

## Hilda Schlesinger

A life of voluntary social service among her fellow Jews came to an end on Sunday when Miss Hilda Marian Schlesinger died at the age of 88.

Miss Schlesinger was born in London of a family with a tradition of public service. Her mother's brothers were Sir Matthew, Sir Nathaniel and Sir Frederic Nathan. Her father was a cousin of the first Viscount Samuel and a nephew of the first Lord Swaythling.

She began to engage in welfare work in the East End before the First World War under the influence of her cousin, the late Lily Montagu. During the Second World War she gave much help with the distribution of food and clothing, the evacuation of children and various activities at the Brady Club and Settlement. She became chairman of the settlement committee and also served the West Central Club and Settlement as vice-president.

To the Jewish Board of Guardians Miss Schlesinger gave very valuable service. The board made her a vice-president and life member. She was chairman of its health and convalescent department for more than twenty years.

After being treasurer of the League of Jewish Women, Hilda Schlesinger became president in 1952 and held the office for five years, later becoming a vice-president. She was active also in the Union of Jewish Women.

The deaf found in her a great



friend. She was chairman of the Association of Non-Maintained Schools for the Deaf, vice-president of the Jewish Deaf Association and at the Residential School for Jewish Deaf Children she was president and chairman of the house committee.

She served the Jewish branch of the Children's Country Holiday Fund, of which she was vice-president, for 48 years.

The WVS citizens' advice bureaux, school treatment centres and children's care committees were among other bodies she served. The MBE was awarded her in 1950 for her social work for the Board of Guardians and other organisations.

In 1963, together with the late Miss Miriam Moses, she received the Henrietta Szold Award, presented by Children and Youth Aliyah to outstanding personalities in the field of social service.