

Are our Ministers and Teachers too Retiring?

Dr. Leon Roth, sometime head of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, is the distinguished scholar who was invited to give the annual address at this year's Jewish College Speech Day. His address (the beginning of which is slightly amended) is being published in this paper, the first part appears below.

RABBI & AUDIENCE

By LEON ROTH, F.B.A.

to serve Jewish congregations; and second, that there is no restriction, or at least no restriction is mentioned, on the type of Jewish congregation they are being trained to serve.

It is worth noting at once that of the very title-deeds, as it were, of the College recognise the fact that the Rabbi, the Minister, the Preacher, the Reader, the Teacher of Religion is required by the very nature of his vocation not only to possess, but also to communicate, knowledge; and he is required to communicate his knowledge not to a select circle of colleagues but generally to the whole congregation.

But here lies a peculiar, indeed, I fancy, a unique, difficulty. Other teachers and speakers have their proper audience in front of them and they know to whom they speak. A preacher has his court, a school teacher his class, a university lecturer his degree or research students. But when a Minister speaks his proper audience (may I be blunt?) is largely unknown to him.

Absent from the Synagogue. Of course, they can be ignored; or they can be dismissed as materialists, atheists, sons of Belial, or whatever the current expression of disapproval may be. That seems to me to be far too easy, and in many cases it is simply untrue. As a fact they include very large numbers of what are generally recognised as spiritually minded men.

Looking for Guidance. It is this (may I suggest?) which is your special task. We members of Jewish congregations are exigent. We want a great deal from you. We look to you not only to conduct religious services and to stand at our side in times of family joys and sorrows. We look to you not only for instruction when we are faced with some doubtful point of "din," some crux of exegesis, some problem of ceremony.

Widening the Scope. I know you are not, or are not yet, a residential college. But even a non-residential college a similar result can be attained by offering the privilege of membership to the widest possible diversity of student. And here your College is particularly fortunate in being appointed, as I remarked before, for the training of Rabbis, Ministers, Preachers, and Teachers of the Jewish Religion for all Jewish congregations. This should ensure the admission to the College of students of all kinds of religious destinations. Through them and their presence your professors and lecturers receive more stimulus, have in their powers more

constantly to the new questions; and it may well be that the new questions will require new answers altogether. Thus the future Rabbi and preacher and Teacher of Religion has in the first place to be brought into contact, not with answers but with questions. For this purpose a college is all-important, and you are lucky in being members of one. For a college is not just a lecturing and questioning machine. As for the students diversity in the student body is essential. Students must hear all sides, all questions; and better in college, when they are fresh, and have time to think and men to guide them, than afterwards, when their minds begin to close. We are enjoined by our old tradition to know what reply to give the heretic, but how can we do that if we do not know what heresies are in the air; and surely a college—a "society of persons"—is just the place where the new questions are raised through the living presence of fellow-students of differing opinions. The strong faith, the strong body, is nourished upon a variety of diet.

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THE Psalmist tells us that the "days of our years" are

three score and ten; and seventy has been accepted as the norm, the allotted span of man's life on earth. But the Psalmist admitted that "by reason of strength" this span may sometimes be stretched to eighty years. One has but to read the inscriptions on tombstones to realise how arbitrary these numbers are. Many, alas, are cut off their prime, long before their years have reached the eighty decade. Yet others live far beyond the Psalmist's span, reaching an age he left unsuspecting.

THEY LIVED TO 100

By BETH-ZION ABRAHAMS

The next centenarian, Sarah Lyon, born in 1703 in Holland, had the distinction of having her portrait painted by Constable at the age of 101. She died in 1806 and was buried in Ipswich, where she had lived many decades. In a letter to Miss Jewess, dated October of July 5, 1896, "A Descendant" relates that she came to England from Holland, with an infant son nine months old, later known as the Rev. Isaac Titterton. When an old man his portrait was also painted by Constable. He was renowned for his goodness. Over his door was inscribed in Hebrew "Let all who are hungry enter and eat. This inscription attracted the attention of George Gordon—and resulted in their friendship. It is thought that Titterton was the minister who brought Lord George into the Jewish fold.

Woman aged 110. The second woman centenarian, Rachael Solomon, died one year later, 1783, at the age of 110. Beyond this fact, nothing is known of her. In the same year, Giacobbe Cervetto, the first famous centenarian, died at the age of 101. He was the best known violinist of his day and was born in Italy. His real name was Bassano, but he adopted the name of Cervetto in 1728, when, as a dealer in Italian musical instruments, he came to London. It is thought that this latter name points to a German origin, for it means "little stag." It is a translation of the popular Yiddish

Some Centenarians of the Tercentenary. "The Longevity of the Jews," one correspondent attributed this, and Jewish healthiness, obviously then a noted trait, to the Jewish abstinence from pork, both fresh and salted. Further, he added, all medical observers concurred in testifying to the superior longevity of Jews as compared with the general population. This is amply borne out by the list of Jewish centenarians, complete as far as the writer has been able to make it. Within less than a hundred years after Manasseh ben Israel pleaded so eloquently for Jewish readmission, we have the first record. It is that of Samuel Cardoso. He died in 1753 and was buried in the Sephardi cemetery, his age being given as 100 years. Ten years later Moses Sulima died at the age of 110. Nothing except their names and ages is known of either. The next cent-

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nian, who died in 1765 at the age of 102, is Rabbi Shmely, a Polish Jew. It is known that he attended the celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles in his last year, and that he had a beard 19 inches long. Four years later, in 1769, Moses Amiel died at the age of 99; he enjoyed to his last moment the use of all his faculties. Solomon Raphael Levy, of St. Giles, had reached the age of 100 when he died in 1771. His record was equalled by Isaac Benjamin, who died in 1775, aged 108, being then, the journals of the day declared, "the oldest Jew in England, leaving twelve sons resident in England." A few years later, in 1782, the name of the first of the women centenarians appears—Sarah Joseph, who died at the age of 107 years and 10 months. Lysons, who records this fact in his Environs of London, adds: "The exact age of the burial ground is not that she was a year older." He mentions also, but without giving any name, a centenarian Dutch Jew buried near Ducking-pond Row, Bethnal Green, a cemetery belonging to the synagogue of Bricklayers' Hall, Leadenhall Street, in the City of London.

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By ELIZABETH BENNETT

amazing enough that Monash attained to the heights that he did—namely the command of the Australian Corps in France in 1918. He was not a professional soldier. In addition, he was the only Jew to reach a corps command in that war. Furthermore, there is no doubt that his German origin caused a good deal of prejudice against him and to the fine soldiers he commanded. He recorded the story of that year in his book "The Australian Victories in France in 1918." A man of great planning and organising ability, Monash eventually compelled the admiration of even the most critical professional soldiers.

John Monash was born in Melbourne in 1865. His parents, Louis Monash and Berth Manasse, had been born and married in Germany. His childhood was spent in the Victorian country town of Jerilderie (chiefly famous in Australian history as the place where Ned Kelly, the bush-ranger, once held up the bank). Later his family came back to Melbourne, where he was educated at Scotch College and at the University of Melbourne. Eventually he graduated in Arts, Engineering, and Law, having studied for the law degree in his spare time, when he was already married and practising as an engineer. He specialised in rail road, bridge, and water supply design and construction. Ahead of his colleagues he saw the great possibilities of reinforced concrete as a building material, and was the first to use it in Australia. If engineering was his profession—and a most successful one—soldiering was his hobby, and he followed it with characteristic thoroughness. At the outbreak of war in 1914 he was then aged 49, he was in command of the 4th Australian Infantry Brigade. In 1916 he was given command of a division.

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IN THE PROVINCES

Manchester

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NEW MATRON

To welcome Miss S. A. Stansfield, who recently took up her appointment as Matron of the Manchester Victoria Hospital, a party was held at the hospital last week when Alderman J. P. Moses, J.P., Chairman of the House Committee, members of the medical and nursing staff, resident medical officers, the House Committee, members of the visiting clergy, and other guests gathered to meet Miss Stansfield. She was formerly deputy matron at the Burnley General Hospital (which has 400 beds) and was one of the assistant matrons at the Christie Hospital.

DAUGHTERS OF ZION

At the annual meeting of the Manchester Daughters of Zion held last week the Treasurer, Mrs. S. Mendelsohn, presented the balance-sheet which showed a record income over £6,000. Among those elected were Mrs. I. Burak, President; Mrs. S. Mendelsohn, Treasurer; Mrs. Bernard Gillinson, Secretary; and Mrs. L. Bawa, Honorary Secretary. Reports were given by chairmen of the state of the funds of the various branches. In response to an emergency appeal for the £200 which has been raised so far by the Society has been raised so far by Mrs. N. Coleman showed coloured slides which were taken on her recent visit to Israel.

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Bournemouth

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Birmingham

At the first committee meeting of the 1957 J.P.A. Emergency Campaign the following were elected: Rev. D. C. Pearl, President; Mr. Ivan Shortt, J.P., Chairman; Mr. I. Baum, Vice-Chairman; Mr. G. Blumenthal, Treasurer; Mr. Stanley Burton, Secretary; and Mr. Cyril Corberg, Chairman, Convalescent Committee.

J.L.B. HEADQUARTERS

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Leeds

ZION HOUSE DEDICATED

Distinguished Guests at Ceremony. The ceremony of the dedication of Zion House (in memory of Mr. Joseph Gillinson) and the Annie Brostoff Hall and Morris Silman Room, and the endowment of the Gertrude Rosenthal Room were held last week. Among the guests of honour were Mr. R. Amir, Israeli Consul-General; Mrs. S. Brodetsky, Mrs. G. Gillinson, Mrs. E. Silman, Mr. M. Brostoff, and Mrs. G. Rosenthal. Colonel K. C. Cohen, Chairman of the Leeds Zionist Council, presiding at the ceremony, invited Mrs. Gillinson to unveil a plaque at the entrance to Zion House in memory of the late Mr. J. Gillinson. The Annie Brostoff Hall was formally dedicated by Mr. Max Brostoff, the Morris Silman Room by Mrs. E. Silman, and the Gertrude Rosenthal Room endowed by Mrs. G. Rosenthal to all of whom certificates commemorating the event were presented. Mrs. G. Rosenthal presided at the ceremony. Rabbi Dr. S. Brown, a Vice-Chairman of the Council, recited the prayer of dedication. Messages of thanks to the Hon. Officers of the Leeds Zionist Council were conveyed by Mr. Bernard Gillinson, Mr. G. J. Silman, and Mrs. Esther Rosenhead, J.P., on behalf of their respective families and by Mrs. G. Rosenthal. Mr. Amir expressed his delight with the redecorated rooms at Zion House. Reports were given by chairmen of the state of the funds of the various branches. In response to an emergency appeal for the £200 which has been raised so far by the Society has been raised so far by Mrs. N. Coleman showed coloured slides which were taken on her recent visit to Israel.

Liverpool

LITERARY SOCIETY'S 50th ANNIVERSARY

Address by Lord Russell. Lord Russell of Liverpool gave an address at a meeting at the Royal Institution last week to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the constitution of the Liverpool Jewish Literary Society, which has graduated—the first Lord Russell of Liverpool—and editor for 46 years of the LIVERPOOL DAILY POST—addressed on three occasions. Lord Russell devoted his address to relating some of his experiences in, and impressions of, Israel, which he had visited twice this year. He pointed out that Mr. Ben-Gurion had agreed to withdraw his troops from Sinai; he could have done more to prove Israel's bona fides, and everyone should realize that Israel sought peace and that Nasser wanted war. Lord Russell, C.B.E., presided at the meeting and the speaker was thanked on the motion of Dr. I. J. Lipkin, J.P. £500 FOR CHILD'S DAY. Over £500—a record—was raised for Jewish Child's Day as a result of the week's effort at the Max Morris Hall. The proceedings were opened by the Mayor of Bootle (Alderman Dr. I. Harris), who was accompanied by the Mayoresses (Mrs. Harris). The evening was organised by the Jewish Women's Personal Service Guild (Miss President, Mrs. I. J. Lipkin was in the chair), assisted by most of the women's organisations and the Friendship Club. A vote of the thanks to the Mayor was proposed by Mrs. I. Karp and acknowledged by the Mayor.

GREENBANK DRIVE CONGREGATION

At the semi-annual meeting on Sunday of the Greenbank Drive Congregation Mr. J. Morris and others urged that immediate steps be taken to erect a building, to provide additional amenities for the synagogue hall, new classrooms, and a sukkah. He made a recommendation by the Council for the appointment of a particular candidate to the office of chazan—which has been vacant since 1935—was rejected. Mr. L. Bieber, Senior Warden,