

BOOKS

A Guide To Giving

Giving Wisely, by Eliezer D. Jaffe, published by Koren Publishers, Jerusalem Ltd., Israel, 656 pages.

The tradition of "giving" amongst Jews is as old as the Jewish people itself. "Give till it hurts," we were told in our youth in Britain. But people have grown rather tired of the fund-raising dinner and the raffle tickets. Today, a would-be donor wants to know more about the cause, he wants to be involved with it — he wants to care. This is where *Giving Wisely* by Eliezer Jaffe, Associate Professor of Social Welfare at the Hebrew University, comes in.

The book purports to be a directory of philanthropic and self-help institutions in Israel to which donations can usefully be given. Included is a history of each

institution and description of its activities, references for donors, and some notes on its financial affairs. However, dipping into the book, one finds a fascinating compilation of Jewish history, sociology and Judaica.

What more can you say of a book that, under one cover, talks so eloquently about yeshivot, Conservative synagogues, societies fighting abortion, drug abuse and cancer, benevolent and free loan funds, local communal organizations and religious orphanages? Jaffe treats the donor as an intelligent human being, a partner, neither looking down nor looking up at him. In his book, he brings to our attention more than 2,000 organizations that even well-informed people in Israel and abroad would hardly have heard of otherwise and gives the philan-

thropist a chance to find a cause he can identify with.

Government and municipal institutions are included. While Jaffe does not run down the UJA, the Jewish National Fund or similar institutions, he feels that the small organizations should also have a chance to make their voices heard. He believes there are many who would like to donate to some small cause they can personally identify with, rather than see their money go they know not where with the big impersonal bodies.

With all this talk of donations, the author does not overlook the primary way of identifying with Israel: aliya — and aliya is mentioned as the ultimate identification.

Jaffe has been involved with disadvantaged children, with the Israeli organization for large families, Zahavi, and the committee to determine Israel's poverty line and several other important commissions.

Reading *Giving Wisely*, the would-be donor who has begun to be a little cynical about "where all that money goes" will feel, perhaps, that Jaffe's is a voice to be trusted.

Judy Carr

August 13, 1982 *The Jewish Post and Opinion*.

The EDITOR'S CHAIR

PROF. ELIEZER JAFFE, of the Paul Baerwald School of Social Work of the Hebrew University, has compiled a 656-page compendium of all the non-profit and volunteer social agencies in Israel. Come to think of it, where would you expect voluntary social services of every conceivable kind except in a Jewish state which is the inheritor of a civilization that, were it not to disappear, had to provide by itself for all kinds of life's eventualities for those who were in need.

The book is entitled, "Giving Wisely," and of course is a must for anyone who wishes to contribute to individual agencies in Israel, hopefully in addition to donations to the United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish National Fund, etc. Each agency is described in full,

its activities explained, its officers listed, its membership, scope and policy delineated, and finally its financial setup and its needs.

We could not locate a price on the book, but the publisher is Koren Publishers, Jerusalem. We can assume that it will be available at least from the Jewish book and synagogue articles stores in the United States and elsewhere, if not in time for a major American publisher.

We note in the letter that Eliezer wrote to us — we have printed some of his articles in the past since he has been a leading critic of the oversights of the government in social areas — that the sale in the United States is being handled by The Jerusalem Post American office, 120 E. 56 St., New York, N.Y., 10022.