

# Answers to Correspondents

## NEW DEPARTMENT INAUGURATED IN THIS ISSUE

(It is impossible, even when a stamped envelope is enclosed, to reply to all correspondents personally, especially those who desire data to be used in debates. All correspondents will, in the future, please watch the English Department for answers to their questions.—The Editor.)

Clara Tartar, Norwood—Benjamin Disraeli was born a Jew and baptized by his father shortly after his thirteenth birthday.

J. Heller, New York—You can get books of Yiddish and English-Jewish poems at any Jewish bookstore.

Anna Frabricant, Philadelphia, Pa.—Yiddish may be termed a low German. Jews lived first in Germany and then in Poland and in Russia. They carried with them the German language which in time became "corrupted" into a Judaeo-German. Yiddish today is a language of its own with a very rich literature.

Jane Lenson, Altoona, Pa.—The "Ten Reasons for Knowing Hebrew," published in these columns last Wednesday are the best answer to your question whether Hebrew is essential to an understanding of Judaism. Hebrew is the language of the Jew and reflects the Jewish spirit entirely. It is the language of the soul of the Jewish people.

Harvey Golden, Winnipeg, Canada.—Anti-Semitism cannot be said to

have been beneficial to the Jew. It has caused some Jews to come back to Judaism, but it has brought the most terrible suffering to Jews as a whole. Jews will have to learn to be Jews without being forced to be loyal to their faith and people by Jew-baiting and pogroms. Anti-Semitism is decidedly not beneficial to Jews.

Mrs. Sam Rosen, Oil City, Pa.—Write to the Department of Education, Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society, 425 Lafayette Street, New York, N. Y., for data on immigration.

Jennie Fibish, Montpelier, Vt.—Space forbids printing a list of "Great Americans of Jewish Ancestry." The Jewish Encyclopedia, which no doubt is to be found in your public library, can supply the best list. Some years ago, Rabbi Mendel Silber published a very handy little book dealing with the subject. Address him care of the Jewish Leader, New Orleans, La.