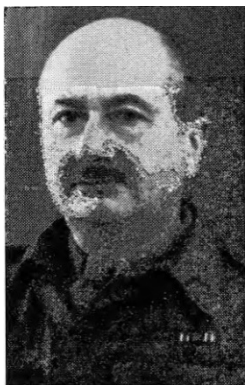


## The “TOZ” Society



*Dr Stefan Kohn, one of the founders of “TOZ” in Częstochowa and the first director*

This important association, which was founded with the aim of caring for the health of Jews - above all, from the underprivileged classes, had its central [office] in Warsaw. But it also opened branches in the provinces.

The branch of “TOZ” in Częstochowa was already established in 1923. Dr Stefan Kohn-Kolin was elected as its manager and head doctor.

The association had the following departments:

- 1) School-hygiene, managed by Dr Leon Gutman.
- 2) A section for lung-disease patients with its own outpatient clinic, [and an] x-ray room, as well as a laboratory for bacteriology, all under the management of Dr Julian Lipinski.
- 3) A section for the care of mothers and children, named “*Drop of Milk*”, managed by Mrs Dr Orlinski.
- 4) A dental surgery managed by Dr Perec.
- 5) A physical-therapy room managed by Dr Julian Lipinski.
- 6) Its own summer-camp, in Ostrów, which was only created in 1930. This camp was founded by Dr Stefan Kohn-Kolin’s family in memory of one of their relatives, Bolesław Tempel. It cost them up to 10,000 *złoty*ch. The camp was managed by Dr Lipinski. She was actively assisted by the “TOZ” secretary, Jakob Icek Rozener.
- 7) A section for school and *cheder* children’s nutrition [also] managed by Dr Lipinski.
- 8) A vaccination premises for the prevention of contagious diseases.

“TOZ”, in Częstochowa, developed very well. It employed five doctors and its budget, in 1939, reached 120,000 *złoty*ch. Through “TOZ” and its institutions, up to 15,000 people per year received treatment!

We have managed to find a report of an annual general meeting from one of the first years following its establishment and we should quote this report.

The Society’s annual general meeting was opened by the *Prezes* of “TOZ”, Dr Stefan Kohn. At his request, the memories of Cemach Szabad, Chairman of Central “TOZ” in Warsaw and that of Judge Himelfarb, one of the most active “TOZ” people in Poland, were honoured.

The lawyer Chaim D. Markowicz was elected as Chairman of the meeting, with his deputies being Eng. Przysuski and Dr R. Tenenbaum. Secretary was Prof Leon Wajnsztok.

From this report, we can gather that, every year, “TOZ” takes hundreds of poor Jewish children away from dank, humid cellars and sends them, for a month, to its summer-camp, where they are under good medical and pedagogical supervision and receive good and fresh food to eat.

This interesting report describes its activity in the area of the children’s summer camps and states:

*The poor Jewish child, who always feels that the ground he walks upon is not his and always sees angry looks from the surrounding vicinity and often “catches” their knocks, is heartened by the motherly warmth that prevails in the children’s commune at the summer-camp, where the good food and the fresh air, warm his frozen neshumele [Yid.; little soul].*



**“TOZ” camp for Jewish children in Mstów**

*Only one who has seen these children upon their arrival at the camp and afterwards see them when they leave it, can comprehend the importance that the couple of weeks of fresh air have for these poor*

*kinderlech [Yid.; little children]. But, not only is it important that their naked, fallen little cheeks have become a bit fresher and redder. It is also important that, during this month, the children are properly educated. With tears and with yearning, they leave the camp, and, during the entire eleven months, they dream about spending such another month in the camp, in the following year.*

*... During the management’s visit to a couple of shtetls, where the TOZ camps had been organised, they noticed that not only the kinderlech, but also their parents, were very satisfied with the camps. In Mstów, for example, a Jewish lady ran up with a tiny child in her arms and said that, seeing as she had two children in the camp already, she asked us to admit the third child also, for it was, nebech [Yid.; woe, expression of pity], painful for her to see how this child stood, nebech, by the garden, wanting to also go inside...”*

*... We have also visited in Konięcpol, where a camp for 140 children had been organised. In the midst of the committee’s session, a Jew suddenly burst in, weeping, and pleaded that TOZ should also help his grown daughter, who very often had nervous-attacks and, at home there was not [enough] even for bread. He declared that he would not leave until we helped him...*

*... This was so at every point, [in] Przyrów, Janów, Olsztyn, Miedzno – everywhere the same picture. A mother recounted, “My Malke’le [diminutive form of Malka] has been in the same grade already for three years and the teacher (a Gentile, of course), will not allow her to pass up higher under any circumstances, although my Malke’le is a very good student.*

*... Further, a father tells us that, earlier, his two children would come home from the school where Jewish and Christian children study together, and they would cry due to the persecution and teasing which they suffered at this school. With time, they ceased to weep, because they had already become accustomed to carrying the heavy yoke of exile around on their young shoulders, together with that of growth.*

The “TOZ” association conducted its work through a large network of branches, for which it acquired a name among the broad Jewish masses in Poland.

*The association also organised half-camps. There was a camp of this sort also, for up to 160 children, in the Kehilla Prezes Rozenberg’s garden. They would arrive at eight o’clock in the morning and remain until dusk. There, they received food four times a day.*

*The half-camps were organised by the teacher R. Gelbord. It was a pleasure to see how the hunger-tortured Moischelech and Shloimelech [little Moishes and Shloimes - typical boys' names] spent a whole month in the free air and their weak lungs took in the fresh air and strength for a whole year.*

*A celebration was held at the camp in Blachownia. The entire programme was conducted solely by the kinderlech. The programme consisted of reading articles from the camp's newspaper, written by children, singing, dancing, slides and recitations. Krysia Aronowicz and the schoolgirl Wargon particularly distinguished themselves.*

After the summer-camps had ended, every year, "TOZ" also arranged a collective outing to all the new points where camps had been organised, in order that the association should become more closely acquainted with what had been done for the children, who, of course, made good cheer with the guests and their parents.

*On the collective outing, we first stopped at Olsztyn, where a breakfast was prepared for the forty guests. Together with her children, a teacher, Hela Wajnrajch, also prepared a fine artistic programme.*

*Afterwards, we were in Janów. A "half-camp" for thirty children was there, managed by Miss Kohn. In Koniecpol, the camp has 140 children. It is in a forest, where there is clean, dry air, sun, shade, good water and all other comforts.*

*The camp in Przyrów has 85 children and is managed by Miss Jakubowicz. During our visit, the teacher thanked the Częstochowa "TOZ" for its work with poor children.*

*The performance, which was conducted by the teaching staff Olicki from Łódź (a worker with "Literarische Blätter" [Literary Pages]) and Blima Zajdman, met with great success.*

*From there, we came to Mstów, the last point of our interesting outing, where the camp is directed by Mr Szydłowski.*

*We very warmly parted with the dear kinderlech and their teacher, Ms Rozental from Łódź.*

*The next day, we visited Kłobuck, where there are 110 children. The camp is directed by the Chairwoman of "TOZ", Mrs Bela Zygelbaum, and by Aron Szmulewicz. The teacher Genia Berkowicz rehearsed a very rich programme with the children and the performance was a great success.*

*From there, we travelled to Krzepice, where there was a camp for 140 children. The camp is on a manor estate, where there are the most ideal conditions. After the presentation, guests and the local committee were invited to a banquet, at which the activist Szylit, in name of the guests, thanked the Częstochowa "TOZ" for the fruitful organisation of the camps, which had stirred everyone's enthusiasm.*

*With our journey to Miedzno, where there were 30 children, our outing ended.*

*From our conversations with the kinderlech, we noted that all were very happy with the camps. They had only one question - why must they wait eleven whole months before the next camp? ...*

After the reading this report, which was written by Mr M. Kaufman, regarding "TOZ's" fruitful work in the field of the children's camps and, after hearing the impressions of a few other participants in the collective outing to all the camps and half-camps, and the opinions voiced by various members who participated in the meeting, it was unanimously agreed:

- 1) To approve the budget of 27,700 *złotych*;
- 2) That the meeting expresses its gratitude to all the doctors who work in "TOZ", entirely for free or for a small honorarium;
- 3) That the new board of management comprise Dr Stefan Kohn, the dentist A. Perek, Dr Hirszberg, [female] Dr Szlajcher and [female] Dr Helman. As representatives: Dr B. Tenenbaum, Sz. Nemirowski and W. Bilkowski. To the auditing-committee: G. Freger, A. Wajntraub, A. Werner, J. Engel and M. Epszajn.