

## The Book Committee

### Dr Leib Kurland (Paris)

Leib Kurland was born on 19<sup>th</sup> May 1913 in Dębnie, near Częstochowa. After studying at Jechiel Grylak's *cheder*, he went to the Jewish high school, where he completed his secondary school studies. At the start of his community activity, he contributed to the [newspapers] *Częstochower Zeitung* and *Unser Weg*. He has been in France since 1932, where he studied medicine and received his degree in 1939.

During the War, he took part in the fighting against the Germans in France, in the "Resistance" freedom-movement, in the battles of 1944-1945 and was given several awards.

Since 1948, he has been a practising physician in Paris and is active in Paris cultural and literary social life.

In parallel with this activity, Dr Kurland occupies a series of directorial positions, such as Chairman of the Jewish Writers and Journalists Society in Paris, Chairman of the Cultural Commission of the *Kehilla* Federation in Paris, Chairman of the People's Committee for Israel Bonds in Paris, Chairman of the National *Częstochower Landsmannschaft* in Paris and as a committee member in a series of national Jewish organisations in France.

[He is also] the founder of *Volks Gesund* ["Popular Health"], the only Jewish journal on hygiene and medical problems amongst Jews and he has been its editor for twenty years. He is the founder and editor-in-chief of the literary monthly periodical *Unser Kiyem* ["Our Existence"], which has appeared for nine years in Paris. He is contributor to a row of Jewish literary publications, such as *Die Goldene Keit* ["The Golden Chain"] and *Zukunft* ["The Future"] and is the medical editor of *Unser Wort* ["Our Word"] (Paris).

Dr Kurland is also the author of numerous Yiddish books: *Es Hot Sich Ungehoibn* ["And so it Began"] (stories) - which was also published translated to French, *Furchtike Teg* ["Fearful Days"] (stories), *Oifn Weg Zu Sich* ["On the Road to Oneself] (a novel) and *Die Letzte Schiff* ["The Last Ship"] (a novel, in print).