

RAISSA ADLER (1873 - 1962)

Raissa Adler, widow of Alfred Adler, died on April 21, 1962 in her 89th year, in New York City. She is survived by her children, Dr. Alexandra Adler (Mrs. Halfdan Gregersen), Dr. Kurt A. Adler, and Nelly (Mrs. Werner) Michel; and a granddaughter, Margot Adler.

Born in Moscow, Raissa Timofeyewna Epstein came as a student to Vienna where she met Alfred Adler and married him in 1897. For many years the family lived at Dominikanerbastei 10 where Mrs. Adler was hostess to her husband's friends, co-workers, visitors, and students. Later the Adlers welcomed their guests in their country house in Salmansdorf. In 1935 Mrs. Adler came to New York after Alfred Adler established his residence there. When he died in 1937, Mrs. Adler continued her interest in Individual Psychology and her wide acquaintanceship with those working in it. She was honorary president of the board of directors of the Individual Psychology Association of New York at the time of her death.

Three speakers paid brief tributes at the service, held on April 23, 1962, which was simple and informal, as Mrs. Adler had requested. Mr. Victor Jacobs, chairman of the board of directors of the Individual Psychology Association of New York, said in his address, "Mrs. Adler was the solid foundation upon which the activities of the Alfred Adler Mental Hygiene Clinic were built. She contributed time and energy and was always ready to help when needed or called upon. Her presence and advice were inspirational; her optimism was encouraging during our darkest moments; she constantly gave credit for achievement and success to her fellow workers and resisted all offers of recognition. We of the Clinic will long remember her kindness and helpfulness."

Mrs. Danica Deutsch, executive director of the Alfred Adler Mental Hygiene Clinic, a close friend, dating their meeting fifty years back, emphasized the mutual devotion between Mrs. Adler and the members of her family, and her relationship to the staff of the Clinic. "The older members who still knew her from Vienna and the newer ones who became acquainted with her in New York were impressed by her warmth and lively interest in every phase of their professional activities." Mrs. Deutsch pointed out that "this did not diminish Mrs. Adler's pursuit of her own personal interests that evolved around the international scene and literature. Raissa Adler was an expert critic

of the values and styles of writers. She wrote book reviews and translated in Russian, German, and English. She was alert to the end, and showed a broad range of interests. . . . In her relations to people she was accepting of differences but did not compromise when it came to basic principles. She was a woman of great dignity, discretion, and tact, and was admired by all who met her."

Dr. Alfred Farau, director of psychology and associate dean of the Alfred Adler Institute, was the third speaker. He said of Mrs. Adler's life, "It was not only a long life; it was a beautiful one, rich and enriching I think there were three main features of her character: her vitality, her integrity, and her courage. I myself did not see her too often, and when it happened we were not always of the same opinion. But I never left her without the feeling, this is a friend . . . Raissa Adler was a shining example of what one can do with one's life, and under any circumstances. We say good-bye to her as a great figure of the past leading to the future."

To keep her memory alive in the minds of the new generation of students at the Alfred Adler Institute, Mr. Sidney Roth of Chicago, an intimate friend of Alfred and Raissa Adler as well as of their family, has sponsored the establishment of a library in her name for the Individual Psychology Association of New York.