ORIENTATION - Scholarship - September 22, 1956 - Page 16

like English and Greek, but XXXX from right to left. And just the matter of learning those letters in Hebrew is a tough job. It's just eye-work but it is a tough job. And that is a job which many people who have two or three years of Hebrew don't really master, to learn those letters. They know what the letters are, but they look at a word and they say well this is a this is a this is a

what does that mean

End of Record 3

and so getting those letters is a job, it's a chore. You can't get the letters by simply reading a little about it. It's eye-straining. Chaplain Meyers, here, could give you a good lecture on the best ways of playing tennis. He could tell you all about the backhand, and all about the different kinds of strokes, he could explain all that, and if you've never played tennis, you could listen to a lovely three-hour lecture on it. Then you go out and try to play tennis and see where you'd be. It's not enough to learn to play tennis or to learn to play baseball, to hear a lecture about it. You have to get out and do it and you have to get your muscles trained. It's exactly the same in reading Hebrew letters. You have to get your muscles trained to reading so that they tecognize the letters. And I had three years of Hebrew before I got my muscles trained so that I saw the words rather than letters. Well now that is a tremendous handicap. Another thing in Hebrew, you have letters for consonants, and you have little dots under and above them for vowels. You're not used to anything like that. It's a brand new thing to get accustomed to. You go from right to the left, that's difficult to get accustomed to. Your type of forms is different than anything you've ever been used to. Your whole structure - it is not difficult - but it is different. And your vocabulary - in Greek you'll find hundreds of words that are so similar to English words, it's very easy to learn them once you notice the similarity or it's pointed out to you. But in Hebrew you have comparatively few words with a similarity to English words. So it is simply a matter of getting something that is not difficult but it is different, it's new. And so my very first year of teaching Hebrew, I began a refrain which I used during the