

Retiring Braintree Doctor Recalls Nazi Terrorism

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BRAINTREE — Dr. and Mrs. Ludwig Ballin, who fled Hitler's Germany in 1938 and came to this country where they brought up a family and became a part of the community, today said, "Thank you, America. God bless you."

Senior Physician

The occasion was Dr. Ballin's retirement as senior physician at the Norfolk County Hospital in Braintree Highlands, where he had been on the staff for 22 years.

Dr. and Mrs. Ballin are leaving the first of next month for Seattle, where they have bought a home near their daughter and son-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Julian Ansell and their five grandchildren, Steven, 14; Jody, 12; Carol, 10; Ellen, 8, and Peter, 4.

Dr. Ansell, who originally came from Boston, is professor of urology at Washington University.

Dr. Ballin was practicing medicine as a specialist in gynecology in Munich when Hitler came to power. Along with all other Jewish men in Munich he was arrested and thrown in a concentration camp. However, within a few days he was released because of a shortage of doctors in the area.

Later, he and Mrs. Ballin were able to leave Germany, but because of the war had to go through Italy to get to the United States.

Relatives Died

Mrs. Ballin's mother, sister and the sister's two children lost their lives in concentration camps.

The Ballins first came to New York where Dr. Ballin took examinations to practice medicine in this country.

Later they settled in Millbury, where Dr. Ballin was a physician before coming to the

Norfolk County Hospital in 1946.

Dr. Ballin is a member of the Massachusetts Medical Society, the American Medical Society and the American Thoracic Society.

Both Dr. and Mrs. Ballin have taken an active part in community life in this area. Both are members of the United Nations Council of the South Shore and Mrs. Ballin has been active in the League of Women Voters.

Commenting upon his life after leaving Germany, Dr. Ballin pointed out the many kindnesses that have been extended to him since he first came to this country.

Impressed With Education

He said that he was impressed with what is being done in this country in the line of education.

"Nowhere else in the world are there such possibilities open to everyone to receive an education," he said.

Mrs. Ballin added that she was impressed with the amount of freedom in this country and the tolerance for divergent opinions. She pointed out that politically she is a liberal, but that this had not stood as a barrier to friendships and discussions with persons of conservative viewpoints.

Dr. Ballin was given a farewell party recently by employees at the hospital and was presented books.

The Ballins also were guests of honor at a dinner given by members of the hospital staff at the home of Dr. Donald Martin, superintendent of the hospital where they were given more books.

Numerous former patients at the hospital have sent Dr. Ballin messages of thanks and farewell during the past few weeks.



RETIRING AFTER 22 YEARS service at the Norfolk County Hospital in Braintree Highlands, where he was senior physician, Dr. Ludwig Ballin and his wife plan to leave for Seattle, where they will make their home. Both have taken an active part in community life after fleeing Hitler's Germany in the 1930s. Flowers in the foreground were presented to Mrs. Ballin by the League Of Women Voters, in which she took an active part.

(Photos by David Richards)