

## ORGANIZED RECREATION-CURATIVE STAYS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN. AN ANALYSIS OF CASES FROM THE LVOV AREA FROM THE INTERWAR PERIOD

Anna Jakimyszyn

(Jagiellonian University, Kraków)

**Key words:** 1918-1939, organized medical care for adults and children, the Dębina sanatorium, Brzuchowice, Jews, Lvov

**Abstract:** Paper deals with organizations, which were mostly created by the more affluent members of the Jewish community in Lvov for improvement of the hygiene and sanitary conditions of their poorer fellow citizens and medical prevention. The aim of paper is to present their history and characteristics of different forms of assistance, recreation and treatment which the above-mentioned organizations of the Jewish population in Lvov provided in the interwar period (winter and summer camps for children and young people, day camps, the Dębina sanatorium, summer camps for adults, family stays).

As a result of a need to ensure medical care and assistance in the fight against diseases that spread among the Jewish population during and after World War I, various aid organizations intensified their activities. As a consequence, in 1918, the Jewish Committee for the Relief of War Victims set up a section in the Eastern Małopolska region to deal with sanitary issues and hygiene promotion. In 1919, on the basis of this section, the Society for the Popularization of Hygiene among the Jewish Population in Lvov was created. A year later, upon the initiative of the American Joint Distribution Committee, the Central Sanitary Committee was founded, along with a branch established to promote hygiene. Ultimately, this was combined with the Society for the Popularization of Hygiene, and named the “Society for the Dissemination of Health Principles among the Jewish Population in Poland. Lvov Branch.” In 1927, the Society was disbanded, and instead, the “Society for the Protection of Jewish Health in Poland. Lvov Branch” was created. The branch operated until 1939.

The above-mentioned organizations, which were mostly created by the more affluent members of the Jewish community in Lvov, dealt with improvement of the hygiene and sanitary conditions of their poorer fellow citizens and medical prevention. This objective was implemented by activities aimed at raising the levels of prevention, health education and fight against diseases.

The initiatives undertaken were addressed to people of different ages and different health conditions. The needs of prevention, treatment and convalescence, which were the motto of numerous projects and campaigns, were especially clearly combined in activi-

ties aimed at the creation of organized forms of recreation and treatment, both in the city of Lvov and outside its borders.

The purpose of the present article is to present the history and the characteristics of this form of assistance which the above-mentioned organizations of the Jewish population in Lvov provided in the interwar period. As no analyses of the issue have yet been made, the present article is both pioneering and incidental in character. The information presented here is based on source documents from the Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lvov (TsDIAL of Ukraine), leaflets and information published in the press during that period.

Organized forms of recreation and treatment can be divided into groups according to various criteria:

- a) location – stays in the city and outside its borders,
  - b) the age of the participants – summer and winter camps, day camps and sanatoriums, intended for children; camps for adults, i.e. people who had completed school education; and family trips, addressed to both the groups mentioned above,
  - c) length of stay (short trips – up to a month, and longer ones – over 30 days),
  - d) the period during which they were organized – summer, winter or in both seasons.
- All of these categories were interconnected. Let us proceed to discussing them.

## Winter and summer camps for children and young people

Holiday camps were organized twice a year: in winter and in summer. The first of them was held in 1923. Children and young people were sent to summer and winter camps in various sites, including Brzuchowice, Buczacz-Podlesnik, Dębina, Diłok on the Pruth, Łojowa, Skolemy, Stanisławow, Strzylek-Topolnica near Stary Sambor, Teleśnica Oszwarowa, Tuchola and Turek.<sup>1</sup> Mountainous, spa villages were favored. However, the choice of location did not always turn out to be appropriate. That was, for example, the case of a holiday camp held in Roszniow, and it turned out that the local climate was not appropriate for minors.<sup>2</sup> The locations where stays were organized were chosen in various ways: by studying the offers sent in by boarding houses<sup>3</sup> institutions or individuals and newspaper advertisements or through field trips.<sup>4</sup> Both private houses and public buildings – especially schools and hospitals<sup>5</sup>, were taken into account. Buildings located at some distance from other facilities were chosen in order to ensure that the children had peace and quiet and to reduce the possibility of transmitting infectious diseases. Some of the selected facilities met the requirements concerning the location, but required certain modifications. For this reason, in the financial estimates of the expenses necessary to adapt the building, the needs of the children were taken into account (construction of partitions in large halls, installing night lighting in the toilets and corridors). When

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<sup>1</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/57, 503/I/66, 503/I/67, 503/I/68.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 503/I/61, 10 VII 1928.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 503/I/59, passim.

<sup>4</sup> “Chwila”, 18 III 1939.

<sup>5</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/57, 29 V 1928.

a camp was held in a private house, it was usually also necessary to take into account expenditure for constructing a wooden porch and a covered dining area. However, these were not considerable sums, because there was a reluctance to invest in buildings belonging to other institutions or individuals, the more so as the list of properties changed from year to year.

Facilities used for camps were rented on the basis of contracts with their owners; most often, the rental costs were paid in advance.<sup>6</sup> Each time, however, the facility had to meet the condition of being equipped with the necessary furnishings (chairs, tables, sinks, basins, pitchers, buckets and lamps) in numbers corresponding to the needs of those staying in them. These requirements led to the need to control compliance with the contract, and return the property in the same condition in which it was received or pay for the damage. When children stayed, such reimbursement was often necessary. As a result, the best solution was to purchase one's own facilities fully adapted to the users' needs.<sup>7</sup> This objective was only achieved in the 1930s. It was at that point that the "Society for the Protection of Jewish Health in Poland. Lvov Branch" came into the possession of a house in Brzuchowice.<sup>8</sup> The Camp House, which was named after the Blessed Dr. Marcin Selzer<sup>9</sup>, started operating in 1934. However, with just over 100 overnight accommodation places, it was insufficient to accommodate all those interested.<sup>10</sup>

However, regardless of the place in which the camps were organized, the procedure preceding the trip was identical. Information that the camp was taking place was communicated to the public in the press. The Lvov educational establishments were also notified, and passed it on to all interested parties.

Not all children could go to the camp.<sup>11</sup> Decisions were taken on the basis of a medical opinion, after appropriate examinations had been conducted. All children, even seemingly healthy ones, were examined by a physician.<sup>12</sup> In this manner, it was possible to cater to children suffering from tuberculosis or minors living with the sick. The poorest and the most malnourished students were also identified. Children were provided appropriate referrals by a school doctor, a tuberculosis clinic or a Jewish hospital specialist. This did not, however, mean that all of them went to camp, as no sufficient funds were available to finance the stays for all those in need.

During medical examinations, doctors completed the children's personal health cards. In addition to the children's personal details, age, and the name of the educational institutions which they attended, the card also specified information concerning their health, housing conditions and the family's financial position.<sup>13</sup> On this basis, it can be stated that camp participants came from a variety of environments. The largest group was composed of children whose parents or guardians did not have a fixed source of

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 503/I/66, 2 VI 1939.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., 503/I/60 (Summer camp in Brzuchowice).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 503/I/60, 27 VI 1934.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 503/I/59, 24 II 1939.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 28 II 1939.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 503/I/62: The list of the children (1931-1932).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 20 VII 1931.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid., 503/I/57-110, passim.

income or were manual workers, craftsmen or merchants. The smallest group consisted of children whose parents worked in liberal professions or offices.<sup>14</sup>

The differences between children were not limited to the financial situation of their parents or guardians, and also concerned their religion. In order to avoid any conflicts based on this fact, separate stays were organized for children from more orthodox families<sup>15</sup> (and in press advertisements information on those respecting kosher cuisine was emphasized).<sup>16</sup>

In order to go to a camp, the child's family had to pay a one-off fee. Only the poorest or most disadvantaged children were exempted.<sup>17</sup> The parents and guardians of all the other children were charged minimum rates for the stay, which did not cover the actual expenditure incurred per child.

The camps were mostly organized for children of school age attending primary, religious and vocational schools. Also preschool children, particularly those from Jewish orphanages, were also occasionally accepted.<sup>18</sup>

The camp groups were quite small, and consisted of several dozen children. The number of children registered for and going to holiday camps varied from year to year (on average approximately 300 children actually went to the camp).<sup>19</sup> Interestingly, more girls than boys participated in the program.

Dates of stays were announced in the press.<sup>20</sup> The children met at the Lvov train station, from where they went to the camp under the supervision of educators. The railway was most often used as a means of transportation (camp participants were granted discounts for the journey by the Railway Management).<sup>21</sup> During the trip, unexpected incidents sometimes occurred: for example, children broke a window in the carriage or left their luggage at the station.<sup>22</sup> In general, however, everything went smoothly. From the moment of the departure, camp participants were divided into groups by gender and age.<sup>23</sup> Separate holiday camps were also sometimes organized exclusively for either girls or boys.

Each camp aimed at improving health and fitness as well as the cultural, educational and social development of children and young people. In order to carry out this objective, the schedule of the day was determined, which included a list of daily activities along with their start time and duration.

Regardless of whether the camp was held in the summer or winter and whether it lasted 26 or 28 days, camp participants started their day at 7 am and finished at 8 pm.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Ibid., 503/1/57, 1927.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid., 503/1/79, 7 IV 1927.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid., 503/1/59, 11 V 1939.

<sup>17</sup> For example, the application by Ms. Bornstein, a mother of six children of both genders, who were exiled to Lvov as a result of the Nazi takeover in Germany, was accepted: *ibid.*, 503/1/58, 30 VI 1933.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid., 503/1/57, 1927-1931, *passim*; Blatt 1937: 21-22.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 503/1/57, 1927-1931, *passim*.

<sup>20</sup> "Chwila", "Der Morgen", 4 VII 1928.

<sup>21</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/1/61, 3 VII 1928; *ibid.*, 503/1/88, 31 VII 1939.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 503/1/57, 17 VIII 1928.

<sup>23</sup> In the case of co-educational trips, the principle of separating the children of the two genders during the night-time rest was strictly adhered to.

<sup>24</sup> See *Medycyna społeczna – organ poświęcony zagadnieniom medycyny społecznej i higieny wśród Żydów. Centralny organ Towarzystwa Ochrony Zdrowia Ludności Żydowskiej (TOZ)*, ed. by L. Wulman, no. 11-12 (1937): 9-15.

The rhythm of the day was marked by five meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, afternoon snack and supper).<sup>25</sup> The meals were not too fancy, but very nutritious. The products from which they were cooked included dairy, fat, groats, flour, rice, meat, colonial goods, and fruit and vegetables<sup>26</sup> (the last of these, however, caused much resentment, especially among children from homes where eating such products was not a common practice). The average daily portion of products consumed was also determined.<sup>27</sup> A balanced diet and regularity in serving meals, a long rest, which included rest on the veranda before noon and a two-hour siesta after dinner, produced the desired effect – children's average weight increased by 2-3 kg during a stay.<sup>28</sup>

The children spent the time between meals playing games and doing activities adapted to their age, gender, abilities and weather conditions and surrounding infrastructure. In the summer, they were offered physical activities: walking and hiking combined with discovering the local flora and fauna, and group and individual games using a variety of equipment (balls, racquets, etc.). To young men, athletics, tennis, volleyball, basketball and swimming lessons and bathing were recommended. The last of these, however, took place in groups of a maximum of 15 students, under the guidance of educators and a doctor, in a location well known to the caregivers. Additionally, the duration of the camp participants' stay in the water was limited to fifteen minutes.<sup>29</sup> In winter, children were offered tobogganing, skating or skiing.

Setting a schedule for the day was aimed at instilling in children proper hygiene habits – morning and evening ablutions, washing hands before a meal, washing underwear and regularly changing dirty clothes. The holiday camps also aimed to develop adequate social attitudes, in particular the ability to work in a group, as well as independence and taking responsibility for others.<sup>30</sup>

In order to confirm compliance with all the points of the regulation, the camp manager or one of the educators was obliged to keep a diary in which they recorded the plan for the day, weather conditions and any exceptional situations.<sup>31</sup>

During the stay, children remained under the care of the medical staff and carers.<sup>32</sup> The personnel also included people responsible for supplies, kitchen and administration. The doctors' and nurses' responsibilities included medical assistance, instilling appropriate behavior in the field of hygiene and preventive health, and regularly weighing the children and measuring their temperature. Educators, in turn, dealt with the care of the children and supervised efforts aimed at ensuring the cleanliness of their bodies, clothing and environment, as well as compliance with the schedule of activities.<sup>33</sup> Among the educators, people with knowledge of physical education were also present; they were

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<sup>25</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/1/57, 1927-1931, *passim*.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/1/62, *passim*.

<sup>27</sup> In the case of school-age children, the daily standard was 500 g of bread, 500 ml of milk, 35 g of butter (for bread and cooking), 2 eggs (for eating and cooking), 30 g of sugar (in addition to honey, jam and marmalade), 100 g of boneless meat, 200 g of vegetables, 75 g of groats and flour products (noodles, pasta), 5 g of cocoa and coffee, and 100 g of fruit; *ibid.*, 503/1/62, 1931.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/1/57, *passim*; 503/1/79, 22 XI 1925.

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/1/57, 1927-1931.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/1/67, 10 VI 1928.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/1/57, 9 VIII 1928; *ibid.*, 503/1/66, [...] VII 1929.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/1/57, 1927-1931, *passim*.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/1/57, 1927-1931: Instruction for the doctors and nurses.

responsible for organizing morning gymnastics, games and activities, excursions and sporting activities.

The number of employees was adapted to the number of camp participants. Managerial responsibilities were entrusted to a doctor or a teacher. Medical or philosophy students were hired as educators.<sup>34</sup> In order to develop the skills of the personnel working with children and youth, specialized courses for camp educators were launched in Lvov in 1939.<sup>35</sup>

The camps were financed by individual organizations (notably the “Society for the Protection of Jewish Health in Poland. Lvov Branch”), fees paid by patients, subsidies granted by state and municipal authorities, funds provided by Lvov’s Jewish community, sums collected during pledge campaigns and private donations.<sup>36</sup> However, funds collected in this manner were not always sufficient. For this reason, Lvov organizations sought other ways of obtaining funding. These included a campaign encouraging Lvov citizens to donate waste paper, old clothes, metal and glass. The funds generated by the sale of these goods supplemented the financial resources.<sup>37</sup> Equally important was limiting expenses by acquiring some of the equipment (sheets, dishes, pots, etc.) and clothing and footwear for children from companies manufacturing these products.<sup>38</sup> In addition, some equipment was borrowed from other Jewish institutions (for example, tableware was provided by the Charity Association for Providing Meals to Sick Jews in Public Hospitals and Clinics).<sup>39</sup>

Expenses included the cost of food, charges for the rental or use of the facility (fuel and lighting costs), funding for repairs and replenishment of necessary equipment, staff salaries, administration costs and medication funds.<sup>40</sup>

The camps were closely monitored. Inspections by school, kahals and city authorities demonstrated that they were conducted in a proper manner.<sup>41</sup> One of the few cases of irregularities – inadequate staffing as well as negligence in the keeping of the camp and storage log<sup>42</sup> – was revealed in 1928 in the camp in Brosznow.<sup>43</sup>

## Day camps

Given that the cost of ensuring the stay of one child at a camp was estimated at 60 zlotys, it was proposed to create opportunities for group recreation of school children in their place of residence<sup>44</sup>. It was calculated that the cost of ensuring a stay at a day

<sup>34</sup> Ibid., 503/I/66, [...] VII 1929.

<sup>35</sup> *Medycyna społeczna*..., no. 5-6 (1939): 46.

<sup>36</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/62, 12 V 1931.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid., 503/I/73, 25 I 1938, 26 I 1938, 14 II 1938, 21 III 1938.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 503/ I/58, 28 VI 1933.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 503/I/57, 17 VII 1931, 9 XII 1931.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 503/ I/59, *passim*.

<sup>41</sup> *Wiadomości TOZu. Biuletyn z pracy Ochrony Zdrowia wśród Żydów w Polsce*, no. 13-14 (1928): 41.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/66, 10 VIII 1928.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 503/I/58 1933, 3 VI 1933.

camp was only 25 zlotys.<sup>45</sup> In this manner, assistance could be provided to malnourished children and activities to those who did not have the opportunity to leave the city. Day camps were held in school buildings in Lvov,<sup>46</sup> thanks to school boards authorizing the use of their classrooms, kitchens, cloakrooms, pantries and toilets, provided that these premises were maintained in an orderly and clean fashion and returned in a usable condition, including the reimbursement of any loss.<sup>47</sup>

Day camps operated between 8 am and 5:30 pm. Children were provided three meals (breakfast, dinner and afternoon snack). As in the case of the summer and winter camps, the products supplied during the day were carefully recorded. For breakfast, each child received 250 ml of milk, cocoa with milk or white coffee and two rolls. Dinner consisted of two course (a soup and a main course in the form of meat with potatoes and vegetables). Bread was also put on the tables, with children allowed to eat any amount of it. For dessert, mincemeat, cakes, cookies and a fruit compote were served. The afternoon snack was similar to breakfast, with the exception that the bread was served with cheese. This diet was not very varied, but the selection of products, and above all, their amount, ensured that none of the children went hungry. It should be emphasized that, as in the case of overnight stay camps, the day camp meals were also based largely on products provided by the manufacturers.<sup>48</sup> However, the amounts of food donated did not always meet the expectations of the camp management and the kitchen staff. When a given product was not included in the pre-determined list, or its amount was not sufficient for all the children, it was not used. This was, for example, the case in 1932, when a confectionery company sent 2 kg of cake.<sup>49</sup> The cake was sent back, with a note explaining that 170 children participated in the day camp, and the donation could not be divided to serve all of them, and it was unthinkable to make exceptions for any of them.

Children spent the time between meals playing.<sup>50</sup> Outdoor group activities, on the lawn in front of the school, were preferred.

Day camps were conducted on similar terms to holiday camps. Educators were recruited from the ranks of teachers and students.<sup>51</sup> Children were also provided with medical care – for every day camp, a doctor and hygienist were available, who received a stable remuneration for working with children.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 503/1/57 1927-1931, 3 V 1928.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 503/1/58, 3 VI 1933.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 503/1/58 10 VII 1932; *ibid.*, 503/1/62, 10 VIII 1931.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid., 503/1/58 1933, 28 VI 1933, 6 VII 1933.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid., 503/1/62, [...] 1932.

<sup>50</sup> As in the case of the holiday camps, day camps had a fixed plan for the day, with the following schedule of activities: 8 am – children gathered in the school yard, 8-9 am – breakfast, 9:30 am – walking over to the playground, 12:30 pm – return to school, 1 pm – washing hands and legs, 1:15-2:15 pm dinner, 2:15-3 pm – rest, until 4:30 pm – playing on the lawn, weather permitting, or in the case of rain in the corridors or in the gym, 5 pm – an afternoon snack and sending the children home; *ibid.*

<sup>51</sup> Ibid., 503/1/62, 1 VIII 1932.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 503/1/62, 17 VII 1931, 10 VIII 1931.

## The Dębina sanatorium

The summer and winter camps and the day camps described above had one major drawback: limited duration. This was not the case with stays at the Dębina sanatorium.<sup>53</sup> The tradition of sending Jewish children and young people for treatments in Dębina dates back to the beginning of the twentieth century. “Holiday camps for Jewish children and youth,” as they were known, were transformed in the 1920s into the “Society of Holiday and Treatment Camps for Jewish children at Dębina”.<sup>54</sup> The holiday camp building, which had been destroyed during World War I, was rebuilt thanks to the efforts of the Central Committee for the Care of Jewish Orphans in Lvov and reopened in 1922. The building was located on a hill in a wooded area and consisted of separate wings for boys and girls, a kitchen, a canteen, toilets, living quarters for servants and staff and a veranda. Stays in Dębina were of the sanatorium type; children aged 5 to 18 years were admitted (mostly orphans with lung diseases). The sanatorium offered places for approx. 150 people. The minimum length of stay was 28 days; most of the children remained in the sanatorium until their health improved (some of them for as long as two years).<sup>55</sup> More girls than boys participated in the program.<sup>56</sup>

Children spent time outdoors, playing games (especially appreciated were cricket, bowling and target-shooting) or resting on the veranda for at least four hours per day or in the garden. Furthermore, they were intensively fed. The daily diet included a liter of milk. As a result, a fairly significant increase in the children’s body weight was recorded: among preschool children up to 4 kg, and among school children 8.5 kg.

The sanatorium was financed with funds provided by the Central Committee for the Care of Jewish Orphans in Lvov, the Lvov City Board, the Jewish community, and occasional donations. It operated until the outbreak of World War II.

## Summer camps for adults

Shortly before the outbreak of World War II, yet another form of recreation, treatment and convalescence was initiated: summer camps for adults. This camp was a non-profit venture (when the idea was proposed, it was noted: “no profit is expected, and possibly a deficit”)<sup>57</sup>. Its role was to help the indigent, the sick or those in treatment, to whom outdoor stay, away from their domicile could be provided.

Given the nature of the group to which this offer was addressed, the village of Rozłucz, famous for its clean mountain air, was chosen. The building which housed the holiday camp was located away from the main road, surrounded by meadows, next to

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<sup>53</sup> *Towarzystwo kolonji wakacyjnych i lecznictwa Dębina dla dziatwy żydowskiej we Lwowie. Sprawozdanie 1927-1928*, Lwów 1928. See also TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/92, passim.

<sup>54</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/69, passim.

<sup>55</sup> *Towarzystwo kolonji wakacyjnych i lecznictwa Dębina dla dziatwy żydowskiej*, op.cit., p. 4.

<sup>56</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6.

<sup>57</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/65, 23 V 1939.



a forest. It belonged to private owners<sup>58</sup> and was rented for the period from mid-June to the end of September 1939.<sup>59</sup> As a result of the outbreak of World War II, the September stays were canceled.

The number of places in the camp for adults was limited to 34. In addition, participants had to pay a fee for the stay. A 15-day stay cost 50 zlotys, and a 30-day one 100 zlotys. During the stay, full medical care and free supply of medications prescribed by camp doctors were guaranteed. The price also included five meals. The menu was pre-determined. For breakfast, two buttered rolls and coffee or milk were served, and for lunch the same menu, supplemented with two eggs. For dinner, a different soup was offered every day, veal or beef (160 g), bread, vegetables, a fruit compote or mincemeat and tea. Every other day, an appetizer was also provided. The afternoon snack consisted of buttered bread and milk. Supper was served hot in the form of potatoes with butter and milk or hominy. Camp participants found this menu unattractive and complained about the monotony and blandness of meals.<sup>60</sup>

The double or triple bedrooms in which camp participants stayed overnight were modestly equipped. The residents had to take care of cleanliness and order themselves. This was due to the fact that the number of staff was limited, and included, apart from a doctor and a nurse, a cook and kitchen assistant and a maid.

## Family stays

Another form of prevention and treatment was ensured by short (14-day) or longer (28-day) family trip stays offered by Lvov organizations dedicated to health assistance and held exclusively during the summer. Among the most popular places were seaside resorts.<sup>61</sup> These stays provided the opportunity to spend time with one's family, under the care of gymnastics instructors<sup>62</sup> and qualified medical personnel. However, family trips were in fact only available for families with children over 7 years of age<sup>63</sup>, which represented the wealthier population of the city. In fact, the price of a 14-day stay ranged between 75 and 85 zlotys, and the fee for a 28-day stay was 190 zlotys per person.<sup>64</sup> In both cases, the price did not include the cost of travel, which each participant had to pay on their own.

Information on an organized trip was published in the press (in the advertisements, the number of available two-, three-, and four-bed rooms was mentioned along with the number of people who could participate in one trip).<sup>65</sup> The possibility of changing the arrival and departure date at the customers' request was also mentioned. Further-

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<sup>58</sup> Walter's family.

<sup>59</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/65, 9 VI 1939.

<sup>60</sup> Ibid., 503/I/65, 14 VII 1939.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid., 503/I/63, V-VI 1937; "Chwila", 17 V 1937.

<sup>62</sup> [...] Tieger, Lucy Sandłówna; TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/63, passim.

<sup>63</sup> This reservation was dictated by fears of the younger, crying children disrupting the silence at night; Ibid., 503/ I/63, 24 V 1937.

<sup>64</sup> "Chwila", 15 VIII 1937.

<sup>65</sup> "Chwila", 10 VII 1937.

more, the advertisements specified that the participants did not have to provide any of the items of equipment with the exception of a set of bed linen – all other items were supplied by the organizer and listed in the offer (in the absence of any item, it was supplied immediately).<sup>66</sup> During the stay, participants were guaranteed full board, which consisted of five meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, afternoon snack and supper). Hours of meal services were determined in the Stay Rules (breakfast was served between 8 and 11 am, dinner between 1 and 3 pm, afternoon snack between 5 and 5:30 pm, and supper between 7:30 and 9 pm).<sup>67</sup> In order not to oblige the guests to go down into the dining room, meals could be delivered to the rooms. It was also emphasized that the kitchen served kosher meals.

## Summary

During the entire interwar period, a varying number of organizations were involved in holding holiday camps, day camps or sanatoriums. With each following year, the activities offered were expanded or improved. As one of the Lvov doctors rightly pointed out, using the example of the camp building in Brzuchowice, in a period of several years, it was possible to move on from providing camp participants accommodation in primitive conditions in rural sheds to housing them in facilities adapted to their needs.<sup>68</sup>

Despite enormous financial difficulties and limited personnel resources, the efforts undertaken produced the desired effect. Every year, at least several hundred people of various ages attended the camps. Despite the many shortcomings and drawbacks (reflected in the participants' comments concerning the equipment, the diet<sup>69</sup>, etc.), the planned objectives were achieved through the establishment and maintenance of more and more holiday camps and other units, the availability of constant medical assistance, and organizing feeding campaigns. Thanks to the emphasis on helping children and young people, the program also constituted an investment in future generations. It was repeatedly emphasized that strengthening of the Jewish community and shaping the right attitudes could only be brought about by offering life and health protection and instilling appropriate behavior.

Actions taken in Lvov were similar to those organized throughout the territory of the Second Polish Republic, and although they were interrupted by the outbreak of World War II, they affected the lives and destinies of many of Lvov's Jewish residents.

## ABBREVIATIONS

TsDIAL of Ukraine – Central State Archives of Ukraine in Lvov.

<sup>66</sup> TsDIAL of Ukraine, 503/I/64, 1 VII 1937.

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/ I/60, 1934-1939.

<sup>69</sup> *Ibid.*, 503/I/65, 14 VII 1939.

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