

July 6, 1922: p. 15

As for the Jews of Harvard, there have been many columns of discourse in the newspapers on that subject, but so far the clamor seems to be premature. There was wide publication of a correspondence between President Lowell and Graduate Benesch, of Cleveland. Mr. Benesch wrote to Dr. Lowell expressing astonishment at the "official statement issued with reference to restriction of enrollment." This statement seems to have been privately issued, but Graduate Benesch said it contained particular reference to the Jews and suggested the limitation of the numbers of them at Harvard. He pointed out to Dr. Lowell that Jews had been liberal contributors to the Harvard Endowment Fund, and hoped that the suggestion of limiting their number did not originate "in the fact that Jewish students, numbering perhaps ten per cent. of the student population at Harvard, are the successful contestants for perhaps fifty per cent. of the prizes and scholarships."

Somebody quoted Burbank, the plant wizard, as relating the other day: "I developed some walnuts without any shells, but I had to grow the shells back again for the birds ate them off the trees." If what Mr. Benesch says is true, it could be argued that Harvard would be justified for various reasons in growing thicker shells on her scholarships. But no trustworthy figures about the percentage of Jews in Harvard College are accessible to inquirers. There may be five per cent.; there may be twenty. Whatever the percentage is, it seems to be making some trouble which President Lowell wants to avert, and which the Boston Irish politicians think it good politics to make the most of. But it is not really a local trouble nor peculiar to Harvard. It is part of a large, difficult race problem which needs the carefulest handling from all parties concerned in it. If Harvard can solve it, the whole country will be her debtor.

E. S. M.

