

A. G-B

## Our New Mikvah

Częstochowa was known throughout Poland as a city that could be proud of its social institutions, even compared to the greatest Polish-Jewish cities.

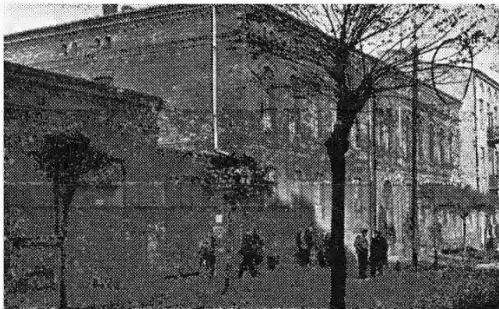
One of its institutions, worthy of mention, was the new bathhouse and *mikvah*.

In comparison to that which formerly was, we must mention the old *mikvah* as well, on ulica Prosta, near the Warta River.

It was situated between the study-hall and the Old Synagogue, by the poultry slaughterhouse. It even had two [separate] areas, but everything was old and primitive, so much so that it drove [people] away from it.

The new bathhouse and *mikvah* were very different. They were located in a two-story building, built within the better part of the city. Beautiful on the outside and more so inside, everything was modern and in line with the latest word on hygienic and sanitary requirements. The bathtubs were spotlessly clean [and were] fitted with two taps, for warm and cold water.

Besides the general *mikvah* (which was also always kept clean), there were also separate *mikvahs* for individuals, the water in which was changed after every immersion. These were made available for use to all factions of the Jewish population.



*The new mikve - now the "Bureau of Religion"*

The *mikvah* was built in 1904-05, under the supervision of Mordka Chemia [Mordche Nechemie] Kaufman, the son of the well-known Reb Abale Schochet.

The *mikvah*, situated on ulica Garibaldiiego (formerly Spodek), was located outside the "Jewish ghetto" and, to this day, has not been destroyed.

After the War, all Jewish institutions were concentrated there, (a prayer-house, the Jewish religious leadership, the Jewish Culture Committee, as well as a "children's home" and a school for Jewish children).