

Several of the stories are told from the point of view of boys of the 12-16 year-old age group and these are some of the most appealing, combining innocence with the experience of suffering of poor Jews in this wonderful country. The first and longest story, "The Trouble with Felix", which was awarded second prize in the 1980 Sydney Sun-Herald competition, is a good example — and the book would be worth buying for this story alone.

In his Foreword, Judah Waten writes: "Alan Collins . . . has recorded movingly the lives of Jews Without Money in Australia, back in the pre-war years when he was growing up . . . (he) has done something original, presenting Jews . . . who were looked down upon by other Jews who regarded themselves as superior . . . , Jews whose families had settled in Australia in the last century, believing themselves to be the aristocracy of Australian Jewry".

Each story is titled "The Trouble with _____", the blank containing, in most of them, the name of the reacting character, not necessarily that of the narrator: the most attractive are those written with the narrator as first person.

"Troubles" encompasses orphanages, encounters of poor with rich children, an exploited apprentice, an overbearing wife, a pathetic invalid wife, an unappreciated dominated wife, experiences with sex, with dying, on travels overseas — and other contretemps.

The style of writing is clear and unpretentious, the characters well-drawn, the dialogue appropriate to those characters. Descriptions of scene and of effects on the senses are realistic. The development and ending are never predictable. There is sufficient humour, both in the presentation and in some of the situations and denouements, to make them entertaining as well as thought-provoking. They are stories to savour, to read two or three at a time, not devour like a whodunnit, making them altogether a varied, interesting and worthwhile collection of short stories.

AUSTRALIAN DICTIONARY OF BIOGRAPHY

Volume 9. 1891-1939.

(Melbourne University Press)

This latest volume contains fourteen Jewish entries. They are as follows:

GOLDHAR Pinchas (1901-1947), Yiddish writer. b. Lodz (Poland), came to Australia 1926. First editor of first Yiddish newspaper in Australia (1928). Some stories translated into English and included in anthologies published in Australia.

(Judah Waten)

GREEN Solomon (1868-1948), bookmaker and philanthropist. b. London, came to Australia 1883. Bred racehorses, some of which became champions. Gave generously to hospitals and other charities.

(Chris McConville)

HARRIS Alfred (1870-1944), journalist, founder of the Hebrew Standard (1895), now known as Australian Jewish Times. b. Melbourne, lived and worked in Sydney, Brisbane and country towns. Founded also a Masonic journal and helped found the N.S.W. Country Press Association.

(Suzanne Rutland)

HARRIS Lawrence Herschel Levi (1871-1920), radiologist. b. London, came to Australia in infancy. A keen photographer, he became interested in X-rays a year after Roentgen's discovery and founded X-ray Unit at Sydney Hospital.

(Suzanne Rutland)

HARRIS Samuel Henry (1881-1936), urological surgeon. b. Sydney. Cricket

"blue" for Sydney University. Foundation Fellow of College of Surgeons of Australasia (later Royal Australasian College of Surgeons). (Leonard Murphy)

HERMAN Hyman (1875-1962), geologist and engineer. b. Bendigo, grandfather was Minister of Ballarat Synagogue. Persuaded Victorian Government about potential of brown coal and later helped modify power station boilers to use this. S.E.C. Herman Research Laboratories named after him. (Andrew Spaul)

HERZ Max Marcus (1876-1948), orthopaedic surgeon. b. Bochum, Germany, came to Melbourne 1903, to Sydney 1910. Naturalised during World War I, but expelled by B.M.A. and interned as enemy alien. Treated successfully many crippled patients, especially children. Later acknowledged as the first properly trained orthopaedic surgeon in Australia. (Joan Clarke)

HIRSCH Maximilian (1852?-1909), economist and political activist. b. Cologne, came to Melbourne 1890. President of Single Tax Society and leader in anti-tariff ideology. Briefly Member of Victorian Legislative Assembly. (Airlie Worrall)

HYMAN Arthur Wellesley (1880-1947), solicitor and soldier. b. Tamworth. O.B.E. 1919 after distinguished war service — became Lieutenant-colonel. President of R.S.L. (N.S.W.), trustee Anzac Memorial and Vice-president Legacy, president North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club, member Council for Australia 150th Anniversary celebrations. (L.E. Fredman)

ISAACS Sir Isaac Alfred (1855-1948), Governor-General, judge and politician. b. Melbourne. In Victorian Parliament from 1892. Judge of High Court of Australia 1906, for 25 years. The first Australian to be appointed Governor-General, 1930. (Zelman Cowen)

JACOBS Joseph (1854-1916), scholar and historian. b. Sydney, went to study in Cambridge and lived after that in England and U.S.A. Wrote on Jewish subjects. (G.F.J. Bergman)

JACOBS Samuel Joshua (1853-1937), lawyer, merchant, brewer. b. Adelaide. President of Adelaide Chamber of Commerce and of General Council of Associated Chambers of Commerce of Australia. Chairman of Tattersall's Club and of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. (S.J. Jacobs)

KAUFFMANN John (1864-1942), photographer. b. Truro, S.A. Studied photography in Zurich and Vienna. Won prizes in London and in Australia. Exhibitions. Some of his photographs published in a monograph, others in a book about Melbourne. (G. Newton, Suzanne Elgar)

KEYSOR Leonard Maurice (1885-1951), soldier and businessman. b. London, came to Sydney 1914. Awarded Victoria Cross for distinguished service at Gallipoli. Later lived in England. (Dudley McCarthy)