

Dobroczynność¹

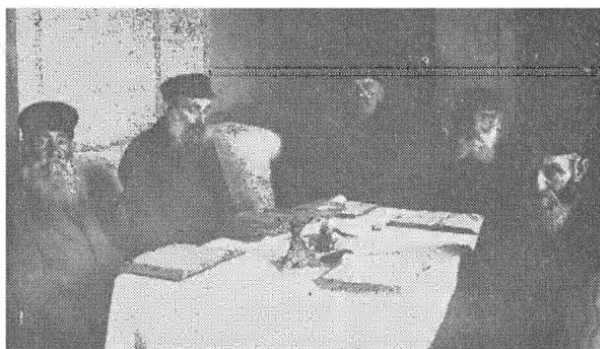
In 1926, the *Dobroczynność* [Society] in Częstochowa, together with its various departments, celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The activities of *Dobroczynność* encompassed the following areas:

- 1) emergency aid;
- 2) a hospital;
- 3) an old age home and an orphanage;
- 4) a kindergarten, [and]
- 5) post-natal care for needy mothers.



A group of women at the aged care home



Jews of the aged care home at study



A group of Jews at the old age home



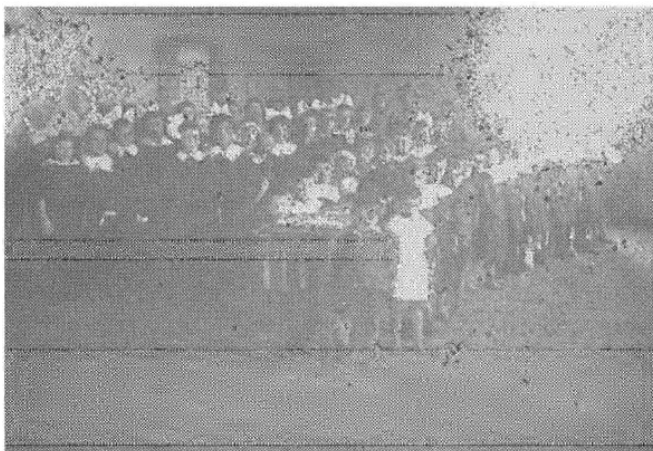
The children of the orphanage with Mrs F. Sztarke

The founder of the Society was Henryk Markusfeld, who was also its Chairman until the end of his life. Following his death in 1920, the office of *prezes* was occupied by Dr Edward Kohn. After Dr Kohn's death in 1934, Dr Ludwik Batawja took over the chairmanship.

The duties of the Emergency Aid, under Henryk Markusfeld's leadership, were to grant interest-free loans to the needy who required them. During the First World War, this institution's activity was diminished due to inflation and other difficulties, and later ceased completely. After the War, the department was reorganised under the chairmanship of the lawyer Mieczysław Koniarski and, with the aid of the Joint [Distribution Committee], it conducted broad relief activity.

¹ [TN: "Charity," in Polish.]

The Jewish Hospital was built over the course of many years. The hospital's festive inauguration was held on Tuesday, 9th November 1913. The Curators were, from 1913 to 1914 - Dr Józef Markusfeld, from 1914 to 1918 - Gustaw Kohn [and], from 1918 - Szmul Goldsztajn.



Children of the orphanage at mealtime

2,500 people annually. In its last years, the hospital's annual turnover reached around 250,000 *złoty*.

Unfortunately, the hospital was unable to maintain itself and depended, in large measure, on donations from the Częstochowa Jewish populace, who always generously supported this vital institution.

The Częstochowa *landsleit* in New York also supported the hospital through their Czenstochover Aid Society and, later, the Czenstochover Relief.



Children of the orphanage at practical work



A group of children in the nursery



Children of the nursery at play

The aged care home and orphanage were established through the efforts of the Werde family, in memory of their deceased only daughter, Mina Werde. The Werde family devoted themselves completely to this institution, to which they donated the entirety of their assets. The institution had

room for thirty elderly men and women and eighty to ninety orphans. Workshops were also set up there, where the children, over sixteen years of age, learned practical skills. The leader of this institution was Mrs Józefa Sztarke.

The *Dobroczynność* kindergarten, where a great number of the poorest children in town learnt and were fed, was directed by Mrs Izidorowa² Wierzbicka.

The post-natal care for poor mothers was in the hands of Mrs Sarna.

² [TN: Meaning the wife of Izidor.]