

THE NARROW HIGHWAY alongside the border between Switzerland and France bears a Jewish name—"Cheman de L'ORT"—the "ORT Highway". The highway runs to the ORT institute which trains instructors for all the ORT schools in the world.

The institution is now well known. The Swiss Government uses it to help train vocational instructors for underdeveloped countries. The American Government, too, considers the instructors who graduate the ORT Institute as the experts, and has an understanding with ORT to dispatch them to the various underdeveloped countries. This is part of the American technical assistance to those countries.

The International Labor Organization, too, considers the Institute to be one of the best higher technical schools for instructors in several vocations.

### Imposing Building

It is therefore no surprise that the Mayor of Anieres — the Swiss border town which houses the institute — is proud that this institution is located in his town. And it is no surprise that the highway to Anieres bears the official name of "ORT Highway."

The narrow road leads to a large, imposing building where ORT trains its vocational instructors. Qualified technicians in various industries graduate from here as licensed teachers, and are dispatched to the different ORT schools the world over.

Instructors from this Anieres Institute today constitute the very backbone of the teaching personnel at ORT schools in Israel, Tunisia, Morocco and Iran. Others fill important positions in West Africa, where they have been sent by the U.S. Government to help in the technical development of those countries.

### Congolese

The reputation of the ORT institute is such that the government of the Congo sent to it a group of 18 young men for training. They have now graduated and already fill high official posts in the Congo.

The government of Iran now maintains a group of 14 young men — 3

*\*Excerpted from a feature article widely published in the American Jewish community press.*

# The Jewish Institute of Higher Technical Education in Switzerland

by Boris Smolar\*

Editor, Jewish Telegraphic Agency

of them Jewish graduates of the ORT trade high school in Teheran — at the Institute, who are completing their studies as instructors in various specialties.

Its methods of instruction are recognized as superior and its professional staff is among the best to be found in so industrially and agriculturally advanced a country as Switzerland.

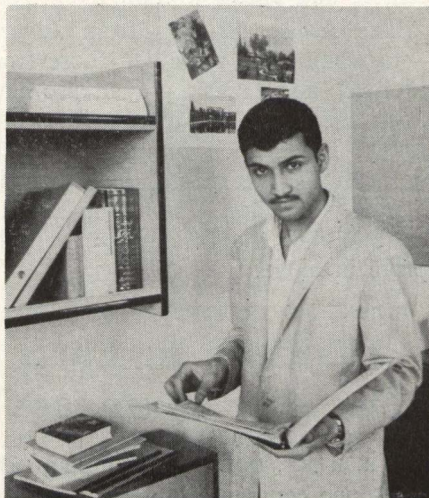
A visit to the ORT institute, which occupies several floors and a large area of green expanse, is instructive. It begins with the lower floor which houses the machines and shops. Students spend many months working on these machines.

The languages of instruction are French and English, which are strange to the majority of the students. To facilitate matters for the students so they may get the most out of the courses and at the same time be in a position to communicate with one another, the Institute has organized an audio-visual department for language study, applying a method which enables everyone to speak French with surprising fluency in the course of three months. The method functions so well that a group of American physicians, who work for the United Nations in Geneva, have now registered for these courses.

### Kosher Kitchen

The students receive all meals in the dining room. The institute has its own kosher kitchen and even its own synagogue. The majority of students from Moslem countries are religious and strictly observe Jewish customs, although attendance at worship is not mandatory. The synagogue adjoins a large auditorium for general lectures.

Upon concluding the courses at the institute and receiving the diploma as vocational instructors the student is sent back to his country of origin, where there is a dearth of technical knowledge. There he teaches others the trades in which he has acquired skills at the ORT institute.



M. Broushaky of Firouz, Iran, now a student at the ORT Central Institute in Switzerland.

They go through a long and complicated course of at least two years until they receive their diplomas. In the course of these two years they live in the institute's dormitories which are located on the second floor, and can stand comparison with the finest at American universities.

Since the institute assembles people from various countries, they are, in a sense "languageless" on their arrival. In the first few weeks, they know only the language of their country — Persian, Arabic, Hebrew—and can hardly communicate with each other.

### B. C. Vladeck

Twenty-five years ago, on October 30, 1938, American ORT lost one of its founders and a tower of strength in the early days of the organization, Baruch Charney Vladeck. He became president of American ORT in 1932 and served until his death. His earliest associations with ORT date back to its beginning in the U. S. in 1922.

Mr. Vladeck will long be remembered as a champion for the rights of the underprivileged. His public life was completely identified with the struggle for the highest social ideals. As manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, as a political figure and participant in numerous community organizations, his name was always associated with humanitarian principles.

We pay tribute to his memory.