

JEWISH WOMAN WHO IS DEVOTING HER LIFE TO REAL PHILANTHROPIC WORK

MRS. IDA D. COOK.



President Hebrew Educational Society.

The Hebrew Educational society is one of real philanthropic achievements of which but little is known to the general public.

Mrs. Ida D. Cook founded the society four years ago and her efforts have been entirely successful as the rolls show. She is still the active head and president of this organization which has over 100 pupils and three paid teachers, teaching not only religion but morals to the poor Jewish children.

Mrs. Cook prides herself in the continuous absence of Jewish children from the streets after public school hours and during the vacation months of the summer. Many have remarked about the gentlemanly manners of the children who attend Mrs. Cook's school.

A unique feature of the activities of this woman is that she conducts a banking business which is quite at variance with the methods of the national and state institutions for she strictly adheres to the Mosaic law and charges and accepts no interest whatever. The only condition is that the loan must be returned within 30 days or it may be renewed after two days on date of payment. It is quite surprising to know the number of customers Mrs. Cook has. These are not only the very small merchants and peddlers and to the men of this class

she is a wonderful assistance. It keeps her quite busy keeping her records of transactions with these customers. She is prompt in accommodating those who deserve a renewal and requires a full explanation of the business and the way it is to be conducted before the renewal will be granted. Dozens of Mrs. Cook's customers would have been objects of charity but for the temporary aid she has been able to render them in order to give the men a chance to earn money for themselves.

Notwithstanding that she is now 67 years old, she is vigorous and has a hearty greeting for all she meets. She always has a congenial smile especially for the children. She is busily engaged every day from morning until late in the evening with the noble work she is engaged in and there is no doubt she derives much pleasure from it.

This evening a great celebration will be held in the synagogue in honor of a new scroll of pentateuch which Mrs. Cook has given in honor of her advanced pupils in Hebrew. There are about 40 pupils who can read the old Hebrew language in Hebrew characters and translate English into the Hebrew language.