

1947-48) and the American Medical Association. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Radiology and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians (a unique honor for a radiologist) and of the American College of Radiology. A past president (1932-33) of the New England Roentgen Ray Society, he was a member of the American Roentgen Ray Society, the American Radium Society and the Radiological Society of North America. Swedish and British Radiological Societies honored him with nonresident membership.

Dr. Gerber retired from office practice in 1944, but his interest in his vocation did not flag. He renewed his active affiliation with Rhode Island Hospital, where his services were welcomed during the manpower shortage of the World War. Traveling daily to the hospital, he spent his mornings, sitting in a wheelchair, reading X-ray films and giving freely of his wise counsel. He carried on with these duties until 1948, when he finally withdrew from active practice. Following his retirement he continued to appear at medical meetings and conferences and was often called upon to contribute from his great experience and prodigious reading. His innate modesty rarely permitted him to make a display of his comprehensive grasp of medicine or his encyclopedic knowledge of radiology, but these were known to all.

In 1948 for the purpose of recognizing their distinguished colleague, the members of the Miriam Hospital Staff Association established an annual lectureship in his honor, to be called the Dr. Isaac Gerber Oration. The speaker would be an outstanding member of the medical profession. It is said that Dr. Gerber was the only Rhode Island physician, and one of the few in the United States, to be recognized during his lifetime by the establishment under his name of a permanent lectureship dedicated to the propagation of medical science. At first he attempted to dissuade his colleagues from embarrassing him with this unusual accolade. He relented eventually, however, and remarked: "If you want to give me the flowers while I'm still alive, they won't smell any less sweet."

On the occasion of the first lecture, at which he was present, he remarked: "It felt like reading your own obituary, assuming anybody could really know what that would feel like."¹⁸ It was held on March 10, 1948 in the library of the Rhode Island Medical Society on Francis Street, and was delivered by Dr. Merrill Sosman of Boston. The proceedings incident to this exercise have been recorded in the *Rhode Island Medical Journal* for May 1948. The eloquence and charm of Dr. Sosman's preliminary remarks and of the accompanying editorial

comment merit their repetition here:

“On March 10, 1948 the Miriam Hospital staff inaugurated an annual oration to be known as the Dr. Isaac Gerber Oration. We who have known Doctor Gerber these many years might comment at length on his accomplishments, but it is doubtful that we could pay a more eloquent tribute than that of Dr. Merrill C. Sosman, director of the department of radiology at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, which we quote below. To this tribute we add the sincere appreciation of the Rhode Island Medical Society to the staff of Miriam Hospital for its thoughtful action in honoring a Fellow of our Society for whom we all have the greatest admiration.

—The Editors”

The following is Dr. Sosman’s tribute:

“It is a pleasure and a privilege to be with you tonight, and a great honor to be invited to give the first Isaac Gerber lecture. We, in Boston, have known Dr. Gerber for many years and have admired him not only for his ability and his learning, but also for his indomitable courage. He rarely misses any of the important medical meetings in Boston, even during the height of our beautiful winter season, and it is always a stimulus to see him in the audience. His desire to learn, his thirst to acquire knowledge have characterized him ever since I have known him.

“Dr. Gerber is essentially a Bostonian, transplanted to the salubrious soil and climate of suburban Providence. He was born in Boston, educated in the Boston English High School, Harvard College and Harvard Medical School, where my researches reveal that he was graduated cum laude. He was an intern at the Boston City Hospital and it was there that his future career was determined, but without his realizing it until several years later. At the City Hospital he came into contact with, and fell under the spell of, Francis H. Williams who first interested him in the strange new x-rays, particularly their use in examining the heart and lungs of the patients on his wards. Those of you who knew Dr. Williams will remember what an enthusiast he was, — quiet, scholarly and thorough, but a missionary in thought and deed in those benighted days when physicians thought they could diagnose with the stethoscope!

“Having been inoculated with the virus of Roentgenology, Dr. Gerber exposed himself to still further infection by studying with Levy-Dorn in Berlin, Haudek and Holzknicht in Vienna, and was a friend and co-worker with Arthur Schueller at the Allgemeine Krankenhaus where his interest in cranial roentgenology was aroused. That was in 1912, the year that Christian and Cushing and their associates toured Europe with the purpose of obtaining ideas and perhaps men for the new Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, about to be opened in Boston the following year. But for a missed appointment with Cushing, Dr. Gerber might have been the new Roentgenologist at my hospital,

and then I would not have been here on this happy occasion.

"It is unnecessary to remind you, I am sure, that Dr. Gerber gently metastasized to Providence in 1914 (the first physician in this state to limit his practice to Roentgenology), and of how much he has done for medicine and Roentgenology in the 34 years since he has been one of you. For several years he maintained a base of operation in Boston, but finally recognizing the superior virtues of Providence severed official connection with his native town and has since concentrated his effort in your city. He was active in establishing the department of radiation therapy at the Boston City Hospital in 1924, and a similar one at Pondville Hospital in 1927. He is or has been on the staffs of most of the hospitals in Rhode Island, belongs to all of our national radiological societies, is a life member of the British Institute of Radiology and is currently, I understand, a Vice-President of the Rhode Island Medical Society. His contributions to the medical literature have been numerous and varied, and I know of no one in our X-ray Societies who has as thorough a knowledge of radiological literature as Dr. Gerber.

"Dr. Gerber has always been an Index Medicus and a peripatetic library for our radiological meetings and clinics not only in New England but all over the country. . . ."

Dr. Gerber's graceful and modest response follows:

"There is very little that one can say in response to such eulogies as have been heaped on me tonight. You all realize of course that this is an extremely unusual occasion, at least from my point of view.

"Named lectures generally have been inaugurated in honor of individuals who have already passed on. In the present instance my colleagues and friends of the Miriam Hospital staff have chosen figuratively to send me flowers while I am still around and able to enjoy their fragrance and beauty. It is certainly not for me to decry their choice.

"The idea of the annual lectureship in itself is indeed a most admirable one. It is a fitting way of having the hospital, now well along in its third decade of service, shows its appreciation of being a real part of the medical community of Rhode Island.

"As for myself, I can only state that I am indeed extremely appreciative of the high honor that has been given to me by attaching my name to this projected series of lectures. I am also greatly touched personally by this overwhelming indication of friendliness and esteem on the part of my colleagues in the Miriam Hospital.

"I know that you have not gathered here tonight to listen to me. I do not feel that I should encroach further on the speaker's time, and wish once more to express my deepest thanks for this tremendous honor."

Until his death Dr. Gerber attended the lectures. As of this writing nine orations have been delivered by a distinguished roster of nation-

ally known physicians, the last on October 17, 1956. In recent years it has been the custom to hold this exercise on the third Wednesday of October in the auditorium of Miriam Hospital.

Dr. Gerber died on February 17, 1952 of coronary thrombosis following a long and painful siege of sciatic pain associated with his illness. His progressive paralysis, which had continually baffled neurologists and which had been ascribed to radiation injury of his spinal cord, was found after his death to have been caused by a benign cord tumor. It is an irony of fate that this brilliant diagnostician succumbed to an ailment which could have been cured had the correct diagnosis been made.

Long a member of The Congregation of the Sons of Israel and David (Temple Beth-El), he is buried in the Reservoir Avenue Cemetery. He is survived by Mrs. Gerber and a married daughter. Obituaries have appeared in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *Rhode Island Medical Journal*, the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Radiology*, the *American Journal of Roentgenology* and the *British Journal of Roentgenology*.¹⁹

In the years immediately following the arrival of Dr. Gerber, Drs. Boris Joseph Sohn (1915), Leo Cohen (1916), Myer Arthur Persky (1916), Benjamin Harry Abraham (1919), established practices in Providence. According to the annual reports of Rhode Island Hospital, a number of Jewish physicians were added to the out-patient ("externe") staff of that hospital: Abe Arthur Brown (Ear, Nose and Throat 1920), Samuel I. Kennison (Pediatrics 1921), Nathan A. Bolotow (Ear, Nose and Throat 1922), Louis I. Kramer (Skin 1923), Maurice Adelman (Pediatrics 1923), Henry L. C. Weyler (Medicine 1924), Harold Libby (Medicine 1925), Benjamin S. Sharp (Ear, Nose and Throat 1925), Banice Feinberg (Pediatrics 1925), and Herman A. Winkler (Ear, Nose and Throat 1926). Dr. Adelman was the first of this group to be promoted to the in-patient house service (Assistant Visiting Physician in Pediatrics 1926). A number of these men eventually became senior members of the visiting staff of that hospital. Dr. Banice Feinberg is now Chief of Pediatrics. Dr. Kennison later became established in psychiatry, Dr. Kramer in Internal Medicine and Dr. Libby in Obstetrics and Gynecology.²⁰

Late in the year 1923 the Jewish doctors of Rhode Island, in order to satisfy a need for a fuller academic life and to foster closer social ties, formed the Jacobi Medical Club.²¹ They were also anticipating the opening (late in 1925) of the new Miriam Hospital and were organ-

ized to assist in the planning and staffing of that institution. The early records of the club have been lost. The name first appears, however, in the minutes of The Miriam Hospital Association for Dec. 1, 1923, probably soon after establishment of the club. Its first president was Dr. Max B. Gomberg and its first secretary-treasurer was Dr. Joseph B. Webber. The club was invited to send a committee to a Gentlemen's Night sponsored by The Miriam Hospital Association to be held on December 16, 1923 to acquaint the male members of the community with the plans for a new hospital. On January 9, 1924 the Second Annual Ball of The Miriam Hospital Association was held in the Arcadia Ballroom. The souvenir program for that occasion contained a full page advertisement purchased by the club. It met at regular intervals for a number of years, sometimes combining the scientific business with a good dinner. On the whole the meetings were of excellent quality, and speakers of reputation were invited not only from Providence, but from medical centers in Boston and elsewhere. Early in World War II (probably late in 1940) its activities were suspended because many of its members were joining the Armed Forces and because its academic functions were being replaced by the developing Miriam Hospital. Although it had been assumed that its activities would someday be resumed, this did not come to pass.

The need for a Jewish hospital in the community had been felt for a number of years. Many of the early residents were recent immigrants, troubled by strange customs, the language barrier, different culinary habits, and the restrictions of the Kosher diet. Consequently, they were often uncomfortable in institutions not of their choice. It would be many years, however, before such a facility could be provided.

In the meantime, provision had to be made for these patients in existing institutions. The chief burden of this responsibility fell upon Rhode Island Hospital. Beginning in 1891 there appeared in the annual reports of that hospital²² a contribution of seventy dollars from the "Jewish Societies of Providence." After sustaining this level for several years, it fell off to sixty dollars in 1895, and after some fluctuation (reaching a maximum of \$71.50) disappeared entirely after 1898. During the same period and for several years thereafter, other societies contributed smaller amounts, of the order of ten or fifteen dollars, the last recorded being that of the Montefiore Lodge Ladies' Hebrew Association which was discontinued after 1917. Rabbi Blaustein of The Congregation of the Sons of Israel and David, during his brief sojourn in Providence between 1892 and 1898, had taken an active interest in

trying to rally the support of the Jewish community to the Rhode Island Hospital and other charities. In the pages of *The Organ*²³ there are some eleven appeals and news items concerning the continued struggle to make up the annual seventy dollar contribution. On several occasions the following appeared:

"In Behalf of Rhode Island Hospital

"The Congregation as well as the other Jewish organizations paying an annual contribution to the Rhode Island Hospital are hereby reminded that the payment thereof is now due. To make the Jewish donation more presentable, the various societies are respectfully requested to send their contributions to Rabbi Blaustein who will in the name of the Jewish societies of Providence forward the whole sum to the treasurer of the hospital.

"Rabbi Blaustein will gladly receive donations for said purpose also from charitably inclined individuals. Small amounts will be welcome as well as large ones."

On one occasion the following comment was appended to the above: "We hope this appeal will not be a voice calling in the wilderness." On another it was stated: "It pains us to repeat the statement that Providence Jewery [sic] cannot boast of public spirited individuals. The appeal in behalf of the Rhode Island Hospital was not responded by anyone of our well-to-do co-religionists. Leaving out the annual contributions from the few fraternal lodges²⁴ and our Congregation, the only extra donation that was sent to the Rabbi for said purpose was one of twenty-five cents from a family that cannot afford to spare even that small amount. . . ." On January 17, 1898 Rabbi Blaustein appeared before the Board of Trustees of his congregation to plea for support of the hospital and other non-sectarian institutions in the city, but apparently nothing much came of the matter.²⁵ He left Providence a few months later and with his departure the project died.

In 1896, after several months of debate, the Rhode Island Hebrew Medical Aid Association²⁶ which had been incorporated in 1890 "to secure medical and surgical attendance for the members and their families and for other charitable purposes" called a mass meeting with the objective of initiating a movement for a "Hebrew hospital." The meeting was held on November 1, 1896. It was decided, apparently unanimously, that the Jews of Providence were not strong enough to maintain a hospital of their own and the project was dropped. The feasibility of organizing a Jewish dispensary in lieu of the more ambitious project was then seriously considered. Rabbi Blaustein com-

mented: "Let our people more liberally contribute to the Rhode Island Hospital and avail themselves of the dispensary connected with that institution."²⁷

It was not until early in 1908 that such a dispensary was to be realized.²⁸ A Dr. J. Edmund Brown, in December 1907, had suggested to Mrs. Caesar Misch the advisability of opening a free dispensary in South Providence. She brought the matter to the attention of the Providence Section of the Council of Jewish Women. After an investigation, it was deemed a suitable project and an annual subscription for support of the dispensary was recommended. An initial fund of \$348 was accumulated. While non-sectarian, the dispensary would be located in a section of the city convenient for Jewish families. It was reported that the congested Jewish quarter in the North End seemed more in need of such a facility than South Providence, which was in close proximity to both St. Joseph's and Rhode Island Hospital. Rooms were engaged in the North End Working Girls Home at 49 Orms Street for twenty-five dollars per month. The Dispensary Committee included Mesdames Misch, Chairman; Brooks, Ottenberg, Loeb, Jessel and (Adolph) Cohen. The original staff consisted of Doctors J. Edmund Brown, A. Arlington Fisher, Abraham P. Fishman, J. P. Cooney, W. H. Peters and J. P. O'Connell. Dr. Fisher was elected chairman of the staff. On March 31, 1908 Miss Katherine Pollock was engaged as a full-time registrar and council members were to be in daily attendance as volunteer workers. A state charter was not obtained, however, until September 29, 1911 at which time the Dispensary had already been in operation for some three years. The organization was chartered "to provide medical aid and surgical treatment for the poor and needy sick of all denominations." Many Jewish physicians of the period subsequently served on its staff. The Dispensary functioned daily for thirty years, finally going out of business in 1938, having outlived its usefulness.

An important factor in its passing was the advent of a Jewish hospital. The early history of the movement, culminating eventually in the dedication of Miriam Hospital on November 15, 1925, is elusive and difficult to document. No official minutes or treasurers' reports prior to 1921 have been uncovered. In some respects tradition does not fully accord with certain factual data which have been brought to light.²⁹

Miriam Lodge, Number 13, Order of Brith Abraham was in all probability the precursor of later Miriam organizations and was the source of the name of the hospital now so designated. Order of Brith Abraham (O.B.A.), not to be confused with the Independent Order

of Brith Abraham (I.O.B.A.) which seceded from the parent organization in 1887, was founded in 1859 and was the third oldest Jewish fraternal order in America.³⁰ It consisted of both men's and ladies' lodges. That Miriam Lodge, No. 13, O.B.A., was a ladies' lodge is evidenced by a listing in a contemporary publication.³¹ Although its meetings were attended by men (generally husbands of the members, and usually members of a men's lodge of the same Order) its identity as a ladies' lodge is confirmed by Mrs. Annie D. Tatz, who was a member during the last two years of its existence, and who is still living and active.²⁹ Failure to obtain a state charter has denied us the advantage of an official listing. Women's organizations of the period were likely to have male secretaries, and at times male presidents as well, as the educational attributes necessary to keep adequate records were often not possessed by the female Jewish immigrants of the era. Harris Basilinsky of 10 Olney Street was the last secretary of Miriam Lodge, according to listings in the American Jewish Year Book of this period.³¹ Members resided in both the North End and in South Providence.³²

Miriam Lodge, No. 13, which was in existence prior to 1895,³³ can be traced until 1901. In that year at the biennial national convention of O.B.A. held in Chicago on March 3 to 6, it was directed that all subordinate lodges admit both men and women on an equal basis in respect both to duties and to privileges.³⁴ This action was taken in order to conform to certain state laws. The local ladies, according to Samuel L. Tatz,³⁵ anxious to retain the identity of their group, resolved to continue on an unaffiliated basis.

As a result of this action, the group reorganized and on February 26, 1902 was granted a charter³⁶ by the Secretary of State of the State of Rhode Island under the name of Miriam Society, Number One, "for the purpose of social and beneficial benefits among the members." The names listed on the charter [spellings corrected] were Mary D. Grant, Lena Zisman, Jennie Etta [Ethel] Cutler, Amelia Dolberg, Annie Adelman, Mary Kominsky, and Clara Smira. Although the total number of members was not large, this roster was most certainly not a complete one. Tatz, in a memorandum previously referred to,³⁵ added the names of Feba Lewanda, "Mrs." H. Epstein, Sarah Rotke, Rose B. Adelman, and Theresa Feldman. I shall add that of Mrs. Annie D. Tatz.²⁹

The precise point at which the women decided to extend their activities beyond mutual assistance is not clear, although evidence would indicate that the time interval was not a long one.³⁷ They soon became interested in the care of the sick poor, both in their homes and in the

various hospitals, bringing them Kosher food daily and acting as interpreters.

Some eighteen months after the formation of Miriam Society,³⁵ Feba Lewanda (previously discussed) having learned that it was possible to subscribe to an annual free bed in Rhode Island Hospital, suggested that the Society undertake such a project for the benefit of the Jewish community. At a special meeting held at the home of Mrs. Cutler the suggestion was adopted. The fruits of this endeavor were soon apparent for in the annual report of the Rhode Island Hospital for 1903 appears a contribution for \$187.50 "in part payment" for an annual free bed credited to "Miriam Society of the Jewish Community of Providence, R. I." As the cost of an annual free bed at the time was \$250., it can be presumed that the amount recorded represented payment for the last three quarters of the fiscal year. Thereafter, and yearly through 1926, a contribution of \$250. for one free bed is duly noted.³⁸ In 1908 and thereafter, this contribution is in the name of Miriam Hospital Association, successor to Miriam Society. The ladies had indeed succeeded where Rabbi Blaustein tried and failed. According to Tatz,³⁵ members of the society canvassed house to house every three months to collect money for the payment to Rhode Island Hospital, which it deposited at the hospital at quarterly intervals.

Another activity of the group is interesting. The following statement appears in a small brochure³⁹ prepared by Mrs. Charles C. Brown, daughter of Louis M. and Mary D. Grant and several times President of Miriam Hospital Women's Association: "Before the establishment of Wallum Lake [Rhode Island State Sanatorium for tuberculosis founded in 1905], the Saint Joseph's Hospital allocated to our group, land at Hillsgrove for the creation and maintenance of tents for Jewish tubercular patients." A contribution of fifty dollars by Miriam Society to St. Joseph's Hospital, noted in the hospital's annual report for the year 1904,⁴⁰ evidently underwrote this service.

There is some indication in Tatz's memorandum that the ladies gave thought very early to the promotion of a Jewish hospital. The following item⁴¹ appears to confirm this view. On April 13, 1904 a request was placed before the quarterly meeting of the Montefiore Lodge Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association by the "Miriam Society of South Providence" for "assistance . . . in their efforts to establish a Hospital by a donation towards the building fund and also a yearly donation towards its maintenance. After considerable discussion . . ." it was voted "that \$25 be donated towards the building fund and the



Donation Book
Merqam Association
for
Hospital Fund

yearly donation to be acted upon when the Hospital is established." I am not aware that this intention was pursued when at long last hope became reality some twenty years later.

Finally on January 9, 1907 the Secretary of State issued upon application a charter to The Miriam Hospital Association of Providence, Rhode Island "for the purpose of building, maintaining, and operating a Hebrew Hospital in the state of Rhode Island." The names listed on the charter are now familiar: Amelia Dolberg, Mary D. Grant, Sarah Rotke, Lena Zisman, Theresa Feldman and Rose B. Adelman. Renewed activity followed this event. On Sunday evening, March 24, 1907, a public meeting was held in the Empire Theatre to acquaint the community with the activities and aims of the newly incorporated association. Harry Cutler presided and a number of distinguished members of the community addressed the gathering. The treasury of Miriam Society was deposited, according to Tatz, with The Miriam Hospital Association at the time the former was dissolved. This was probably the source of an endowment of \$800, which the Association possessed in the period from 1909 to 1911.⁴²

There exists in the collections of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association an interesting leather bound cash book⁴³ kept by Rose B. Adelman in the period of March and April 1907. It represents her single-handed but rather poignant effort to launch a building campaign. There are florid endorsements from Rabbis Hausman, Bachrach, Stern and Fleischer (of Boston), Mrs. Marion L. Misch and Mayors Patrick McCarthy and Joseph Gainer of Providence. Bishop McVickar lent his name and contributed. Despite rather pretentious endorsements, the total contributions amounted to fifty-five dollars.

Although it has been stated that beds were "maintained" during this period at St. Joseph's and Lying-In hospitals, this is not confirmed by the evidence. Irregular contributions to St. Joseph's Hospital are credited in its annual reports to The Miriam Hospital Association for 1908 through 1919, increasing from ten to fifty dollars. There is further indication in the minutes of The Miriam Hospital Association that these payments extended through 1924. Contributions to Lying-In Hospital, extending from 1912 to 1925, were somewhat irregular and of comparable size. Full payment for a free bed at these hospitals would have required an annual donation of \$300 and \$250 respectively.

Among their many concerns, the women undertook to provide hospitalization, medical care at home, convalescent care, surgical and dental appliances, wheelchairs, eyeglasses, special diets, and transportation by

taxicab to and from clinics. The minutes of the Association for the years subsequent to 1920 provide eloquent testimony to the variety of their interests and are replete with examples of the foregoing. It should not pass without mention, incidentally, that the Montefiore Lodge Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association was a regular if modest contributor to all three hospitals during most of the period covered by this report.⁴⁰

During the ensuing years, the women worked with great diligence to raise sufficient funds to support their manifold activities and at the same time to set aside a reserve for a new hospital, their constant ultimate goal. The Association in 1914 hired a Mr. Kaplan to distribute tin boxes to Jewish homes and to collect at monthly intervals the coin accumulated therein. These funds, consisting mostly of nickels and



Collection Box (c. 1914) "Help the poor sick."

dimes, were then conveyed to the treasurer, who at that time was Betty Woolf. In 1919, following Kaplan's retirement because of illness, Tatz was retained as paid solicitor.³⁹ The annual dues were then increased from one to three dollars (still three dollars in 1957 despite the current inflation) and the membership which had been 146 at that time, was increased to 1800 through his efforts. Numerous functions including an annual ball and whist parties helped in the continuous effort to raise funds.

The main objective of building a hospital of their own was never lost sight of. While searching for a suitable property during the period shortly after World War I, the women learned of the availability of a quadruplex brick building on Parade Street, embracing three rooming houses and the old Parade Street Hospital. On November 12, 1921 they were able to place a deposit of one thousand dollars toward the purchase of this structure, which would cost \$27,000.⁴⁴ The tenants were permitted to remain until actual renovation was undertaken, the income, amounting eventually to \$3100, being applied toward purchase and building expenses. Although some thought was apparently given to limiting the project to a maternity hospital, their ambition to operate a full-fledged general hospital prevailed.⁴⁵

The assistance of the men of the community was then actively solicited. At a meeting of the Board of Directors of The Miriam Hospital held on December 1, 1923, plans were formulated to have a "Gentlemen's Night" for the purpose of acquainting the male members of the community with the undertaking. Charles C. Brown, son-in-law of Mary D. Grant, was asked to invite representatives of the newly formed Jacobi Medical Club in order to secure their advice and cooperation. This meeting, at which Mr. Walter I. Sundlun presided, took place on December 16, 1923. Finally on October 26, 1924 Mr. Max L. Grant agreed to head a campaign for funds to convert the old building on Parade Street to a first-rate hospital. A state-wide conference under the chairmanship of Mr. Grant was held on the evening of October 29 at Narragansett Hotel. Delegates from some sixty organizations attended. It was agreed to organize forthwith a campaign for funds for the establishment of a Jewish sponsored non-sectarian hospital. The public solicitation with a goal of \$75,000 was conducted during the period of November 30 to December 7, 1924. The response was gratifying, the fund having been oversubscribed to the amount of \$5,000. The equipment and furnishings of the Parade Street Hospital, which had been purchased by Mary D. Grant for \$500, were donated by her to the



MIRIAM HOSPITAL — Parade Street (before alterations — 1921)



MIRIAM HOSPITAL — Parade Street (after alterations)

new institution. After extensive renovations to the interior, the hospital, which had a rated capacity of sixty-three beds and fourteen bassinets, was finally dedicated at a banquet on November 15, 1925.⁴⁶ Mr. Max L. Grant was elected its first president. The Miriam Hospital was chartered by an act of the Rhode Island Legislature on March 25, 1926 "to maintain a hospital and in connection therewith a training school for nurses for the sick, disabled, and injured in the City of Providence, State of Rhode Island." It was, however, already in operation, having received its first patient on November 16, 1925.

* * *

It is of interest that The Miriam Hospital Association, the women's organization generally recognized as having been responsible for the founding of the hospital, did not lose its identity until long after the events here recorded. On November 13, 1953, after more than fifty years of existence, it finally changed its title to Miriam Hospital Women's Association, thus terminating officially its independent status.

The new Miriam Hospital, a dignified edifice located on Summit Avenue and dedicated on December 14, 1952, opened its doors to patients on January 5, 1953. With a rated capacity of 149 beds at the time of its opening, it has, in the short space of four years, outgrown its present capacity, and has developed at a rate far beyond the expectations of its sponsors. At the time of this writing (1957) plans are already being formulated for a very substantial expansion. The story of the Jewish medical community after the founding of Miriam Hospital late in 1925, and of the growth of Miriam Hospital to its present robust state shall be the task of a later historian.

* * *

Because of the limitations of space it is not feasible to reproduce in full the contents of the appendices. Anyone wishing access to this material may consult the original manuscript in the Collections of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.

Appendix A. Data on additional Jewish physicians licensed prior to January 1, 1927, who are still residing in Rhode Island (listed by date of license): Leo Cohen 1916, Samuel D. Kennison 1919, Nathan Abraham Bolotow 1920, Joseph Webber 1920, Louis Irving Kramer 1921, Maurice Adelman 1922, Benjamin Samuel Sharp 1922, Henry Leon Cohen Weyler 1922, William Benjamin Cohen 1923, Banice Feinberg 1923, Harry Triedman 1923, Samuel Morein 1925, Perry

Bernstein 1926 (deceased February 23, 1957), Joseph Smith 1926, Herman Aaron Winkler 1926.

Appendix B. Data on additional Jewish physicians licensed prior to January 1, 1927, who have left Rhode Island (listed by date of license): Boris Joseph Sohn 1915, Harry Saul Bernstein (Bernton) 1915, Benjamin Harry Abraham 1919, Abe Arthur Brown 1918, Harry Soforenko 1922, Joseph Rosenblatt (on staff at Wallum Lake 1925-1931, license not stated).

Appendix C. Data on additional Jewish physicians deceased prior to January 1, 1957 (listed alphabetically): Herbert Spencer Abel (1903-1934), Simon Albert (1896-1953), Irving Blazar (1910-1943), David Brodsky (1903-1937), Herman Paul Grossman (1900-1952), Frank Jacobson (1901-1955), Milton Korb (1910-1945), Myer Arthur Persky (1892-1928).

Appendix D. Medical staff, officers and board of trustees of Miriam Hospital as of January 1, 1927, and officers of The Miriam Hospital Association; as recorded in the First Annual Report of the Hospital (1927).

Appendix E. Contributions by Jewish Organizations to Hospitals, abstracted from the annual reports of Rhode Island, St. Joseph's and Lying-In hospitals: Rhode Island Hospital 1887-1926; St. Joseph's Hospital 1905-1920; Lying-In Hospital 1904-1927.

Appendix F. Source material on Miriam Lodge, No. 13, Miriam Society, Number One and The Miriam Hospital Association.

1. Listings of Miriam Lodge, No. 13, O.B.A. in References 48 and 49.
2. Charter of Miriam Society, Number One, February 26, 1902.
3. Charter of The Miriam Hospital Association of Providence, Rhode Island, January 9, 1907.
4. Listing of The Miriam Hospital Association in Reference 51.
5. Listing of The Miriam Hospital Association in Reference 66.
6. Listing of The Miriam Hospital Association in Reference 67.
7. Listing of The Miriam Hospital Association in Reference 52.
8. Contents of circular distributed to Jewish residents of Providence during March 1907. Reprinted in Reference 71. An original copy of the item is in the possession of Mrs. C. C. Brown.
9. News items relating to mass meeting held by The Miriam Hospital Association on March 24, 1907, reprinted from The Providence Journals of March 17, 1907 and March 25, 1907.

10. Copy of receipt for original down payment on buildings on Parade Street. The original receipt is in the possession of Mrs. C. C. Brown.
11. Copy of a release from payment of commission on the sale of the property on Parade Street. The original is in the possession of Mrs. C. C. Brown.

Appendix G. Recollections of Mrs. Annie D. Tatz concerning meetings of Miriam Lodge, No. 13, which she attended in downtown Providence.

Appendix H. Excerpts from the Minutes of The Miriam Hospital Association during the period 1921 to 1927 (Reference 72). These minutes contain much important information relating to the purchase of the property on Parade Street, the renovation of the buildings and the legal transfer of the title to Miriam Hospital.

Appendix I. A listing of some of the variations in proper names encountered in this study. In one instance, that of Feba Lewanda, the first and last names were encountered in no less than six and five versions respectively.

* * *

REFERENCES

I. EARLY HISTORY OF JEWS IN AMERICAN MEDICINE

1. Butler, Samuel W.: Medical Registry and Directory of the United States, Philadelphia, Office of the Medical and Surgical Reporter, 1874.
2. Crohn, Burrell B.: Dr. Israel Moses, Surgeon, *Journal of the Mount Sinai Hospital* 10:512, 1944.
3. Friedenwald, Harry: *The Jews and Medicine*, 2 Vols., Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1944.
4. Friedman, Lee M.: *Jewish Pioneers and Patriots*, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1955.
5. Friedman, Lee M.: *Pilgrims in a New Land*, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1948.
6. Kagan, Solomon R.: *Contributions of Early Jews to American Medicine*, Boston, Boston Medical Publishing Co., 1934.
7. Kagan, Solomon R.: *Jewish Contributions to Medicine in America, From Colonial Times to the Present*, 2nd Ed., Boston, Boston Medical Publishing Co., 1939.
8. Grinstein, Hyman B.: *The Rise of the Jewish Community of New York 1654-1860*, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1945.
9. Huehner, Leon: *Jews in the Legal and Medical Professions*, *Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society* 22:147, 1914.
10. Huehner, Leon: *Jews and Colleges of the Original States*, *Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society* 19:123, 1910.
11. Lebeson, Anita Libman: *Jewish Pioneers in America 1492-1848*, New York, Bretano's, 1931.

12. Marcus, Jacob Rader: *Early American Jewry, The Jews of New York, New England and Canada 1649-1794*, Vol. 1, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1951.
13. Marcus, Jacob Rader: *Early American Jewry, The Jews of Pennsylvania and the South 1655-1790*, Vol. 2, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1953.
14. Marcus, Jacob Rader: *Memoirs of American Jews 1775-1865*, 3 Vols., Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1955.
15. Markens, Isaac: *The Hebrews in America, A Series of Historical and Biographical Sketches*, New York, Published by the Author, 1888.
16. Morais, Henry Samuel: *The Jews of Philadelphia, Their History from the Earliest Settlements to the Present Time*, Philadelphia, The Levytype Co., 1894.
17. Morrison, Hyman: *The Early Jewish Physicians in America*, *Medical Life* 35:505, 1928.
18. Parsons, Usher, et al: *History of the Medical Profession in Rhode Island*, *Communications of the R. I. Medical Society*, 1:3-64, 1859.
19. Reznikoff, Charles, and Engelman, Uriah Z.: *The Jews of Charleston, A History of an American Jewish Community*, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1950.
20. Rosenberg, Stuart E.: *The Jewish Community in Rochester 1843-1925*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1954.
21. Sack, Benjamin: *History of Jews in Canada*, 2 Vols., Montreal, Canadian Jewish Congress, 1945.
22. Thacher, James: *American Medical Biography*, Boston, Richardson & Lord and Cottons & Barnard, 1828.
23. White, James T.: *National Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, New York, 1906.
24. Wolf, Edwin, and Whiteman, Maxwell: *The History of the Jews of Philadelphia from Colonial Times to the Age of Jackson*, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1957.
25. Wolf, Simon: *The American Jew as Patriot, Soldier and Citizen*, Philadelphia, The Levytype Co., 1895, New York, Chicago, Washington, Bretano's, 1895.
26. *Dictionary of American Biography*, 20 Vols., New York, Charles Scribner Sons, 1928.
27. *Jewish Encyclopedia*, New York and London, Funk and Wagnalls, 1904.
28. *Lamb's Biographical Dictionary of the United States*, 8 Vols., Edited by John Howard Brown, Boston, James H. Lamb Co., 1900.
29. *A Catalogue of the Honorary and Past and Present Fellows 1781-1931*, The Massachusetts Medical Society, Boston, Published by the Society, 1931.
30. *The Story of The Mount Sinai Hospital*, *The Journal of The Mount Sinai Hospital* 8:1239, 1942, *et seq.*

II. SOURCE MATERIAL ON R. I. JEWISH DOCTORS AND CARE OF THE SICK

31. *American Medical Directory*, 1906 through 1956, Chicago, American Medical Association.
32. *Medical and Surgical Register of the United States*, 2nd Ed., Detroit, Philadelphia & Chicago, R. L. Polk and Co., 1890.
33. *Medical and Surgical Register of the United States*, 4th Ed., Detroit, Chicago, R. L. Polk and Co., 1896.
34. *Medical and Surgical Register of the United States and Canada*, 5th Ed., Detroit, Chicago, R. L. Polk and Co., 1898.
35. *Polk's Medical and Surgical Register and Directory of North America*, 8th Ed., Detroit, Baltimore, Chicago, R. L. Polk and Co., 1904.

36. Polk's Medical and Surgical Register and Directory of North America, 10th Ed., Detroit, Baltimore, Chicago, R. L. Polk and Co., 1908.
37. Death Return Files, Department of Vital Statistics, City of Providence.
38. Membership Files of The Providence Medical Association.
39. Providence City Directories.
40. Obituaries Published in the Providence Journal.
41. Obituaries Published in The Journal of the American Medical Association.
42. Obituaries Published in The Rhode Island Medical Journal.
43. Obituaries on Isaac Gerber.
 - a. The Journal of the A.M.A. 149:76, 1952.
 - b. Radiology 58:586, 1952.
 - c. British Journal of Radiology 25:34, 1952.
 - d. American Journal of Roentgenology 67:1,003, 1952.
 - e. Rhode Island Medical Journal 36:54, 1952.
 - f. Annals of Internal Medicine 37:645, 1952.
44. Rhode Island Hospital Annual Reports.
45. Providence Lying-In Hospital Annual Reports.
46. St. Joseph's Hospital Annual Reports.
47. The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, 10 Vols., Edited by Isaac Landman, New York, The Universal Jewish Encyclopedia, Inc., 1940.
48. American Jewish Year Book, 5660 (1899-1900) Vol. 1, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1900.
49. American Jewish Year Book, 5661 (1900-1901) Vol. 2, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1901.
50. American Jewish Year Book, 5662 (1901-1902) Vol. 3, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1902.
51. American Jewish Year Book, 5668 (1907-1908) Vol. 9, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1908.
52. American Jewish Year Book, 5680 (1919-1920) Vol. 21, Philadelphia, The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1920.
53. Chartered Organizations, Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society Notes 2:21, 1956.
54. Naturalization Lists, Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society Notes 1:11, 1954.
55. Jewish Family Names, Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes 1:239, 1955.
56. Memorandum on History and By-laws of North End Dispensary, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.
57. Program of Second Annual Ball Given by the Miriam Hospital Association, January 8, 1924, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.
58. The Organ of The Congregation of the Sons of Israel and David, December 12, 1895-July 8, 1898, original in the Archives of the Congregation; photostatic copy, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.
59. Plea by Rabbi David Blaustein for Support of the Rhode Island Hospital, Excerpt from minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Congregation of the Sons of Israel and David, January 17, 1898, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.
60. Request by Miriam Society for donation to Building Fund, Excerpt from the Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting of the Montefiore Lodge Ladies' Hebrew Benevolent Association for April 13, 1904, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.
61. Concerning the Origin of Miriam Hospital, Memorandum from Mr. Tatz to Mr. Benjamin Brier, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.



FIRST MEDICAL STAFF OF

62. Brown, Mrs. Charles C.: *A Hospital Is Born, The History of Miriam Hospital Association, Providence, Rhode Island, Miriam Hospital Assoc., 1944, Collections of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.*
63. *Donation Book for Hospital Building Fund, Miriam Hospital Association, 1907, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.*
64. *Acts and Resolves Passed By the General Assembly of The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Office of the Secretary of State, January 1903, Providence, E. L. Freeman & Sons, Printers to the State, 1903.*
65. *Acts and Resolves Passed By the General Assembly of The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Office of the Secretary of State, January 1908, Providence, E. L. Freeman Co., State Printers, 1908.*
66. *Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Commissioner of Industrial Statistics Made to the General Assembly at its January Session 1910, Bureau of Industrial Statistics, Charitable and Philanthropic Agencies in Providence, Part 4 of the Annual Report for 1909, Providence, E. L. Freeman & Co., State Printers, 1910.*
67. *Twenty-Fourth Annual Report of the Commissioner of Industrial Statistics Made to the General Assembly at its January Session 1911, Bureau of Industrial Statistics. Philanthropic Agencies in Rhode Island, Part 8 of the Annual Report for 1910, Providence, E. L. Freeman Co., State Printers, 1911.*



MIRIAM HOSPITAL 1925

68. First Annual Issue of Miriam Hospital [First Annual Report] 1927, Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.
69. *The Jewish Advocate* (Boston) November 5, 1925.
70. Gomberg, Max B.: *A Fool's Advice*, Providence, Ye Franklin Printery, 1911.
71. *Miriam Hospital, Ten Years of Service 1925-1935*, (Annual Report for 1935) Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.
72. Minutes of The Meetings of the Miriam Hospital Association, January 4, 1921 to January 10, 1927, Original manuscript loaned by Mrs. Charles C. Brown. Typed copy in Collections of Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society.

NOTES

¹Reference 22.

²Reference 9.

³Reference 11, p. 134.

⁴Reference 13, Vol. 1, p. 282.

⁵*Indiana Magazine of History*, 1921.

⁶Judge Moses Levy of Philadelphia graduated from the Academy of Philadelphia, later the University of Pennsylvania, in 1772. Huehner (Reference 10) indicates that there were possibly others earlier.

⁷Rhode Island Jewish Historical Notes, 1:231, 1955.

⁸According to Kagan (Reference 7). He is not listed as a Past Fellow of the Massachusetts Medical Society.

⁹The following information is interesting as it gives insight into the activities and whereabouts of the doctor and his wife during his whole career in Providence.

- 1891 398 North Main St. Listed as Samuel Lewanda.
- 1892 39 Black St.
- 1894 61 Chalkstone Ave. Name first listed as Saul Lewanda.
- 1896 Mrs. Feba Lewanda at 208 Charles St.
- 1898 96 Chalkstone Ave. for both.
- 1899 208 Charles St. for both.
- 1902 Also listed as conducting millinery business at 256 Charles St.
- 1905 Also had an office in Warren, R. I.
- 1907 117 Orms St. Listed as physician and Doctress.
- 1909 Maintained offices at both 52 Kossuth St. and 117 Orms St.
- 1910 Both at 26 Orms St., where both also had offices.
- 1913 Both listed at 111 State St. Saul also listed as druggist at 182 Charles St.
- 1915 Residence and office at 119 State St. Charles still listed as druggist at 182 Charles St.
- 1916 96 Orms St.
- 1917 Moved to Pittsburgh.

¹⁰Dr. Gomberg also moved about quite a bit.

- 1896 214 Benefit St.
- 1898 32 Hammond St.
- 1908 61 Benefit St.
- 1912 344 Butler Exchange Building.
- 1914 157 Orms St.
- 1918 46 Doyle Ave.
- 1925 94 Homer St.
- 1926 Home: 94 Homer St.
Office: 64 North Main St.
- 1932 Home: 94 Homer St.
Office: 304 Smith St.

¹¹Prov. Med. J. 4:199, 1903.

¹²Reference 58. Vol. 2, No. 4, p. 2, Jan. 15, 1897.

¹³Reference 70.

¹⁴Reference 58. Vol. 3, No. 6, p. 1, July 8, 1898.

¹⁵Reference 55.

¹⁶The first Jewish member of the House Staff at Rhode Island Hospital was Harry L. Abramson, who served as pathology intern in 1912. Born in 1886, and a resident of New York City, he graduated from Yale Medical School in 1911. Following completion of his internship, he removed to St. John, New Brunswick. He was not further traced.

¹⁷Reference 43 d.

¹⁸The Evening Bulletin, Providence, R. I., April 14, 1950.

¹⁹Reference 43.

²⁰See Appendices A, B and C.

²¹Named after Dr. Abraham Jacobi (1830-1919). A graduate of Bonn, Germany (1851), he was famed as a pioneer specialist in pediatrics, serving as Professor of Pediatrics at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and as Attending Pediatrician at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City.

²²See Appendix E.

²³Reference 58.

²⁴Reference 58. Vol. 1, No. 6, p. 4, March 13, 1896. Also see Appendix E.

²⁵Reference 59.

²⁶Reference 53.

²⁷Reference 58. Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 3, Nov. 13, 1896. Although the editorial comment was not signed, it has been attributed to Rabbi Blaustein as he was editor of *The Organ* at the time.

²⁸Reference 56.

²⁹The writer has been helped greatly in the interpretation of certain documentary evidence by recollections of Mrs. Samuel L. (Annie D.) Tatz, who is (at the time of this writing in 1957) in her eighty-seventh year, the possessor of a remarkable memory and possibly the only female survivor of the events here recorded. See Appendix G.

³⁰Order of Brith Abraham was dissolved in 1927. Independent Order of Brith Abraham subsequently became Brith Abraham, which is still in existence. Reference 47, Vol. 2, p. 522.

³¹Reference 48, p. 83. Reference 49, p. 156.

³²According to Mrs. Charles C. Brown there was, a number of years ago, in the possession of her father, Mr. Louis M. Grant, a charter for Miriam Lodge, No. 13, O.B.A., dated 1897. From it she copied the following names: Mesdames Adelman, Lewando, Rodkin, Ginsberg, Teran, Drankoff, Feirstein, Grant, Goldstein, Cohen, Neusbaum, Reiness, Smira, Ringgold, Burnside, Cutler, Borod, Zissman, Canter, Brown, Gobinsky and Shine. The original document cannot now be located.

³³It was listed in the very first issue of *The Organ* (Reference 58) on Dec. 12, 1895.

³⁴Reference 50.

³⁵According to a memorandum (Reference 61) written in 1952, shortly before his death, by the late Samuel L. Tatz, for many years secretary or paid solicitor of various Miriam organizations.

³⁶See Appendix F.

³⁷Most of the documentary evidence points to 1901 or early 1902. A news item in *The Providence Journal* for November 23, 1924 described the hospital as the culmination of twenty-three years of endeavor. The Miriam Hospital Association celebrated its thirtieth anniversary on January 11, 1931 (*The Providence Journal*, January 12, 1931). The writer has been unable to find documentation in support of the year 1897 which appears on a plaque in the lobby of the new hospital, commemorating the work of The Miriam Hospital Women's Association.

³⁸See Appendix E.

³⁹Reference 62.

⁴⁰See Appendix E.

⁴¹Reference 60.

⁴²See Appendix F.

⁴³Reference 63.

⁴⁴The deed recorded at Providence City Hall showed a prior mortgage of \$15,000. The U. S. Revenue stamp for \$12 showed a cash transaction of about \$11,000 (at \$1.10 per \$1000), indicating a total purchase price in excess of \$25,000. The previous owners were: Benjamin N. Kane, Harry Wine and Dr. Samuel Starr.

⁴⁵See Appendix H.

⁴⁶See Appendix H and Reference 69. These and other documents, such as newspaper clippings, notices of meetings, canceled checks, and miscellaneous items in the Collections of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Society, are the basis of this account.

The White House
Washington

November 22, 1918.

My dear Colonel Cutler:

The annual meeting of the Jewish Welfare Board affords me an opportunity to express my personal appreciation of the admirable work which this organization has been carrying on with the troops at home and abroad. It has provided generously for soldiers and sailors of all faiths, and Secretary Baker and Mr. Fossdick have both spoken of the value of its work in maintaining the morale of our fighting forces.

May I not, therefore, express in this brief note my wish for its continued success?

Cordially and sincerely yours,



A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY



In April of this year, the American Jewish Committee completed its 50th anniversary. Harry Cutler of Providence was, at the time of its organization, a prominent member of the B'nai Brith, which required its members to withdraw from the Committee for fear that they would lose their identity. Cutler disregarded the instructions and "down to his death in 1920 was a most useful and active member of the Executive Committee."¹

He took a leading part in the hearings before the United States House and Senate Foreign Relations Committees in Washington in 1911 on resolutions leading to the abrogation of the Commercial Treaty of 1832 with Russia on account of her discrimination against American citizens of Jewish faith who were denied passports to visit Russia. In 1912, he joined with Louis Marshall and Julius Rosenwald in a long statement against the literacy test for immigrants.

He was the first Chairman of the National Jewish Welfare Board, in the First World War, while still a member of the Executive Committee of the American Jewish Committee. After the war, he was one of nine delegates elected by the American Jewish Congress to speak for the rights of European minorities at the Peace Conference in Versailles.

He was the most outstanding Rhode Island Jew in national eminence, influence and prestige. It was on the basis of the efforts of such men as he that the American Jewish Committee "was able to accomplish the amazing results that it eventually did."²

¹Charles Reznikoff, *Louis Marshall, Champion of Liberty, Selected Papers and Addresses*, 24.

²Nathan Schachner, *The Price of Liberty*, a history of the American Jewish Committee, 30, New York, 1948.



At the Annual Meeting
of the
Jewish Welfare Board

held in New York City
on Sunday, October twenty-
fourth, one thousand nine
hundred and twenty, the
following

Memorial Address

was read by

Louis Marshall, Esq.

Upon motion duly second-
ed, this address was unani-
mously adopted by a rising
vote as a Minute expressing
the sentiments of the member-
ship of the Board.

We have met upon this momentous day in the life of the Jewish Welfare Board with hearts attuned to grief. Our beloved leader,

Harry Cutler,

who with singular devotion dedicated himself to the cause for the furtherance of which this organization was formed, is not here to greet us with his cheerful smile and his commanding presence. "The silver cord is snapped asunder, the golden bowl is shattered and the pitcher is broken at the fountain." It is fitting, therefore, that we pause before turning to our regular proceedings to com-

memorate the friend whom we esteemed and honored and loved for the manhood that was in him, for the virtues that he exemplified, for his achievements for the betterment of humanity, for his loyalty to his faith, and the unselfish spirit that compelled him to serve his brethren and his Country even to the extent of dying for them before he had reached the meridian of his years and the zenith of his powers. His was a remarkable career, overflowing with inspiration, miraculous as a commentary upon the innate qualities of the man and of the wonders that may be wrought in those whose souls are responsive to

the genius of America. Driven from inhospitable Russia, in tender childhood, a refugee from the brutality stimulated by autocracy, in poverty, but not helpless or abject, he came to these shores a boy of eight with stout heart and will unconquerable. Without friends, without influence, without the opportunities of education, asking naught of charity, he eliminated childhood from his calendar and struggled with his revered mother to maintain the family. No service was so menial but that he was prepared to render it so long as it was honorable. His daily tasks as a newsboy, a boot-black, a worker in a cannery, a mill-hand, heroic

ally performed, qualified, him for the Distinguished Service Medal later bestowed by his grateful country and the Medal of Honor that came to him from beyond the seas that he had first crossed in the steerage. He was ambitious and diligent in his business. Deprived of the advantages of scholastic training, he taught himself with such thoroughness that one marvelled at his mastery of the English language and his complete absorption of the finest elements of New England idealism. He prospered as a manufacturer, in spite of the keenest competition, and the men of his craft soon learned to

value his ability by placing him at the head of their organization so that he might be their spokesman whenever it became necessary to defend their rights and to promote their welfare. Wealth, however, did not lure him or narrow his outlook or blunt his sense of brotherhood. Though within his reach had he been willing to pursue it, scarce beyond the dawn of manhood he deliberately chose to answer the call that came to him from his country, his people and oppressed and suffering humanity. He was chosen to sit in the Legislature of Rhode Island where he fought the battle of social justice against the

opposition of the most powerful. He closed his ears to the siren song of temptation to all promise of high office, but true to himself and to his trust nothing could swerve him from the rugged path that he had chosen. This product of a Russian Ghetto, an outcast from the land of his birth, became so impressed by the sense of obligation owed to the land that had welcomed him that he enlisted in the state militia and by sheer merit became the Colonel of his regiment. No occasion involving the welfare of the state and city of his adoption passed that did not find him in the front rank of the workers and among

the selected leaders. He enjoyed the esteem and confidence of all his townsmen, neighbors and associates, Jews and non-Jews alike. than which higher or worthier tribute is inconceivable. As a Jew he felt in his heart and soul the throb of pride for all that his people had contributed to civilization and morality, to ethics and religion, and to the noblest conception of human brotherhood. His soul was agonized by the misery, the persecution, the oppression which those of his faith had suffered, and were suffering at the hands of their brutish and barbarous foes. Where others were moved by what they

heard and read, he knew what it all meant because the iron of unreasoning hatred had pierced his very vitals and he hoped and prayed for the time to come when he might help in the emancipation of those who walked in the gloom and darkness of the prison house of Eastern Europe. That time came. As a member of the American-Jewish Committee he co-operated in bringing to success the movement for the abrogation of the Russian Treaty. It was a sacred moment when he lifted his voice in the halls of Congress in protest against the insult that Czarism had inflicted upon American citizenship.

It was given to him to labor in Paris on behalf of the Minority treaties which are to guarantee full civic, religious and political rights to the racial, linguistic and religious minorities in Eastern and Central Europe. He joined in every effort to keep open for immigration the doors of opportunity through which he had been permitted to enter. He was loyal to the faith of his fathers, active in the synagogue, and religious school, and in the wider movements that tended to perpetuate Judaism and to inculcate its precepts. It was therefore inevitable that when at the outbreak of

the war it was found necessary for the Jews of America to establish an organization to minister to the needs of our boys in the army and navy, all eyes turned to him for leadership, and with unanimity that was significant, he was chosen for the onerous and exacting post of Chairman of the Jewish Welfare Board, which by his labors was evolved into the powerful instrumentality that it became. To its objects he applied himself under the most forbidding conditions regardless of his business, his peace of mind and his health, until he was stricken at the helm at the very moment when glorious

fruition had crowned his devoted efforts.

Nothing that he did was perfunctory. He gave unremitting attention to the slightest details. Nothing was so unimportant as to escape his notice. He traveled at night, so that he might be at his desk during the day. On both sides of the Atlantic he was equally energetic and efficient. His task was never for a moment out of his thoughts. He was tactful, diplomatic, and at the same time forceful. His interest in the well-being of the boys in the camps and at the front was that of an older brother. It was genuine and spontaneous, free from all pretense. He succeeded in build-

ing up what in the end became an excellent working staff and of establishing among his co-workers an esprit de corps that earned the most sincere of praise, the appreciation of those whom they were called upon to serve. Colonel Cutler never for an instant, even under the most trying circumstances, lost his zeal and enthusiasm, nor did he ever relax in the ardor of his desire to embody in his organization that Jewishness which gave it distinction and without which it would have been devoid of all character. It may be said with all sincerity that a complete history of the war could not be written

without giving due credit to the several welfare agencies that co-operated with the Government, and that a history of the Jewish Welfare Board would be imperfect if there were lacking upon its every page the impress of that lovable and noble personality, that fine, red-blooded exponent of Judaism and Americanism whom we shall never cease to hold in honor and affection - Harry Cutler.

Cyrus Adler
Acting Chairman
Joseph Rosenzweig.
Secretary

A JEWISH WEDDING

(Republican Standard of New Bedford, May 7, 1874)

COURTESY JUDGE SAMUEL BARNET

The first ever solemnized in this city took place Tuesday afternoon at the residence of Mr. Julius Simon, dry-goods dealer, Purchase Street. The parties united were Mr. Julius Goldbeck of Providence and Miss Riecke Cohen, niece of Mr. Simon. The lady and gentlemen guests on arriving were shown into separate rooms and as soon as the marriage contract was signed, the gentlemen, with the bridegroom, all with their hats on, repaired to the room where the ceremony took place. Rev. Isaac Rosenberg of Providence, who was to conduct the services, here awaited them, clad in his ecclesiastical robes and cap, and four boys, each bearing a lighted candle in one hand, supported a canopy under which the marriage was to be performed. A moment afterward, the ladies entered, and the party arranged themselves round the bridal couple and the priest, who stood under the canopy. The bride's uncles stood at each side of the priest and two ladies behind the bride and groom. The other lady guests were behind the priest and the gentlemen behind the happy couple. The groom was attired in a black dress coat with white facings, black pantaloons, white vest, black dress hat and white gloves. The bride wore a silk dress of delicate gray, tastefully trimmed, and lemon gloves. A wreath of flowers encircled her head, from which depended a white veil.

The ceremonies commenced by Rev. Mr. Rosenberg chanting a few verses in Hebrew. He then made an address in German to the bridal pair, of some fifteen minutes' duration, on the spirit of love which is created in every man's and woman's heart and fraught with good advice on the methods of cherishing and preserving love and with exhortation to the youthful couple to be faithful to each other. The address was very earnestly delivered and was followed by a chant in which the priest blessed the wine of union, which was then partaken of by the groom and bride. The wedding ring was then placed on the finger of the bride and a glass tumbler was then produced, which the bridegroom crushed with his foot as an omen of good luck. The wine was then blessed by the bride's uncles successively repeating a chant and was again partaken of by the bridal pair. The reading of the marriage

agreement by the priest concluded the ceremony and a general handshaking and kissing followed. The guests stood during the whole ceremony and the priest, the bridegroom, the boys who held the canopy and all the gentlemen present remained covered.

After mutual congratulations had been offered to the bridal couple and guests, Dr. J. M. Gouldsburch of Providence made a touching address of about half an hour in English. He first spoke of Adam created a bachelor and of the joy with which he must have first beheld his spouse, and then gave the new husband and wife excellent and timely advice with reference to their married life. The honeymoon he said would not last forever and forbearance would be necessary, with a firm resolve to be faithful and true to each other. During courtship, it was common for the parties to make the best appearance possible toward each other and the mutual endearments exchanged are so captivating as to prevent a mutual study of character. But with marriage the mask is removed and each discovers that the other has frailties. It was best not to expect too much and thus avoid disappointment. If they would be as gentle and considerate toward each other as they were during courtship, they might hope for the best. Neither should be a slave to the other nor a drone, but each should assist and counsel the other and they should work together for mutual advantage according to the physical strength of each. He feelingly alluded to the fact that the parents of the bride and groom were not living, but he trusted their spirits were present to bless the occasion. He closed with earnest and beautifully expressed congratulations to the young husband and wife.

The party then adjourned to another part of the house to partake of a collation, the bride and groom sitting at a table in a separate room from the rest of the party.

The festivities were continued in a general good time, including a supper about 6½ o'clock until a late hour.

During the whole afternoon the windows were darkened and the house lighted with gas and candles.

One of the bride's uncles who was present, Mr. Samuel Jacobs, who resides in the province of Posen in eastern Prussia, though 86 years of age, made a journey of over 3,000 miles to attend the wedding. He is still apparently a smart man and possessed of physical powers equal to those of ordinary men of fifty.

NOTES

A Jewish Hospital

The movement for a Jewish hospital, as indicated in the excellent paper by Dr. Scebert J. Goldowsky in this issue, started over thirty years or a generation before it achieved fruition. Many people asked "Why a Jewish hospital? Don't we have enough well-equipped hospitals?" The same question could have been asked about Jewish cemeteries, Jewish community centers, Jewish orphanages, Jewish homes for the aged, in fact any Jewish institution. Many Jews refused to go to a hospital, preferring to remain at home where they could enjoy a particular cuisine, their own customs and ceremonies, make themselves understood in Yiddish, their own common language, without being made to feel uncomfortable.

However, the Tenth Anniversary Report of the Miriam Hospital (1935) (page 28) discloses that there was another urgent and compelling reason for a Jewish hospital. Therein we read as follows:

"The Jewish hospitals and clinics offer the only training grounds in which the recent Jewish graduate can convert the scientific and theoretical knowledge he has acquired into practical application. It is no secret that the Jewish graduates in medicine cannot get places on the intern staffs of non-Jewish hospitals. They are bluntly told in some places that Jews are not accepted. Unless we are to bar young Jews from going into medicine, the larger Jewish centers must continue to operate Jewish hospitals."

The Miriam Hospital today is taken for granted as one of the finest institutions of its kind in the state catering to all, indiscriminately, in the true American tradition.

A Night We Remember

There was nothing unusual about the weather on Monday, February 11, 1907 for that season of the year. As the steamer *Larchmont* left its wharf in Providence at 6:00 P.M., there was a light flurry of snow but by the time the boat rounded Point Judith there was a storm at sea which blinded the vision and the temperature had dropped to freezing.¹ The *Larchmont* was on her way to New York and a schooner, which had the right of way, was coming up from the south. The *Larchmont* changed her course suddenly and cut across the path of the schooner. The collision that followed resulted in the loss of over 100

lives. Only 17 persons, including the captain, on the *Larchmont* survived.

Among the missing were Samuel Paul, his wife Rose and their daughters Pauline (19) and Matilda (15) of Pawtucket, who were on their way to Brooklyn, New York to attend the wedding of their son and brother, Philip.² The wedding had been postponed a month before on account of a death in the family of the prospective bride. It took place on the 12th of February in the absence of the groom's parents and sisters. Another passenger who lost his life was Benjamin Stein who was on his way to Austria to bring over his wife and three children for whose passage money he had worked long and diligently.

¹The *Larchmont* was a ship of the Joy Line under ownership of the New York, New Haven and Hartford R.R.

²For photograph of Matilda Paul, see the back cover of *R.I.J. Historical Notes*, June 1956.

NECROLOGY

Graham, Marguerite Karpeles, born in Providence June 12, 1903, daughter of Maurice J. Karpeles, founder of LaTausca pearls and Past President of the Jewish Orphanage of Rhode Island, and granddaughter of Leonard Karpeles, veteran of the Civil War and recipient of Congressional Medal of Honor. Survived by son, Lyman John Williams, grandson of John Williams, an early settler of the Jewish community of Providence. Died accidentally May 6, 1956.

Goldberg, Al, born in Boston, Massachusetts January 18, 1909. Founder of the Red Fox Ginger Ale Company, Past President and Director of the Touro Fraternal Association, Member and soloist of Roosevelt Lodge and Trowel Club, A.F. & A.M., Roger Williams Lodge, B'nai Brith, Congregation Sons of Jacob and Temple Emanu-El. Died June 4, 1957.

Friedman, Lee Max — August 7, 1957, born Memphis, Tenn., December 29, 1871. When Lee M. Friedman, Harvard (A.B. 1893) (LL. B. 1895) Author, Lawyer, Historian and President of the American Jewish Historical Society, consented to attend the first formal meeting of the Rhode Island Jewish Historical Association on February 12, 1953, we felt highly honored. But when the day arrived, a snow-storm dampened our enthusiasm and momentarily we expected a telephone call from Boston regretfully canceling the engagement. However, much to our surprise and great relief, at ten minutes to eight o'clock, a chauffer-driven limousine drove up to the entrance

of the John Brown House, Headquarters of The Rhode Island Historical Society, and there emerged, tall and erect, our guest and speaker of the evening accompanied by his sister, Miss Sophie M. Friedman and Rabbi Isadore Meyer, Secretary of the American Jewish Historical Society. At eighty-two years of age, this southern-born gentleman and gentle-man demonstrated his fine sense of responsibility as a "Proper Bostonian."

We first came to respect him when we read his books which give a new dimension to American Jewish history and are notable for their breadth and accuracy. Admiration followed respect when we met him as a member of the American Jewish Historical Society of which he was an organizer (1895). He encouraged the founding of our Association, of which he has been made an honorary member, and was always accessible and responsive, whether by mail or in person, for needed advice. We enjoyed the gracious hospitality of his home and shared in the joy which he took in his library of rare Judaica.

"The Lord giveth, the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

DAVID C. ADELMAN

ERRATA

Vol. 2, No. 1, June, 1956

Page 36 — The year of incorporation of "Miriam Society, Number one" should read "1902" instead of "1903."

Vol. 2, No. 2, April, 1957

Page 101, in the third line of the second paragraph the word "incorporated" should read "incorporating."

Page 109, in the second paragraph on line 5, "Rabbi Cohn" should read "Rabbi Cohen."

Page 131, the name "Halm" in the third line from the bottom of the page should read "Hahn."

Pages 132, 137 and 144, the names "Ibbotson," "Kase," "Strass" and "Yarkaus" should be deleted.

On the Inside Back Cover, the second name in the "Rear Row" should read "Max" instead of "Harry" Rosen. Harry was a nephew of Max.

NEW MEMBERS

GUARANTOR

Herbert Pansy

SUSTAINING

Maurice Fox

Arthur S. Galkin

Milton C. Kay

ACTIVE

Joseph E. Adelson

Dr. Marshall K. Bornstein

Hyman Brickle

Congregation Share Zedeck Samuel M. Gerstein

Bernard S. Goldberg

Jeffrey A. Goodman

Louis R. Greene

Alfred A. Harris

Howard R. Lewis

Leonard I. Salmonson

Rabbi Selig Salkowitz

Dr. Joseph Smith

Jerome B. Spunt

Coleman B. Zimmerman



JEWISH ORPHANAGE of Rhode Island



MIRIAM HOSPITAL after reconstruction and addition
to Jewish Orphanage, 1953 (see above)