

I

NUMBER AND DISTRIBUTION— GENERAL STATEMENT

LATE in 1927 material was collected with a view to determining the number of Jews of the United States and their distribution at that time. A wide canvas brought returns from 2,970 cities, towns, and villages, and 170 rural districts¹; and for places and districts which were not canvassed or which did not reply to inquiries, estimates were made. The canvas and the estimates showed that at the end of 1927 a total of 4,228,029 Jews lived in the country, comprising 3.58% of the entire population. An estimate made ten years before placed the number of Jews at 3,388,951 or 3.27% of the total. Table I below gives the total population and the number of Jews in 1927 and in 1917.

As was to be expected, the canvas showed that the Jews are not evenly distributed over the country. As will be seen in Table II below, the density of the Jewish population was found to be greatest in the northern states and in Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia, the northernmost states of the South Atlantic Division. In this large region Jews comprise 5.25% of the total population. The density of the Jews is only .65% in the southern states (exclusive of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia) and 1.66% in the western states.

¹Since this was written reports were received from 156 other cities, towns, villages and rural districts and these are included in General Table F where a total of 3,296 places are listed as having reported the number of permanent Jewish inhabitants.