Health and Zionism
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The Israeli Health Care System, 1948–1960

Shifra Shvarts

University of Rochester Press
This book is dedicated to my parents, Batia and Yechezkel Leider, who chose to settle in the Negev following the establishment of the State of Israel, were among the founders of the modern city of Beer Sheva, and were pioneers in the establishment of its health care system. I am indebted to them for their invaluable assistance in my research, for the wealth of information they provided by their comprehensive and systematic archiving of relevant material from the media and other sources compiled over the years. This book is also dedicated to my in-laws, the late Zisa and Manes Shvarts, whose struggle to reach the shores of Eretz Israel on the Hagana ship Yagur in August 1946 led to their incarceration in a British detention camp in Cyprus, and who chose to rebuild their lives in the desert town of Beer Sheva, realizing the vision of “making the desert bloom,” and whose life stories remain a source of pride and admiration for me.