacities, to realise how splendidly they have made use of what the Clubs offer to them in the fashioning of their adult lives.

So little has been lost, so much of their own excellence has been added until, in very truth, they come as near the ideals for which the first Club was formed as it is possible for the ordinary mortal to get. They are good British subjects, and they are good Jews.

Time has culled many managers and members. Two wars have cut short young lives that showed great promise.

In the Old Boys' Club one proudly sees the pictures of all the Boys and Girls who served their country in the frames of the "Rogues Gallery", with their "Gaffer" in their midst, ever to inspire them in death as he did during his life, and the present members stand around and vow to keep O.St.G. as fine as it ever was.

The organ of the Synagogue peals out and the Choir sings the last verse of Adon Olom.

"Into Thy hands I commend my Spirit, When I sleep and when I wake; And with my Spirit, my body also. Thou art with me, I shall not fear."



HERE WORSHIPPED Basil Lucas Quixano Henriques

Knight Bachelor Commander of the Order of the British Empire Master of Arts Justice of the Peace. Royal East Kent Regiment and Tank Corps 1915-1918 Twice mentioned in despatches Italian Silver Medal for Valour

BORN IN LONDON 17th OCTOBER 1890 DIED IN LONDON 2nd DECEMBER 1961

Founder and Warden of this Settlement from 1914-1948 and Founder and President of this Synagogue from 1919 until his death

Here were the roots of all his work in St George in the East where he laboured to lead the youth of the district to become good Jews and loyal subjects and to alleviate suffering for all irrespective of race or creso

He was inspired to promote the cause of Progressive Judaism here and in other parts of she world

He worked for the furtherance of British Justice and for the welfare of the youth in this country and abroad

He lived to serve God by serving man for he was blessed with an understanding heart which brought comfort to those who sought his help

Having worked until his end He died in peace full of faith and unafrald

Now also when I am old and greyheaded. O God forsake me not until I have showed strength to this generation and thy power toleveryone that is to come Ps.71-18

ייי נתן יויי לקתיתו שם יישובייי