

ligious and secular literature of all types. Each of the 14 chapters is introduced with a brief essay by Dr. Greenberg.

A *Treasury of Comfort* is what its name intends, an effective consolation to the bereaved. More important, however, is the lesson that "death teaches life". From it, we may all glean more mature insights not only into death, but into our attitudes toward life.

Jean Semilof

**THE SHTETL BOOK, Diane K. Roskies and David G. Roskies, KTAV Publishing House, Inc. (Paperback)**

In a medley of facts and fiction, literature and folklore, songs, psalms and proverbs, photographs and maps, the *shtetl* Tishevits and its diverse Jewish population, from infant to aged, so typical of the Jewish market town of Eastern Europe, come alive. We gain a broad insight into their daily lives, as they work and play, observe the Sabbath and Holidays, worship and study, celebrate a birth or a wedding, bury their dead. We chuckle or shrug at their superstitions, we empathize with both teacher and pupil in *heder*.

The same techniques are used in presenting a general picture of the "major patterns and events of Eastern European Jewry" from about 1800 to 1914. A fascinating chapter depicts the development of Yiddish in terms of the geography of its speakers. The relationship and cultural influence of Jew and Gentile are developed. We gain an understanding of the dangers and intrigues involved in the drafting of the

young Jew into the Russian army.

The book can best be described as a compendium. Satisfying to the general reader, it may whet the appetite of students of the *shtetl* to pursue more intensive research.

Anne Miller

**THE POLISH LAD, Isaac Joel Linetski, translated from the Yiddish by Moshe Spiegel, Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, Pa.**

Isaac Joel Linetski, born in Vennitz, Podolia in 1839, brilliant son of a Rabbi, an ardent *Hasid*, considered a genius, is reported to have started studying the Talmud when six years old. At an early age, he rebelled at the superstitions and fanaticism of his father's followers and at the narrow confines of his *shtetl*. "The Polish Lad" is based on his life and on his efforts to break away from the dreariness, rigidity and stultification of an environment that forbade any secular enlightenment and thinking.

First published in an Odessa magazine as a serial, the story met with such instant success that, in 1869, it was published as a book. It appealed to a wide spectrum of people, the intellectual and the least educated, each of whom could, to a varying degree, relate to the characters and the scenes.

Dipped in acid, a satire of the seamy side of Eastern European *Hasidic* life, a lampoon of the people's mores and morals, the novel is so vitriolic, that, for me, it created a credibility gap.

Yes, it is funny. One has to laugh at the adventures and mishaps of our hero, Reb Itzikel, as he pursues the first 30 years of his life, but it hurts to laugh. We have become used, rather, to the gentle irony and quaint people in the world of Sholom Aleichem.

Anne Miller

**O CHRISTIAN! O JEW!, Paul R. Carlson, David C. Cook Publishing Co., N.Y. (Paperback)**

An earnest look into the heart and soul of Judaism, by a New York City clergyman who presents a seldom-seen side of Jewish-Christian relationships, this remarkable book is a sensitive, insightful bridge over ancient waters, presenting the facts and fallacies, the legends and the fascinating truth about a people who have been maligned and misunderstood throughout the centuries.

From God's covenant with Abraham to ritual life and laws and the miracle of contemporary Israel, here is an exceptional journey of discovery by an evangelical minister who returned to the Jewish roots to touch true Christian love and fellowship—an odyssey he urges all Christians to take.

This book has grown from the author's personal acquaintance with, and his deep love for Israel, Judaism, and the Jewish people.

Rosalie Leon

**THE TEMPLE OF JERUSALEM, Joan Comay, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc., N.Y.**

The importance of the city of Jerusalem and of the Temple Mount to Christians and Moslems as well as to Jews needs no belaboring. Generously illustrated with both historic and contemporary graphics, this volume traces the history of bitter conflict over the site. Actually, the well-known author, wife of the former Ambassador to Canada, who was later head of Israel's mission to the UN and Ambassador to the Court of St. James, surveys in its pages the history of the Jews in their land, from the Sinai Covenant to the State of Israel.

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