

CHAPTER FOUR

THE GUIDE OF WORLD JEWRY

Rav Chaim Ozer's home in Vilna was alive all day with the sounds of the innumerable people who came there to see him. Famous visitors to the city, whose purpose in coming thousands of miles to consult with the great Vilna Manhig, were ushered into his study almost daily. Every conceivable kehillah and personal problem in the vicinity was brought before him. From early morning till late at night, he welcomed important Jewish leaders, guests from far off lands, directors of organizations, leaders of communities and, between these visits, he would snatch an opportunity to answer the 'shaylos' which arrived in huge mail piles each day. After many years, his world-famed 'Tshuvos' were compiled and published in three large volumes and became a byword among lomdim under the name, 'Achiezer'. Despite the enormous demands upon his time and energy, he 'made' time to continue saying his shiurim in his Yeshiva, to conduct Torah discussions with other famed Gedolim and to meet with the great Talmidei Chachomin each Moetzei Shabbos in the session devoted to 'Masoh u'Matan b'Halochoh'.

While yet a young man, Rav Chaim Ozer's dearest project was the union of Orthodox Jewry in the interests of maintaining Torah Yiddishkeit. No one else saw as clearly as he the urgent necessity