

Our National University

Some Notes of Interesting Developments

IT was a happy day at the Hebrew University recently when, at the formal dedication by Dr. J. L. Magnes, the Chancellor, of the Solomon and Dora Monness Shapiro Building of the Einstein Institute of Physics, Mrs. Dora M. Shapiro (of New York City) announced that, in memory of her parents and of her late husband's parents, she would donate the funds for the construction of the upper right-hand side wing, thus completing the building. Mrs. Shapiro also announced the establishment by her of a ten-year maintenance fund for the entire building.

With the promised construction of the second wing, the Shapiro Building will be complete, and two large additional laboratories and offices will be available for extended research and instruction. The upper left-hand wing was recently donated by Mrs. Helena Davies, of North-West London, who also gave the University a trust fund of £1,000 some time ago for the promotion of education. The wing is Mrs. Davis's third gift to the University. The new laboratory will be known as "The Abraham and Helena Davis Laboratory," and will be used in connection with the further accommodation needed for the increased number of students in the first year's teaching in the Division of Biological Studies.

Dr. Magnes also announced the gift of a fine and valuable head of Albert Einstein done by the famous sculptor, Jacob Epstein, from Mr. Hiram J. Halle, a well-known New York art dealer, who had sent it to Dr. Chaim Weizmann for presentation to the University.

SPECIAL EXTENSION COURSES IN MALARIA AND BACTERIOLOGY

TEN doctors, including one woman physician, have spent some time studying malaria at the Rosh-Pinah Malaria Research Station of the Department of Hygiene.

Two other physicians enrolled for the special course in Advanced Bacteriology that was given by Professor I. J. Kligler and his associates of the Department of Hygiene and Bacteriology.

LORD PLUMER FELLOWSHIP IN ARABIC STUDIES.

THE Lord Plumer Fellowship in Arabic Studies for 1934 at the Hebrew University has, by decision of the University Council acting on the recommendation of the School of Oriental Studies, been awarded to Dr. Martin Plessner, formerly at the University of Frankfurt-am-Main, as the most successful of eight candidates. Dr. Plessner has chosen as his subject of research, "Fresh Sources for a History of Astrology in Islam."

PUBLICATION OF WORK OF BALADHURI.

A FURTHER contribution of 600 dollars has been made by Mrs. Sophia Mayes, of New York City, towards the cost of printing the "Kitab ansab al-Ashraf" (Book of the Genealogy of the Nobles), an historic work by Baladhuri, famous Moslem historian, dealing with the history of Islam during the first two centuries of the Islamic era.

We publish below special correspondence giving interesting news and information dealing with the Hebrew University in Jerusalem

The first volume, edited by Dr. S. D. Goitein, will be issued by the Hebrew University Press within the current year. The contribution is in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Buttenweiser, the parents of Mrs. Sophia Mayer.

SWISS FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE Zurich Committee of the Swiss Friends of the Hebrew University has sent a donation of 700 Swiss francs to the regular budget of the University for the current year.

A bequest has been made to the University of the sum of 5,000 dollars from the estate of the late Mr. Simon Russek, of New York City.

STAFF NEWS AT THE UNIVERSITY.

PROFESSOR A. H. FRAENKEL, of the Einstein Institute of Mathematics, is proceeding to Switzerland this summer in order to deliver a series of lectures, on the invitation of the Faculte des Sciences, Université de Geneva.

Dr. L. A. Mayer, Sassoon David Professor of Near Eastern Art and Archaeology in the School of Oriental Studies, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, London.

Dr. W. J. Fischel, of the School of Oriental Studies, has been granted special leave of absence in order to proceed to Central and Northern Europe to establish and, where necessary, to reorganise Societies of Friends of the Hebrew University.

Mr. A. M. Schneerson, Financial Secretary to the University, is at present in Poland on a mission of assisting the Warsaw Society of Friends of the University in a drive for funds. At present the Polish students on Mount Scopus number about 27 per cent. of the entire student body.

Dr. Israel Wechsler, a member of the Board of Governors of the University and Secretary of the American Jewish Physicians' Committee (an organisation which has been assisting the University for many years), has been on a visit to this country in connection with the plans for a University-Hadassah Hospital.

FIRST CONCERT OF ACADEMIC CHORUS.

"BIBLE Scenes in Classic Music" was the theme of the first concert here recently given by the Academic Chorus of the Extension Department for Music at the Hebrew University, assisted by the Chorus of the Jerusalem Young Women's Hebrew Association and distinguished soloists, in the Minnie Untermeyer Memorial Open-Air Theatre.

The magnificent background to the Open-

Air Stage is well known. The mountains of Ammon and Moab in the distance are an appropriate natural backdrop to the scene, since it was on their heights that the story of Jephthah the Judge and his daughter was enacted in Bible history.

GIFTS AND ACCESSIONS.

MRS. ALICE STRAUSS, of Bradford, England, has presented the Jewish National and University Library with the library of her late husband, Rabbi Dr. Joseph Strauss, M.A. (1845-1922). The collection consists of about 900 volumes in all, and is especially rich in Judaica and Hebraica. They include a number of rare and valuable works, mainly early German Judaica of the 17th century. The shipment is also replete in German literature containing some first editions of German classics and books now out of print. The duplicates will be divided among other Palestinian libraries, at the wish of Mrs. Strauss.

Dr. A. Chamizer, of Letpzig, Germany, has sent to the Library a remarkable collection of 2,500 volumes from his own private library, together with pamphlets in the same number. The gift includes a number of rare first printed editions of Judaica, including various incunabula, many works on Bibliography and philology, and some important scientific periodicals, and important works in Orientalia.

The widow of the late Dr. Chaim Arlosoroff has donated his private library to the Library. There are 120 volumes, many of them bearing upon colonisation and settlement among all nations. This gift will serve as the nucleus for a collection of colonisation activity which is being established by the Library in memory of the late leader.

KIRYATH SEPHER COMPLETES DECADE.

THE tenth annual volume of "Kiryath Sepher," the Hebrew Bibliographical quarterly review of the Jewish National and University Library, has now been completed, and marks an important milestone in the history of Hebrew literature in contemporary times.

The quarterly was commenced ten years ago as a small brochure which became larger and larger in the course of the years. Recent issues have been as large as 80 pages. There were special supplements to the eighth and ninth volumes ("Kabbala Manuscripts" and "Bibliographical Studies"), whilst a special supplement on "A Catalogue of Ladino Books" has appeared as a supplement to Volume 10.

"Kiryath Sepher" is now the veteran survivor of Hebrew scholarly publications, for others started before its own first publication have since been abandoned. Moreover, "Kiryath Sepher" has remained the only publication in the sphere of Hebrew Bibliography.

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