

**ISRAEL JACOB KLIGLER:  
THE STORY OF “A LITTLE BIG MAN”  
A Giant in the Field of Public Health in Palestine**

*by*

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ISRAEL JACOB KLIGLER – BIOGRAPHY<sup>1</sup>

Israel Jacob Kligler was born on the 24th of April in the town of Kopychyntsi, then Galicia, today Ukraine. There is some uncertainty as to the correct year of his birth; it was either 1888 or 1889. A Polish birth certificate issued in 1913 gave the year as 1888, yet in 1947, after his death, his family inscribed a memorial stone in Lehavot ha-Bashan with his date of birth as April 26, 1889!

Israel Kligler was the third child of Aaron Kligler and his wife Fruma, who died before Israel's 8th birthday, and Aaron subsequently married Sara. In 1900, Aaron immigrated to the USA

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1 We wish to thank the Kligler family for their kind assistance in providing us with much information about Dr. Kligler. Deborah Krasnow, Dr. Kligler's daughter-in-law, warmly received and accommodated Z. Greenberg at her home in New York and made available a great deal of material, including photographs, documents, paintings and various belongings of Dr. Kligler, that she had kept for many years. Daniel Kligler, the grandson, provided us with hundreds of Dr. Kligler's letters, which also greatly helped us to prepare this article.

with his two older daughters, and a year later, Sara, Israel and the other children joined him. Israel was 13 years old when he arrived on September 3, 1901, at New York on the ship “Vaderland.”<sup>2</sup>

Kligler attended the public schools of New York City, and continued in the City College of New York, from which he received his Bachelor of Science degree with distinction in 1911. Upon graduation, he started working as an assistant in the Department of Public Health at the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and in parallel continued his studies in Bacteriology, Pathology and Biochemistry at Columbia University (MA in 1914, PhD in 1915).<sup>3</sup> In 1916, Kligler moved to Chicago and was for a few months a Fellow in the Department of Bacteriology of Northwestern University School of Medicine. From August 1916 to 1920 he was at the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research in New York. There, he conducted research on soil pollution, rural sanitation and intestinal bacteria. In 1918, he was drafted into the US Army and served as an instructor of bacteriology in the military station located at the Rockefeller Institute. After the war, Kligler was a member of the Yellow Fever Commission sent by the Rockefeller Institute to Mexico and Peru (1919/1920) and the deputy of the well-known bacteriologist Hideyo Noguchi. Soon after returning from South America, Kligler left the USA for Palestine.

2 Although the ship’s passenger record in the Ellis Island site <http://www.ellisland.org/> gives his age as 9 – it has been suggested that he didn’t look 13, and was assumed to be younger.

3 His thesis dealt with oral bacteria, with special reference to dental caries.



**Fig. 1. Portrait of Kligler**  
Oil painting by Pinchas Litvinovsky<sup>4</sup>

#### ALIYAH TO PALESTINE

In his youth, Kligler had joined the Zionist movement in the USA. Many years later, he wrote after the death of US Supreme Court Judge Louis D. Brandeis:

The [Jewish] youth in 1910 considered Brandeis as a hero, someone whom we admired and worked for. When we learned that he had accepted to head the Zionist Federation in the United States, we, the Zionist pupils, were extremely

4 Identified in *Davar*, August 29, 1947, 6 (in Hebrew).

enthusiastic. The fact that a man who symbolized the finer side of life in the USA was eager to share his destiny with his people; it was like a dream that became a reality.<sup>5</sup>

Towards the end of World War I, Henrietta Szold and the Hadassah Organization established the American Zionist Medical Unit (AZMU). Kligler, who had dreamt for a long time of “making *Aliyah*,” that is, of immigration to Israel, wanted to be in the first professional medical health group that arrived in Palestine in July 1918 to help the Jews after the misery experienced during the war. But Szold and Simon Flexner, the first director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (1901–1935), convinced Kligler to stay at the Rockefeller Institute to gain experience and training for the tasks that awaited him in Palestine. On July 20, 1920, Kligler wrote to Szold: “I believe I am ready now.”<sup>6</sup> In January 1921, he arrived in the Holy Land, and began his career in the country with the management of the laboratories of the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. There he met his wife Helen (Ahuva) Friedman who was a registered nurse and after WWI had volunteered for the AZMU, arriving at the Hadassah Hospital in 1919. After the marriage in 1922 they moved to Haifa, where Kligler directed the Malaria Research Unit established by the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in 1922 that was attached to the Health Department of Palestine. Helen became a supervisor on behalf of the Hadassah Organization for the medical treatment of the women in Haifa before childbirth. In 1931 she became a member of the Social Work Council in Palestine.

In 1925, Kligler was invited by Dr. Magnes of the Hebrew University, which had just opened, to join the institute. On April 1926 Kligler began working at the university, where he established

5 I. J. Kligler, “The late Louis D Brandeis,” *Hadassah News* 8 (October–November 1941): 114–117 (in Hebrew). Kligler was among those who paid tributes to Justice Louis Brandies after his death in the memorial service in Kibbutz Ain Hashofet in October 16, 1941 (*Palestine Post*, October 17, 1941).

6 Kligler’s letters, collection Dani Kligler – Kligler’s grandson.

and directed the Department of Hygiene and Bacteriology. On his death 23rd September 1944, he was buried in the cemetery on Mount Scopus, Jerusalem. After the War of Independence in 1948, the section of the cemetery where he was buried was desecrated and destroyed whilst under Jordanian control, and it was only after the Six-Day War in 1967 that the remains of Kligler and others were gathered and buried in a common grave. Helen died in New York January 1979. Their only child, David Aaron Kligler MD, MPH, was devoted to Children's Evaluation and Rehabilitation and was involved in the development of the Speech and Hearing Program in New York. David died on December 30, 1979, and he is buried close to the common grave of his father on Mount Scopus.

## KLIGLER, THE RESEARCHER

### *The period before Aliyah to Palestine (1912–1921)*

Kligler began publishing research papers at the age of 24, immediately after his graduation. His studies at that time dealt with classification of bacteria and their biochemical properties. He used his knowledge of their growth needs in order to develop a new medium – “Kligler Iron Agar”<sup>7</sup> – for which he gained an international reputation. His scientific research philosophy, according to which basic research must be applied, useful and relevant, and scientific research must not be conducted for its own sake but to make a contribution towards a better life, was apparent already during this period.

The extent of Kligler's interest in diverse scientific research fields was quite astonishing. Throughout his adult life, he

7 I. J. Kligler, “A simple medium for the differentiation of members of the typhoid-paratyphoid group,” *American Journal of Public Health* 7 (1917): 1042–1044; I. J. Kligler, “Modifications of culture media used in the isolation and differentiation of typhoid dysentery, and allied bacilli,” *Journal of Experimental Medicine* 28 (1918): 319–322.

developed new interests in fresh subjects, yet without ceasing the research into his existing subjects. By the time of Kligler's *Aliyah* to Palestine, he had published 43 articles dealing with intestinal bacteria, diphtheria, streptococci, leptospira and yellow fever. Some of them, such as those relating to environmental or oral flora, were pioneering works.

*In Palestine (1921–1944)*

Kligler's principal goal, his vision, upon arriving in Palestine was to heal the country, and that remained his driving purpose for the rest of his life. He was passionate about his Zionism, about the need to build a society based on the ideals of Jewish self-determination. He was not a workaholic in the conventional sense – he was driven to these activities by a wish to genuinely heal the community, and would undertake anything which he felt would fulfill those ends. It was not work merely for the sake of work.

After directing the Hadassah bacteriological laboratory in Jerusalem for a year, Kligler moved to Haifa and began his investigation and research on malaria, then the most important, destructive disease in Palestine. It was in respect to his achievements in this anti-malaria work that he was most acclaimed by those who were involved with the task in Palestine and by the international scientific community.

Yet at the same time, he conducted research into other areas. From 1922 to 1925, Kligler published epidemiological studies on various infectious diseases such as trachoma (with Dr. Ticho), helminthic incidence in Jerusalem, and Oriental Sore (leishmaniasis). He also conducted basic research on the characterization of trypanosome and leishmania parasites grown in media. In 1926, on leave before joining the Hebrew University, he participated in a yellow fever mission organized by the Rockefeller Foundation to West Africa<sup>8</sup> in order to provide the mission with

8 H. J. Barrie, "Diary Notes on a Trip to West Africa in Relation to a Yellow Fever Expedition under the Auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation, 1926,

the benefit of his previous experience in South and Central America with Noguchi.

In his first year at the Hebrew University, Kligler devoted himself to organizing and building the Department for Hygiene and Bacteriology, including the appointment of researchers and staff and later bringing in students.

This workload caused the number of articles by Kligler to be smaller that year, but thereafter the number grew again. By the time of his death in 1944, after 24 years of work in Palestine, he had published about 200 scientific articles, a book and several detailed reports. The topics included microbiology (62 articles), parasites (84, half of them on malaria), virology (41), nutrition (6, including the first nutrition survey in Palestine), health and climate (5), and others (10). His contribution to the public health of Palestine was unique. His work increased the understanding of the epidemiology of many infectious diseases in the country, and improved the hygienic methods and education in support of a healthy life – all consistent with his original goal and vision of healing the people and the country.

Kligler wrote his articles with clarity and in a very logical manner, including data and tables on the experiments to support his conclusions. As a great believer in education and progress, he frequently and willingly gave lectures. He even took part regularly in radio programs of *Kol Yerushalayim* (The Voice of Jerusalem) – the new radio station in Palestine in the late 1930s – on public health topics such as malaria, tuberculosis, and nutrition, and what could be done in order to improve such matters generally.

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by Oskar Klotz,” *Canadian Bulletin of Medical History* 14 (1997): 133–163. Kligler is mentioned in pp. 140, 146, 148–150.

**Table 1. Topics of Kligler's 208 publications after his *Aliyah***

<b>Bacteria</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Parasites</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Viruses</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Varia</b>	<b>No</b>
Salmonella, typhoid & Shigella	18	Malaria	39	Fowl pox	13	Nutrition	6
Typhus exanthematicus	10	Anopheles & mosquitoes	13	Rabies	10	Climate & health	5
Diphtheria	4	Trypanosomes	25	Vaccinia	4	Reports & varia	10
Rickettsia & Spirochetes	10	Leishmania	4	Varia	14		
Varia	20	Varia	3				
<b>TOTAL:</b>							
	<b>62</b>		<b>84</b>		<b>41</b>		<b>21</b>

After Kligler's death, some of his colleagues and other scholars reviewed parts of his scientific work,<sup>9</sup> but no one was able to deal with all of it, and to this day, such a total review remains to be done.

## KLIGLER, THE TEACHER

Kligler encouraged his students to think for themselves, hoping to develop and stimulate in them an experimental approach from the outset, and often, instead of traditional formal lectures, he preferred critical discussions on the topics under study. Kligler was

9 L. Olitzki, "In memoriam of Israel Kligler," *Harefuah* 27 (1944): 185–189 (in Hebrew); N. Grossowicz, "In memoriam of Prof. I. Kligler's 10th anniversary of death," *Harefuah* 47 (1954): 200–201 (in Hebrew); N. Grossowicz, "Prof. I. J. Kligler – The man and his activities," *Harefuah* 87 (1974): 283–285 (in Hebrew).

a workaholic, and he appreciated students who were both intelligent and diligent. Whilst positions were very scarce at that time in the few scientific institutes that existed (the Hebrew University, the small Weizmann Institute and the Haifa Technion), Kligler always assisted his graduating students trying to find them suitable jobs. Approximately 40 students graduated from his department, many of whom went on to fill important positions in the Hadassah Organization, *Kupat Holim* (Health Funds), governmental departments and the army. His students and workers included Benjamin Elazari-Volcani, Kligler's first PhD student, who became a pioneer in biological silicon research, Nathan Grossowicz who became professor in microbiology at the Hebrew University, Israel Prize winner Zvi Saliternik, and Prof. Gideon G. Mer, who was also a worker at Kligler's Malaria Research Unit from 1921, publishing many articles with him.

#### KLIGLER'S CHARACTER<sup>10</sup>

From an early age, Kligler lived a tormented life, dealing with the death of his mother at the age of 8, and the immigration to New York. The fact that he was short (153 cm in adult life), and a "newcomer," spurred him on to succeed in his studies. This need to excel remained with him during his years in high school and at university, and once in Eretz Israel, his ambition led him to achieve scientific success. With his ideological Zionist ardour, he consequently worked with endless zeal. It was obvious and evident that he would be chosen to head, first the laboratories of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, later the institute founded to fight malaria – Malaria Research Unit – and finally the Department of Hygiene and Bacteriology in the Hebrew University. The knowledge and experience he acquired before coming to Palestine, his

10 Based on documents and letters found in Kligler's files at the Hebrew University Archive, material in Kligler's family possession and memorial articles (cit. n. 9).

organizational abilities, his initiative and obvious talents in planning and carrying out his projects turned Kligler into a respected and valued director and member of many committees.

He insisted on personally overseeing every facet of his work, and everything had to be carried out according to his directions and specifications. In the Malaria Research Unit it was he who planned all the operational projects down to the smallest detail, and allocated the funding that was given to him. His administrative work was accompanied by research and experiments, the outcome of which significantly contributed to the eradication of the disease. Kligler did not listen to criticism of his methods and his work, and he disregarded people whose knowledge he did not appreciate without bothering to get involved with them.

Kligler retained his managing style when he joined the Hebrew University. The department he built became the most productive and the largest in the Life Sciences Institute. He excelled in obtaining funding for research. His fame and his connections helped him raise great sums of money, mainly from the USA, which enabled him to recruit researchers and workers, to purchase the equipment for the laboratories and to finance research projects that kept piling up.<sup>11</sup>

Kligler was “the brain” and “the bulldozer” behind the hectic activity in his department, planning, financing and writing articles on the results of various research projects during the 1920s and the 1930s. At the beginning of the thirties, financial difficulties struck the university as a result of the global crisis. There was a cut in lecturers’ and workers’ salaries, and tightening the belt was

11 “Hebrew University Research, government’s first grant,” *Palestine Post*, May 28, 1934. In the news: “For the first time since the Hebrew University was opened, the Palestine Government has made specific grants for its laboratory and field research activities.” Out of the £500 grants, the Hygiene Department of Kligler received L.P. 150 for malaria research and L.P. 150 for fowl-pox research. Also mentioned was the grant that the malaria station in Rosh Pina received annually from the health commission of the League of Nations.

necessary. The university was familiar with Kligler's gift of *schnorrering* (begging) and each time he visited the USA, he was asked to make approaches for funds on behalf of the university.

Kligler had a rough character. He did not mince his words and said what he thought. His need to be at the heart of things, to control, and his unaccommodating managing behavior caused criticism from a lot of people who could not stand him. Therefore there was often strong opposition to him.

### THE ANTI-MALARIA CONVENTION 1923

It is possible to reflect on the problems that had to be overcome by Dr. Kligler when he first set about controlling and eradicating malaria in Palestine. The obvious considerations which come to mind are of his practical methods in the field to achieve the desired result. But there were additional obstacles and hardships that Kligler had to endure over and above that which could have been expected, and this was evident when certain members of the veteran medical establishment, seeing their authority was being eroded, attempted to halt or obstruct this brilliant young scientist and his anti-malaria activities.

An "Anti-Malaria Convention" was convened between 22nd and 23rd May 1923 at the Reali High School, Haifa. This was the inspiration of the high profile legendary physician Dr. Hillel Yaffe, who initiated and directed the event. The intention had been to convene a conference that would have had the same professional and academic standing as the Trachoma Convention of 1913,<sup>12</sup> which is regarded as the first important medical convention in Palestine. The 1923 Convention, on the other hand, has been forgotten by all the medical organizations and personalities in the

12 *Report of the First Trachoma Conference of the Hebrew Speaking Physicians in Eretz Israel, Jerusalem 1914*, ed. Arie Teeni-Feigenbaum and Arie Shimoni-Mekler, Jerusalem, 1915 (in Hebrew).

country, because the convention did not lead to any practical or useful results. Only the schedule of the program has remained.<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless, the *Haaretz* newspaper reported on the strength of the criticism and negativity against Kligler at the conference.<sup>14</sup> Kligler had lectured in the initial sessions on the first day about the work done in the Malaria Research Unit, but on the second day he was obliged to give a paper at the 7th half-yearly British Mandate Department of Health Antimalarial Advisory Commission in Jerusalem. His absence on the second day was used as an excuse to harshly criticize him and also the Research Unit, as it was brought forth as evidence on the allegation that he appeared to pay only superficial attention to the opinions and experience of the senior “establishment” Eretz Israel physicians. The fact that Kligler was obliged to report to the Mandate Commission did not weigh with these senior physicians, whose principal energies seemed to be turned to bringing him down. They attacked his methods of malaria eradication, and demanded that the Research Unit, which was maintained by Jewish and not by British Mandate finance, must be under the supervision of a committee of physicians who were “supposedly” experts in malaria in Palestine. By doing so, they chose to overlook the fact that Kligler and the Research Unit were so respected by that time that the British Mandate had chosen to adopt and incorporate him and the Unit into the Government Mandate Health Department on account of their success in the control and elimination of malaria. On the second day, the conference was closed by Dr. Yaffe and Dr. Arie Beham after it had voted on nine motions, some hostile to Dr. Kligler. A committee of experts was chosen to advise and speak for the *Yishuv*. Some of the motions were targeted specifically against Kligler, one of which directed that the experts’ committee should

13 *Program of the Anti-Malaria Convention*, Tel Aviv Municipal Archive, division 2, file 64c (in Hebrew). Another copy is placed in Mazia Archive, Jerusalem.

14 *Haaretz*, May 20, 25, 27, 28 and 30, 1923. The Anti-Malaria Convention, Haifa, 1923.

comprise five physicians, which of course excluded Kligler who was “only” a PhD in microbiology, and not a physician. Other motions called for the distribution of the papers of the veteran physicians Pochovsky and Yaffe who supported, for example, quinine prophylaxis, which was completely contrary to Kligler’s opinion, as he considered it of little value. Other motions contradicted Kligler’s views, being disguised attempts to undermine his work by these senior physicians who thought that in view of their long experience, they of course must logically have had the standing, the authority, the knowledge and the expertise to correct and belittle Kligler. What a catastrophe would have ensued if the decisions of the conference had been implemented and Kligler sent away – would malaria have persisted in the area until today?

#### HARTOG COMMITTEE – “SURVEY COMMITTEE OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY 1934”

The hostility displayed towards Kligler at the time of the 1923 Anti-Malaria Convention apparently only lay dormant. On April 28, 1933, an article appeared in the Jewish Chronicle reporting on an interview with Professor Albert Einstein where he told of receiving from several sources devastating opinions concerning the Hebrew University administration. In June 1933, Einstein demanded the appointment of a committee to inquire into the management of the Hebrew University, and his wish was granted when the university Board of Governors decided in October 1933 to form a Survey Committee.<sup>15</sup>

- 15 J. L. Magnes, *Reply to the Report of the Survey Committee of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem*, Jerusalem, July 1934, p. 141; Uri Cohen, “Governing institutions of the Hebrew University, 1925–1948,” in *The History of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: A Period of Consolidation and Growth*, ed. Hagit Lavsky, Jerusalem, The Hebrew University, Magnes Press, 2005 (in Hebrew), p. 28; Ze’ev Rosenkranz, “‘Lofty Spiritual Centre’ or ‘Bug-Infested House’? Albert Einstein’s Involvement in the Affairs of the

The terms of reference of the Survey Committee published on the first page of its report included: "To inquire generally into the affairs of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem with a view to such reforms as may be found desirable, to the framing of plans for the development of the University, and especially to strengthening the University by the inclusion of a suitable number of teachers excluded from German Universities under the present regime."<sup>16</sup>

The background to the creation of this Survey Committee was a clash of two power blocks within the university, one block including the president and chancellor of the University, Yehuda Magnes, and the other block including the chairman of the Academic Council, Einstein, together with the chairman of the Board of Governors, Chaim Weizmann. The struggle was about the character and the functioning of the university.<sup>17</sup>

For many years, Magnes had recognized the enormous scientific talent of Kligler, and he appreciated Kligler's scientific contributions to the University. It would appear that in an effort to strike at and discredit Magnes, the Survey Committee chose to attack Kligler. The Committee's treatment of Kligler became "The case of Professor Kligler," and his interviews before the committee descended into ugly squalid hearings of inquiry, interrogation and accusation. Einstein and Weizmann were not sympathetic to Kligler's applied attitude to science, and this was used by the Committee to smear and devastate Kligler, who was a colleague of Magnes and loyal to him.

Magnes wrote a book entitled *Reply to the Report of the Survey Committee of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem*, but the title could

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Hebrew University, 1919–1935," in *The History of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Origins and Beginnings*, ed. Shaul Katz and Michael Heyd, Jerusalem, The Hebrew University, Magnes Press, 2000 (in Hebrew), pp. 388–389.

16 Hebrew University, *Report of the Survey Committee of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem*, London, Waterlow & Sons, 1934. p. 1.

17 Cohen, "Governing" (cit. n. 15), pp. 24–35.

just as well have been *J'accuse!*. The Committee's Report connected Kligler with almost every failure found with the university, mentioning his name more than any other member of the university, apart from that of Magnes. More than 10% of the Report was dedicated to "The case of Professor Kligler" which is extraordinary in view of the terms of reference of the Survey Committee, and only a few pages of the Report were given over to "the suitable number of teachers excluded from German Universities" which was supposed to have been a specific object of the Committee.

Kligler did not refrain from commenting with his views and thoughts about the Committee: "The Survey Committee followed a Star Chamber procedure.<sup>18</sup> They acted both as prosecutors and judges. They refused to permit cross examination of witnesses or verification of their statements."<sup>19</sup> Magnes' book concluded:

I believe that the analysis presented above established the fact that, consciously or unconsciously, the Survey Committee approached the "Case of Dr. Kligler" with a prejudiced mind.<sup>20</sup>

The Committee wrote in the Report, #185: "We feel a grave responsibility in reporting on the case of Professor Kligler. In some ways, as we have seen, he is an asset to the University; in others his activities constitute a serious menace both to its efficient working and its reputation;" #186: "We recommended, therefore, that Professor Kligler be informed by the Board of Governors that they take a grave view of his relations with his subordinates, and that unless they are convinced that those relations have materially improved during the next six months, they will be obliged to request his resignation."<sup>21</sup> Kligler commented that

18 The "Star Chamber" was an English court of law until mid-17th century. Today the phrase is used as pejorative term and intended to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the proceedings.

19 Magnes, *Reply* (cit. n. 15), p. 88.

20 *Ibid.*, p. 100.

21 Hebrew University, *Report* (cit. n. 16), p. 57.

...recommendation 186 shows a malignant desire to humiliate. No one could remain at a university on approval of his subordinates. No self-respecting person would.<sup>22</sup>

The Survey Committee's inconsistency with its terms of reference, and its unprofessional and ridiculous attitude in relation to its primary purpose, descended to the level of malicious irrelevance in recording an event related to the purchase of a donkey for Dr. Emil Leibman (#180) to enable him to travel to the malarial marshes at Huleh from the malaria station at Rosh Pina. This incident had happened 7 years before!<sup>23</sup> This lets the reader get the correct impression about what really interested the members of the committee who were supposed to "inquire generally into the affairs of the Hebrew University..., and especially to strengthening the University by the inclusion of a suitable number of teachers excluded from German Universities under the present regime."

Kligler denied the recorded version of the donkey story and also denied that he had made any threat to Dr. Leibman.<sup>24</sup> Kligler was a straight and honest person who could not lie.<sup>25</sup> The Committee did not believe him. Kligler had opened the station in Rosh Pina in 1927, the year he offered Leibman the job. Trying to cut the expenses of the station, he bargained with Leibman in order to get more value out of every pound spent. A year later Kligler doubled Leibman's salary, but Leibman decided to opt for a job in the government. Working with Kligler, however, was a good recommendation for any job.

The consequences and results of the Hartog Committee were maliciously intended to upset Magnes, Kligler and some other workers of the University. It was a witch-hunt, with Magnes, Kligler and others as its victims.

22 Magnes, *Reply* (cit. n. 15), p. 101.

23 Hebrew University, *Report* (cit. n. 16), p. 55.

24 Ibid.

25 Prof. Yehuda Magnes wrote a tribute to Kligler: "He was a man of truth in both his scientific life and his friendships and in every act and word." *Palestine Post*, September 25, 1944.

### ISRAEL JACOB KLIGLER

As for Kligler, he was deeply wounded, extremely hurt. In the years after the Hartog Committee, some of Kligler's authority was taken away by the new administration of the University. Some of his department's activities (physiology, climatology) were moved to other units. Kligler concentrated on research, in teaching and in public activity. He even thought of leaving the University. The "bullet" that was fired in 1934 hit Kligler ten years later and he died from a broken heart,<sup>26</sup> apart and far from his family and beloved son.

### KLIGLER – THE BRAVE PERSON

Kligler was a brave man. Thirty years after his death, the scholar Nathan Grossowicz wrote: "Kligler was endowed with extraordinary personal and public courage."<sup>27</sup> The truth of this statement is borne out by the way Kligler conducted himself.

Kligler did not hesitate to work in locations heavily infected with dreadful diseases. He became exposed to, and was infected with, yellow fever in South America, and after recovering, he continued with the research. Notwithstanding his previous bad experience in South America, several years later, he participated in another Yellow Fever Mission, this time in risky tropical Africa.

In Palestine, Kligler was involved with malaria eradication projects for the rest of his life. In 1922, the 12th Zionist Congress created

26 Cause of Kligler's death in his post mortem document was given as "coronary infarct, apoplexia coronis, angina pectoris." Kligler wrote from Netanyah in his last letter to his student Hanah Herrnheiser, with whom he had warm connection, at the day of his death, September 23, 1944: "I feel very badly. The heart pains increasingly all the time. I want home! Shall I succeed? I always thought that I am brave man, but now I am afraid as I had never been in my life. It is difficult for me to breath and I am alone. I am simply afraid, like a child, because of the night!" (in Hebrew). Hebrew University Archive, Kligler's file no. 3.

27 Grossowicz, "The man and his activities" (cit. n. 9).

the *Va'ad ha-Briut* (Health Council) as part of the *Va'ad Leumi* – the Jewish National Council and the executive authority of the Jews in Palestine. In 1926 Kligler was asked by the *Va'ad ha-Briut* to approve any new settlement from the point of view of malaria risk. He crisscrossed the length and breadth of Palestine many times checking the suitability of new land for settlement. On one of these inspection trips, he was travelling in a vehicle behind a car that was blown up by an exploding mine, and three of its passengers were killed.<sup>28</sup> Gan HaShlosha National Park – “Sahne” – was thus named to commemorate them. Kligler still continued to undertake these inspection trips.

A further facet of Kligler's courage was expressed by his self-sacrifice while testing typhus vaccine.

In 1942, the Polish government-in-exile in London had asked Kligler to prepare a vaccine to save thousands of refugees in Eastern Europe. In the words of the Polish consul, “Professor Kligler did not hesitate to help them. Together with a number of his devoted assistants, he began this work with enthusiasm.” Knowing well the danger, he and his assistants tried on themselves the vaccine. They all contracted the disease, and it needed the competence of his eminent colleagues to save Professor Kligler's life. The President of Poland greatly appreciated “Professors Kligler's humanitarian, unselfish work, and his sacrifice for the sake of suffering Polish citizens, and in order to acknowledge this, confers upon Professor Israel Kligler the ‘Golden Cross for Merit.’”<sup>29</sup>

28 *Davar*, September 15, 1938. Leading news, p. 1.

29 Part of the speech of the Polish Consul in Jerusalem, Mr Aleksy Wdziekonski, at the award ceremony July 26, 1943. See also *Palestine Post*, “Polish honour for Prof. Kligler,” July 27, 1943, p. 3.

Kligler's assistants suffered only with a minor form of the disease. Kligler apparently contracted a serious viral infection that caused his hospitalization for 60 days.



**Fig. 2. The Polish “Cross of Merit” medal that Kligler received for his bravery and his help to the Polish government-in-exile.**

## KLIGLER – THE BIG WARRIOR AGAINST MALARIA IN PALESTINE

Kligler’s greatest achievement was in malaria eradication. He began his long struggle against malaria in Palestine while still living in the USA. Kligler prepared himself for the task ahead, and read every piece of data and material that he could find about malaria and its situation in Eretz Israel. He joined the Yellow Fever Mission to South America to gain knowledge and experience in the fight against the mosquitoes. After returning to New York,

Kligler wrote a detailed malaria eradication program for Palestine. After making preliminary studies in Palestine, he was convinced that the problem of malaria was serious and urgent, sending his plan and remedial suggestions to America.<sup>30</sup> Judge Brandeis was one of the recipients to whom Kligler sent his program. Brandeis had learnt of and appreciated the seriousness of the malaria situation after visiting Palestine in 1910, and after reading Kligler's program, Brandeis was convinced that he was the right person to deal with its eradication. Brandeis provided Kligler with the means<sup>31</sup> to begin his first efforts in the long fight against the disease.

The 1920s was the most significant and important period in the success of the anti-malaria campaign in Palestine. The First Annual Report of the British Mandate Department of Health in 1921 commented: "Malaria stands out as by far the most important disease in Palestine. For centuries it has decimated the population and it is an effective bar to the development and settlement of large tracts of fertile lands .... There are few regions actually free from it." It was in these years that Kligler outlined the plans of what had to be done, with the final victory of eradication of malaria being declared 40 years later.<sup>32</sup> During the 1920s, three stages may be seen. The first was the establishment of the "Malaria Research Unit" in Haifa in 1922, where Kligler tested the feasibility of his plans. The next stage was in 1925, with the international recognition of the important anti-malaria work being done in Palestine when the League of Nations Malaria Commission visited to inspect these works. The third stage was the opening of the

30 I. J. Kligler, "Malaria control demonstrations in Palestine. I. Malaria control and its cost," *American Journal of Tropical Medicine* 4 (1924): 139–174; see pp. 139–140.

31 *Ha-Tsefirah*, April 10, 1921 (in Hebrew). Brandeis gave to Kligler \$20,000 from his own resources for that purpose.

32 P. C. Issaris and J. A. Lavergne, *Report for the certification of malaria eradication in the State of Israel*, World Health Organization WHO/EM/MAL/59, Israel 0005/R, October 1967.

Malaria Research Station at Rosh Pina in 1927, which became internationally well known. In 1930 Kligler published his book about the malaria situation in Palestine and the struggle against the disease.<sup>33</sup> The book is the most important ever published on malaria in Israel, and in view of this, it can now be found on the internet.<sup>34</sup>

## MALARIA RESEARCH UNIT

In September 1922, the Haifa Malaria Research Unit, under the control of Dr. Kligler, maintained by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC), and acting in co-operation with the Health Department of the British Mandate in Palestine, was formed to assist with the control of malaria in Palestine. The main idea of the Malaria Research Unit was to establish malaria control on an extensive scale at a low cost. The Unit was especially active in the permanent elimination of mosquito breeding sites. Collection of data regarding the prevalence of the disease, types and breeding places of the mosquitoes concerned went hand in hand with the education of the public in regard to controlling the disease, and the value of this education was probably as important as the immediately practical results obtained. Kligler demonstrated through the Haifa Malaria Research Unit that drainage of the swamps alone would have little effect on the malaria, because some mosquitoes can breed in little, out-of-the-way unsuspected places, which even the most elaborate system of drainage would not have reached. Kligler pointed out that at least half of the malaria cases could be ascribed simply to human carelessness and neglect.

Kligler examined several, both new and already established, methods of killing the larvae of the mosquitoes. He attempted to

33 I. J. Kligler, *The Epidemiology and Control of Malaria in Palestine*, Chicago, Ill., The University of Chicago Press, 1930.

34 [www.kligler1930.com](http://www.kligler1930.com)

introduce several species of fish to destroy the *Anopheles* larvae, and in 1923, he imported *Gambusia* fish from the USA and introduced them into various water sources.<sup>35</sup> This became very successful and *Gambusia* was used on a wide scale. Experiments and tests carried out at the Malaria Research Unit proved to Kligler the futility of quinine prophylaxis as well as the planting of Eucalyptus trees – both useless measures introduced to Palestine by Dr. Yaffe and supported enthusiastically by him.

### THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS MALARIA COMMISSION TO PALESTINE 1925<sup>36</sup> – A TRIBUTE TO DR. KLIGLER

Dr. Kligler had prepared a report<sup>37</sup> of the work and achievements of the Malaria Research Unit for the year ending August 31, 1923, setting out his methods and approach to malaria eradication, and this report was forwarded to the AJJDC by Dr. Heron, the Director of Health of the British Mandate Health Department. In early 1925, Dr. Heron forwarded Dr. Kligler's report to the League of Nations Malaria Commission for their information, and later that year, the Malaria Commission (comprising some of the most senior and expert advisers in the world in anti-malarial work) visited Palestine to study what could be done against malaria in the way of an anti-larval campaign. Having read Dr. Kligler's 1923 report, and having inspected his methods and approach to the eradication of malaria in Palestine,

35 I. J. Kligler and J. M. Shapiro, "Organisation of areas for mosquito control in Palestine," *Harefuah* 1 (1925): 180–188, + plates (in Hebrew, English summary pp. V–VI).

36 Zalman Greenberg and Rakefet Zalashik, "The League of Nations Malaria Commission to Palestine, 1925," *Cathedra* 134 (2009): 50–64 (in Hebrew, English abstract pp. 176–177).

37 I. J. Kligler, *Report of Dr. Israel Kligler and Medical [Malaria] Research Unit for year ending August 31, 1923*, maintained by the American Joint Distribution Committee in co-operation with the Government of Palestine, 1923.

the Malaria Commission commented that the works and methods seen by them were regarded as "... destroying pessimism, raising hopes."<sup>38</sup> The Commission's report concluded with the statement that the men involved were "... benefactors not only to the Palestinian population but to the world as a whole." Finally, at the end of their visit to Palestine, the members of the League of Nations Commission met with the British Health Department Antimalarial Advisory Commission on May 19, 1925, and the President of the League of Nations Commission commented on what they had seen in Palestine:

It was not the custom of the Commission to make comparisons but he would, on this occasion, say that the interest that Palestine had provided was unsurpassed by that of any of their other visits, .... The Commission would greatly profit by its visit to Palestine, and the world would surely benefit by what they had seen there, through the medium of the League of Nations.<sup>39</sup>

Later in 1925, after the Malaria Commission's visit, Kligler participated in the 1st International Malaria Congress in Rome. Kligler's lecture was about the war against malaria in Palestine,<sup>40</sup> and he emphasized that the main effort was aimed at the destruction of the breeding habitats of mosquitoes. Subsequently, Kligler became Member of the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations.

38 League of Nations, *Malaria Commission: Reports on the Tour of Investigation in Palestine in 1925*, League of Nations Health Organisation, Geneva, September 1925. See p. 66, last paragraph.

39 League of Nations, "Proceeding of the Eleventh Meeting of the Antimalarial Advisory Commission, May 19th 1925," C.H./Malaria/53, p. 14. <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/hist/malaria/malaria51-54.pdf>.

40 I. J. Kligler, "The epidemiology of malaria in Palestine: A contribution to the epidemiology of malaria," *American Journal of Hygiene* 6 (1926): 431-449 (presented at 1st International Malaria Congress, Rome, 1925).

## MALARIA RESEARCH STATION (ROSH PINA AND MER)

When Kligler established the Department of Hygiene and Bacteriology at the Hebrew University, he began to look around for a suitable place for a malaria field laboratory. In 1927 Kligler established the “Malaria Research Station” in Rosh Pina, the perfect location for such a laboratory, being situated close to the malarious marshes of the Huleh. It was the first external unit of the Hebrew University. The first director was Dr. Rudolf Reitler, with whom Kligler published several works. In 1929 Kligler appointed Dr. Gideon Mer, who had finished his medical studies in Italy and France and had returned to Palestine, to the director’s post. This was the beginning of a period of fruitful scientific work that resulted in many articles and created an important international reputation for the malaria research center. Mer directed the station for many years after Kligler’s death and thereafter continued his scientific research, but Mer’s “golden period” was the time he worked together with Kligler.

On May 23, 1944, a few months before Kligler’s death, Mer wrote to him from the 1st Malaria Field Laboratory, South East Asia, where Mer was serving as a Lieut. Col. of the RAMC in the British Army in WWII: “My dear Prof. Kligler: First let me tell you that there is such a name in Malariology as ‘Kligler’s crowd.’ It seems to include you, myself, Reitler etc. This crowd is well known all over and it is my experience up to now, that whoever dared to ignore its investigation was making gross mistakes.”

## KLIGLER CARTOON IN *THE SOUTHERN JEWISH WEEKLY*

Some of Kligler’s colleagues and students wrote about his enormous contribution in the fight against malaria.<sup>41</sup> They did not

41 Zvi Saliternik, “The fight of Prof. I. J. Kligler against malaria in Palestine,”

spare words to describe his distinctive endowment to the success of the once-thought-of-as-a-hopeless task. Touching and genuine is the cartoon which describes Kligler, naively, as the great malaria eradicator and the courageous researcher. (Fig. 3)



**Fig. 3. Kligler cartoon in *The Southern Jewish Weekly*, October 31, 1947.** “The man who was almost single-handedly responsible for the elimination of malaria in the Holy Land, has since his death in 1944 been called ‘the Jewish martyr of science’ – ISRAEL JACOB KLIGLER.”

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*Dapim Refuim* 5, 3 (1945): 42–46 (in Hebrew); *ibid.*, “The contribution of the late Prof. Israel Kligler to the antimalarial campaign in Eretz Israel,” *Harefuah* 87 (1974): 285–286 (in Hebrew); David Birnbaum, “The antimalarial work of the late Prof. I. J. Kligler,” *Harefuah* 29 (1945): 224–226 (in Hebrew).

## KLIGLER – OTHER ACTIVITIES – WHAT MORE DID HE DO?

Beside the various activities of Kligler that have already been mentioned, he took part in numerous other activities. Kligler was a committed Zionist, prepared to assist wherever possible, with a vision of a healthy society, and his involvement in all these organizations leaves the reader breathless and gaping in amazement that anyone should have the drive to be so genuinely and wholeheartedly involved in the discharge of responsibilities which he readily assumed.

In 1926 Kligler became a member of the Zionist Health Council. At the end of 1930 he was chosen to replace Miss Szold as the new chairman of the *Va'ad ha-Briut*.<sup>42</sup> In 1929 he took part together with Dr. Chaim Yassky, Rachel Schwartz (mother of Ruth Dayan and Reuma Weizman) and others in the inaugural meeting of the Society for Playground in Eretz Israel.<sup>43</sup> In 1938 Kligler participated in the founding meeting of the Society for Public Swimming Pools.<sup>44</sup> In between, Kligler appeared regularly at the annual meetings of the school sports teachers. Kligler was among the founders (1925) and the first chairman of the Anti-Tuberculosis League of Palestine.<sup>45</sup>

In 1936 Kligler was made a member of the advisory committee for the Palestine Society for the Deaf.<sup>46</sup> He organized the First Microbiology Convention in Eretz Israel in Jerusalem on March 8, 1936. Kligler became the president of the Microbiologists

42 *Davar*, November 29, 1930.

43 *Davar*, April 16, 1929.

44 *Davar*, February 28, 1938.

45 There were previous trials to establish anti-tuberculosis bodies, but the League was the first national organization. See also Nissim Levy, *The History of Medicine in the Holy Land: 1799–1948*, Hakibbutz Hameuchad Publ. Israel, 1998, pp. 503–507; Anon., “General research on tuberculosis in Eretz Israel,” *Yedi'ot Hadassah* 3, 10–12 (1927): 24–25. For examples, see *Davar*, January 31, 1935; *Davar*, January 7, 1941.

46 *Palestine Post*, December 11, 1936.

Association in Palestine (now the Israel Society for Microbiology) and was the chairman of the five meetings in years 1936–1942. Kligler was the director of Hadassah's Nathan and Lina Straus Health Center from its opening in Jerusalem in 1929 for more than 10 years.

Dr. J. Magnes, President of the Hebrew University, mentioned twice the role that Kligler had played in the establishment of the Hadassah Medical Center. On October 16, 1934, at the ceremony for laying the corner-stone of Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus, Magnes said: "The first plan for a postgraduate school of medicine and hygiene and for a combination with the Hadassah Rothschild Hospital as University Hospital was drawn up in 1927 by Professor I. Kligler."<sup>47</sup> At the opening ceremony of the Hadassah Medical Center Magnes said:

Since his appointment in 1926 as Professor of Hygiene and Bacteriology, and up to recent years, Dr. I. J. Kligler has been the moving spirit within the University in the preparation of plans for the Medical Centre and in arranging for discussions, both in Jerusalem and in America, between representatives of the organizations concerned. The first record of such discussions is dated April 23, 1927.<sup>48</sup>

Beside his many scientific publications, Kligler wrote many articles to newspapers in Palestine and abroad, in which he described the health situation in the country and what could be done in order to improve it.<sup>49</sup>

Kligler was familiar with the importance of the agriculture and the economy and their combined influence on the public health. He

47 *Palestine Post*, October 17, 1934.

48 *Palestine Post*, May 9, 1939.

49 Some of the articles by Kligler: *Manchester Guardian*, December 16, 1933 (Supplement); I. J. Kligler, "Vegetables as carriers of infection," *Palestine Post*, May 2, 1934; I. J. Kligler, "Preventive health is the best investment," *Palestine Post*, May 9, 1939, Special Supplement; I. J. Kligler, "Undernourishment of schoolchildren: remedy possible," *Palestine Post*, September 7, 1941.

participated in the regular meetings of the General Agricultural Council of Palestine<sup>50</sup> and represented first the Hebrew University and later also the Jewish Agency as Chairman of the Nutrition Committee of the Economic Research Institute, bringing his knowledge and wisdom to the discussions on the agenda.

His vision of public health was wide and his vision of healing the land and people included not only issues of diseases and illness. In 1930 the first nutritional survey of the situation in Palestine was conducted by Kligler, and after publication provoked many reactions. Kligler became the chairman of both the Nutrition Committee of the Economic Research Institute of the Jewish Agency and the Histadrut (The Labor Federation of Eretz Israel).

Kligler enthusiastically supported the plan of Dr. Katznelson of the *Va'ad Leumi* to provide a daily glass of milk to schoolchildren,<sup>51</sup> as that would not only improve nutrition but would also help the dairy farmers. He contributed his organizational capability and also permitted the participation of the Nathan Straus Health Center. The campaign began in May 1938 in Jerusalem and shortly after was extended to include other cities.

Because of his knowledge, sharp-wittedness and ability to interpret, Kligler accompanied many VIPs during their visits to the country. Guests included Commander Bernard Montgomery,<sup>52</sup> Rabbi Stephen Samuel Wise,<sup>53</sup> William Christian Bullitt – the United States ambassador to the Soviet Union and later to France<sup>54</sup> –, US Rear Admiral Charles S. Stephenson<sup>55</sup> and many others.

Kligler was not a likeable person, but when it “came to business,” he was sought after by many bodies in order to secure

50 Some of the meetings in which Kligler participated: *Davar*, January 18, 1934 (17th session); *Palestine Post*, February 2, 1937 (35th session); *Davar*, April 16, 1942 (59th session).

51 *Palestine Post*, June 10, 1938.

52 *Davar*, June 23, 1931.

53 *Davar*, July 31, 1935.

54 *Davar*, December 26, 1941.

55 *Davar*, August 22, 1944; *Palestine Post*, August 23, 1944, a month before Kligler's death.

his involvement and contribution as a member on an endless list of committees. Kligler was valued because of his brilliant mind, his capabilities to suggest and evaluate ideas and the fact that he was a gifted planner and initiator and an economical thinker and these talents enabled him to find solutions to complicated situations. He served on committees that considered the question of the establishment of a hospital in Tiberias<sup>56</sup> to assist *Kupat Ḥolim* when it faced severe financial straits in 1937.<sup>57</sup> Before and during WWII Kligler took part in several committees to deal with various aspects of the war effort, including refugee relief.<sup>58</sup> Many more committees are listed in documents found in his files at the Hebrew University Archive on Mount Scopus and in other archives.

The “Joint” (The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee) brought Kligler (and maybe also his wife Helen) to a somewhat mysterious health mission to San Domingo in the Caribbean in January 1941.<sup>59</sup> Three years later Kligler was asked again by the “Joint” to participate in a mission to Aden to undertake the provision of relief and medical services for 1600 Yemenite Jewish refugees.<sup>60</sup> Details of more of Kligler’s activities are spread around in many of the records of the British Mandate period in Palestine. The above is merely an attempt to give an impression of the extent of this man’s extraordinary activities, but it cannot do true justice to the full involvement, dedication and energy expended by him in the discharge of the obligations and

56 *Davar*, December 5, 1933. The *Va'ad Leumi* and *Kupat Ḥolim* were involved.

57 *Palestine Post*, February 10, 1937.

58 *Davar*, September 12, 1940; June 18, 1941.

59 About the episode of Jewish refugees in San Domingo after the agreement between Rafael Trujillo, the president of the Dominican Republic, and the “Joint,” see Allan Metz, “Why Sosúa? Trujillo’s motives for Jewish refugee settlement in the Dominican Republic,” *Contemporary Jewry* 11, 1 (1990): 3–28.

60 *Palestine Post*, February 16, 1944; I. J. Kligler and Z. Friedmann-Makoff, *The Yemenite refugee camp in Aden: its organization and management*, Jerusalem, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 1944 (also in Hebrew).

responsibilities he assumed. When reviewing Kligler's activities, it would seem that it was just not possible they could be attributed to just one man but rather to a significant number of personnel from a wide and varied section of disciplines and expertise of first class functionaries.

#### KLIGLER – COMMEMORATION AND OBLIVION

The sudden death of Kligler came like a thunderbolt to all who knew him or worked with him, whether friends or opponents; the disappearance of this sharp, brilliant, understated, energetic person shook them all. Many attended his funeral, and the *Kaddish*, the prayer for the dead, was recited by the rector of the Hebrew University, Professor Leon Roth, and Magnes, the university president, stressed the great loss which the country had suffered with his death. Magnes described him as "truly the cleanser of the country." The Hadassah Hospital was represented by a group of student-nurses in uniform headed by Mrs. Cantor, the Chief Matron. Others attending the funeral included the U.S. Consul General, L. C. Pinkerton; the Polish Consul; I. Ben-Zvi (who became the 2nd President of Israel after Chaim Weizmann) represented the Jewish Agency; Dr. A. Katznelson, the *Va'ad Leumi*; the Mayor of Jerusalem, D. Auster; delegates of the Histadrut, *Kupat Holim*, *Keren Kayemet* and many other organizations.

And on the thirtieth day of Kligler's death the *Palestine Post* published in memoriam a poem by the foremost Victorian poet Robert Browning:

*That low man seeks a little thing to do,  
Sees it and does it:  
This high man, with a great thing to pursue,  
Dies ere he knows it...*

Everybody expressed a wish to commemorate Kligler and his life's work. The American Hadassah decided to inaugurate a 10-year

Kligler fellowship of \$1500 annually for postgraduate study in public health. *Kupat Holim* together with the Hadassah Medical Organization decided to name both the new health welfare center at Kibbutz Amir in the Huleh Valley and the joint Anti-Malaria Service after Kligler. Friends of Kligler in South Africa and in the U.S. declared their wish to donate sums in order to commemorate Kligler's name.

In November 1944 the Hebrew University Administration decided to place a memorial plaque with a photo of Kligler in the bacteriological laboratory and to keep his scientific books in a special closet. They also decided to create a Kligler Prize to be awarded to outstanding bacteriology students. The academic secretary of the Hebrew University, Eduard Poznanski, suggested a book be commissioned about Kligler and a committee began preliminary arrangements.

And yet, despite this wave of grief, with its need to recognize and commemorate Kligler's life, his work and contribution, it is extraordinary over the years how little, if anything, was actually implemented or carried through. At least three stone monuments dedicated to Kligler were constructed in Lehavot ha-Bashan by the family, in Nebi Yusha by the *Keren Kayemet*, and the third in an unknown place where a forest was planted in memory of him by the Jewish National Fund.

The money that was contributed in order to create Kligler's fellowship was dissolved by the administration. The Kligler book never was written. The health center in Kibbutz Amir which was inaugurated in November 1945 was transferred to a new building in the 1960s, and it was named after Professor Mer. It is even unknown if the stone monuments still exist.

Only Kligler's student Professor Nathan Grossowicz tried to involve the University and Hadassah in finding a respectful manner to remember the one who had contributed so much to them. He succeeded in organizing seminars dedicated to Kligler in the decade after and also the thirtieth year after his death. When

the University reopened the campus on Mount Scopus after the 1967 War, Grossowicz convinced the University to plant a memorial garden, close to the building where Kligler worked – with the help of a donation from Kligler’s son. The garden still exists as part of the general garden of the campus, but the metal sign with the inscription disappeared and only its photo remains.

Perhaps the stormy periods through which that region passed did not allow the opportunity to do something to commemorate Kligler. Or maybe one might be forgiven for thinking that some did not do their best to commemorate his work and life. But as the years have gone by, the memory of Kligler the man, his name and his work have come close to oblivion. At least in death, a person is usually accorded a headstone above the grave. It marks the final resting place and also is a physical reminder of that person’s former existence. Kligler was even denied that. He had been buried in 1944 in the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, which came under Arab control from 1948 until 1967. The Arabs built a road through the Jewish cemetery to a new hotel, and many Jewish graves (including that of Kligler) were vandalized and headstones smashed. So even in death it is not possible to refer to Kligler’s final resting place, as the precise burial spot is now unknown.

Is it not the time for the various bodies connected with Kligler – the Hebrew University, Hadassah Organization, Hadassah hospitals and Faculty of Medicine, Department of Microbiology & Molecular Genetics, Israel Society for Microbiology, Israel Society for Parasitology and other scientific societies, The Joint, *Keren Kayemet*, Israel Ministry of Health and others – to do something significant to commemorate the person who did so much for them?

His name should be written in the Pantheon of those who established strong vigorous public health in the Holy Land and who, with their own hands, moved both the people and the land towards being one of the most medically advanced countries in the world.