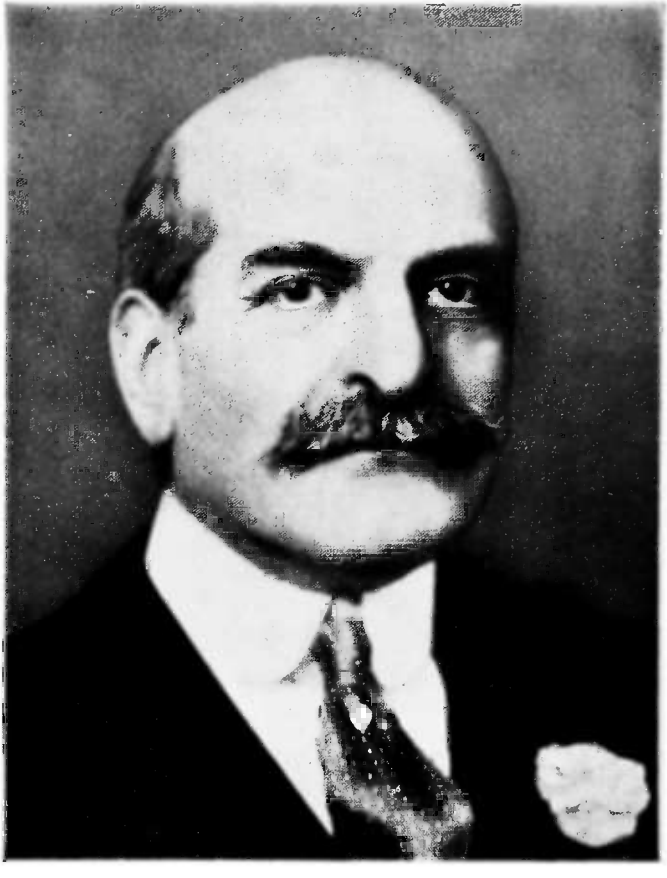

FELIX M. WARBURG

1871–1937

FELIX M. WARBURG

By Cyrus Adler

I have had, on a number of occasions, the sad duty of preparing biographical sketches of friends and associates who had passed away. They were always my elders. This is the first time I am called upon to describe the life of a friend and associate younger than myself.

Felix M. Warburg, banker, philanthropist, Jewish communal leader, promoter of higher education, lover of the fine arts and of music, was born in the City of Hamburg in Germany on January 14, 1871, and died in the City of New York on October 20, 1937.

As a guide in the preparation of this sketch there are many recollections and many letters, but I have been especially privileged to use a unique document, a sort of autobiography which describes many of his interests and expresses some of his thoughts and aspirations. He entitled it, "Under the Seven Stars," and wrote it in December, 1926, prior to taking a world cruise.

The Warburgs had until recently been known as a family that lived in the town of Warburg, Germany, up to 1600, and not long thereafter—I think in 1612—moved to Hamburg-Altona, where they engaged in banking. The present firm of M. M. Warburg and Co. was founded in 1797.

In an article in the *Jewish Encyclopaedia* about the Warburg family there is mentioned a tradition that they had originated in Bologna, Italy; and more recently in a book on Venice by Doctor Cecil Roth, it is surmised that the family was settled in Venice and bore the surname del-Banco.

The Warburg family was very prolific and the branches moved to various other countries: Denmark, Sweden, England and the United States.

The title "Under the Seven Stars," which Felix Warburg gave his biographical material, indicates the sentimental

touch which actuated him and his family. Here is what he wrote: "The seventh star, popularly called the dipper, always played a sentimental part in my life. We were seven children at home in Hamburg, and, long before the wireless was invented, when we were separated, we felt that by looking at that constellation we were sending messages to each other."

The father of Felix Warburg was named Moritz, and his mother, Charlotte Esther Oppenheim, and there were seven children. The home influence was very strong. He wrote, "Kindliness was the key-note of the household and from the first ten pfennig piece that was received as an allowance it was made our duty to put one-tenth aside for charity, according to the old Jewish tradition." These pennies, he said, were administered with a feeling of full responsibility, and that rule never left him.

From his boyhood he showed a love for animals, and so in later years he carried on this tradition by owning beautiful horses and farm animals, keeping them well in his country place, and even earning championships and cups for his horses and cows.

The Alster at Hamburg was filled with little boats, and Felix and his brothers also had a boat, a row-boat, which they named after their mother, the *Carlotta.* Many years later, in America, when he owned a fine yacht he named it the *Carol,* after his own granddaughter. This love of the water and the sea played a large part in his life, and on the *Carol* he was a veritable sailor-commander. It was on this boat that he found time for work, time for relaxation, and time to be a charming host.

His education was carried on in the old classical *gymnasium* where he acquired a good working knowledge of Greek and Latin, but there was no instruction in the modern languages. One of the teachers who had a decided influence upon his life was a certain Doctor Klaussmann, who, instead of retiring with his colleagues to the teachers' room during recess, stayed with the boys and talked to them about things which interested him: art and the excavations in Egypt and in Greece. And it was these chance talks during the recess hour which inspired in

Felix Warburg in later years a strong devotion to art and archaeology.

Then there was music in the household, and as a boy he received instruction on the violin. He had to trudge for forty minutes, often in rain and snow, with his instrument, to take his violin lesson. He never thought himself a good performer, but this early instruction endeared the violin to him, and influenced him in the purchase of Stradivarius instruments. He had a fine voice and studied singing for some years, even continuing his lessons during the early years of his married life.

In the harbor of Hamburg he used to see huddled together the emigrants who were fleeing from other countries to America on account of persecution. These scenes made a deep impression upon the boy and, when he came to America in 1894, his first activity for social improvement was becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Educational Alliance, established to aid the immigrants. He served this institution as secretary for a good many years. Later on, when there was a larger influx of immigration into New York, he helped to create an Annex to the Educational Alliance to facilitate its work.

At the age of sixteen he left home to go into business. He went to Frankfurt and lived with his maternal grandparents, the Oppenheims. His grandfather, Nathan Marcus Oppenheim, was engaged in the sale of precious stones, and this was Felix Warburg's first business; but in addition to being a business man his grandfather was a good linguist and had a fine knowledge of painting and wood-carving, and other fields of art, which he inculcated in his grandson. This apprenticeship, as it were, with his grandfather lasted from 1888 to 1894. During it, he acquired his business experience and traveled a good deal in Central Europe. Particularly, early books and prints interested him and it was the influence of these years in Frankfurt that laid the foundation of his extraordinary collections of etchings and prints of all kinds which have delighted so many of his friends and guests. It was likewise under the influence of his grandfather that he studied English, French and Italian, acquiring a good knowledge of these languages.

The years which he spent with his grandfather were the years in which his character was really formed.

In the summer of 1894, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob H. Schiff and their only daughter went on a visit to Germany and, in Frankfurt, the two young people met. They at once formed a mutual attachment. In March, 1895, they were married and laid the foundations of a happy and abundant life in New York. He was naturalized as a citizen of the United States in 1900. This union resulted in five children, a daughter and four sons: Carola, married to Walter M. Rothschild, Frederick, Gerald, Paul and Edward, all of whom remained in New York and in their several ways are continuing the family tradition. In 1897, Felix Warburg entered the firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. and was the senior partner of the firm at the time of his death.

Two of his very first interests after the Educational Alliance were the establishment of a playground on the East Side of New York City, and extending the Henry Street Settlement and its visiting nurse service, largely through the inspiration of Lillian D. Wald. In conjunction with President Charles C. Burlingham of the Board of Education, Felix Warburg was instrumental in having trained nurses in the public schools of New York, a service which was unknown prior to 1900.

Mayor Seth Low appointed Mr. Warburg a commissioner of the Board of Education of New York City in 1902, and one of his first interests there was in connection with the so-called truant schools. He examined one such school and found it dark, almost like a prison, and he put much effort into bettering conditions in these schools. He was instrumental in the establishment of a parental school at Richmond Hill. In the first experiment he used the cottage system, without walls or fences, to take care of children with truancy tendencies. His indignation was aroused by the way backward children were treated, particularly the use of dunce caps, and he led in the move to establish special classes for deficient children, to make them happier, and also not to hamper the more intelligent children who could go ahead more rapidly in separate classes.

It was the custom in those days to place all blind children, or children with badly deficient eyesight, into institutions. At his instance, after these children were instructed to read the raised print, they were put into classes in regular schools with seeing children and thus led a more normal life. His interest in the blind did not stop with the children but extended to adults, and he had much to do with the improved opportunities for the blind resulting in the establishment of the New York Association for the Blind. It was at the instance of Doctor Emmet Holt that the Babies Hospital was established, initially as part of the fight against trachoma. Felix Warburg was treasurer of the building fund and helped to erect the hospital, and he became a director of the Solomon and Betty Loeb Home for Convalescents in Eastview, Westchester County, N. Y.

Mr. Warburg's interest in children drew his attention to the manner in which juvenile delinquents were dealt with who, when arrested even on minor charges, were taken into the general courts. The courts had difficulty to know what to do with these children and so a social worker of the Educational Alliance attended the court sessions and followed up these cases. This was the beginning of the probation work which has since become so general. Felix Warburg and Homer Folks were appointed the first New York State Probation Commissioners by Governor Charles E. Hughes. Felix Warburg was one of the founders and the Chairman of the Board of the American Arbitration Association, which is a consolidation of the national organizations for arbitration in the United States and applies the system of arbitration in nineteen hundred cities.

As time went on, however, the business of Kuhn, Loeb & Co. grew and required more attention on the part of the younger partners, and the Board of Education, on the other hand, made increased demands upon the time of its members, so that in 1905 Mr. Warburg felt impelled to retire from the Board to give more time to business.

However, the banking business could never be his sole occupation. He writes: "During these very active years, neither my wonderful Father-in-law, Mr. Jacob H. Schiff,

nor the rest of us could cut ourselves off from activities outside of business." One of these activities from which he derived a great deal of satisfaction was as a member of the Board of Trustees of Teachers College of Columbia University. He was an admirer, and as he says himself, was fascinated by Dean James H. Russell, who served as the active Dean of Teachers College for a period of thirty years. Through this connection Felix Warburg also became associated with the Horace Mann and Lincoln Schools.

One of his strong characteristics, which was displayed in many directions, was his desire for organization. He disliked waste in administration and overlapping, not only waste of money but also waste of energy. It was this trait which caused him to devote a good deal of energy, against a strong opposition, to the establishment of the Federation for the Support of Jewish Philanthropic Societies of New York. He had studied the cost of collecting for each individual institution on the old plan of selling tickets and giving parties, and found in some cases that the expense of collecting money in this manner was 60% whereas only 40% went to the institutions. It was, therefore, not only his desire for organization but also his eagerness to benefit to a much greater degree those who were obliged to be recipients of help in the hospitals or other welfare institutions that led him to this activity. In this work, I think, he differed with his Father-in-law, of whom he always spoke with admiration and affection, for Mr. Schiff was one of the last of the presidents of large organizations, to give his consent to having the Montefiore Hospital join the Federation.

While Mr. Warburg provided a scheme of rotation in office so that he remained President of the Federation only a few years, and various men have served since the foundation, he was Chairman of the Board and a member of the Executive Committee, and kept his hand close to the steering wheel of this organization.

This association of many philanthropic societies in New York as well as similar bodies in other cities required trained workers. He became greatly interested in the Training School for Jewish Social Work, which afterwards

became the Graduate School for Jewish Social Work, and he was a member of the Board, and Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Undoubtedly the greatest effort that he made to benefit others was in the establishment of the Joint Distribution Committee. As soon as the World War started and it was obvious that a large part of the War would be fought in the zone in which six or seven million Jews lived, particularly Poland, Russia and Galicia, many worthy people started organizations to collect funds for the sufferers in the War zone. It was not possible to combine these efforts, though they did gradually come in to the hands of three Committees, the American Jewish Relief Committee, the Central Relief Committee and the Peoples' Relief Committee. Even these did not succeed in abolishing altogether the small separate collections by what were known as the *Landsmannschaften*. But what Mr. Warburg succeeded in doing, about six or eight months after the outbreak of the War, was to get an agreement that there should be one organization that would distribute these funds. The Joint Distribution Committee was made possible as much by the tact of Mr. Warburg as by any other single factor. As far as I can recall the early years, the differences of opinion were quite strong, but under his chairmanship no vote was ever taken. Everything was done by unanimous agreement after full discussions, sometimes very long, which preceded this unanimity. This Committee has up to the present time distributed in the neighborhood of $90,000,000, and has worked in forty-two countries.

It would be quite impossible to give in any detail Felix Warburg's labors in connection with the Joint Distribution Committee, but one of the things that he himself considered an achievement was the effort made to repatriate the Siberian prisoners,—soldiers in the armies of the Central Powers taken prisoner by the Russians and interned in Siberia who, for three or four years, had been shipped with the moving armies from place to place, were herded in stockades and were dying by the thousands. In this effort he joined with the American Red Cross, the Catholic Welfare Council, the Federal Council of the

Churches of Christ in America, and other organizations, and he once appeared before the Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby, representing all these organizations.

So greatly was he absorbed in this work during the War and early post-War periods that he virtually gave no attention to business and little to other activities. I was once present when a gentleman asked Mr. Schiff if some of the other young men in the firm could not take up certain pieces of work, and Mr. Schiff replied, "We have given you all of Felix Warburg."

The work of the Joint Distribution Committee was carried on in close association with the American Relief Administration of which Mr. Herbert Hoover was the head, and a warm friendship grew up between these two men. One of the first tasks that Felix Warburg undertook that brought him in close contact with Hoover, who was then Food Administrator, was the latter's desire to obtain a census of the food supply of Greater New York. All the food obtainable had to be shipped to the armies abroad, and Mr. Hoover had to be sure that there would not be too great a shortage of food-stuffs in America. The request for information which had been sent out from Washington to the food dealers had been mostly disregarded. Mr. Warburg writes, in his recollections, that he had had no experience whatever in this kind of work and Mr. Hoover told him that there was no appropriation for it, and that he would have to rely upon volunteer efforts. He was able to turn to Dean Russell of Teachers College, through whom he obtained the aid of some five professors of that institution. He then went to the Board of Education and also to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and secured their permission to use their tabulating machines. Cards were worked out to collect the information required in the simplest way. Finally, he turned to the city government, the Mayor and the Police Commissioner, and with their aid questionnaires were handed to the food dealers on a Thursday, and the replies called for within a day or two. In this way satisfactory information was secured which was required at Washington. This was indeed a

great effort; it was a case of making bricks without straw, and it indicates Felix Warburg's administrative ability and also his imagination.

The tragedy of the Jews in Russia, after the Soviet régime became fixed, was unspeakable. After the Peace of Brest-Litovsk and the setting up of Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Esthonia, each as separate states, there still remained in the Soviet Republic over 2,800,000 Jews. There was a large religious class; about 50% of the population were engaged in petty trading; only a comparatively small number in artisanship and agriculture. The great majority of the Jewish population were among the so-called declassed, without any possibility of living anywhere decently or where a livelihood could be made which did not put them outside of the pale of the law. Agriculture seemed to be their only hope, so a great plan was formed for the settlement of large numbers of people upon the soil, particularly the fertile soil of South Russia. I remember a dinner given at Mr. Warburg's house at which Mr. Hoover was present and at which the two leading spirits were Julius Rosenwald and Felix Warburg. As a result of that and some later conferences, a huge sum was raised, not on an eleemosynary basis but on a basis of actual loans to the settlers, and during the ensuing ten or twelve years over 250,000 Jews were settled on the soil in South Russia and became prosperous farmers. A very considerable part of the remainder of the Jewish population have gone into industrial life and, with the exception of the rabbis and religious teachers, for whom the Soviet Government has no use, the Jewish population in Russia is as well off as any other part of the population. Felix Warburg, with the great help of Julius Rosenwald, and the devoted work of James N. Rosenberg, and the ever skillful management of Dr. Joseph A. Rosen, aided in this wonderful transformation of the population.

In 1927, Mr. Warburg decided to visit Russia and see with his own eyes whether the glowing reports which had been given him were correct. He was more than pleased

and felt satisfaction at having been one of those that had been enabled to render so many hundreds of thousands of people self-supporting.

He had been for many years a member of the American Jewish Committee and pretty regularly attended its Annual Meetings. During the last ten years of his life, he was a member of the Executive Committee and one of its strongest supporters. His wide knowledge of affairs in Europe and other parts of the world made him a valuable colleague and advisor, and his sound judgment was of enormous service in the work of that Committee.

I can here enumerate only a few of his various interests in Jewish educational work. He was a generous supporter of the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati and a devoted Director of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, whose Board he entered in 1902. He was active in helping to build up this Institution, was especially interested in its Teachers Institute, helped the Seminary Library, and was really the founder of the beautiful Museum of Jewish Ceremonial Objects, contributing the greater part of the collection. He served on the Building Committee for the new buildings, and his good taste and sense for beauty were extremely helpful in the construction of these three buildings.

I shall not endeavor to make any record of Mr. Warburg's gifts to the Seminary except one, which was so characteristic. When Simon M. Roeder reached his eightieth birthday, a member of the Board gave anonymously $10,000 to establish a scholarship in honor of Mr. Roeder, and that member of the Board was Felix Warburg.

It was Prof. Paul Sachs' interest in establishing a Museum of Fine Arts in Boston that brought about Mr. Warburg's contact with the Division of Fine Arts at Harvard University. He was elected a member of the Board of that Division and, later, to the chairmanship of the Division. It was through this and the development of the Fogg Museum that he had strengthened his interest in beautiful things and particularly his enthusiasm for paintings of the old Italian school.

While he had little to do with the Semitic Museum which, as he put it, "my dear Father-in-law presented to Harvard," he enjoyed the friendship of the members of the staff of that department at Harvard, and the objects and models that he had seen there came to his mind when he first traveled in Palestine. His first visit to Palestine was undertaken at the instance of Mrs. Warburg. He was entranced with the country. He gradually came to feel more and more strongly that it was his duty and that of other Jews who were not Zionists to devote themselves to the upbuilding of Palestine.

Always wanting facts before taking action, he helped to organize the Joint Palestine Survey Commission which consisted of himself, the late Lord Melchett, Doctor Lee K. Frankel and Mr. Oscar Wasserman. This Commission sent out experts to Palestine and presented a very methodical and splendid report. This had been sponsored by Louis Marshall, and all these steps were followed by the organization of the enlarged Jewish Agency in Zurich in August, 1929. Into this effort Felix Warburg threw all his charm and grace, and helped smooth out the difficulties which were bound to arise in a gathering of this sort. That the initial effort was a success is known to all, but he had in the meantime also shown his interest in other Palestinian efforts—in the Palestine Economic Corporation, in the Dead Sea development, in the purchase of an orange grove, where at one time in happier days he hoped to spend one month every year in the Holy Land.

His Palestinian interests were deepened by his stay in Palestine in the year 1929, coinciding with the Passover. He and Mrs. Warburg, four of his brother's family and my family, all had the opportunity of living together in the building of the American School for Oriental Research in Jerusalem. The excavation of the third wall, almost outside of the windows of the school, the general archaeological activity then going on, and the fine devotion of the American scholars, aroused his interest and made him a warm friend of the school. He was an active Trustee of the American School and greatly aided the institution by his generosity and sound advice. I remember many things

we did that year in Jerusalem which I have not time to recount here, but it is a happy memory.

The idea of a University in Jerusalem on Mt. Scopus fired his imagination. He felt that the Jewish religion and Jewish learning should get their share of inspiration out of the historic surroundings in Jerusalem. "Situated on Mt. Scopus," he wrote, "and looking toward the Dead Sea and Moab, and toward the north side of Jerusalem and its many historical points, it will, I hope, bring that warmth and inspiration to the teachers of the Jewish religion as it has to us." And this idea moved him and Mrs. Warburg to make the first large substantial gift to the University in memory of his own parents, the income to be devoted to the Institute of Jewish Studies.

He was enormously interested in the proposed Huleh Concession and wrote jubilantly in the Spring of 1936 about what he hoped would be the beginning of that plan.

The riots of 1929 and the resulting disasters to many people engrossed his attention and he was active not only in the collection of a great Emergency Fund but in its administration.

The Passfield White paper aroused his indignation and he resigned from the chairmanship of the Administrative Committee of the Jewish Agency, though he remained a member of the Council and continued his active interest in its work. This White Paper, issued by Lord Passfield, then British Colonial Secretary, was highly unfavorable to the Jewish cause and in many ways negatived the Churchill White Paper of 1922 which had defined the Balfour Declaration, though this was accepted by the World Zionist Executive, and it was upon this basis that the Mandate was awarded and accepted by Great Britain.

Felix Warburg visited Europe twice in the year 1937, in March and in the beginning of August, the first visit mostly, and the second visit solely, in connection with Palestinian matters and largely to register his views against the proposed partition of Palestine, and if possible, to prevent the consummation of the plan outlined in the report of the British Royal Commission, headed by the late Lord Peel.

Before going to Zurich, in the summer of 1937, he had planned a conference of Jewish leaders and friends from all parts of the country. This was in connection with the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, but it was more an endeavor at a meeting of minds at which all Jewish questions could be discussed. He was the host to about one hundred and fifty men at Briarcliff Lodge, New York. It was an interesting gathering and he himself was at his very best on that occasion. It was one of the high lights of his Jewish activity.

The largest Young Men's Hebrew Association in New York, and probably in the country, was and still is that at 92nd Street and Lexington Avenue, New York. The original site and building were presented by Jacob H. Schiff, and Mr. Warburg was for quite a number of years President. Though not the pioneer Young Men's Hebrew Association of the country, it was the strongest. Gradually, Felix Warburg felt with regard to the work of the young people, as he did in many other things, the need to strengthen the organization by cooperation with similar organizations. There was a good deal of discussion as to the name of the proposed organization, because there were centers and educational alliances, etc., which did not have the name Young Men's Hebrew Association. Finally, in order to include all interests, the rather cumbersome name, Council of Young Men's Hebrew and Kindred Associations, was adopted, and of this organization, of which he was the moving spirit, he became President.

In 1914, when the bill for the incorporation of the Council and of the Trustees of the Council had been signed by the Governor of New York, it had such significance for Mr. Warburg that he celebrated the event by a dinner and a meeting at his house on April 22 of that year. Through the necessities of the War, this organization became a constituent—it may be said the most important constituent—of the Jewish Welfare Board, and it continues its influence through this organization.

The Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Associations and Jewish Centers became one of the very strong interests of Mr. Warburg. In season and out of season, he devoted himself to them. He went to many cities to

help organize or dedicate such Centers. He had the perfectly sound view, which he advocated at every opportunity, that the young people must be given adequate facilities for wholesome association and recreation and for cultural activities, general and Jewish.

He always had a strong interest in music. He had a good deal to do with the upbuilding of institutions for music in the City of New York, but his first effort was in a very small way at the Educational Alliance where a music school was started to give the people in the neighborhood an opportunity to enjoy good music. From this, came the music school settlements and, gradually through his connection with the Institute of Musical Art and the Juilliard Foundation, of both of which he was a Trustee, a merger between these two Institutions was brought about. He was greatly interested in the New York Philharmonic Orchestra and the Schola Cantorum, and he speaks of the Stradivarius Quartette which he founded "as playing at this moment the four glorious instruments of Stradivarius which I had the privilege of putting at their disposal." He was a constant attendant at the opera which was one of his chiefest joys.

The American Museum of Natural History, of which he became a trustee, greatly attracted him not only because of the explorations it conducted and collections it gathered, but also because of its great educational value. He always considered it a privilege to associate with people who devoted their lives to anything idealistic. But with his practical sense, one of his labors in the American Museum was to establish a pension system, and, in general, to look after the welfare of the staff and employees.

Although, as far as I know, an adherent of the Republican Party, he was a great admirer of Thomas Jefferson, and this, I think, largely because it was due to Jefferson that the amendment which granted religious liberty to all the citizens of the United States, was added to the Constitution. He felt that Jefferson was just as much entitled to a shrine as Washington, became interested in the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Committee for the maintenance of Monticello as a national monument, and gave substantial

support to the acquisition of the home of Jefferson at Monticello. He was appointed a member of the Thomas Jefferson Centennial Commission, by President Coolidge.

The extension of the park system of New York, and particularly of Westchester County, was a subject to which he gave a great deal of thought and excellent work. He was a member of the Westchester County Park Commission and, as a resident of Westchester, he was very much interested in the efforts of the Westchester County Historical Society to seek out the historic spots and set up modest memorials of the great historical events that had taken place in that County.

In his work he was a combination of industry, patience, and long suffering. I do not speak of his business, which I am not going to bring in here. But I do know of his method of dealing with Jewish and public affairs. He read hundreds and hundreds of documents, long and short; his brief case was always with him, and very often the late hours of the night and the early hours of the morning were given to the reading of these documents. When anything important was stirring in Europe or Palestine, the mail was too slow, and cablegrams winged their way over the Atlantic. And then, there came the trans-Atlantic telephone which he never hesitated to use when a point could be cleared up rapidly. On the other hand, he could have the vision for making a plan, which might take five years or ten years or even longer for its realization, and he knew that for certain things one must wait.

His Hebrew name was Baruch, "blessed," and was translated into the Latin Felix, "happy". These designations were most appropriate. If one wished to be a little mystical or philosophical, one might also think that his names influenced his life. This life meant blessing and happiness to so many others who called him friend and to many thousands who had never seen him. He had a gracious and sometimes dazzling smile. Through the greater part of his life, this never left him. So fortunate was he considered that when he went on travels, even the weather smiled on him, so that, among his intimates, sunshiny weather came to be known as "Felix weather."

He was fond of nature. He loved the out-of-doors; he loved to walk, to ride, and to sail, but he frequently gave up these pleasures to sit long hours at meetings at which problems were discussed that he thought required his attention, always for the benefit of others. He rather belittled people who spent too much time on sport, or card playing, or any of these, to him, not worthwhile things.

He was always willing to share with others his beautiful country estate which he built up in White Plains. His first natural desire was to have his brother, Paul Warburg, in the same vicinity. So he persuaded his brother to come and examine the country and a house was built within a half mile, so that the two brothers and their families had their independent lives and nevertheless could be much with each other. And then, when his daughter was married, a house was built on the estate for her. But there were other houses on the estate, small houses, which he liked to lend to young people, to young married people, or to several young women who were interested in gardening, so that they might have beautiful summers and learn how to take care of a garden and enjoy it; and this he did too for the sake of his own children that they might have young companions and come to look on this estate as their country club.

Though really a very active man, he loved certain kinds of repose and I think he got this at a concert or by reading a book. He wrote me in the summer of 1935: "It is amazing how lazy one can get so quickly. For you to be sitting in the sunshine of Hawaii doing nothing, and for me to be twenty-one days on a boat enjoying wind, weather, sunrise and sunset, is quite a jump from our daily occupations, and I feel more and more what I always claimed—that the people who say they love their work are blooming liars. We are all loafers by nature."

He was fond of tennis and loved to play with his own children and it was only, I think, when they got more skilful than he that he resorted to golf, though never very actively.

Felix Warburg was a man internationally known. When he was in New York, whether at his office or his home, all sorts of people from all sorts of countries, visited him,—

relatives, businessmen, artists, painters, sculptors, musicians, and everybody who had a plan for the betterment of the Jews or the betterment of the world—and he was a patient listener. When he crossed the ocean, his cabin was a sort of center, and I have seen him in hotels in London and Paris, where his ante-room or little parlor almost looked like a public office.

But New York may not have an idea of the way in which his influence reached through many communities and in many parts of the world. His ideals for learning, for beauty, for the general welfare of mankind affected even some people who had met him but once, and they have written letters to his family and, for that matter, to me telling of this influence.

The lines which were found on his desk and were daily before him described him better than anything that I can write:

"I shall pass through this world but once,
Any good thing, therefore, that I can do,
Any kindness I can show to any human being,
Let me do it now.
Let me not defer it nor neglect it,
For I shall not pass this way again."

He was a handsome person, always most exact in his dress for every occasion, his buttonhole invariably adorned by a white carnation. He loved his place in the country and lamented the long hours which he often had to spend in the city during the beautiful spring and autumn days. Once he said, "If I had the job of gardener here I might enjoy this place." For landscape gardening he had a true eye. He knew where trees should be and when they should be thinned out, and just where a beautiful vista might be secured.

Felix Warburg was a very keen observer of details. He judged others somewhat by their powers of observation. He thought it was a very useful and even necessary trait and often deplored the fact that our schools did not train people in this way.

Naturally, even this blessed and happy life had its sorrows and its trials; sorrows in losing parents, relatives and

dear friends, which come to all of us. The Great War was a time of extreme difficulty to him, as it was to every American born in Germany, and especially to one, part of whose family still resided in Germany. But he never wavered in his loyalty to his adopted country, nor in his willingness to give any service during the War to help America.

But I think that the Nazi triumph in Germany, in the beginning of 1933, shook him as no other misfortune had. After all, he was born in Germany. It was his native country. He regarded it as a splendid land of high ideals. And when this new era of brute force and lawlessness and general degradation of everything that was noble and fine spread over the land, he used to say, "I am so ashamed that this has happened."

In his Will, he followed the old Jewish custom of what is known as Ethical Wills, giving advice or suggestions to his children as to the kind of public works they should engage in.

I have tried to depict Felix Warburg not mournfully but rather as though he were with us. I fear that, in trying to give even a partial list of his numerous activities, I have failed to give a real picture, but there is one trait that we all knew—his great capacity for friendship. Once this was given, it was never withdrawn. He was a true and loyal friend and those who basked in the sunshine of his friendship have an imperishable memory.

This presentation, however inadequate, has many lessons which I do not propose to draw, but one strikes me particularly. Much of this active life, of this very useful life, this very charming life, goes back to Jewish tradition and to the teachings and inspirations of his boyhood. Though I know it is often quoted, yet these verses can be truly applied to him:

> "Who is the happy warrior? Who is he
> That every man in arms should wish to be?
> It is the generous spirit, who, when brought
> Among the tasks of real life, hath wrought
> Upon the plan that pleased his boyish thought."

This I think was Felix Warburg.