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Preface

For the Jewish school to be effective, the community must recognize the school's true purpose: it is "a vehicle for the transmission of an embraceive code of distinctive behavior," not a mere "symbol of Jewishness." In "Jewish Education—For What?", Professor Walter I. Ackerman develops this thesis by way of a critical analysis of the various types of Jewish schools, their sponsorship and financing, administration, faculty, enrollments, aims, and achievements.

In the second feature article, "Concerning Jewish Theology in North America: Some Notes on a Decade," Professor Lou H. Silberman discusses the dominant themes and significant developments in Jewish theology—sustained, disciplined thinking about Judaism—in the past ten years or so. In his view, the Jewish theologian's inescapable problem is and will continue to be Auschwitz.

"Max Weinreich (1894–1968): The Scholarship of Yiddish" is an appreciation by Lucy S. Dawidowicz of a founder of the Yiddish Scientific Institute—YIVO, its "chief architect, animator, and standard-bearer," and its head, first in Poland and later in America. Weinreich was more than a Yiddishist, in the dual sense of lover of Yiddish and practitioner of Yiddish scholarship, and more even than a great Yiddishist. All of Ashkenaz was his domain.

Our readers will find several articles in the Review of the Year of particular interest:

"Intergroup Relations and Tensions in the United States," by Edward T. Rogowsky, gives special attention to antisemitic manifestations, and above all to Negro-Jewish relations in the New York area, where over 40 per cent of American Jewry are concentrated; discusses the urban crisis and the various reports and studies about it; analyzes voting in the presidential election of 1968 and the significance of the George Wallace third-party movement, and touches upon the New Left and the Jews, as well as campus disorders.

Reviewing the 1967–1968 literature of Jewish public affairs, Professor
Daniel J. Elazar's biennial bibliographical essay, finds a major concern to have been a redefinition of the psychological and institutional ties binding Jews into "a polity of a unique sort," a distinctive group with a common interest in "the survival of all its parts."

At the invitation of the editors, Dr. Usiel O. Schmelz of the Hebrew University has attempted an evaluation of the population estimates that appear regularly in the Year Book. As the greatest difficulty of Jewish demography, he singles out the lack of basic data in most of the Jewish communities of the world.

Recognizing the need for a synoptic view of the interests and activities of the organized Jewish community in the United States, the current Year Book introduces a new reference section, prepared by Geraldine Rosenfield. It states briefly the positions of the leading Jewish organizations on outstanding public issues and is provided with an appendix, arranged by organization and subject.

We wish to thank our colleagues for their cooperation: Mrs. Shirley Spitzer, for technical assistance and preparation of the directories, necrology, and index; Harry Alderman, director of the Blaustein Library, his staff, and Mrs. Lotte Zajac, for their aid in providing reference material; and Arnold Schwartz, for editorial assistance. Rabbi Naftoli Richter prepared the calendar and Mrs. Monica Strauss read proof.

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