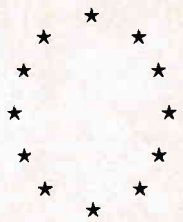
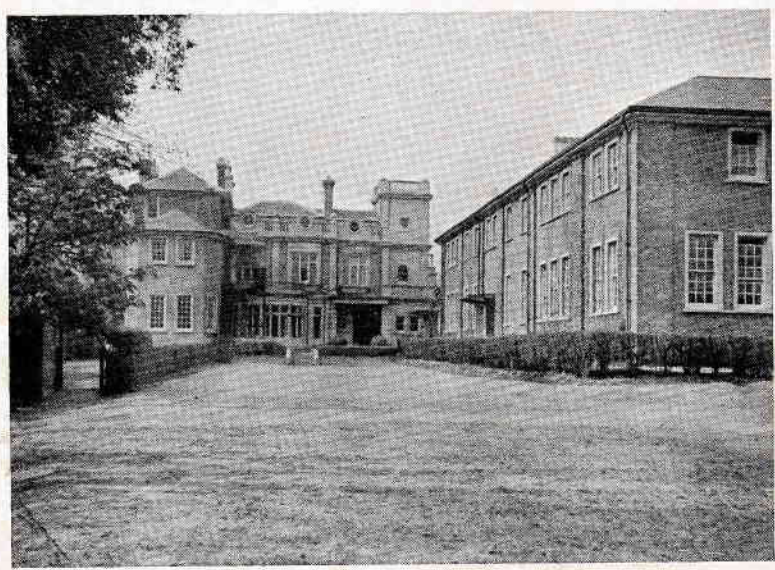


Ruth Fallman

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL *for* JEWISH DEAF CHILDREN



101 NIGHTINGALE LANE, WANDSWORTH COMMON
LONDON, S.W.12 :: Tel.: BATtersea 3833

RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR JEWISH DEAF CHILDREN

(Registered with the Board of Deputies)

101 NIGHTINGALE LANE
WANDSWORTH COMMON, LONDON, S.W.12
Tel.: BATtersea 3833

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RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL FOR JEWISH DEAF CHILDREN

Established in 1865 and known as The Jews' Deaf and Dumb Home, the school was started as a charity to provide an education for indigent deaf Jewish children. Thus, in a house in Whitechapel began a new idea which was to affect the education of deaf children throughout the world, for, under the direction of its first Principal, Mr. William Van Praagh, it became the first school in England to adopt the 'Pure Oral System' of teaching deaf children language through lip-reading and speech without the use of the hands.

The experiment became a centre of controversy, and its success paved the way to the adoption of the Oral System as the recognised method of teaching deaf children throughout the world.

Applications for the admission of children from all classes of society flowed in and necessitated taking larger premises, first in Notting Hill, and in 1898 the present building, with its spacious grounds and living accommodation for 60 children.

In 1939, just prior to the outbreak of war, the Committee had the great satisfaction of being instrumental, with the agreement and co-operation of the British Government, in bringing to this country eleven children under the age of ten years, from the School for Jewish Deaf Children in Berlin. The Committee accepted full responsibility for them, and they remained resident pupils of the school until they reached the leaving age of sixteen.

The After-Care Committee then saw them happily settled in employment and, where necessary, in suitable homes. Some of these children have been re-united with their parents in various parts of the world since the war.

The School, under its own Committee, is a grant-aided Private School recognised as Efficient by the Ministry of Education and open to inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Special Schools. It is also registered with the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and is open to inspection by the Beth Din.

Children are admitted from the age of three years and remain until they are sixteen. The education not only comprises the teaching of Lip-reading, Speech and general educational subjects, but aims at making the children self-reliant and equipping them to be self-supporting when they leave School.

The objects of the education of the deaf are to prepare the child for entry into the general community by giving him or her the means of communication, speech and language and the ability to lip-read and read.

The normal child acquires language and speech incidentally by imitation of patterns absorbed through the ear, but the deaf



MARY SW MRS. BENHAM
 The youngest children occupied with Kindergarten apparatus, while individual Speech tuition is given.

far right
 ALAN WEST
 MICHAEL BROER

CLIVE

Mr Wilcox's home



The Elizabethan Pageant performed by the children on "Open Day", 1953.

child must acquire these by individual tuition through sight and touch.

The deaf child is dumb at first because he has no "heard" speech patterns to imitate, but at school he is taught an artificial speech through sight and touch, and though he may remain deaf, he is no longer dumb.

The School is co-educational, the boys and girls mixing for lessons, meals and suitable out-of-school activities.

Some of the classrooms are fitted with Group Hearing Aids and those of the children for whom they are suitable have individual "Medresco" aids. There is also a wire-recording machine, upon which periodical records of the children's voices are made and compared, so that individual progress can be observed. Each child is tested on the Audiometer and his or her amount of hearing recorded.

Instruction is given in the following Handwork subjects: Woodwork, Gardening, Weaving, Basketry, Dressmaking, Tailoring, Cookery and Electricity.

Formal examinations are not held, but individual reports are made at the end of each term.

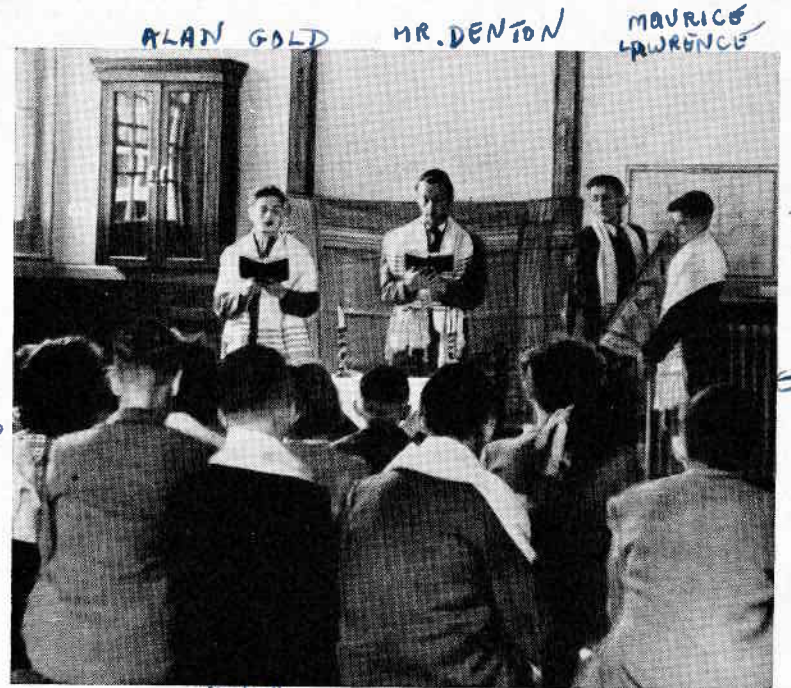
The affairs of the School are conducted by an Executive Committee who decide on matters of policy and finance. In addition to this there is a House Committee, which meets monthly at the School to examine and pass for payment the House Books and to hear the Matron's report. This Committee also inspects the building and recommends to the Executive what repairs and alterations require to be made.

The School derives its revenue from capitation grants from Local Education Authorities, income from investments and subscriptions and donations.

The health of the children is carefully watched. In addition to the School Medical Officer, who makes weekly routine visits and is always on call, there are specialists who examine all the children regularly.



LINDA SMITH
LEATRICE WERNER
JESSICA
KENNETH SIMMONS
ROY MARTIN
ALEX
MR. DENTON
A Group Hearing Aid Class for Senior pupils.



ALAN GOLD
MR. DENTON
MAURICE LAWRENCE
DAVID TOWNSEND
RUTHIE
Renee Cole →
Benru
Michael Clifton
Harold Fallman
Luther Bieber
Isaiah A Religious Service conducted by one of the Teachers

Daily Prayers are held at the School, as well as Services at week-ends, Festivals and Holy Days. Regular lessons are given in Hebrew and Religious Instruction and the boys are prepared for Barmitzvah, when these services are held at the School by the School Chaplain, and attended by the boys' relatives, friends and members of the Committee.

At Tabernacles a Succah is erected in the garden by the children and parties are held at Chanukah and Purim. At the former the candles are lit every evening, and the children act a play written by the School staff.

Strict Kashrus is observed in the kitchens and dining rooms.

AFTER CARE

When the children leave school after attaining their sixteenth birthdays, the After-Care Committee finds them suitable employ-

ment and, in the case of homeless pupils, places them in congenial surroundings, and they are all looked after by this Committee until they are twenty-one. Among the types of employment taken up by the boys are Industrial Art, Mechanical Dentistry, Bakery, Spectacle-frame Making, Watch Making, Tailoring and Cabinet Making, and the girls in Dressmaking, Comptometer Operating, Embroidering and Needlework of different kinds.

They are encouraged to join local Jewish clubs as well as the Jewish Deaf Club in Stoke Newington, so that they can find congenial companionship and participate in various activities, games and hobbies.

Whenever possible the children are taken to suitable entertainments such as the Royal Tournament, the Zoo, the Ballet, certain types of films at local cinemas, the Circus and during the summer various kind friends and Societies usually provide days' outings to the seaside and country. The School has its own film projector and during the winter terms a regular programme is



The Younger Children enjoying a Painting Lesson.

BRENDA
FELTZ

LINDA
SMITH

LYDIA
HONSCOMB

RANN
G.

MISS
BALLINSON



Pupils learning the art of Dressmaking.

arranged, part amusement and part educational. A projection television set has been given so that the children are able to see events of national interest as well as the ordinary programmes.

The R.S.J.D.C. (Parents) Society was formed a few years ago, to which all parents are invited to join. The main objects being to maintain closer co-operation between the Committees, parents and staff. The members of the Society organise two functions yearly, a Garden Fete in the grounds of the School in July and a dance in the West End in the winter in order to raise funds, which are used to provide extra amenities, treats, etc., for the children. The Society is also represented on the various School Committees. The Headmaster holds regular fortnightly talks to the parents to assist them to understand, train and educate the children in their homes.

Out of school activities and sports are encouraged. The children play tennis, cricket, football, badminton, billiards, table tennis, swimming in the school outdoor pool and gymnastics. They are

PAMELA
KING

JESSICA
RAPPOBY

IVAN

MR. COOK

TERRY
EYRE

DAVID
JESSEL

RICHARD
CAESAR

LESLIE
KAISER

MARY WILLARD

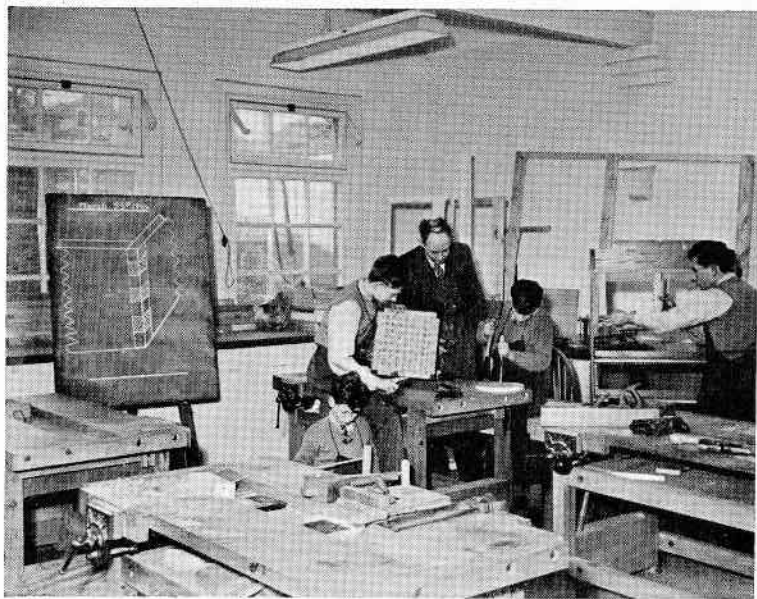
encouraged to follow the daily news in the newspaper and to read certain periodicals, as well as collecting stamps, making model toys, etc. The older pupils visit places of interest in London and exhibitions, and are encouraged to choose books from the local public library.

The older pupils attend the Jewish Lads Brigade and other suitable organisations, so that they can enter into the activities of hearing children.

A few years ago, the bomb-damaged laundry building in the grounds was rebuilt as an Arts and Craft Centre, and fitted out with the most modern equipment for woodwork, and other suitable crafts.

For the small children, there is a paddling pool, sandpit, climbing pen, chutes, etc., in the garden.

In the summer term, a sports afternoon is arranged with teams of pupils from other London Schools for the Deaf.



Woodwork Class of Senior Boys.

? , ALEY, MR. BENHAM⁸, ROY M., KENNETH
GRAY

STAFF

Headmaster:

Mr. L. J. Benham

Assistant Teachers:

Mrs. H. E. Benham
Miss A. Borrow
Mr. F. Cook

Mr. E. M. Denton
Miss G. Emanuel, B.A.
Mrs. K. Scandrett

Woodwork Instructor:

Mr. L. J. Benham

Tailoring Instructor:

Mr. J. Green

Dressmaking Instructress:

Miss R. Ballinson

Matron:

Miss R. Ballinson

MEDICAL OFFICERS

Hon. Consulting Physician:

Dr. Claude Elman, M.D.

Hon. Aurist:

Harold Kisch, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Aurist:

Anthony Radcliffe, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Oculist:

I. Spiro, Esq., F.R.C.S.

Dentist:

E. Marthews, Esq.,
L.D.S., R.C.S.ENG.

School Medical Officer:

Dr. S. G. Askey, M.A., M.D.

Hon. Solicitors:

Messrs. Jacobson, Ridley & Co.

Hon. Surveyor:

J. A. Denny, Esq., F.A.L.P.A.

Auditors:

Messrs. Myers, Davies & Co., Chartered Accountants,
259-264 Salisbury House, London Wall, E.C.2.

Bankers:

Messrs. Coutts & Co., 15 Lombard Street, E.C.3.

Secretary:

Miss Kathleen Mosely.

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