

The RYS Daily 5/9/07 Last Days III

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While staying there [in Paris], he wanted to spend a short holiday in Dr. Ehrmann's home in Trier, and he had already made inquiries about the cost of living and the Shechitah.^b His preoccupations, however, did not permit him to leave.

When he first arrived, the Paris Jewish community welcomed him with all honors, and all the local Torah scholars, headed by Chief Rabbi Zadok Kahn, Michael Erlanger, and Prof. Dinabourg treated him with all due deference. A few months later, his friend, Dr. Sternheim, took up residence in Paris, and assisted R. Israel in all his activities. A long and bitter controversy had torn the immigrants, who had organized themselves in their lands- manschaften (in accordance with their localities of origin). R. Israel succeeded in making peace among them, and he organized them into a single Kehillah. He remained there for some two years and introduced many other innovations. He brought over a shochet from Russia, R. Feiwel Holtzberg' a Talmid Chacham who was also shrewd and clever, and who took care of all the kashrut facilities. R. Israel arranged for a Jewish dairy to be opened, and also obtained the services of a Jewish milkman. He built a Mikveh and arranged for its proper functioning, and also set up adult study groups in Torah and Musar, opened schools for children, and instituted other communal services as well.

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