

Issued by the
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN
8, FAIRFAX MANSIONS, LONDON, N.W.3

A NEW VENTURE

The first issue of "AJR Information" is out. One of the primary functions of this monthly publication will be to keep its readers informed about the position of Jewries on the Continent and about the work for their relief and rehabilitation. It will bring into contact the members of the AJR with the immigrants overseas, especially with our kindred organisations, and ventilate all possibilities of immigration for the remnants on the Continent. The problem of refugees in this country will be no less our concern, and legal, economic and social questions and all the factors which add up to their status, will be dealt with extensively. "AJR Information" will report on the activities of the Association, both of its Head Office in London, and of the various branches and groups in the provinces, and thus strengthen the link between the members. Stressing these salient points, it will be of service to the whole Jewish community.

A STEP FORWARD

Two statements recently made by the Home Secretary in Parliament have given new hope to Jewish refugees in this country and to those survivors on the Continent who have close relatives in the United Kingdom. One statement concerns the resumption of naturalisation, giving priority to all those who have made a specific contribution to the country's war and economic effort; the other refers to distressed persons in Europe desirous of joining their relatives in this country.

"In spite of economic difficulties, and within the limits imposed by them," said Mr. Ede, "the utmost should be done to maintain Great Britain's historic tradition of affording asylum to the distressed." A noble statement in a noble spirit!

The A.J.R., which has taken an active interest in the issue will readily advise members and friends on methods of procedure.

SHADOW OVER PALESTINE

The Board of Deputies of British Jews voiced the feelings of Jews in this country when it expressed its regret that in spite of the overwhelming evidence of the tragic situation of the Jewish survivors in Europe, no provision had been made for their immediate admission to the Jewish National Home as of right.

The monthly immigration quota of 1,500 will be a bitter blow to thousands of men, women and children still in the camps on the Continent, who face, insufficiently clad, nourished and housed, the terrible hardships of a winter, and whose primary hope was a speedy immigration into Palestine.

NUREMBERG

Indictment Number 1 of the trial "unique in the jurisprudence of the world" reads: "Of 9,600,000 Jews who lived in the parts of Europe under Nazi domination, it is conservatively estimated that 5,700,000 disappeared, most of them deliberately put to death by a Nazi conspiracy." For the Jews in German the name of Nuremberg has a bitter ring. It was from there that year

Leo Baeck:

INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNITY

A community is a combination of individuals. That means it is a combination of men and women with characteristics of their own, and with desires, wishes and tendencies of their own. We may therefore say: A community binds together human beings who are or may be animated by forces directed against the community or at least tending to transgress it. This applies even to the most natural and closest community, the Family.

We can trace this antagonism even further. The richer a community is in strong personalities and clear-cut individuals, the richer will it be in vitality and abundant strength. In such a community we shall find human beings in whom the anti-communal forces are most powerful. Without such forceful personalities a community tends to grow rigid and inflexible and eventually to break asunder. No community can retain its dynamic drive and power of resistance unless it is able to include and absorb these individuals.

It should be borne in mind that there are group individualities just as there are personal individualities. Human beings may be linked together by their affinities or by what they hold in common. Such common factors may have been inherited, or acquired later in life, or pursued as aims, or they may be the outcome of coincidences in time and place. We thus find within the overall community smaller communities with group characteristics of their own—the family circle, the religious sects, the political parties, the professional and trade groups, and others.

These group individualities may be more or less manifest, but here again we shall find just those communities to be the most powerful which include the strongest group individualities with powers that often seem to turn themselves against the very community in which they find themselves.

Each community has therefore imposed upon it the task of guiding and directing the forces at hand. The rights and demands of the individual person

after year, on the Party anniversaries, blatant announcements were made on the wireless, culminating in 1935 in the so-called "Nuremberg Laws." It was from Nuremberg that Streicher contaminated the Reich with his pornographic journal *Der Stuermer*. For all those who have been spared, the days of Nuremberg are indeed days of judgment, and the name of that town, soiled by the lowest perfidy, will be cleansed and raised to an emblem of justice.

or group have to be weighed against the rights and demands of the community in order to achieve a sound integration and fruitful harmony of forces. To direct and guide them means to prevent the individuals from permanently standing against the community, and even in changing circumstances to make them conscious of the fact that their allegiance will be to the community. Having achieved this, the community will have gained in strength, and this strength will again assist the community in overcoming future tensions and difficulties. This problem arises in the family as the smallest as well as in the State as the larger community. At present it arises as the very task of our times towards the greatest community, the community of Mankind. If we fail anywhere to solve it or to come near its solution, we shall be faced

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with a crisis which then may develop into catastrophe. On the other hand, human happiness depends always and everywhere to an essential part on the individual being truly at peace with the community.

This is a general human and historic problem. It may sometimes happen that a problem lies dormant for a long time—only to come back to life one day. The period in history which is known as Modern Times is conspicuous for the reawakening of this our problem.

In the Middle Ages our problem had rested, and this is where the spirit of the Middle Ages differs from that of ancient as well as of modern times. The rights of the individuals were then neither respected nor even recognised as such. The individual took its place in life and work within the rigid frame of corporations and was entirely determined by them. Moreover, the thoughts and beliefs and hopes of the individual were embedded in a powerful community, the Church, on which the individual relied for what it had to think and to believe. There were few exceptions to this, and they were usually suppressed at an early stage.

(To be Continued.)

I have just come from Berlin..

I have just come from Berlin. The last time I saw her, she was a proud and arrogant city, her streets resounding with the steps of marching jack boots. I did not recognise her any more. Her glory has crumbled to dust, her monuments are obliterated, her streets have been razed to the ground and the faces of her people are grey and beaten. But I don't want to tell you all this because you know it already. I don't want to tell you of my searching for people whom I did not find, nor of my going along to houses which did not exist any more. I want to give you a few bare, undisputed facts about the lives of the 5,000 odd Jews in Berlin. Their number might have slightly increased by now with the daily influx of some 20 or 30 refugees from the territory east of the Oder and from former concentration camps.

The life of the Jews in the last few months has been fundamentally changed by giving them status of "Victims of Fascism." It was by no means easy to achieve this status which seems to us so self-evident. "Jews," they were told, "we don't know any Jews. We know only human beings. For us all human beings are equal. We don't want any privileges for Jews. That would only create more prejudice." Mr. E. Nelhans, Chairman of the Berlin Jewish community, and his friends, fought hard against this attitude. On their recognition of "Victims of Fascism" depended whether the emaciated and half-starved Jewish remnant would survive this winter or not.

What does the new status imply? It entitles them to additional rations of potatoes, vegetables and jam and includes also the "Aryan" partners of mixed marriages who, in many cases, had starved themselves in order to get some additional food for their children, their husbands and their wives. The distribution for the Western districts is being made at Pestalozzi Strasse, Charlottenburg. Mr. Ottomar Geschke, Chairman of the Berlin Sozialamt, who used to be reluctant to grant privileges to Jews, is now one of their foremost champions in Berlin. Within the council of "Victims of Fascism," Mr. S. Weltlinger is in charge of Jewish affairs.

Gradually, things seem to move towards restitution which has been accepted on principle by the German local authorities. Some of the real estates and buildings belonging to the Jewish community have already been returned. Col. Frank L. Howley, of the M.G. in the American zone of Berlin, announced that the Berlin Lord Mayor had been requested to issue a list of Jewish property stolen by the Nazis, as well as property of Poles and Russians. This, he declared, was the first step towards the restitution of this property. As far as emigrants are concerned, their property will probably be handed over to the community as a trust to be disposed of or returned at a later date.

Mr. Nelhans says that on the whole the attitude of the German authorities is helpful and that anti-Semitism in its virulent form has disappeared or gone underground. Talking to Germans one gets the impression that many of them accept their present tribulations as a just penalty for the injustice and cruelty done to the Jews. Sometimes one meets people who show a sincere sense of shame and humiliation but, of course, one

does not know how far these emotions are regulated by opportunism. The Jews, reluctant to believe that 12 years of Nazi teachings and practice have left no mark on the German mind, desire to leave the country, most of them wishing to go to Palestine.

The clothing situation is still desperate. Some of the men and women still wear their concentration camp outfits. Mr. Nelhans himself, at the time when I saw him, possessed one suit and no underwear. Even now, after more clothing coupons have been supplied, there is nothing to be bought in

the shops. There is unfortunately no liaison whatsoever between the community, and M.G. Representatives of the community experience the greatest difficulty in being received by M.G. officers, and when they are received, perhaps after hours of waiting and aimless wanderings, from one office to another, it is only to be told that the officer is not competent to deal with the request submitted. Sometimes, the representative of the Jewish community does not even get past the military police guarding the military buildings. (Reported before new influx of Jews from Poland—Ed.)

Narrator

Windows into the World—

IMMIGRATION OVERSEAS

The fate and future of the Jewish survivors on the Continent are much on our minds. The primary question is: Will they be able to join their families? Where else can they go? Which countries will offer them asylum? What, as individuals or as members of organisations, can we do to find a new permanent home for them?

For some considerable time past, the A.J.R., being geographically close to the Continent, have been inundated with inquiries both from individuals in this country and from abroad as to getting these survivors out of Germany. A great many difficulties stand in the way of their early departure from the Continent. There is the non-existence of consular services, lack of land transport and insufficient shipping space.

In order to prepare for future developments, the A.J.R. have asked a number of Jewish organisations overseas to report on the present immigration position and, at the same time, to indicate the future immigration policy in their respective countries. As the Palestine position is widely known, the enquête has been restricted to the British Empire and South America.

ARGENTINA

For the time being, it is only possible for children, living in the Argentine, to apply for a visa on behalf of their parents and, vice versa, for parents to apply on behalf of their children. However, we have been advised that new regulations governing the immigration into the Argentine are in preparation.

BOLIVIA

With few exceptions, this country has been closed to Jewish immigration for many years. The Bolivian authorities are preparing new immigration laws, but some time will pass before they are issued. It is doubtful whether the new regulations will favour the immigration of Jews.

BRAZIL

Some time ago a very liberal immigration law was issued by the Government. However, it will take some time until we can judge what the practice will be.

According to the new law, the Brazilian consuls abroad have full authority to grant visas to an alien who wishes to immigrate to Brazil, provided (1) he can produce a valid passport and a medical certificate confirm-

ing his good state of health; and (2) the annual immigration quota for the nationals of the respective country is not yet exhausted. The quotas are as follows:—Belgium: 113; France: 1,080; Germany: 4,772; Great Britain: 423; Holland: 149. Agricultural workers may immigrate even outside the quota. Agricultural workers, engineers and capitalists will not encounter many difficulties in obtaining a visa; they should discuss their cases with the Consul so as to find out what the requirements are.

Apart from these categories, it is believed that there are possibilities for persons who have relatives in Brazil, in particular if these relatives are either ascendants or descendants. In those cases, the relative in Brazil has to send to the prospective immigrant some sort of affidavit which he has to produce at the consulate so as to prove that his maintenance in Brazil is guaranteed.

CHILE

Whilst during the last five years the immigration of Jews has almost come to a standstill, the admission in certain cases, in particular where children wish to join their parents and vice versa, is now possible. However, the respective provisions do not apply to Jews immigrating from Germany, since the regulations whereby Germans are considered as enemy aliens also apply to Jews, at least as long as they are resident in Germany.

Only recently the Government has submitted to Congress a Bill which is to regulate immigration on a new basis. It is, however, too early to state what the new regulations will be like.

NEW ZEALAND

The official policy of the Government is not to grant immigration permits until the rehabilitation of the returned soldiers has been successfully settled. This was stated by the Prime Minister when he was interviewed regarding the immigration of British subjects. The same policy applies to aliens. In some cases Jewish refugees have made applications for the immigration of their aged parents or other relatives. However, it will not be possible to obtain a great number of permits for Jewish displaced persons in the near future unless arrangements are made by the British Government with the Dominions.

(Next issue: Australia, Canada, etc.)

WINTER ON THE CONTINENT

Norman Bentwich:

Jewish Relief Volunteers in the Field

The principal centre of the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad (J.C.R.A.) units is at Belsen, which is the largest concentration of Jews in Germany. The team there is engaged personally in the work of the rehabilitation which means Jewish cultural and welfare activities. It has been looking after the children particularly but now it is hoped that all the remaining children will be brought to England. It is starting on vocational training for the young persons; and for that the great need is of equipment and tools. It will be one of the principal efforts of the J.C.R.A. teams during this hard

Mr. S. Adler-Rudel, Vice-Chairman of the AJR has returned from a visit to the Continent, where he studied the position of Jewish survivors in Germany and Austria, in particular children.

Dr. Leo Baeck has gone for a short visit to the U.S.A., where he attended the Conference of the United Jewish Appeal at Atlantic City.

winter to get many of our Jewish displaced persons ahead and occupied usefully and productively. The cultural work goes on steadily. It is hoped to establish Jewish libraries, and to organise classes to help in dramatic entertainments.

Outside Belsen, the principal centre at present is at Celle, 20 miles away, which is the junction for the endless stream of people going to and from the Belsen Camp. The group there, under Mrs. Rose L. Henriques and Rabbi Dr. E. Munk, have re-established a Jewish Communal life, started a club which is the meeting place for the D.P.'s, the Jewish men in the Forces and the visitors there, look after all the small communities in the Hanover area. At Hamburg, Luebeck and Brunswick one relief worker forms a link between the community and the authorities and is general guide and counsellor. Efforts are being made to get the Jewish agricultural centre at Ahlem near Hanover put at the disposal of the Jewish bodies for a training centre for D.P.'s which the J.C.R.A. could help to staff.

It is hoped that very soon it will be possible for a unit to take up work in Berlin. Mrs. Henriques, with one or two of the workers went there and made a survey, particularly of the position of the children, and it is planned to get all the Jewish children away for the winter to some place where they can be better cared for. The need of a permanent Jewish unit in the capital which has now a Jewish population approaching 5,000 is obvious.

Several of the young J.C.R.A. volunteers are working with the American Joint Distribution Committee in the American zone. Jean Gafan is in the Munich area. Shea Abromowicz and Mrs. Miriam Warburg have prepared a children's camp for 600 to 700 to be brought from all parts of Bavaria.

Everywhere in Germany the Jewish Relief Units are in closest touch with the American Joint Distribution Com-

mittee's directors. It is the same in Italy where our first team is engaged with the growing body of refugees coming from Poland and Austria. At one time they thought to move to Austria, but the urgency of the work in Italy is too great. When, however, UNRRA take over the responsibilities in the British and American zones of Austria it is expected that one or two Jewish teams from here will be required.

A few of the Jewish relief workers from Great Britain are far afield in Greece working there also with the American Joint. One of them is attached to a Jewish Medical Unit from Palestine. It is interesting too that a Jewish Medical Unit from South Africa is working in Greece. So far it has not been possible to get any workers from here to Poland or other countries of Eastern Europe. Two of the volunteers have been helping now for months in Holland.

Apart from the work in the Continental countries, the J.C.R.A. has responsibilities for some general activities of relief. Thus this organisation had already managed to bring some of the children from the Continent to England, a task organised principally by the Jewish Refugees' Committee, London. One of the most valuable activities is the provision of clothing supplies and equipment for all the liberated countries as well as Germany. That is done through a Central Clothing Committee in which the Association of Jewish Refugees takes a most active part. Large quantities of supplies are constantly sent out; but the need for more cannot be too much emphasised.

Survivors in Camps and Towns

Reports from the Continent are still scanty.

We are picking at random some examples of information which we have been able to obtain:

Theresienstadt. The camp has definitely been closed down. An office was set up in Prague which is now trying to compile again the register of more than 10,000 people who have passed through Theresienstadt and were sent away from there, to unknown destinations. It will be a long time before this register can be consulted, but we are in contact with Prague and shall let our friends know as soon as these data are available.

Deggendorf. About 700 Jews from Theresienstadt are now at Deggendorf camp. They are living in very good conditions, food is ample, they have been provided with fur-jackets to keep out the winter-cold, in addition log-fires have been provided by the camp authorities. The camp is a transit camp, and the inmates are confident that they will be among the first to join their relatives in Allied and neutral countries.

Frankfurt/Main. A young nurse from the well-known central Jewish hospital, Gagernstrasse, who escaped to Sweden early this year after years in Riga and Stutthof camps, gave us at our request some information about nurses and doctors deported from that hospital. We learned from her the names of those who were in the Stutthof camp near Danzig as late as September, 1944, and of whom there has been no trace since. A few were later on liberated at Belsen. Of quite a number the report says: "In Estland unbekanntes Orts verschollen." There is no trace either of those deported to Poland. Three women were saved and taken to Sweden in April.

What the Press says . . .

The Home Secretary followed up his limited statement on permits for victims of Nazi persecution with relatives in this country by a broad pronouncement on naturalisation policy. He was faced with a difficult problem. When the lists were closed six years ago, there were many thousands of applications already filed. Since then, many aliens—in particular, enemy aliens—have given loyal war service to this country both in the Services and in civilian life, many of them after short residence on "transmigrant" papers. It would obviously be unjust if, for instance, the new application of a German Jew, who had fought as a parachutist, could only be considered at the end of the queue. But equally, the Home Office machine will fail to function, if it is flooded with tens of thousands of new applications. Mr. Ede very wisely did not attempt to state precisely how he would adjudicate between the rival claims of the pre-war applicants and the ex-service man. He was content to indicate that war-service would be taken into account, and appealed to all concerned to show restraint and give his hard-worked officials a chance. The success of this appeal was greatly enhanced by the manner and the tone of his statement, which should entirely allay the widespread fears that the Government might suddenly expel those who had come to this country on "transit" visas. It is clear that no one, who obeys the laws of the land, need fear sudden expulsion, and that the Government's naturalisation policy will be based on the sound principle that we shall accept as citizens men and women who can adapt themselves to our way of life.

(The New Statesman & Nation).

SHANGHAI

A Jewish relief unit has recently been sent from Australia to Shanghai to work amongst Jewish refugees there. The team, under the leadership of Mr. H. Muntz, consists of nine members of whom two are originally Jewish refugees from Germany; it is sponsored by the Overseas Relief Fund and the New South Wales Board of Jewish Deputies.

Air mail letters and cables are now admitted to Shanghai. Where the address of a refugee is unknown, communications can be sent c/o HICEM, P.O.B. 1425, Shanghai.

A letter from Stuttgart written in June, 1945, reveals to some extent what had happened to Stuttgart Jews: 1,900 were deported to Riga in 1941, 600 to Travaiki near Lublin in 1942, another 49 were sent away to unknown destinations in July, 1942. One survivor returned in summer, 1945, after having been liberated at Monovitz—a branch factory of the Auschwitz camp. No figures are given of those deported to Theresienstadt of whom a mere handful have now returned.

A list has reached us of Jews still at Hildesheim in July, 1942. Thirty-two of them died subsequently at Theresienstadt from where only four returned in June, 1945. Fifteen were sent to the East in 1943 and 1944. Of one woman it is said "Fate unknown."

A Herford list gives the names of 29 Jews deported to Riga in December, 1941, 16 Jews deported to Warsaw in April, 1942, 24 Jews deported to Theresienstadt in August, 1942. None of them has as yet returned. Three women were taken to Sweden. Fourteen Jews, apparently Jewish partners of mixed marriages, who were sent to Theresienstadt in September, 1944, returned to Herford in June.

A man now at Berlin, previously liberated at a camp in Bavaria, supplied us with information about the Breslau community. The names are picked at random, and the list is far from complete. A large number of people were deported in October, 1941, probably to Riga. An even larger transport left Auschwitz in February, 1943, and the list mentions many who died or committed suicide. In one case we find the familiar "Shot while trying to escape." Some five or six Jews from Breslau are now in Berlin.

Herbert Friedenthal:

MAX REINHARDT'S SUCCESSOR

Allied correspondents were unanimous in their praise of the recent performance of Lessing's "Nathan der Weise" at "Max Reinhardt's Deutsches Theater" in Berlin. Besides Paul Wegener in the title rôle, the producer was receiving the ovations: Fritz Wisten, successor to that "great magician of the stage" Max Reinhardt. Night after night he acknowledged the acclamation of a German audience applauding Lessing's message of tolerance and humanity.

I met Wisten first in the Summer of 1933. It was in Berlin on the opening night of the Juedischer Kulturbund in the Charlottenstrasse Theater. He had just arrived from Stuttgart where he had lost his post as first character player. "Nathan der Weise" was their première. What irony: a plea for understanding and love between the races and religions in the capital of hatred!

"We must play as if for eternity," Wisten said. "We do not know when the end will come. To-day, to-morrow, never—who knows? Tyrants come and go, but the theatre is eternal."

The 9th November, 1938, came. The morning papers were full of the "Jewish murder" of the German attaché in Paris. "Are we rehearsing to-day," his colleagues asked Wisten when he opened the stage-door. Wisten smiled bitterly. "We must play as if for eternity. Has this not been our principle since 1933?" He started with the rehearsal of a Scotch student play "The Wind and the Rain," when an office girl rushed in breathlessly, calling him to the telephone. After a few minutes he returned, an aged and spiritless man. "You will all have to go home. The Gestapo has closed down our theatre," he said. On the staircase I got hold of him.

"Herr Wisten," I said, "you know

what that means, I suppose? You had better not sleep at home for the next few nights."

He shook his head, stubborn and obstinate. "If they are looking for me, I shall not run away. I was a captain in the German Army in the last war. I have been wounded, but I have never run away. I shall not hide."

For three days and three nights the pogrom raged through the Reich. A few days later we were commanded to the Theatre Office by order of Dr. Goebbels. The smoke still rose from the burning synagogues; 40,000 Jewish men were being tortured in concentration camps. The Minister ordered the Jewish Theatre to be opened again—immediately. We sat silent. Wisten was not there. He was in the notorious camp of Sachsenhausen. No one spoke a word. Only Herr Hinkel, commissar of the Ministry, said he would apply for the release of Wisten in order to get us started again. The next day I saw Wisten in his home, lying in bed, pale, old, shrunken.

"We cannot humiliate ourselves any longer by playing under the shadow of the Gestapo like paid agents, keeping up the pretence before the world that Jews in Germany are free to have their own stage," I pleaded, and enumerated the names of those who had been thrown into concentration camps.

"The Ministry has agreed to comply with any of our applications for release," said Wisten. Then he paused, still too weak to speak, but his voice grew as he added, "To free men—is this not something which gives dignity to our humiliation? To free men—is this not the ultimate aim of art altogether? In the Roman circus the gladiators fought for their lives; in our circus we are fighting for the lives of our friends. You have not been there," and he pointed in the direction of Sach-

senhausen. "No farce should be too foolish if we succeed in freeing even one man."

The play for life and death continued until in 1940 the curtain fell for the last time. The cast was sent to forced labour and deported. Wisten's non-Jewish wife had stood by him through all those years of trial. She succeeded in hiding him.

Now the curtain has risen again. A crowded audience of German intelligentsia in Berlin's most prominent theatre, bring Wisten ovations in never-ending applause. He and Alfred Berliner (Balthoff) in the part of the "Derwisch," will not have forgotten that other performance of "Nathan der Weise" in the Charlottenstrasse. What an hour of bitter triumph: a Jew proclaiming through the mouth of Nathan, whose wife and children have been murdered, the message of understanding and humanity, in the ruins of Berlin.

PERSONALIA

Dr. Franz Ullstein died in New York, at the age of 77; Kurt Robitschek (New York) will sue Willy Schaeffers (Berlin) for use of protected name "Kabarett der Komiker;" Emil Bernard Cohn (former Rabbi in Berlin) now Los Angeles, U.S.A., was awarded first prize of £100 in Jewish playwriting competition, arranged by A.P. Club, London.

Dr. Ernst Chain, who shared with Howard Florey and Alexander Fleming (both are now knighted) in the discovery of Penicillin, was research chemist at the Berlin University and came to this country with the intention of immigrating to Australia or Canada. For his work in Oxford, which enriched not only Great Britain but the whole world, he has been awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine.

The actor, Hermann Valentin, died in Palestine. Leopold Lindtberg, former producer in Berlin, now in Switzerland, completed a film, "The Last Chance," dealing with the fate of refugees from Germany. Eugen Spiro portrayed Mr. H. Bruening, former German Chancellor.

BOOKS

"The Jews in Work and Trade," published by the Trades Advisory Council (280, Euston Road, London, N.W.1; 1s. 6d.) and compiled with expert knowledge by Dr. N. Barou, is to be welcomed from various viewpoints as a most valuable booklet giving essential up-to-date facts and figures of modern Jewish economic life.

NEW BOOKS: Alexander Granach's auto-biographical novel "Da Geht Ein Mensch" (Neuer Verlag, Stockholm); Max Hermann-Neisse "Heimatfern," Poems (Aufbau-Verlag, Berlin); Egon Jameson (Jacobson) "10, Downing Street;" Dr. Kurt Lachmann "Commonsense Today" (Torchstream Books).

THEATRE

REFUGEE PLAY ON LONDON STAGE.

The action of "Skipper next to God" (Embassy, London), takes place in 1938, on a boat with a cargo of 146 Jews. When disembarking at a South American State it appears that their visas have been cancelled. The skipper has to decide whether to take them back or to smuggle them in somewhere else. In the end he scuttles his vessel so that the refugees may be picked up by an American battleship, representing American "territory."

The skipper, it appears, is not guided by ethical principles as such: he only interprets the Bible, and from this, he follows, it was God's will to save those Jews. At one moment when he fears he might have interpreted the gospel wrongly, he is prepared to return the refugees to the Concentration Camps. The problem is less one of helping the persecuted than that of a theological argument.

LAW and LIFE

THE AJR AS LEGAL ADVISER.

On the whole, refugees in this country, share the legal problems of the ordinary citizen, e.g., in tenancy matters. But owing to the exceptional position of the Jews from Germany, dispersed all over the world, there are additional problems of a more international character, which cause a particular headache.

As a rule, legal advice costs money. Yet, to all those Jewish refugees who cannot afford paying a fee, the AJR, from their inception, have given legal advice free of charge. For this purpose, special Legal Advice Hours are being held at the Head Office of the AJR, Wednesdays, from 5 to 6.30 p.m., and Sundays, from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and virtually all Jewish refugee lawyers, barristers, solicitors and consultants in international law, have been helping in this useful work over quite a number of years.

Every Jewish refugee, whether AJR member or not, who is unable to pay for legal advice, may be certain that he will be given the most careful attention. It must, however, be made clear that the AJR had to give an assurance to the Law Society to the effect that no one but a poor person (in the sense of the law) is entitled to receive legal help free of charge. Therefore, people who do not come under that category will certainly understand our position, to which we and the members of our panel are bound by pro-

fessional reasons. There are, however, no such restrictions with regard to the other advisory activities of the AJR.

Old Age Pensions.

In reply to enquiries concerning widows' and old-age pensions some practical points may be mentioned. (It should, however, be borne in mind that the matter is too complicated for giving more than the barest outline, the more so as fundamental alterations are at present under consideration.)

For the purpose of the Widows', Orphans', and Old-Age Contributory Pensions' Act, nationality is irrelevant, residence in this country is the essential condition.

Everybody ceasing employment should keep up voluntarily full National Health Insurance contributions.

The age qualifying for an old-age pension is at present 65 for men and 60 for women. The Contributory Old-Age Pension is payable if the insured person has been continuously insured for the five years immediately preceding title date, and has paid at least 104 contributions since his or her entry into insurance.

The Contributory Old-Age Pension is at present at the rate of 10s. per week.

Any insured person may approach the Approved Society with which he or she is insured for detailed information, or the Inquiry Office of the Ministry of Health (Whitehall 4300).

W. Breslauer:

RESTITUTION, AIMS and PROBLEMS

All responsible Jewish organisations agree on German Jewry's claim for full compensation. This certainly is also the aim of the refugee organisations all over the world. Cool-headed and reasonable as we wish to be, we consider it the only proper course to pursue with all strength.

However, if we take this stand we cannot be unaware of the difficulties which beset our path. There are some which are obvious to everybody: It is only too clear that our losses, great as they are, look small in comparison with the huge reparation claims of the United Nations.

Many Jewish businesses and premises were not seized but "sold." Officially a price was paid, but the sales were compulsory and the price was entirely inadequate.

Furthermore, how to assess the loss employees or professional men suffered by losing the possibility of their earning a living? And, after all, how to transfer such indemnification as may be granted from a bankrupt Germany to the countries of refuge?

Surely much remains to be done to amplify the Jewish claims and to make them unassailable against outside criticism, benevolent or otherwise.

How to Compensate?

If German Jews should eventually succeed in obtaining indemnification, there will be an endless number of problems. It is much

too early to share the lion's skin. No decision can yet be reached by any Jewish organisation and nothing can be said "ex cathedra." So whatever is pointed out here can merely be considered as the result of the writer's own deliberations.

How to compensate? Is it really just and fair to assess merely the old values and to indemnify the persons entitled with 100 per cent or whatever smaller percentage can be achieved? Is it just and fair that there should be a fundamental distinction between restitution in kind and indemnification in money, between the one who owned property, which luckily has been spared the effects of Allied bombing, and the other who had assets which vanished into thin air?

Community or Individual?

There are many who plead for a radical solution, namely that no individual should be indemnified, but whatever compensation were granted should be given either to the Jewish people as a whole or to the refugee community as such. They consider the task to mete out justice between individuals as insoluble: *summum jus summa injuria*. The community may decide to give to individuals in need as much as they require, or as can be spared. Alternatively, the whole or the bulk of the reparations may be spent on common tasks, such as the building of the Jewish Home in Palestine.

Others do not agree to that point of view. They consider that whoever was robbed should have a claim to restitution and indemnity. To deal equitably with the multi-

tude of justified claims should in their view not be a task beyond the faculties of legislation and administration. Furthermore, they wish to decide for themselves what they can spare for the community.

Solution through Compromise?

The writer holds that there will be no sound decision but a compromise between the various views and tendencies. To make very briefly some points which may be taken into consideration:

(1) The community needs indeed considerable means both for general purposes and

A Letter From Breslau

Dear colleagues from Breslau,

I send my love to all of you who have worked together with me at the Jewish Hospital at Breslau. Up to now, I am the only nurse from Breslau who has returned from the Camps. With great difficulty I have gained my liberty, thanks to the British Army.

I would be happy to obtain news from you and I am gladly prepared, as far as I can, to tell you of the whereabouts of your families. Day by day, we fought for our lives, and unfortunately only very few have survived the unspeakable horrors. I am the only survivor of a family of 9 members.

My present address is: Judith Sternberg, Hanover, Ohe Street 81 (Jewish community).

for the resettlement of those individuals who, even in case they should get some compensation, could not find their feet again without outside help. Two funds should be put at the disposal of the community in the first instance:

- (a) the considerable property of Jewish communities, institutions and organisations in Germany and Austria, and a compensation for property that was destroyed or lost and cannot be retrieved, unless, of course, it is needed for the reconstruction of communities of Jewish survivors in Germany itself. Whilst such communities, for legal and moral grounds, have a preferential claim, this cannot mean 100 per cent restitution and compensation, since the number of survivors unfortunately does not appear to exceed 3 per cent of the pre-Hitler total;
- (b) the compensation to be granted for the losses of all those who perished without leaving successors in title. There is no reason why in these cases the debtors or the debtor country should be free from paying compensation. On the other hand, there is no justification to deprive of their claim those who have a proper right to succession either under a will of the deceased or as near relatives. Distant relatives, "lucky heirs," should not be considered if whole families have perished. In such a case the Jewish community has a more justified claim.

(2) All claims should remain vested in the individuals, but coupled with a contribution to the community, fixed at a rising scale. And this for the following reasons: If all claims were vested in the community, the compensation granted would have to be given back to the original claimant for resettlement, entailing, in the majority of cases,

Back in Civvy Street

First week in Civvy Street—how often have the soldiers dreamed of it; how many have counted the days until their demobilisation; how often did they picture their first outing in mufti, their first mornings without parades, their first days without a sergeant-major. As long as you are in the Forces, Civvy Street seems the road to wonderland; only later do you see that the street is full of heavy traffic and it is not easy to find your way about.

Much has been written about the problems of demobilisation of the British soldier. The difficulties of adaptation to civil life, the social problems of leaving the strong collective of a military unit and of being again an individual, the difficulties of making decisions on your own and showing initiative when, for the duration, you had only to obey orders.

All this is known and widely discussed, but among the British soldiers coming home from the Army, Navy and R.A.F. there are 6,000 of non-British nationality, refugees hailing from Germany and Austria; many of them, near to 2,000, who volunteered for the Army from Kitchener Camp, have never had a civilian job in this country. Naturally they never lived in England outside the camp boundaries of Richborough. They have gone through the hell of Dunkirk and have fought on the beaches of Italy; they were dropped over Arnhem and marched with the victorious armies through France, Belgium and Holland, but they have never been civilians work-

ing and living in this country. Other soldiers return to their former occupations. The refugee soldiers, on their demobilisation, have to find new jobs. Much work of reconstruction is to be done in this country, and many hands are needed. Being non-British, however, have these men and women a marked disadvantage when seeking employment, as compared with their British comrades?

I met some of them running up and down town, having interviews, queuing at the Resettlement Offices, waiting at the Labour Exchange. What is their experience? What are their wishes, views, and expectations? They are all hopeful of being settled soon. There is no defeatism among them. They have mastered more difficult situations in the past six years. The recent statement by the Home Secretary, that non-British ex-members of H.M. Forces will be included into the categories which will be given priority in regard to naturalisation, has only confirmed and strengthened their optimism. They have proved that they can do a useful job for England and, from what one hears, they are accepted by British firms as British ex-soldiers and not as aliens. Many of them have already been absorbed, others are striving hard to find an adequate occupation. There is only one serious handicap: much as their services are required, whenever there are two equally qualified applicants for one job, of whom one is a

(Continued on Page 7)

(Continued on Page 7).

Statements in Parliament

DISTRESSED PERSONS, EUROPE (ADMISSION TO UNITED KINGDOM)

House of Commons, 13th November, 1945.

The Secretary of State for the Home Dept. (Mr. Chuter Ede): It is the desire of His Majesty's Government that our contribution towards the alleviation of distress in Europe shall be the maximum which the resources of this country permit. With this object the Government has considered which of the classes of distressed persons among the countless cases calling for sympathy have special claims to join relatives in the United Kingdom and to receive protection and help; and they have authorised a scheme of admission to this country for the purposes of enabling husbands, wives and dependent children to be reunited, of enabling young people who have no one to give them a guardian's care to receive such care from relatives (whether near or distant relatives) in this country, and of enabling elderly people who are in special need of filial care to find shelter in the homes of children or grandchildren in the United Kingdom.

In pursuance of this scheme instructions will be sent to Passport Control Officers that when a person in distressed circumstances on the Continent has an offer from a relative in the United Kingdom of maintenance and accommodation in his home a visa may be granted (subject to consideration of public health and character) if the applicant falls into one of the following categories:

(1) the wife of a man who is in the United Kingdom and any of his children under 21. If the result of bringing the wife and any children under 21 to the United Kingdom would be to leave alone and in distressed circumstances one daughter over 21 who is unmarried or widowed and without children, she also may be allowed to come;

(2) the husband of a woman who is in the United Kingdom, if he is incapacitated, infirm or too old to support his wife abroad;

(3) females under 21 with their children, if any, and males under 18, who have no relatives to look after them abroad but have a relative in the United Kingdom able and willing to take them into his household;

(4) the mother or grandmother of a person in the United Kingdom if she is widowed and in need of filial care;

(5) the father or grandfather of a person in the United Kingdom if widowed and in need of special care owing to age or infirmity.

(6) Where both man and wife are living together abroad, such couples may be admitted if because of age or infirmity, or other special circumstances, they are unable to look after and support one another, and are offered hospitality by a child or grandchild in this country.

All admissions to the United Kingdom under this scheme will be subject to time limits, which will be reviewed periodically in the light of circumstances obtaining at future dates.

It will be right that many of the younger people shall engage in occupations in which there is a special need of workers, such, for example, as agricultural work, and it will be a condition that persons admitted under the scheme shall take such employment only as is approved by the Minister of Labour. Persons in this country wishing to invite a relative who falls into one of these categories should write, not to the

Home Office, but to the relative on the Continent a letter showing that maintenance and accommodation is available and should advise the recipient to show the letter to the Passport Control Officer at the British Embassy in the country in which the relative is at present. As regards Germany and Austria, where there is no British Embassy, special arrangements for dealing with applications from persons in those countries will be worked out as soon as possible. If some people may be disappointed that the scheme does not cover their relatives or friends, it must be recognised that no scheme of this kind is workable unless it operates within clearly defined limits and a flood of letters to the Home Office about persons who do not fall within the prescribed categories will merely impede the official machine. . . .

On further question the Home Secretary stated that in every case guarantees of maintenance will be required before the visa is granted.

As to the transport facilities, persons will be expected to make their own arrangements but an influence to assist genuine cases under the scheme will be used.

As to the question of Documents, the Home Secretary stated: "I think they will have to come on a British passport."

On the question whether the scheme had been agreed with the U.S.S.R., and whether it will be applicable to persons who are residents in the zone under the control of the Soviet authorities, the Home Secretary stated that he could not answer the first part of this question in the affirmative but that the scheme is applicable to people of the various categories no matter where they reside, provided that they are persons distressed as a result of the war.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Home Secretary stated: This is a first step that I have announced. I have been frank with the House and have told them that I do not know the numbers in which I shall be involved here. I ask the House to allow this scheme to work and, if it is possible to extend it, it will be extended. It may be that the requests will be so numerous that we may even have to contract the scheme or delay its application.

NATURALISATION

House of Commons, 15th November, 1945.

The Home Secretary (Mr. Chuter Ede): H.M. Government have had it prominently in mind that among the people who at the present time desire to become British subjects there are many who not only have become assimilated to our ways of life and have the statutory qualifications in respect of residence, knowledge of the language and character, but have special claims to be admitted to British citizenship. Some have served in H.M. Forces and have earned their share of the gratitude which we all feel to the fighting services. Others have contributed in civilian capacity to the war effort, including many who have rendered valuable help as scientists and technicians. Others, again, are contributing to our national strength and prosperity in various fields, including those who in the fields of commerce and industry are providing employment and assisting trade, especially our export trade.

There must be a policy of giving priority to certain classes of applicants. Amongst the various classes of applicants those whom I have already mentioned stand out as deserving special attention. If an applicant not only has the qualities

CANADA DECIDES TO GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO REFUGEES

About 3,500 refugees from enemy or enemy-occupied countries who were admitted to Canada during the war have been given permission to remain and will be granted full citizenship rights. Nearly 2,000 of them are Jews, among them 1,000 from Germany who were brought to Canada from the U.K. after the capitulation of France.

The announcement of this change of Government policy is contained in an Order-in-Council released in Ottawa. It points out that many of these refugees are stateless and escaped from the country of their birth and citizenship before the outbreak of the war. Many of these people have rendered valuable service to Canada in the prosecution of the war, the Government statement declares.

ordinarily expected of a good citizen, but has also given good service in the Forces of the Crown, or has made a substantial contribution in some civilian capacity to the war effort, or is by his business or profession making a substantial contribution to the economic welfare of the nation, his application for naturalisation has a special claim to attention. . . .

To assist the Home Office to pick out readily those applications which are most likely to be found on investigation to be genuinely deserving of priority, it will be necessary to require applicants or certain classes of applicants to submit, in a convenient and effective form, evidence in support of their claims to priority. The machinery which will be required to give effect to this policy will be settled as quickly as possible and an announcement will be made as to the procedure for submitting claims to prior consideration. In the meantime prospective applicants should not lodge their applications in my Department: premature applications and enquiries about the progress of applications already made will merely impede the official machine.

At the time when the suspension of naturalisation was announced—on 20th November, 1940—there were already lodged in the Home Office about 6,500 applications. These applicants must have had in 1940 at least five years' previous residence in this country and, but for the war, their applications would have been disposed of long ago. There is, therefore, a strong case for giving early attention to these 6,500 cases. It has, however, been decided that the consideration of these applications shall not prevent work being started at an early date on other applications from those who have valid claims to prior attention on the grounds which I have mentioned. . . .

The work will have to be spread over a comparatively lengthy period. No pains, however, will be spared to make the machinery for dealing with this task as effective as possible in the light of the considerations just mentioned.

Restitution Problems—Continued from page 5
too much administrative work and expenses. On the other hand, very few people would think it fair if very big sums would be restored to those who were once well-to-do and were lucky enough to escape, and no provision was made for their less lucky brethren. The alternative to the proposed arrangement would be to restrict compensation itself; but a solution which profits the culprits is not compatible with justice.

This is a very rough outline of a possible compromise, leaving out many and quite obvious problems. The reason, however, for putting forward so incomplete a scheme is that by now we have to begin to be prepared and to think again.

THE ASSOCIATION AT WORK

WORLD COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

RABBI DR. BAECK PRESIDENT

When it became evident that many problems of Jews from Germany must be solved on an international basis, the organisations of Jewish refugees and immigrants in the various countries decided on a closer co-operation.

At the beginning of 1945 the three leading refugee organisations in Great Britain, the United States and Palestine formed the "Council for the Protection of Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany," and in the course of the year organisations in other countries joined the Council.

During the stay in this country of two representatives of the Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, Palestine, agreement was reached to establish a permanent Executive in London. All who took part in the negotiations were of the opinion that there was only one man qualified to head the former leader of German Jewry and the most outstanding personality in our midst. Dr. Baeck has kindly accepted the presidency. The founder organisations in Great Britain, America and Palestine have each nominated two personalities residing in London to represent them on the Executive of the Council. Mr. S. Adler-Rudel and Mr. W. Breslauer were appointed for America, Mr. K. Battsek for Palestine (a second representative to be nominated later), Mr. A. Schoyer and Mr. K. Alexander for Great Britain. The Secretariat of the Council is that of the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain.

The Council at present consists of the following organisations:

American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, New York.

German Jewish Representative Committee (affiliated with the World Jewish Congress), New York.

Irgun Oley Merkaz Europa, Tel Aviv.

Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain, London.

Comité des Réfugiés Juifs, Paris.

Comité Israélite des Réfugiés, Brussels.

Associação of New Citizens, Sydney.

Asociacion Democratica de Refugiados Hebreos, Habana.

Comite Uruguayo Pro Israelitas de Europa, Montevideo.

Comite Representativo dos Interesses dos Judeus Alemães no Brasil, Rio de Janeiro.

Some other organisations have expressed their wish to join the Council; their decision is expected in the near future.

The Council will deal with all problems which concern the Jews from Germany as a whole. Among them the restitution problem will occupy the first place and a number of steps have already been taken in this respect. The member organisations will continuously be kept informed about the work of the Council.

AJR CONCERT

The audience of the by now almost traditional A.J.R. Concert filled the Phoenix Theatre to capacity on November 18th. Dr. F. Berend again conducted his "International Chamber Orchestra," an ever-improving body of players—most of them like their fine leader Norbert Brainin, Jewish refugees

—who have by now reached a high standard of proficiency. After a delightful rendering of Handel's Concerto Grosso No. 4, the cleverly selected works by Mozart, Liszt and Schubert were equally well interpreted. Mrs. Sabine Meyen-Jessel sang two Mozart arias. Her warm soprano lent itself especially to the second one, from "Il Re Pastore." To listen to Franz Osborn was, as always, a real unimpaired joy; the great pianist played Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" and made one discover new beauties in this well-known work. After the interval he was the soloist in Liszt's "Malediction" for piano and string instruments, the first performance in this country of the vivacious work, again interpreted to perfection by Osborn.

Mr. K. Alexander, in a short address, stressed the special character of these concerts and put forward a strong appeal for the active interest of the members and friends of the Association.

AJR WELCOME EX-SERVICEMEN

The Association of Jewish Refugees, since their inception in 1941, have regarded it as one of their foremost duties to keep contact with refugees serving with H.M. Forces and to give them guidance, help, and advice whenever needed and wherever possible. In this way refugee soldiers have never lost sight of Jewish affairs generally and of the Jewish refugee community as a whole. In return, they have taken an active part in the work of the AJR. From the beginning, serving soldiers and fathers of serving soldiers have been members of our Board, and there has hardly been any Board meeting without a proper discussion of the problems and the specific situation of the refugees in the Forces.

Now that demobilisation is progressing, the AJR are putting their existing facilities at the disposal of those returning to civilian life: to commerce, to industry, to the professions. Many are newcomers to "Civvy Street," and it would be foolish to deny that there are certain difficulties and obstacles to overcome.

The AJR, having gained sufficient experience through their consulting hours and in making use of the expert knowledge of a number of advisers, will therefore gladly extend their services to those who either re-enter civilian life or have to make their first acquaintance with conditions which are entirely different from those of a soldier. Besides our daily Consulting Hours (10 a.m.-1 p.m.; 3-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.), these will be chiefly our Economic and Career's Advice Hours (Tuesday, 6 p.m., or by appointment) to deal with the special problems of the demobilised soldier. In addition, our Legal Advice Hours (Wednesday 5-6.30 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-1 p.m.), will in many cases prove helpful. In the provinces, our representatives are ready to give advice either direct or to obtain the necessary information from our London Head Office.

*

West Riding. Refugees—especially those returning from H.M. Forces or leaving war work—who find difficulties in getting suitable employment through the ordinary channels may communicate by letter for advice to Mr. H. Altman, c/o Kangoltex Ltd., 8, Duke Street, Bradford, or one of the officers of the local groups.

Censorship Work in Germany.—Persons who are interested in joining the Civil Censorship Division of the United States Army can obtain all necessary information from: Headquarters, Civil Censorship Division, U.K. Branch, United States Forces, European Theatre, John L. Lewis Building, Old Cavendish Street, London, W.1. Telephone: REGent 8484, Ext. 119.

Solidarity

A friend of the AJR, who has been a British national for forty years, but had lived in Germany and immigrated to this country only in 1939, sent the following letter to the AJR:—

"You have hitherto been kind enough to enclose my name in the list of friends of your Association. I am writing to ask you to take my name off this list and to include it in that of your members. This is not only a token of my appreciation of the work of your Association. I think that now that refugees are about to be naturalized it should not happen that those who are fortunate enough to attain British nationality should for this reason cease to be members of the Association. Even if all members were to become British subjects the solidarity with those less fortunate refugees 'on the Continent' would provide work for the Association for at least another generation and all who have been living on the Continent and are now sheltered in this country should not cease to do their utmost to sustain those left behind.

"It is for this reason that I wish to belong to your Association and herewith apply for membership."

AJR HEAD OFFICE ANNOUNCE:

The publication of "AJR INFORMATION" involves some changes in our administrative work for which we hope to obtain the understanding and help of all our friends.

1. **MEMBERSHIP FEE.**—Whilst up to now individual reminders regarding contributions were sent out together with our Circulars, it is not possible to enclose such notifications to this News Bulletin. Every reminder would therefore cause additional cost for postage and material. Will our members please pay their contributions when due without a special reminder.

2. **CHANGE OF ADDRESS.**—In order to ensure that "AJR INFORMATION" reaches you without delay, would you please advise us immediately of any change of address. In case the address stated on the cover of this paper is incorrect, please inform us at once. Members registered with us under their business address should, if possible, also give us their private address.

3. **AJR ANNOUNCEMENTS.**—Special attention is drawn to our column "AJR Meetings," announcing gatherings in London and in the Provinces. As a rule, from now on, no further individual invitations will be sent out.

4. **ADVERTISEMENTS.**—We are sure that our members and friends will gladly avail themselves of the advertising facilities offered by "AJR Information" such as:—

Family Events (Births, Engagements, Marriages, Jubilees, Deaths);
Situations (vacant and required);
Accommodation (vacant and wanted);
Inquiries regarding the whereabouts of relatives and friends on the Continent as well as in this country and overseas;
Commercial Advertisements, etc.

Further particulars may be obtained from the AJR Head Office. The advertisements should be submitted by the 15th of each month.

Continued from page 5

British and the other a non-British ex-serviceman, the former will be given preference. They are, moreover, barred from taking up a career in the Civil Service and, from what one learns, they find it difficult to obtain permission to set up independent business or to work as "Free Lance"—artists, musicians, etc. They hope that the day may not be far when discrimination will disappear and, in addition to the laurels they earned while serving for the Crown, refugee soldiers will be received as citizens of a country for which they fought.

MILES.

ACTIVITIES

in London and in the Provinces.

Whilst a considerable proportion of our members are living in London, permanent contacts have also been established with the Provinces and, wherever possible, local groups have been formed or keymen been appointed. The AJR is now represented at: Bath, Bedford, Birmingham, Bishop Auckland, Blackburn, Bradford, Cambridge, Cheltenham, Cirencester, Epsom, Farnham, Glasgow, Guildford, Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester, Letchworth, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Northampton, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield, Shrewsbury, Stoke-on-Trent. Delegates from these centres attend our quarterly Board Meetings held in London.

At local meetings reports on refugee problems and the work of the AJR are given. In addition, many groups are carrying out other activities; they arrange lectures, concerts and social gatherings. At some places a regular club life has started.

In London, where members and friends receive information and advice on their problems at our Head Office, several overcrowded meetings took place during recent months. In addition to these meetings for all members in Greater London, local gatherings are held in various districts such as Golders Green, Richmond, Ealing, Stamford Hill, Wembley and Croydon. Whilst, so far, invitations to these meetings have been sent out only to members in the district, announcements will, from now on, be published in these columns.

SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT.

Accommodation.

We are often in a position to advise on questions regarding accommodation. Any information on vacant rooms and flats, both furnished and unfurnished, is welcome.

Reading material for Refugees in H.M. Forces.

Please let us have more magazines, illustrated papers, and periodicals ("Aufbau," "Jewish Chronicle," "Zionist Review," etc.). In this respect, your help is particularly appreciated.

A.J.R. MEETINGS IN JANUARY

Saturday, Jan. 5, Nottingham. International Centre, Victoria Street; Dr. WERNER ROSENSTOCK: "Work for Refugees."

Sunday, Jan. 6, Cambridge. Synagogue Hall, 4 p.m. LOUIS W. BONDY: "The Foreigner in England."

Sunday, Jan. 13, Glasgow. Club premises; 11, Abbotsford Place, Glasgow C. 5. 6 p.m. Skat Tournament.

Wednesday, Jan. 16, Oxford. Church Hall, SS. Philipp and James, Leckford Road, off Woodstock Road, North Oxford (Bus No. 4), 7 p.m.; Rabbi Dr. J. MAYBAUM, series of lectures "Die Neueste Geschichte des Judentums."

Sunday, Jan. 20, Glasgow. 5 p.m. Mr. N. Korn will report on his visit to Holland. (Club premises.)

Saturday, Jan. 26, Glasgow. 7 p.m. Jewish Institute. Dance. Tickets 3/6, obtainable at club premises (not at the door).

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NEWS IN BRIEF

REPARATIONS FOR GERMAN AND STATELESS JEWS DEMANDED.

A request that a certain percentage of the reparations exacted from Germany should be set aside for the partial compensation of damages suffered by German, stateless and non-repatriable Jews under the Nazi regime has been presented to Mr. James F. Byrnes, Secretary of State, by the American Jewish Committee.

In a letter signed by Mr. Jacob Blaustein, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the A.J.C., it was suggested that the claims of Axis nationals, stateless or non-repatriable persons who have been expropriated on the grounds of racial discrimination should be represented by a United Nations' Trusteeship on Indemnification and that German and stateless Jews should have a right to claim compensation from this Trusteeship, just as other sufferers can present their claims to their own Governments.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE CONTINENT.

Registered and unregistered letters, printed and commercial papers and telegrams to all countries of Europe, except Albania, Austria and Germany.

Air mail services to all Europe except Albania, Austria and Germany. Postage rates: letters, 5d. for the first ounce and 3d. for each succeeding ounce; postcards, 2½d.

Parcels up to 22lb. in weight to Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Faroe Islands, Finland, France (including Andorra, Corsica and Monaco) Gibraltar, Iceland, Luxemburg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain (inc. the Balearic Islands), Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey. Gift parcels of worn clothing to all countries with which postal communications exist without a Board of Trade License, if the total value of the parcel does not exceed £5.

Far East: Air Mail letters to Shanghai and the rest of China (excluding Manchuria), 1s. 6d. per ¼ ounce; also Air Letters, 6d.

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AUSTRIA'S INDUSTRIES STILL IN NAZI HANDS

Seventy per cent of the food stores in Austria and at least 80 per cent of the clothing industry is still in the hands of former Nazis, according to Mr. Aaron Ehrlich, President of the Jewish Chamber of Commerce in Vienna.

Mr. Ehrlich said that Jewish survivors of the concentration camps are still unable to establish any industry or engage in trade because they are being denied licences by the various associations. He also pointed out that Nazis are occupying luxurious apartments, while Jews and other repatriated deportees and former camp victims are unable to secure accommodation.

Chancellor Dr. Karl Renner promised that Nazis will be eliminated from leading positions in industry and trade.

LIECHTENSTEIN — ASYLUM FOR JEWISH REFUGEES

The small land of Liechtenstein, cramped between Austria and Switzerland, has since 1933 admitted 120 Jewish refugees. "Jews," it is pointed out in a recent letter to the Editor of the Manchester Guardian, "owe a special gratitude to the Principality of Liechtenstein, which in relation to her smallness gave sanctuary to more Jews than any other country in the world, with the exception of Palestine." Liechtenstein has a total population of 12,000 people.

ASSETS IN SWITZERLAND

Members and friends who have assets in Switzerland (banking accounts, life insurances, securities, etc.), which have been blocked by the Swiss Government as German property may communicate with the A.J.R. Head Office in London and state full particulars of their respective cases.

Missing Relatives

Marthe Herzog nee Greiner (appr. 1897 Budapest) departed from 5, Orgona Utea, Budapest to Camp Stutthof near Danzig. Enquirer: A. W. Heller, 205, Oakwood Lane, Leeds 8.

Theodor Schaechter (appr. 1910 Vienna), former barrister. Last known address: 12, Lanark Road, London, W.9. Enquirer: Ernest I. Kirby, Sydney, c/o A.J.R., 8, Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3.

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