

## IN BRIEF

**ADVENTURES OF A YIDDISH LECTURER**, by Abraham Shulman. Introduction by Isaac Bashevis Singer. Pilgrim Press, N.Y., 1980, 156 pp., \$7.95.

Reviewed by ISIDORE HAIBLUM

For many years it could justly be said that Abraham Shulman was the "Yiddish Art Buchwald." The mirth-filled columns which appeared regularly in the *Jewish Daily Forward* were, alas, available only to the Yiddish readers of that venerable journal. Shulman's infectious laughter remained locked behind the language barrier.

Now all that is changed. Due to the wisdom of Pilgrim Press and its industrious editors, Shulman the humorist can take his English bow, on center stage, next to Benchley, Thurber and Perelman; it is long overdue.

In *Adventures of a Yiddish Lecturer*, Shulman sets off across the land to deliver a series of Yiddish lectures. The hilarious mishaps which beset him as he wrangles with his audience are worthy of a Chaplin. But there is a warmth and understanding here, for Shulman's view of first generation American Jews is also touched by love. As I. B. Singer points out in his introduction, "Shulman's book is . . . an insight into the lives and thoughts of the Jewish people." One can only hope that a second and third volume will swiftly follow. The world needs all the laughter it can get. And Shulman is a master. □□