

ISRAEL SOCIAL WORK COUNCIL COORDINATES SCHOOLING

BY MURRAY KASS

Israel's four schools of social work have formed a council to coordinate their activities and utilize their limited resources more effectively. It was reported by Samuel L. Haber, Executive Vice-Chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee. Dr. Shimon Spiro, Director of Tel Aviv University School of Social Work, is Chairman of the Council.

The Council consists of representatives of each of the social work schools plus the Ministry of Welfare's Institute of Social Work. It receives half of its annual budget of \$12,000 from Malben, the JDC health and welfare program maintained in Israel with United Jewish Appeal funds.

Mr. Haber also noted that JDC established the first social work school in Israel, the Paul Baerwald School at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, which, in turn, helped to found similar schools at the Tel Aviv and Haifa Universities; the fourth social work school is part of the Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

The Council meets regularly and issues a monthly bulletin thus keeping the schools informed of the others' plans and activities and thereby avoiding duplication. Mr. Haber said. New courses, staff appointments and results of newly completed studies are thus made known regularly to each of the representatives.

Each school tends to develop new approaches in its specialized area, Mr. Haber stated. The Jerusalem and Haifa schools stress the case-work system, while Bar-Ilan emphasizes

group and community work; both systems are taught at Tel Aviv University. About 1,500 students apply to the four schools each year, he noted, of whom only 270 first year students are accepted. Of these 85 percent are women.

The Council has allocated funds for study projects at each of the schools, Mr. Haber reported. The Haifa school is studying the effectiveness of a course entitled "Community Laboratory" designed to help first year students learn about community problems.

A curriculum is being prepared at the Tel Aviv school for students who plan to practice social work in the medical and health field.

At the Bar-Ilan school a team is defining specific functions for social workers in the elementary school system as opposed to the functions of teachers and other education personnel.

Finally, at the Paul Baerwald School a volume of casework histories is being edited and prepared to serve as a textbook for social work students to be used by all of the schools.

Additional projects include symposia for teachers, preparation of new teaching aids, indexing of library material and other projects designed to enhance the learning process and turn out better social workers, Mr. Haber concluded.

CHICAGO. -- Dr. David Weinstein, president Spertus College of Judaica, announced the appointment of two new faculty members for the 1972-73 academic year, Mayer Gruber, named assistant professor of Biblical Studies, and Gadi Ben-Horin, appointed lecturer in Hebrew.

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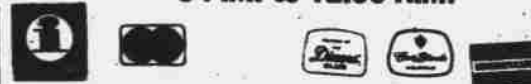
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