

Mojsze Lederman

A Letter from Present-Day Częstochowa^{*)} (1945-1954)

Mojsze Lederman writes to us:

“The Częstochowa settlement has, from 1945 until the present time, progressively shrunk.

The following table will give us a picture of the demographic proportions for the last three years:

Year	Men	Women	Children & youths
1953	150	128	114
1954	144	120	132
1955	141	118	145

Employed:

1.)	In the heavy industry	18 men
2.)	In cooperatives	38 men
3.)	In governmental business	16 men
4.)	Free professions	12 men
5.)	Craftsmen	24 men
6.)	In private business	24 men
7.)	Working women	26
8.)	Housewives	92

The adults who are unemployed are either elderly, or sick and unable to work.

Jewish workers, among them three women, have received acknowledgements for fine, productive labour.

The State Jewish Theatre comes to Częstochowa quite frequently and performs its plays at the public theatre, which is overfilled with not only Jewish attendees, but with hundreds of Poles who come to enjoy the skills of the Jewish actors and marvel at their artistic level.

The infants attend State day-care centres. The older children and youth study in middle schools and secondary schools, where some have received awards from the State for good marks.

We conduct our social and cultural work in our magnificent [Jewish] club, which is in the old Markowicz palace at ul. Jasnogórska 36. Here lectures, discussions, concerts and entertainments for

^{*)} Here, we present excerpts from a letter which we received at the Board of Editors, with the permission to publish it. The letter was written by Mojsze Lederman, in Częstochowa, on 23rd February 1956.

We only present here excerpts from this letter, as much of what Lederman writes us has already been handled in detail by our collaborator, L. Brener.

When he discusses the infants, “older children and youths,” who attend “State day-care centres, middle schools, and secondary schools” – Lederman fails to mention, firstly, the number of children and youths attending the schools and, secondly, whether Jewish studies are also studied there.

the children and adults are held. Here, we also have a children's club, where forty children are under the supervision of experienced educators and learn rhythmic and to enrich the living artistic word.

The large garden surrounding our club is so arranged that it should serve, in the summertime, as a play-area for the children, where they are watched over by their mothers.

Our club also has a chess corner and a ping-pong room.

We have sixty annual subscribers to the *Yiddishe Buch* [Jewish Book] publishing-house and ninety-one to the [Communist] Party organ *Folks-Sztyme* [People's Voice]. Due to the fact that we are few in number and that we feel the lack of family, a fine tradition has been instituted with us - to come together for neighbour-gatherings, each time in this or that street and, with a little glass of tea, we spend time in a homelike environment, when we discuss lifestyle and current political and social issues. At the end of such a meeting, we are reminded of the bygone years and we sing revolutionary and Jewish folk songs."