

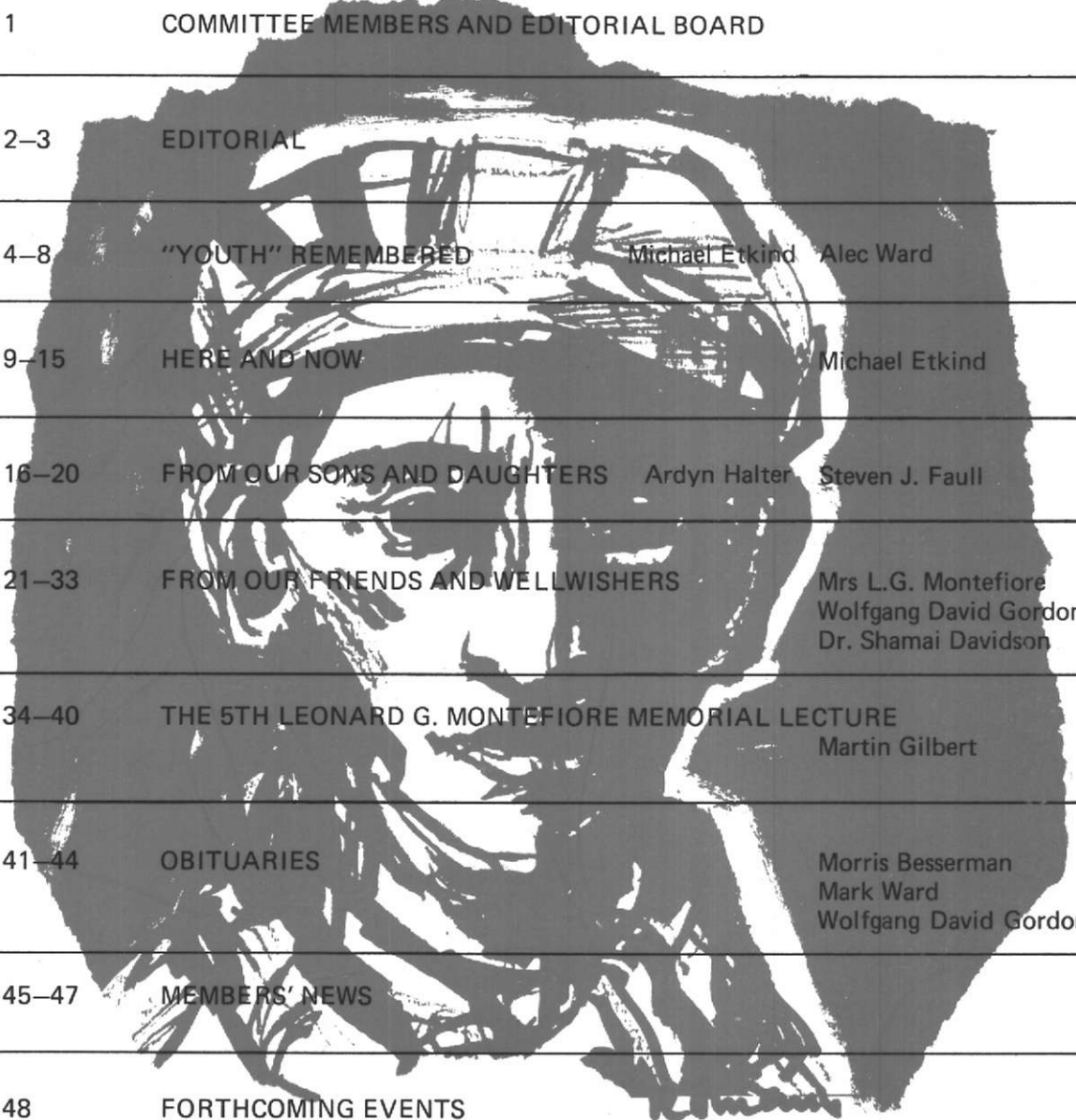
JOURNAL

'45

OF THE AID SOCIETY

No.9

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EDITOR: KURT KLAPPHOLZ

All submissions for publication in the next issue (including letters to the Editor and Members' news items) should be sent to:

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They should be typed in double-spacing and reach the Editor not later than the end of February 1982.

EDITORIAL

Our last three Editorials - as well as earlier ones - contained several appeals to our Members. All these appeals have evoked uniformly stunning responses, which indeed can be quantified: they amounted precisely to zero. This phenomenon, no doubt, has various possible explanations, of which the most plausible is that the readership of the Editorials is as large as has been the response to our appeals - zero. Those who notice the continued presence of the Editorials might well ask why we publish them. The answer is that we apply democratic principles. A majority of the Editorial Board is in favour of having Editorials and the Editor, being a principled democrat, carries out majority decisions. In this particular instance abiding by majority decisions admittedly implies a degree of schizophrenia - like talking to a person one regards as deaf. To minimize the schizophrenia there will be no further appeals in this Editorial, which will be confined to some comments on the present issue.

We are honoured indeed to be able to publish Mrs Montefiore's reminiscences of her late husband's work. While our devotion to his memory stems mainly from our contact with him, we are delighted that no less a person than his wife should record in these pages references to his other manifold charitable activities. The late Wolfgang Gordon's article is an interesting reminder of how others saw us when we first arrived here. Then we were not told, but now we can be. In retrospect it is perhaps not surprising that we conveyed to others our strong feeling that, while in the camps, we had not been normal human beings, and that it might take us a little while to regain that status. At the same time the late Wolfgang Gordon inadvertently reveals that, as late as 1946, he, like so many others, still could not grasp what had happened to Jews during the war in Nazi-occupied Europe. Thus he wrote that among East European Jews "relations between parents and children are exceptionally close". Alas, in 1946 one could no longer use the present tense to describe East European Jewry, a point relevant to Steven Faull's article. We would like "our sons and daughters" to be aware of certain aspects of the history of the last war. Steven's article suggests that this desire may have unfortunate, if unintended, side effects. The question naturally arises: can our desire be satisfied in the absence of those side effects? Perhaps this is one of the topics which will be discussed at the 2nd Generation Meeting on 6th December (see Forthcoming Events, p.). The events of the war which remain most vivid in our memories were undoubtedly discussed at the Gathering in Israel, on which Michael Etkind reports. We must be grateful to him for being not only such an interesting but also such a reliable contributor to our Journal. When it comes to expressing thanks for efforts on behalf of our Journal we cannot but mention Romek Halter. Observant recipients of the Journal will have noticed its much improved appearance and

layout, all due to Romek's energetically felicitous intervention in the whole process of producing the Journal. On behalf of the Editorial Board, and especially the Editor, "thank you, Romek".

Believe it or not, we last published the Journal at this time of the year a full three years ago, in November 1978. At that time "... your Committee and Editorial Board (belatedly) ... [took] ... the opportunity to wish all our Members and friends a very happy New Year. L'Shana Tova Tikatevu". We repeat these wishes now.