

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

SILVER JUBILEE OF AJR INFORMATION

In January, 1945, members of the AJR received the first issue of *AJR Information*. During the war, it was only possible to send them circulars at irregular intervals, yet as soon as the paper restrictions were lifted, the idea of a monthly magazine was put into effect.

In the first issue, the objects of the paper were defined as follows: to keep readers informed about the position of Jewry on the Continent and about the work for their rehabilitation; to report on the work of kindred organisations overseas and to ventilate all possibilities of immigration for the remnants on the Continent; and to deal with the legal, economic and social questions concerning the status of the refugees in this country. The concern about the survivors of the Holocaust was indeed the overriding factor in those days. The issues of 1945 carried eye-witness reports about the German Jews and Eastern Jewish D.P.'s (then in Germany), the addresses of Jewish communities in various German cities, the possibilities of contacting them, first hampered by the general breakdown of postal facilities, and the relief measures, including a permanent clothing collection established by the AJR. The first issues also carried articles about employment questions with which the refugees, especially those who had served with H.M. Forces, were faced during the transition to peacetime economy.

One of the articles in the first number, written by Dr. W. Breslauer, raised the question of restitution. This was at a time when legislation on this subject had not yet begun, and when even the basic problems were still unresolved. They included the transfer difficulties of that time, the controversy between global compensation to the Jewish community and indemnification to individuals, and the monetary assessment of the damage sustained by the victims. On re-reading this article one again realises how greatly the legislation enacted has exceeded the expectations of those early days when Germany was still in ruins.

The most important news, published in the first issue, was the statement by the Home Secretary, Mr. Chuter Ede, that naturalisation would be resumed. This statement was made without any conditions, and thus also applied to those refugees—and they were in the majority—who had been admitted before the outbreak of war only as transmigrants. A goal had thus been achieved for which the AJR had been endeavouring to pave the way since

its inception in 1941. At the same time, the announcement marked the termination of a legal status by which the refugee community had differed from the majority of the population.

If anyone had maintained at that time that a quarter of a century later, the AJR would still exist and even be in a state of expansion, his forecast would probably have met with some scepticism. And yet, notwithstanding the integration of the former refugees into their environment, the organisation has gone from strength to strength. Equally, *AJR Information* has retained its topicality and extended its scope. It has always not only endeavoured to serve as an informative bulletin by reporting on developments of direct importance to its readers, e.g. in the field of restitution and compensation, but also to present wider issues which have some bearing on the general Jewish position, or which are of specific interest to people of our background.

In this way *AJR Information* has also attained a standing within the Jewish press in this country. Whilst this may, in the first place, be due to the value of its contents, it also refers to its continuity. Jewish press ventures in Britain have, on the average, not been marked by longevity. Several journals founded during the past 25 years have ceased to exist or to appear at regular intervals, and a look at the list of the Anglo-Jewish press shows that among the smaller publications *AJR Information* is now one of the oldest ones. By far the oldest paper of content, the *Jewish Chronicle*, the "Organ of British Jewry" which, this year, celebrates the 150th anniversary of its establishment. We have special reason for mentioning the J.C. on this occasion because, under most generous terms, the owners have allowed us to make use of their news service. Furthermore, for almost 20 years, their typesetting and printing plant has been in charge of the production of *AJR Information* and their staff has co-operated with us in a most efficient, reliable and amicable manner.

The main thanks are, however, due to the members of the AJR. They are not only our readers at the receiving end but they are also the backbone of our venture; by their loyalty and their continuous support they were helped in building up "*AJR Information*." We have tried not to fail them. Yet there is always room for improvement and, as before, any criticism and suggestions will

be welcome as an expression of their interest. Like the work for the Homes and our other welfare activities, *AJR Information* has become an integral part of the AJR.

To these few remarks which come to mind on this happy occasion a special request has to be added. It concerns the financial safeguarding of our services in a time of rapidly rising prices. In comparison with other organisations, and in relation to the amount of our services, the subscription fees, which include the contribution towards the cost of "*AJR Information*," are, on the average, very low and, in the view of some of our friends, even unrealistic. Nevertheless, the AJR Executive has decided from an overall increase of the subscription fees because they feel that, as throughout the years, everyone who wishes to be associated with our efforts should be entitled to remain or to become a member. Yet there are many members who could easily adjust their contributions to the rising commitments. In the course of the past 25 years, quite a few of our friends have succeeded in building up their lives anew and have attained financial security. Many have also benefited from restitution and compensation payments as the result of general efforts in which the AJR took a leading part.

Together with the statements for their 1971 subscriptions, members will receive a special letter in which they are asked for a voluntary increase of their support towards our work. Their response will not only enable us to maintain and expand our activities, but will also serve as a stimulant in the accomplishment of our tasks.

WILLY BRANDT'S HOMAGE

Federal Chancellor Willy Brandt paid homage to the over three million Polish Jews killed by the Nazis during the Second World War, when he visited Warsaw to sign the German-Polish treaty. He did this after laying a wreath at the foot of the memorial to the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto who rose against the Nazi occupiers in 1943. Spontaneously, he dropped to his knees and faced the memorial for about a minute, while the crowd watched in awed silence.

Among the gestures of atonement made by German post-war statesmen, Chancellor Brandt's kneeling before the victims was a singularly moving expression of humanity and humility. Its moral value is enhanced by the fact that he did it as the guest of a Government whose attitude to the Jews represents the opposite of the spirit by which the homage was motivated.

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THE GERMAN SCENE

NAZI CRIMES INVESTIGATION STATISTICS

A total of 80,000 charges in connection with war crimes have been lodged in West German courts since the judiciary took over responsibility from the Allied authorities in 1955. About 7,000 people have been convicted and punished.

These statistics were supplied in November by Dr. Adalbert Rueckerl, head of the Central Agency for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes at Ludwigsburg, near Stuttgart. He also said that since the opening of the agency in 1958, it had conducted inquiries into a total of 2,077 cases of Nazi crimes, of which nearly 650 had not yet been closed.

Josef Streit, East German Attorney-General, announced in East Berlin that between May, 1945, and October, 1970, a total of 12,821 people had been sentenced in East Germany for crimes against humanity and war crimes.

WAR CRIMES TRIALS

The trial opened in Wiesbaden early in November of five former SS men charged with complicity in the mass murder of at least 64,822 Jews from the Lublin area of Poland between 1942 and 1944.

Two former SS men and two former "kapos" at Neidershagen-Wewelsburg concentration camp were charged at Paderborn in November with the wartime murder and complicity in the murder of camp prisoners. Their trial is expected to continue until February.

A former Nazi police major admitted in an Essen court that about 30 former high-ranking Nazi police officers formed an organisation some years ago to help defend members of their forces charged with war crimes. Willy Papenkort, 62, is accused of providing unauthorised legal advice to former police officers charged with wartime mass executions of Jews and other civilians and of inciting these men to commit perjury.

RESEARCH ON THE "FINAL SOLUTION"

Dr. Wolfgang Scheffler, a West German historian, is doing research at Essex University into the Nazi's implementation of the "Final Solution of the Jewish Question". He told a war crimes court in Duesseldorf that at least 900,000 Jews were murdered at Treblinka concentration camp in Poland—200,000 more than former estimates. A careful study of all sources, including recently discovered documents, had shown that about 1,700,000 Jews had been murdered at the Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka camps.

Dr. Scheffler was giving evidence in the trial of Franz Stangl, who is accused of the murder of more than 400,000 Jews at Treblinka during 1942-43, "together with other persons".

FORCED LABOUR COMPENSATION RULING

A political or racial victim of Nazi persecution employed in forced labour during the Second World War who lived outside the special camps is now also entitled to compensation. This is the ruling of the Supreme Court in Karlsruhe, who have reversed their earlier ruling on the claim of a German woman now living in the United States, sent to forced labour by the Nazis because her husband was a Jew.

NUREMBERG LAWS APPLIED IN 1970

In a trial of five former Nazi leaders accused of the murder of 64,000 Jews in Poland during the Second World War, the Assize Court in Wiesbaden accepted a plea by the defence rejecting the impartiality of one of the judges on its bench on the ground that he had a Jewish grandmother. The "non-Aryan" judge was voted off the bench.

Thus the infamous Nazi Nuremberg Laws are still being applied today!

F. HELLENDALL

N.P.D. DEFEATED IN HESSE AND BAVARIAN DIET ELECTIONS

In the Hesse Diet elections at the beginning of November the National Democratic Party (N.P.D.) lost all the eight seats it had held in the Hesse Parliament since 1966. It obtained only 3.1 per cent of the vote as against 7.9 per cent polled in 1966. [A party requires a minimum of five per cent of the vote to qualify for parliamentary representation.]

In the Bavarian Diet elections on November 22, the N.P.D. obtained only 2.9 per cent of the vote and lost all its 15 seats, thus confirming the extremist Party's downward trend in West Germany.

NATIONALISTS CONSOLIDATE

A Right-wing political group, "Resistance Action", has been formed by about 3,000 members of West German nationalist organisations, including the National Democratic Party, at a rally in Wuerzburg to oppose the Bonn Government and its foreign policy. Speakers at the rally included Adolf von Thadden, the N.P.D. leader; Linus Kather, former president of the West German organisation of expellees and refugees; Dr. Peter Kleist, chairman of the new group and formerly on the staff of the Nazi Foreign Ministry; and Professor Austin App, honorary president of the organisation of U.S. citizens of German origin.

"ZENTRALRAT" 20 YEARS OLD

At the latest meeting of the Direktorium of the "Zentralrat" of the Jews in Germany, speakers recalled that, 20 years ago, Dr. H. G. van Dam was appointed its general secretary and an office was opened in Hamburg which was later transferred to Düsseldorf. The anniversary is also mentioned in the 1970 report which states that the Zentralrat has taken up tasks which were not only essential for the Jews in Germany but also of importance for the Jews abroad. "The re-establishment of Jewish communities," the report states, "was a decisive beginning, in fact a test for approach to the problems of Jewish-Christian and German-Jewish relationship." The AJR joins the other Jewish organisations who have expressed their good wishes to the "Zentralrat" on the occasion of the anniversary.

MARTIN BUBER — JUGENDHERBERGE

Mr. W. Haberland, a Jewish citizen of Hamburg, who passed away last April, left a legacy of DM 1 million to the Baden Section of the German Youth Hostel Organisation for the erection of a Youth Centre in Ueberlingen (Bodensee) to be named after Martin Buber. The centre is to serve as a venue for meetings between Israeli and German young people.

WAISENRENTEN FUER VERHEIRATETE KINDER

In der deutschen Sozialversicherung ist vorgesehen, dass Waisenrenten, die bis zur Vollendung des 25. Lebensjahres zahlbar sind, im Falle der Eheschliessung in Wegfall kommen. Aehnliche Regelungen sind im Beamtenrecht des Bundes und der Laender und auch im Entschadigungsgesetz vorgesehen.

Nach einer Entscheidung des Bundesverfassungsgerichts vom 27.5.1970 sind diese Bestimmungen mit dem Grundgesetz (der deutschen Verfassung) nicht vereinbar, wenn der Ehegatte zur Unterhaltsleistung gegenueber seiner Ehefrau (z.B. weil er selbst noch Student ist) nicht in der Lage ist. Eine neue gesetzliche Regelung muss fuer diese Faelle noch getroffen werden. Es empfiehlt sich, dass alle Berechtigten entsprechende Antraege bei den zustaendigen Stellen einreichen, ueber die spaeter entschieden werden muss, wenn die noch fehlende gesetzliche Regelung nachgeholt worden ist.

AUSTRIAN LAWYERS

We have been requested to bring the following to the notice of our readers: Last summer the representatives of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria (Chairman, Dr. Nahum Goldman) took up with the appropriate Austrian Ministries the question of pensions for former Austrian lawyers who had emigrated and do not qualify for pensions under the terms of the 19th Amendment to the General Social Insurance Law.

The prospects seem to be encouraging, but it has always been the considered policy of the Committee to publish only firm arrangements in order to avoid disappointments. In view of a notice on the subject which had recently appeared in a New York paper, the Committee states that at present there is no need for undertaking any such steps as registering of names, etc.

It is hoped to publish more news in one of our next issues.

OLIVE TREE FROM MAYOR KOLLEK

Mr. Teddy Kollek, Mayor of Jerusalem, has sent an olive sapling as a symbolic gift to the West German President, Dr. Gustav Heinemann. He has also invited the President to visit Jerusalem again, together with his wife. They visited Israel when Dr. Heinemann was Minister of Justice.

STUTTGART MEMORIAL

About 2,000 people attended the unveiling in Stuttgart of a memorial stone to the victims of Nazism. Headed by Baden-Wuerttemberg Premier Dr. Hans Filbinger, they included Jewish and non-Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution.

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BIRTHDAY TRIBUTES TO ALFRED S. DRESEL

OUR CHAIRMAN

On January 3, Mr. Alfred S. Dresel will celebrate his 80th birthday. He has been associated with the AJR since its inception, first as a Board member and, since 1953, as a member of the Executive. In 1955, he became vice-chairman and, in 1963 chairman of the AJR.

As a personality, he fulfils all the requirements necessary for the chairmanship of an organisation with as widespread activities as those of the AJR. He is determined and, at the same time, open to arguments of his fellow workers. His clear, logical mind is matched with a deeply rooted devotion to our community. His initiative has resulted in the promotion of many new activities, and at the same time, he has succeeded in ensuring the co-ordination of the variety of tasks to be performed by the AJR.

Mr. Dresel is at home in all spheres of the day-to-day work, whether they concern questions of general policy, of our position in Anglo-Jewish life, or of organisation and finances. His main bent, however, is towards the social work. Here, his combination of long-term policy-making and sense of detail is invaluable. He has left his mark on the history of the AJR by his decisive part in the creation and administration of the Homes. Now, as the comprehensive building programme has been completed, he looks further afield, and the next task to be accomplished under his guidance is the extension and intensification of the welfare work for those who are not accommodated in Homes and who also require help of one kind or another.

As chairman of the organisation, Mr. Dresel also presides over the meetings of the Executive. It is due to his initiative that these meetings are held at regular and comparatively short intervals. In this way it has become possible to give due thought to all aspects of our current work and to arrive at decisions after a thorough exchange of views. At the same time, this team work has resulted in feelings of genuine friendship between the members of the Executive and their chairman.

The key to Mr. Dresel's success is his unreserved sincerity. He abhors tactical manoeuvres, not only because they run against his character but also because he knows—and so he taught his fellow workers—that they do not pay.

All members of our community have, directly or indirectly, benefited from Mr. Dresel's signal services. On their behalf as well as on behalf of his colleagues on the Executive and, last not least, of the staff at Fairfax Mansions, we thank him for all he has done and extend our sincerest birthday wishes to him.

W. ROSENSTOCK.

MANAGEMENT OF THE OLD AGE HOMES

It seems incredible that Alfred Dresel should be about to join the Club of the Octogenarians. His ways, his unbounding energy and capacity for work, his instantaneous grasp of facts, details and figures belie his age.

Those who knew Dresel in his days as one of the leading personalities of Mendelssohn & Co., the famous Berlin banking firm, spoke with reverence coupled with an admiring awe about his legal acumen and deep wisdom. It was to Dresel, the eminent lawyer, that the writer of these lines was introduced some 30 years ago, by a mutual friend. It was 15 years later that a permanent contact was established, this time not only with the jurist of distinction, but with the warm-hearted advocate of his

fellow refugees, to whose interests and welfare he devoted his full force and vigour and very nearly all his time. This was when, from funds recovered by the Jewish Trust Corporation for Germany, the Central British Fund established a network of Old Age Homes, in the creation and administration of which, from the very birth of the idea, the AJR took such a prominent part, and when both Alfred Dresel and this writer became members of the management committee of the homes.

As chairman of that committee since 1968 he has displayed all the skill and also charm of a born negotiator, always finding a common denominator for committee members' sometimes diverging views on details. It was his rectitude and uprightness, his unshaken adherence to principles, coupled with humanity of outlook and, above all, with com-



passion for the suffering, that created in the management committee the harmony, for which all members feel deeply indebted to him.

A year ago Dresel saw the completion of a project, initially fraught with difficulties, but particularly dear to his heart: the opening of Eleanor Rathbone House in North London. There, over 50 refugees, many of whom, 30 years after they had come to this country, were still living in miserable and cold furnished rooms, found the long yearned for privacy, symbolised by a front door of their own. That building will for ever remain a monument to Alfred Dresel.

C. I. KAPRALIK

WORK FOR THE COUNCIL OF JEWS FROM GERMANY

On behalf of the Council of Jews from Germany, I am happy to join the other well-wishers in their birthday tributes to Mr. Dresel.

We had already known each other slightly 60 years ago, when we were both law students at the Berlin University. Then our ways separated, as Dresel did not go into law practice, but became a banker, one of the leading men of the old-established and famous banking house Mendelssohn & Co. in Berlin. Before this, he acted for a while as coach to law students, an activity which requires an especi-

ally thorough knowledge and understanding of law. He has preserved these outstanding legal qualifications through all his years as a business man, as became evident when he returned to law in this country. We met again when the AJR was founded in 1941 and both of us became active in it. After the war, we arranged to use the same office for our legal practice.

Mr. Dresel's qualities as an admirably thorough lawyer and man of affairs with an unflinching judgement for practical requirements and possibilities made him an ideal Executive member of the British section of the Council of Jews from Germany. This section has, from the very beginning, been in charge of all matters concerning restitution and indemnification. Mr. Dresel joined the British Executive in 1953 and has thus participated in its work and that of its Legal Committee for more than 17 years. During that period he has had a decisive share in all deliberations and vetted the innumerable applications submitted by the Council to the German authorities. He was also a member of several Council delegations to Germany, and the weight of his legal argument as well as his understanding for the desirable and the possible always proved to be a decisive asset in the negotiations with the German officials and members of Parliament.

During the long years of common activity we have become firm personal friends. It gives me, therefore, particular pleasure to express, in the name of all his colleagues on the Council, both in this country and abroad, to Mr. Dresel, his wife and his family, the best wishes for good health and spirit in many more years to come.

W. BRESLAUER.

H. OSCAR JOSEPH 70

A historian of the future, tracing the development of the Merchant Banks in the City of London, will soon discover one common factor, namely that most of these old established firms were founded by Jews from Germany. The banking firm of Leopold Joseph & Sons is no exception. Mr. Leopold Joseph was the financial correspondent of the "Frankfurter Zeitung" before establishing the Merchant Banking firm, in which in later years his sons joined him and which thus became the well-known firm of Leopold Joseph & Sons.

Today, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate one of his sons, Mr. H. Oscar Joseph, O.B.E., on his 70th birthday on January 9. Although the family has no longer any connections with the firm, Mr. Oscar Joseph has not relinquished his City activities.

In the Jewish field, his constructive interests were and still are widespread, and one might be permitted to say that it was partly through the late Otto Schiff, who was a great friend of Oscar Joseph, that in 1938 he came in contact with the Jewish Refugees Committee. In accordance with his approach to general problems, it is the care for the individual which has always caught his particular attention.

In 1945, Mr. Joseph became joint treasurer of the Central British Fund, of which he has been the chairman since 1957. He also takes a leading part in the work of the European Council of Jewish Community Services. I trust that Mr. Joseph will forgive me if I have not mentioned all the organisations with which he is working, always available to give help and advice.

Our wish for him is that for many years to come he may continue his valuable work in good health for the good of the community.

W. M. BEHR

NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Senator Kennedy Urges Aid to Jews

In a message sent at the end of November to the meeting of the governing council of ICEM (Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration) in Geneva, Senator Edward Kennedy urged diplomatic initiatives to help the emigration of Jews and others from the Soviet Union.

Yippy Leader Supports Arab Guerrillas

"If Moses were alive today, he would be an Arab guerrilla." This is what the American Yippy leader, Jerry Rubin, told a *Jewish Chronicle* reporter at a press conference early in November which marked the launching of his book "Do It" and of the British branch of the Youth International Party (YIP). He concedes that he was "born Jewish" but he now supports the Palestinian "revolutionaries".

Chanucah Savings Clubs

Christmas savings clubs are a traditional feature of the American as well as the British national scene. Now America has been going one better to show that there is no bias against Jews in this land of opportunity for all. Chanucah savers' clubs have sprung up in New York and Los Angeles according to a "Business Week" report.

CHILE

Jewish Exodus

The first 300 of 1,000 Jews who left Chile for Israel in October arrived in Haifa at the end of November. They reported that despite the fact that President Allende had gone out of his way to reassure the community that its position would not be harmed, there had been near panic among its members. Almost all the arrivals had professional qualifications. Fearing a repetition in Chile of events in Cuba after the Communist take-over—when professional people were refused permission to leave—they left the country in a hurry. Most of these Chilean Jews were not able to dispose of their homes, businesses or practices. There were no buyers as it was feared that the new Communist administration would crack down on owners of private property. The newcomers estimated that about 10,000 of Chile's 36,000 Jewish community members were leaving the country. They believed that at least half would go to Israel.

Rabbi in Cathedral

For the first time in Chilean history there was an "ecumenical" ceremony in Santiago Metropolitan Cathedral at the inauguration of President Salvador Allende early in November. Dr. Manfred Lubliner, one of the ministers of the B'ne Jisroel (German-Jewish) congregation of Santiago, and a Protestant minister read short prayers from their respective liturgies at the invitation of the cathedral authorities.

Latin American Press Association Prizes

Two of the three Latin American journalists awarded the 1970 Maria Moors Cabot Prize are Jews. They are Mr. Alberto Dines, editor of the Rio de Janeiro morning paper, *Journal do Brasil*, and Mr. John M. Goshko, for 4½ years the Latin American correspondent of the *Washington Post*, who now represents that paper in West Germany. The prize consists of a gold medal and the equivalent of about £415 in cash and is awarded annually at a meeting of the Latin American Press Association to journalists who distinguished themselves in fighting for freedom and a better understanding between the countries of Latin America.

ECUADOR COMMUNITY

Most of Ecuador's Jews live in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, which has fewer than 300 Jewish families. Immigrants from Western and Central Europe, from Eastern Europe and a few Sephardi families, belong to the one synagogue and community organisation, and the community is notable for its cohesion. There are about ten Jewish families in the coastal town of Guayaquil and about six in Cuenca.

When Mr. Gabriel Doron, Israel's new Ambassador to Ecuador, presented his credentials, President Velasco Ibarra emphasised his firm friendship for Israel. In a military parade in Guayaquil to mark the 150th anniversary of its liberation from Spanish rule, three Israeli Defence Force units took part, carrying rifles, pitchforks and spades respectively. An Ecuadorian equivalent of Israel's Nahal (soldier-farmers) organisation are being trained by members of the Israeli Defence Forces.

AUSTRALIA

Chief Rabbi's Tour

The first tour of Australia by Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits was "an outstanding success exceeding all possible expectations". This was stated at the completion of the tour at the beginning of December by Mr. G. V. Falk, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, who was in charge of the arrangements. During his tour, Chief Rabbi Jakobovits gave sermons and addressed public gatherings in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane and Canberra. He also met political and civic leaders in various states. From Australia, the Chief Rabbi spent three days with the New Zealand Jewish community.

Rev. William Katz 75

The Rev. William Katz (Sydney) was 75 recently. Prior to his emigration he was, for many years, teacher and cantor at the Kassel Jewish community. When, with the help of many refugees from Nazi Europe, the North Shore Synagogue in Sydney was founded in 1940, Mr. Katz was appointed its Minister. He held this position until he retired in 1960. When the Congregation celebrated its Silver Jubilee, Mr. Katz described its history in the book "And the Ark Rested". This work also includes personal recollections of the author's life in Germany and of his own and his fellow refugees' gradual integration into Australian life.

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AFRIKANERS' CALL FOR "PROTECTION"

A call to protect the small farmers from "the big companies and the Jews" was voiced by delegates to the Transvaal Nationalist Party Congress in Pretoria early in November. They told D. C. H. Uys, Minister of Agriculture, that some of the best farmland in South Africa had passed from "Afrikaner hands into the hands of the Jews", especially in south-eastern Transvaal. Other delegates said that South Africa was "the Afrikaners' country" and that "the Oppenheimers and the Jews" should not be allowed to take it from them. Mr. Uys replied that the Government would act if a powerful company or a farm consortium placed the country's market mechanism in jeopardy. Otherwise little could be done without inter-

TOP JOURNALISM PRIZE FOR FRENCH JEW

Jacques Derogy, who more than 20 years ago covered the "Exodus" affair from southern France, has been awarded the much-valued "Aujourd'hui" prize for his book about his experiences, "The Law of the Return," which was published early in 1970. (Nearly 4,500 so-called illegal immigrants who had landed in Palestine in 1947 from the exodus were deported in pursuance of Ernest Bevin's policy. The ships which brought them back stayed for several weeks at Port de Bouc near Marseilles, then sailed for Hamburg, where the refugees from displaced persons' camps were forcibly disembarked.)

At that time Derogy, a Jew, whose real name is Weizmann, was fully assimilated, a stranger to Judaism and Zionism, but the coverage of the exodus affair reawakened his Jewish consciousness and prompted him to write his book.

DEFINITION OF "JEW" IN DUTCH DICTIONARY

Mr. Herman Bookdrukker at The Hague sued the publishers and the editor of Van Dale, Holland's foremost dictionary, for defamation of character in connection with the definition of "Jew" in the dictionary. The case was settled on the promise of the defendants that alterations would be made in the next issue.

RABBIS MEET IN ROME

Diaspora-Israeli relations during the three years since the Six-Day War were studied by the Conference of European Rabbis in Ostia, near Rome, at the beginning of December. Dr. Elio Toaff, Chief Rabbi of Rome, said the conference would also analyse the relationship between anti-Zionism and antisemitism. About 80 rabbis from Britain, Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Holland, Ireland, Italy, Rumania, Switzerland, Turkey and West Germany attended.

EL AL'S EFFICACIOUS AIR SECURITY MEASURES

General G. Davis, charged by President Nixon with studying civil air security measures, spent some days in Israel studying El Al's precautions against air terrorism. He left convinced of the efficacy of these measures, and said he would recommend the adoption of similar precautions to President Nixon.

Israel has already sold to Denmark a special device designed to protect passenger aircraft against explosives in luggage.

PAKISTAN REFUSES ISRAELI HELP

It is reported that Pakistan has rejected the aid offered by Israel after the recent cyclone disaster. The International Committee of the Red Cross is stated to have informed Magen David Adom in Tel Aviv of Pakistan's rejection of the proffered aid.

With acknowledgements to the news service of the *Jewish Chronicle*

HOME NEWS

CARDINAL HEENAN WARNS

In a lecture at the London School of Economics in mid-November Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, suggested that youth should see films on Nazism and the Holocaust. The greatest shock given to mankind in modern times was not the bomb on Hiroshima, but the persecution of the Jews in Nazi Germany. That had put an end to our belief in the myth of human progress. He added: "It would be educationally good to show the films of Belsen to young people every year. They should be allowed to see what was done in the name of national purity and eugenics by 20th century men and women. Although the trials of the criminals responsible for the torture and murder continue to this day, the full horror is scarcely known to citizens under 40 years of age. The best way of preventing barbarism is to put it on display."

Delivering the annual Lily Montagu memorial lecture to the London Society of Christians and Jews on 24th November, Cardinal Heenan warned that antisemitism "is not finished" and could break out at any time. There was a heavy responsibility on Christians to see that it did not recur. He accused the Soviet Union of following the example of Tsarist Russia in practising antisemitism.

DEFEAT FOR MAYHEW

Questioned on his impression of the Israeli administration of the occupied territories in an interview with *Varsity*, the Cambridge University newspaper, Mr. Christopher Mayhew, M.P., said: "I don't say that the Israelis want to create fear and oppression, but that is what they are doing. I think that any military occupation is bound to come to this in the end." He said that his sympathy for the Arab cause did not extend to the recent hijackings.

The interview was conducted by Jonathan Caplan just before a debate on the Middle East was held at the Union. Mr. Abba Eban, Israeli Foreign Minister, who was to have spoken against Mr. Mayhew, was unable to attend and was replaced by Mr. Raymond Fletcher, M.P. The motion "That this House calls upon Israel to withdraw from the territories occupied in the 1967 war to the previous armistice lines and allow all Palestinians to return" was defeated by 340 votes to 160.

LABOUR FRIENDS OF ISRAEL

Two former Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Edward Short, M.P., and Lord Greenwood, have rejoined the Labour Friends of Israel and have been elected to the organisation's national council. They were among several M.P.s who resigned when appointed to the Wilson Government. Three other former Ministers, Lord Burntwood (formerly Mr. Julian Snow), Mrs. Gwyneth Dunwoody and Dr. John Dunwoody have also been elected to the national council which now has 75 Members of both Houses in its ranks.

RAY GUNTER ON ISRAEL

"Israel has every reason to demand total support from every Jew in the world," said Mr. Ray Gunter, M.P., when he was guest of honour at the annual reunion of the Ajex Southend branch.

BARNET LIBERAL RESIGNS

Councillor John Webb, a non-Jewish member of Barnet Council, has resigned from the Liberal Party in protest against antisemitic policies adopted by a number of its younger members. He intends to remain on the Barnet Council and has applied for membership of the Conservative Party. It is understood that two other Liberals, Mr. Frank Davis and Mr. Leonard Sattin, former mayor and deputy mayor of Finchley respectively, are also reconsidering their membership of the Liberal Party.

DUTCH AWARD FOR LORD JANNER

Lord Janner was awarded the Order of Orange Nassau. In his citation at the ceremony in London, the Dutch Ambassador referred to Lord Janner's activities as Chairman of the Anglo-Dutch Parliamentary Group. In his response, Lord Janner also paid tribute to the friendship which Holland had shown to Israel from the very beginning and to the Jewish people since the days of the Spanish Inquisition.

DOCTORATE FOR LORD SHINWELL

Lord Shinwell was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Civil Law at Durham University.

TOP POST FOR SCIENTIST

Professor Hermann Bondi has been appointed to succeed Sir William Cook as the Defence Ministry's chief scientific adviser. He was born in Vienna 51 years ago. From 1954 until 1967 he was professor of applied mathematics at King's College, London. He was then given three years' leave of absence to become director-general of the European Space Research Organisation in Paris.

The Government's chief scientific adviser is Sir Solly Zuckerman.

FORMER REFUGEE APPOINTED COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

Dr. Ernst Brauer has been appointed chairman of Spennymoor Urban District Council, County Durham. To mark the occasion, a civic service was held at the Old Hebrew Congregation, Leazes Park Road, Newcastle, in November. Dr. Brauer was accompanied by the clerk of the Urban District Council and other officials.

Dr. Brauer, who was born in Germany 61 years ago, came to England as a refugee from Nazism and in 1936 obtained his British medical degrees at Glasgow and Edinburgh. In 1939 he went into general medical practice at Spennymoor, from which he retired last June. Since September he has been school medical officer for the Shildon area of County Durham. He is a member of the AJR.

RESEARCH LINK

Britain's Royal Society and Israel's National Academy of Sciences have signed an agreement to develop links between research scientists and institutes in both countries. Under a three-year programme, 45 British scientists have already visited Israel and 37 Israelis have been to Britain.

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ANGLO-JUDAICA

London Synagogue Centenaries

In a concert in November in the West London Synagogue marking its centenary in the present building, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra performed Ernest Bloch's *Avodat Hakodesh* (Sacred Service). An exhibition of Jewish art, a discussion on "Nationality and the creative process" (with Lord Goodman as one of the participants), and poetry and drama sessions were also held to commemorate the occasion.

Home Secretary Reginald Maudling unveiled a plaque at the Central Synagogue, London, also in November, to commemorate its centenary. The ceremony was followed by a service conducted by the emeritus Chief Rabbi, Sir Israel Brodie, Rabbi Cyril Shine and the Rev. Simon Hass, with a choir under the direction of P. Baumberg.

Leo Baeck College Appeal

About half of the £500,000 target of the Leo Baeck College Appeal has been realised. The appeal will continue for the college's development fund. This announcement was made at a reception in November to pay tribute to the hon. Peter Samuel, chairman of the appeal committee.

Forest for Soviet Jewry

The Jewish National Fund at its annual conference at Woburn House, London, in November proposed the establishment of a "Freedom Forest for Soviet Jewry." Mr. Harold Miller, a former chairman of the Zionist Federation, said the forest should consist of three million trees, the approximate number of Jews living in the USSR. The proposal is to be submitted to the Israeli authorities and to an international conference on Soviet Jewry to be held in Brussels early this year.

Non-Jews in Jewish Youth Clubs

The membership of non-Jews in Jewish youth clubs was discussed at a conference of the Association for Jewish Youth, held in Manchester. Mr. Sidney Bunt, training officer of the Association, stated that something like 5 per cent of the A.J.Y.'s 25,000 members were non-Jews and they mainly belonged to clubs in areas where Jewish people had moved out. Parents complained, Mr. Bunt said, that their children were exposed to the risk of assimilation and intermarriage by having non-Jews at Jewish clubs. But they forgot that the same situation could arise anywhere else—"at work, on holiday or even in a coffee bar".

Youth Orchestra

A committee has been elected for the formation of a Jewish Youth Orchestra with Mr. Ralph Finley, the initiator of the idea, as chairman. The inaugural meeting of members accepted after auditioning and their parents and friends was held at the Ben Uri Art Gallery.

It was announced that 30 applications had been received for places, of which 19 had been accepted after audition. There was an urgent need for more string players, particularly 'cellists.

Retirement of Dr. W. Zander

Dr. Walter Zander, secretary of the British Friends of the Hebrew University since 1944, will resign on March 31, 1971, to devote himself entirely to study and writing. He has recently completed a book, "Israel and the Holy Places of Christendom", to be published by Weidenfeld and Nicholson, and he intends to continue work in this field of study.

Robert Weltch

IN MEMORIAM JOHANNES URZIDIL

We were looking forward to his visit to London which had been announced for December last, and were deeply shocked when we heard of his sudden death in Rome during his lecture tour. Johannes Urzidil was one of the last of those whom the late Max Brod described as *Der Prager Kreis*, that group of writers and literary men which emerged in old Austrian Prague at the beginning of the century and later spread from there to various countries. In all their variety they never disowned their origin.

Inevitably, all who eulogise Urzidil will stress his particular relationship to Prague. Almost all his literary work is somehow bound up with this city which, in retrospect, appears still more mysterious and enveloped in semi-mystical atmosphere than it was in real life. This poet sensed it, he felt the pranks of ghosts behind the play of human shortcomings. In his stories, uncanny reality blended with dream gives an insight into the abyss of timeless metaphysical riddles. The combination of marvellous lucid diction with the ever-present irrationality of the human condition is one of the fascinating elements in Urzidil's writing. In this respect he had an unmistakable affinity with Kafka, whom he adored, and also with Adalbert Stifter, another Bohemian, who likewise was one of his models.

A Catholic Among Jews

There was, however, one disparity between Urzidil and the other members of the literary circle of Prague. The others, though individually of great diversity, all belonged, sociologically speaking, to the same group. They were the offspring of Jewish middle-class families, some wealthy, some less wealthy, but somehow of the same social background. Their fathers were merchants, lawyers, bank clerks, etc., they formed the membership of the Deutsche Kasino, as well as of the B'nai B'rith and other representative Jewish associations. From this point of view, Catholic Urzidil was an outsider. True, one thing he had in common with all the others: They all went to one of the three German gymnasiums, where there was usually a Jewish majority. This school was often denounced, and also ridiculed, and even now its character is often distorted, as, incidentally, is that of old Austria which is wrongly depicted as an oppressive tyranny.

As a matter of fact, the gymnasium was, with all its shortcomings, a unique institution which had a decisive formative influence on its students. Toni Stolper, in her biography of her husband, which I looked at again on the occasion of the publication of Theodor Heuss's *Tagebuchbriefe* (Rainer Wunderlich Verlag, Tübingen) which are addressed to her, makes a very poignant remark about this type of school:

"The Austrian gymnasium of the studying generation between 1866 and 1918 is a historical institution which still awaits sociological analysis. Beyond all the disrupting political forces which the First World War exposed so vehemently, this Austrian gymnasium had such a uniting educational effect that its alumni later recognised each other immediately anywhere, when they met as citizens of the Habsburg Monarchy's antagonistic successor states. They were at home with each other because they all spoke the same intellectual language."

Reading that, I could not help thinking of Urzidil. He was the very incarnation of such a man who in his youth absorbed the love of

classical antiquity which never left him. Urzidil was a young late-comer to the literary circle of the Café Arco which he has so lovingly and impressively depicted. I think he was the only Catholic there. That his mother, who died when he was four, had been a Jewess was not generally known. He revealed it recently in his witty memorial to his pan-German and slightly antisemitic father,* where he also describes his stepmother as a militant Czech. Young Johannes, however, felt attracted to the "Jewish" atmosphere of his friends and quickly assimilated himself; he married the daughter of a rabbi, charming and intelligent Trude Thieberger. When Hitler came, they shared the fate of Jewish emigrants. It seems to me that during the years of his homelessness he arrived at a deeper understanding of what Jewishness means as a determining historical phenomenon. He became not only one of the indefatigable bards of the vanishing world of Prague and its German-Jewish writers, he also took a lively interest in the history of German-speaking Jews, and in this way he became in New York one of the most enthusiastic patrons and collaborators of the Leo Baeck Institute, which could always rely on his co-operation. This identification went so far that he bequeathed his literary estate to the Institute.

Contrary to modern trends, Urzidil was one who knew of the irreplaceable value of a humanist education; even in the utilitarian life of America he was looking for signs of antiquity. He knew many passages of classical poetry by heart. Still more, he was familiar with everything that Goethe had written, and he could quote him ad libitum. Goethe was one of his heroes, the other was Kafka, and to old Prague, the city of three nations—Czechs, Germans and Jews—with all its scurrilous

* In: *Väterliches aus Prag und Handwerklisches aus New York*. Artemis Verlag, Zurich, 1969.

ingredients, he has set a lasting memorial. Most of his writings are overt or veiled autobiography, and the nostalgic note is overshadowed by his great humanity and his never failing humour. He was a man of hilarious vitality and self-assurance who delighted in mixing with people. This was evident in private conversation not less than in his public lectures. He was a brilliant raconteur and a skilful lecturer who always found contact with his audience.

The Leo Baeck Institute in New York had ample opportunity of enjoying his company and of benefiting from his talents. It was there that he gave his lecture on the "Contribution of Jewish Prague to Modern German Literature" (printed as Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture No. 11), and it is especially moving now to remember his lecture on "Prague as a Spiritual Starting Point", given in 1965 on the occasion of the 80th birthday of another great writer and noble intellectual figure originating from Prague, Erich von Kahler. This essay (also printed by the L.B.I. in New York) is an interpretation which testifies to Urzidil himself not less than to the character of the *Jubilar* in whose honour he spoke. Kahler, a fellow of the New York L.B.I., passed away at the age of 85 on June 28, less than six months before Urzidil.

Two men from Prague who were very different, one the scion of an aristocratic Jewish upper-class family and the other the son of a Catholic railway official, became emigrants and Americans. One died in Princeton, the other died in Rome, but somehow they were linked together by fate and intention. Both deserve a lasting place in the literary pantheon of Prague.

E. G. Lowenthal

ESSEN UNDER THE NAZIS

A Documentary

The brief documentary report by Beate Alice Stern de Neumann (Mexico), published under the title "Synagogengemeinde in Essen von 1933 bis 1940" in the bulletin of the Society for the Preservation of the Essen Minster ("Das Muenster am Hellweg", 1970/6), very suitably complements Hans-Josef Steinberg's work "Widerstand und Verfolgung in Essen 1933-1945" (Hanover, 1969). Beate Alice Stern de Neumann was born in Essen and from 1929 to 1938 she was secretary in the office of the Rhineland-Westphalia branch of the "Juedische Central-Verein". Drawing on her excellent memory she records in her report a number of factual and personal details. She recalls the flourishing, indeed prosperous, Jewish community at a time when the number of Jews in this city was still around 4,000 and lists the institutions, which the community was able to set up (synagogue, kindergarten, youth centre), thanks mainly to the donations of the Essen banking family of Hirschland. From 1933 onwards the youth centre developed into a well-equipped community centre. Beate Stern describes the steadily increasing pressure under which the Jewish population of Essen was forced to live from 1933 onwards, the gradual removal of the Jews from trade and industry, their growing pauperisation, which resulted in additional demands on community social welfare. Soon all hopes were pinned on emigration which in many cases entailed vocational retraining. The experiences of the pogrom night in November, 1938, conclude the report.

The editor of the bulletin supplied some additional facts and names which the Essen Municipal Archive was able to provide.

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DOCUMENT OF A FRIENDSHIP

"Ich bin ein Jude, bin ein Schwabe, bin ein Deutscher, wohne in Zürich. . ." With these words Julius Marx introduces the book in which he takes stock of his life. Born of an old Jewish family in a small South German village, Marx made his name with his "Kriegstagebuch eines Juden", published in Switzerland in 1939, in which he told of his experiences as an officer in the German army during the First World War. Now the author, shortly before his death at 82, published his memoirs under the curious title "Georg Kaiser, ich und die anderen".* It is, in form and concept, a remarkable book. On the morning after his 78th birthday, Marx decided to recapitulate his life in the form of a diary over the span of one year—a resolution he carried out to the letter. In telling his story, he dispenses with continuity; instead he recalls people and events at random as they come to his mind. At the end we are left with the rounded picture of an unusually rich and varied life, and of an extraordinary personality.

Julius Marx was by profession a businessman—before the rise of Hitler he ran a large firm for car accessories in Stuttgart—but his literary and artistic inclinations brought him in touch with many prominent men of the time. It is the combination of these two sides of his existence which stamped his whole life. For he saw the main purpose of his commercial activities as providing him with the means of helping his artistic friends. "Wenn das materielle Fundament einer Existenz nicht stimmt und tragend ist", he writes, "nützt kein Höhenflug des Geistes."

After his emigration to Switzerland, he founded a film agency with the object of helping exiled German writers to sell their scripts on the international film market. It was mainly during those years that he came into contact with prominent emigrant authors, among them Thomas Mann, Josef Roth, Max Brod, Stefan Zweig, and, above all, Georg Kaiser. He also took an active part in the fight against Nazi Germany. Owing to his friendship with Paul Reynaud, the French Minister and later Premier, he repeatedly went to Paris to warn the government of the growing Nazi menace. His suggestion to form a Jewish legion fell on deaf ears.

The most interesting part of these reminiscences, however, centres on Georg Kaiser, to whose memory the whole book is dedicated. The friendship with the playwright, who had fled from Germany in 1938 and lived in exile in Switzerland until his death in 1945, is, one feels, the outstanding experience in Marx's life. Halfway through his book, he inserts a diary he kept during the Second World War, in which he recorded his almost daily contact with Georg Kaiser. Kaiser, deprived of his income from the German theatre and living in utter penury, constantly harassed by the Swiss restrictions on aliens, found in Marx not only an understanding friend but a man prepared to help him materially to the limit of his own means. The picture Marx draws of this fascinating personality shows both light and shade. Vacillating between wild flights of vision and utter dejection, he seems like a figure from one of his own plays, unable to distinguish between reality and imagination. Marx, himself hard pressed, did his utmost to help his great friend. On the very

day he had at last succeeded in securing a contract with a Swiss publisher for an edition of Kaiser's works, he received the news of the dramatist's death in Ascona. Marx was one of the few to attend the cremation and to speak moving words of farewell.

It is this record of the last years of the brilliant playwright that makes these memoirs remarkable. The last part is devoted to a journey to Israel—his first visit to what he proudly calls "das Land meiner Väter". Here he feels for the first time to be "ein Gleicher unter Gleichen": "Hier hatte ich nicht den Drang, mich im Verhältnis zu den andern hervortun zu müssen, mehr leisten zu müssen, um gleichwertig wie sie zu sein." And he concludes that, if he were ten or 20 years younger, he would settle in that country. Leaving Israel, he feels reminded of the day he had to emigrate from his native land.

Marx finished his book, as intended, on the eve of his 79th birthday, not only looking back but looking ahead, still active and successful. His generosity of heart is summed up on one of the last pages: "Wie glücklich wäre ich gewesen, hätte ich in den letzten Lebensjahren Georg Kaisers soviel Kapital zur Verfügung gehabt wie heute. Wie hätte ich diesem armen, aber grossen Manne helfen können!"

ANNA SEGHERS 70

The authoress Anna Seghers (Netty Ratvani née Reiling), president of the Writers' Association in the German Democratic Republic, was 70 recently. She was awarded the Kleistpreis in 1928 and several other prizes after the Second World War. Anna Seghers was born in Mainz as the daughter of Jewish parents. Her father and several other members of her family perished in concentration camps. She emigrated first to France and from there to Mexico and now lives in Dresden.

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Old Acquaintances

Home News: Playwright John Mortimer adapted Carl Zuckmayer's "Hauptmann von Koepenick" for presentation at the Old Vic next spring, directed by F. Dunlop and featuring Paul Scofield. Zuckmayer's own autobiography, "A Part of Myself", has been published by Secker and Warburg.—Peter Zadek came over from Germany to collaborate with Robert Muller on a TV play, and with Leo Lehmann on the script of his next film based on Thomas Mann's "Zauberberg".—An invitation has been extended to Berlin's Schiller-Theater to participate in the World Theatre Season at London's Aldwych in April.—Peter Kortner, son of Fritz Kortner and Johanna Hofer, has sold the film rights of his first novel, "Jim for Sale", to Elliot Kastner here.—Radio Basle has commissioned Peter Ury to make a full-length feature on the British housewife who claims to hear melodies composed but not published by long dead famous composers.

U.S.A.: Eric Pommer's son, John, producer of the Bing Crosby TV series, "Hogan's Heroes", has completed his first feature film, "Willard".—Felix Jackson, who wrote "Fuenf von der Jazzband" under his own name of Joachimsohn, has completed a new play for early production on Broadway.—The pre-1933 compère of Berlin's Kabarett der Namenlosen, Elow, took the chair at Club 33 in Los Angeles when Georg Froeschel, the well-known author, spoke on Thanksgiving Day.

Obituary: Leo Matthias, the Berlin-born journalist and author of an anti-American book, committed suicide in Ascona just before the publication by Rowohlt of his autobiography, "Es hing an einem Faden". His first wife, Lisa, was the model on whom Tucholsky based his Lottchen, and she entitled her reminiscences "I was Tucholsky's Lottchen".

Germany: At Berlin's Renaissance-Theatre Werner Finck has appeared with a new programme, "Alter Narr—was nun?". There, too, Valerie von Martens has directed "Menagerie" by her late husband, Curt Goetz.—Paul Dessau is working on a new opera about Einstein based on an idea by Brecht.—Berlin's Lord Mayor invited Tilla Durieux, Guiseppe Becce, Dr. Hans Cuerlis and the architect H. Warm to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the showing of the brothers Skladanowsky's first film at the Wintergarten.—"My Fair Lady", adapted for the German stage by Robert Gilbert, was seen in 18 theatres by 654,000 people during 1969/70.

Milestones: Sig Arno, who now lives in Hollywood, painting in his leisure hours, has celebrated his 75th birthday. He was one of Berlin's most successful comedians during the 'twenties.—The well-known Hungarian-born actor, Leonhard Steckel, is 70 years old. He survived the Nazi régime in Zurich and returned to Germany a few years ago.—On January 27 Willy Fritsch, the one-time darling of German films, celebrates his 75th birthday in Hamburg.

News from Everywhere: A film about the Marquis de Sade directed by Cy Enfield and starring Kair Dullea and John Huston, will also feature Lilli Palmer, Senta Berger and Sonja Ziemann.—Ernst Hauessermann, former director of Vienna's Burg-Theater, is to go on a lecture tour of the United States, where he survived the war.—A feature about Zurich called "I'm Mitternacht ist alles vorbei", has been produced by Erwin Leiser for German TV.

PEM

* Julius Marx: *Georg Kaiser, ich und die anderen*. C. Bertelsmann Verlag, Gütersloh, 1970. DM 19.80.

Gabriele Tergit

EIN CHRONIST UNSERER ZEIT

Zu PEM's 70. Geburtstag

Der 70. Geburtstag unseres Freundes PEM bietet uns eine willkommene Gelegenheit ihm für seine langjährige treue Mitarbeit an "AJR Information" zu danken. Seine Berichte über "Old Acquaintances" sind zum unentbehrlichen Bestandteil unseres Blattes geworden. Sie werden von unsern Lesern mit besonderem Interesse verfolgt. Was unseren Freunden aber nicht bekannt sein kann, und was bei dieser Gelegenheit ausgesprochen werden soll, ist die Tatsache, dass eine Redaktion sich keinen zuverlässigeren und pünktlicheren ständigen Mitarbeiter wünschen kann. Wir wünschen uns viele weitere Jahre freundschaftlicher Zusammenarbeit mit PEM und gratulieren ihm auf das herzlichste.—Die vielfältigen Leistungen, auf die er zurückblicken kann, sind in dem folgenden Artikel von Gabriele Tergit dargestellt.—W.R.

18. Januar! 1701 Königskrönung in Königsberg, 1871 Kaiserproklamation in Versailles, 1901 PEM geboren, möchte Journalist werden, aber da Bismarck gesagt hat, "ein Journalist ist ein Mensch, der seinen Beruf verfehlt hat", erlaubt es Vater PEM nicht und steckt ihn in eine Bank.

PEM gibt den Traum nicht auf. Erster Artikel für eine Korrespondenz erscheint nur in Guben: "Die Wirtschaftliche Bedeutung Chinas für die Mittelmächte". So ermutigt, schreibt er ab 1924 für "Der Junggeselle", für den Remarque "Cocktailrezepte" liefert, gründet das Kabarett "Die Unmöglichen" im Topkeller, in dem sonst nur die Gangstervereine "Glaube, Liebe, Hoffnung" resp. "Lotterie Pyramide" tagen, ist am ersten Abend ausverkauft, am zweiten leer, da die Gangster vor der Tür jeden mit "überfüllt" abweisen, also spielt PEM auf Teilung, bis die Baupolizei den Keller schliesst.

Ende 23 wurde eine Partei der republikanischen Sammlung gegründet. An ihrer Zeitung "Die Republik", deren Chefredakteur Karl Vetter war, arbeitete PEM. Nach der völligen Niederlage der Partei bei den Reichstagswahlen im Mai 24 wurde er Chefredakteur der Zeitung des Artistenverbandes "Das Organ" und schrieb sehr offene "Journalistenköpfe", die ihm nur Peter Sachse, Inhaber von 14 Kabaretts, für den "Berliner Herold", Organ des Gastwirtsgewerbes, abnahm.

Ueber den mächtigen Redakteur aller Ullsteinzeitschriften, Kurt Korff—die Berliner Illustrierte allein wurde mit 2 Millionen Auflage nur von der New Yorker Saturday Evening Post übertroffen—schrieb er: "Die Illustrierte brachte im Sommer 1919 Ebert und Noske in der Badehose als Titelseite. Sie wurde ein grandioses Instrument in der Hand der Republikgegner. Es war glänzend journalistisch und unverzeihlich antidemokratisch gehandelt."

Die "Köpfe" brachten ihn zum "12 Uhr Blatt" unter der Bedingung, dass er einen "Kopf" des Chefredakteurs Steinthal schriebe, was er nie tat.

1933 ging er nach Wien. Hans Habe, der drei Heimwehrzeitungen dirigierte und Chef von "Der Morgen" war, beschäftigte ihn.

Als PEM die Privatkorrespondenz mit Kollegen, die wissen wollten, wer wo was war, über den Kopf wuchs, antwortete er mit "PEM's Privaten Berichten" (10 Schilling im Vierteljahr), die er allein abzog.

1935 übersiedelte er nach London. Im Mount Royal spielten Rudolf Olden, PEM und Kerr jede Woche Redaktionskonferenz für die Pariser Tageszeitung, und Peter Lorre verschaffte PEM die Londoner Korrespondenz des "Hollywood Reporter", ein Seiltanz, weil Heinrich Fränkel ihm jede Zeile ins Englische übersetzen musste. Als der amerikanische Redakteur in London auftauchte, sagte er zu dem stotternden PEM: "Don't bother. Bei uns sprechen alle viel schlechteres Englisch als Sie."

Mit Kriegsausbruch versiegte diese Dollarquelle sofort. Von 1939-42 war er im Pionierkorps und bis 1945 in einer Annoncenexpedition.

In den hunderten von neu gegründeten deutschen Zeitungen von Aachen bis Zeitz, die später in "Die Neue Zeitung" zusammengeschweisst wurden, stand Eisenhower's berühmter Aufruf: "Wir kommen als Sieger", aber auch ein Artikel von PEM: "Die den Tag nicht erlebten", die Toten der Emigration.

1945 gab ihm Billy Wilder £2 Sterling Vorschuss für 2 Jahresabonnements. Mit diesem Betriebskapital erstanden PEM's Berichte neu in englisch auf blauem Papier als "PEM's Personal Bulletins". Sie teilten weiter mit, wer was wo war. Sie brachten Getrennte zusammen, sie bewahrten Namen. Wen PEM auf seinen Listen hatte, der war nicht verschollen. "Ein mutiges Blatt, gerechten Sinns—PEM's Personal Bulletins"—schrieb Kerr.

PEM arbeitete für die "Sie" von Heinz Ullstein und Hellmuth Kindler, für das Foreign Office, als dieses noch "Die Welt" herausgab, für die "Deutsche Presse-Agentur".

1948 ging aus einer Sommerabendunterhaltung mit Hans Habe und Hans Albers am Starnberger See als eine Serie für die Münchener Illustrierte "Heimweh nach dem Kurfürstendamm" hervor, das Blanvalet mit toller Reklame als Buch und Taschenbuch herausbrachte, von dem 50.000 verkauft wurden. Ein zweites Buch "Und der Himmel hängt voller Geigen" war dann ein sehr viel kleinerer Erfolg.

Aber—und das war für mich genau so eine Sensation wie es sie für die Leser der "AJR Information" sein dürfte—von diesem wendigen, geschickten Journalisten, der kein Stilist ist, erschien 1939 bei John Lane, in ein vorzügliches Englisch übersetzt, das Buch unserer Gemeinschaft: "Strangers Everywhere".

Hier sind sie alle, das junge Mädchen mit der Namensheirat, der verzweifelte, hilflose Mensch im "bedsitting room", der Mann, der Geld für andre über die Grenze bringt, be-

trogen und vernichtet von einer Naziagentin in Wien, und der, der die Nerven verliert und 50 Tausendmarkscheine vor Bentheim aus dem Zugfenster wirft, der alte preussische Beamte, der mit Büromaterial in Paris hauiert und mit dem Deutschen Reich einen Kampf um seine Pension führt, Abraham v. Deutsches Reich, die Hausangestellte, 12 Schilling die Woche oder nur fünf, zehn Zimmer und drei Kinder.

Viele sind mit Namen genannt, Ackermann, der einen kostbaren Apparat mitbringt, über dem er in glühender Hitze Baumkuchen bakt, mit dem er das Empire zu erobern gedenkt, ein 500 Baumkuchen-Auftrag von Sydney z.B., Lily Palmer, der junge, gut aussehende, rastlose Curt Riess, der, nachdem ihm jahrelang hunderte von Artikeln zurückgeschickt wurden, für 35 Zeitungen in zwölf Sprachen amerikanischer Korrespondent wird, der British-born deutsche Patriot, der sich zwischen allen Stühlen fühlt, die phantastischen bürgerlichen Eigenschaften dieser mitteleuropäischen Juden, Energie, Bescheidenheit, Fleiss, Sparsamkeit. Da erfährt man von der Mordtat und dem Selbstmord von Hannussens Sekretär in Wien, von dem jüdischen Schauspieler Leo Reuss, über den die Nazis, als er sich mit blond gefärbtem Haar und Bart in Caspar Brandhofer verwandelt hat, schreiben, dass dieser judenverseuchte Beruf des Schauspielers erst wieder eine Kunst wird, wenn rassereine Deutsche wie Caspar Brandhofer aus dem Volk aufsteigen. Paul Grätz, unser Berliner "Paule", arbeitete sofort in London in Tauberfilmen. Es wurde ein englischer Film um ihn gedreht, "Mr. Cohen takes a walk", eine jüdische Geschichte, über die die Leute in der Edgware Road, wo man for sixpence in weichen Sesseln in der Wärme besser aufgehoben war als in jedem kontinentalen Café, weinten und lachten wie nur je in Berlin. Aber Paul Grätz brach 1937 aus Sehnsucht nach Berlin in Hollywood zusammen, als er mit der Garbo in Marie Walewska spielen sollte.

Vielleicht das Gespenstischste ist, dass eine französische Organisation 35 Refugees mit Smoking und erster Klasse Billets auf einen Dampfer setzt, weil sie nur so in einem lateinamerikanischen Staat ohne weiteres an Land gelassen werden.

Hier ist endlich nicht das ewige, welches Land erlaubte unter welchen Bedingungen einzuwandern, nicht die heute so beliebte Sekundärliteratur "über", hier sind die Menschen im Pub, im Woburn House, im Kampf um den Schilling, die emigrés 1933-39. Und dazu 16 Fotos mit allem Glanz der Jugend, Fred Uhlmann, Lily Palmer, Joe Pasternak und Henry Koster (Kosterlitz) mit Diana Durbin auf einer Seite des "Stürmer", drei reizende junge Leute, umgeben von dessen ganzem Schmutz, ein glücklicher Felix Joachimsohn und zuletzt ein kleiner Junge in Berlin, in Spanien, in Paris, in London, er ist ein kleiner Spanier, ein Pariser Gamin, ein englischer public school boy, er hat schon drei Sprachen vergessen, er wird Byron statt Schiller und Disraeli statt Fichte lesen, es ist die grandiose Adaptionsfähigkeit alles Jungen.

Unsre Vorfahren konnten Vertriebene sein, aber nicht emigrés. Ob sie die Synagoge in Cairo oder Wilna, in Bordeaux oder Feuchtwangen betreten, sie fanden ihre Welt wieder. Wir können das Rad der Weltgeschichte nicht zurückdrehen, aber dieses kurze, leicht lesbare Buch, das kurz vor Kriegsausbruch herauskam und über das die Katastrophe hinwegrannte, es ist eine einzigartige Quelle, es ist englisch, also nicht auf den kranken deutschen Buchmarkt angewiesen. Es muss noch einmal herauskommen, denn tat wam asi, hier bist du.

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Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum

EUROPE-YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

Hannah Arendt's brilliant essays* "Men in Dark Times" begin with a portrait of Gotthold Ephraim Lessing. Besides him, whom an English scholar of German literature called one of the not so many "sane Germans", the essays deal with Rosa Luxemburg, the late Pope John XXIII, Karl Jaspers, Hermann Broch, Walter Benjamin and Bertolt Brecht. Also included are portraits of three writers, who are not well known, but are personal friends of Hannah Arendt.

The always reoccurring theme in these essays is the question: what kind of cohesion makes men of letters, among them the numerous Jews, a separate social group? Are they an élite? Or are they—at least to some degree—outcasts, even regarded as pariahs by some establishment? Seeing Rosa Luxemburg as belonging to a "Polish-Jewish 'peer group'", Hannah Arendt distinguishes between Rosa Luxemburg's social and cultural home on the one hand and the Eastern European Jewish community, which she cannot appreciate as an ethnic community or as a brotherhood, on the other. Hannah Arendt is a German Jewess of the rare type which is still blind to the values of the Eastern European Jewish world. To her it becomes important that Rosa Luxemburg, revered by many as a typical intellectual with true Jewish roots, is not one of the *Ostjuden*.

Hannah Arendt herself was part of a circle of intellectuals in Germany up to 1933 and in France up to 1940. She still belongs to this group in New York, where everybody who is anybody among the people around "Commentary", is on New Year's Eve her guest at the "at home" in her flat. She reminds the reader that she worked for Schocken at one time, and that she also worked for Youth Aliyah. But she fails to give a Jewish answer to her problem of "humanity in dark times".

She follows Lessing, who rejected the concept of brotherhood. Lessing "wanted to be the friend of many men, but no man's brother" (p. 30). Hannah Arendt does not realise that brotherhood is a Christian concept and Lessing's rejection of it a religious protest. Whereas the prophets and after them the rabbis wanted to establish fellowship in history and deemed it possible, Paul had another cure for history. He preached brotherhood. He sent the runaway slave, Onesimus, back to his former owner. He asked for kindness towards Onesimus—but to ask for his release from bondage did not occur to him. Brotherhood does not change inequality into equality, fellowship does. With the understanding of the difference between fellowship and brotherhood we understand the difference between Judaism and Christianity. A recent statement by a German theologian (Joseph Ratzinger) says: "Only somebody who is able to be a brother is able to be a Christian".

There is a third possibility of human togetherness besides fellowship and brotherhood: friendship. The friendship between the Jew, Mendelssohn, and the German poet, Gotthold Ephraim Lessing, is the first example of a new age in Europe. An intellectual bond unites the world-wide community of book-reading people, of men and women whom literature and art have made a civilised international class. Lessing, like Mendelssohn, did not want to become any man's "brother", but was prepared to welcome any European, who

was a man of letters, into his friendship and communion. The friendship between Lessing and Mendelssohn initiated the century of German Jewry; the bond between German and Jew lasted up to 1933. Anyone who rejects the creative and noble interlude of Jewish history in Germany with the indictment "ideology of assimilation" (Rottenstreich) is blind to a happy, though certainly precarious, union of Gentile and Jew. This union is neither fellowship nor brotherhood. The European book-reading community transcended national boundaries. When this union ended, it was not only the German-Jewish symbiosis which came to an end. In this union, forged by civilisation, the Gentile does not become a Jew but is approached in friendship by the Jew. In Lessing's language friendship has no sentimental meaning. The century of the renaissance of German Jewry, which spread over Germany and reached the whole of Europe, records the history of a friendship between Gentile and Jew.

With the rejection of brotherhood Lessing does not favour a spiritual equality which excludes economical and political equality. He demands true equality. Hannah Arendt ponders over her own fate and over that of her friends, who do not qualify for an entrance ticket to Goebbels' *Kulturkammer* and are deserted by old friends (Gerhart Hauptmann: "Ich bin nun einmal kein Jude!"). She is a literary critic who uses the most perfected method of sociological analysis in her writings but is not Jewish enough to understand what can only be understood by application of Jewish thinking. For her essay on Pope John she has chosen the title: "A Christian on St. Peter's Chair". This is a wonderfully apt title. But it must be asked: what right has she to confer the attribute "Christian"? A God-believing Jew will acknowledge and even understand the Christianity of a Christian. The consequence of her arrogation of what is not hers becomes clear in the essay about the Pope. It is a collection of anecdotes. The great "Christian" Pope recedes into the background. What we are offered is the picture of a benevolent grandfather.

What consolation has Hannah Arendt to offer us, who live in the dark times which she describes with the gift of a great writer? She quotes Sartre who pictured the situation after the Second World War with these words: "When the instruments are broken and unusable, when plans are blasted and effort is meaningless, the world appears with a child-like and terrible freshness, suspended trackless in a void" (p. 228). A world "swept clean

and fresh" is the vision and the consolation of the nihilist. It is a consolation of despair. A consolation without hope is not a consolation. But Hannah Arendt accepts it as such. She does so and admires Bertolt Brecht who could pluck the flower of great poetry out of the destroyed civilisation "swept clean and fresh". In her essays about Brecht, Benjamin and Broch, she shows that these men carried on writing by ignoring the great catastrophe around them. She diagnoses the catastrophe of the West in cogent analysis: "Politically speaking, it was the decline and downfall of the nation state; socially, it was the transformation of a class system into a mass society; and spiritually it was the rise of nihilism, which for a long time had been a concern of the few but now, suddenly, had become a mass phenomenon" (p. 228/9).

Still, Hannah Arendt has a glimpse of a better future when she speaks about Lessing and identifies herself with him. "We need only think of 'Nathan the Wise' whose true theme—it suffices to be a man—permeates the play". All the reviewers of Hannah Arendt regard her as a brilliant writer. All the more welcome is the criticism of Saul Bellow who takes her to task for her writing "The Banality of Evil" in the face of the holocaust. In his latest novel, "Mr. Sammler's Planet", he argues with a Mrs. Margotte, and the reader has no difficulty in recognising Hannah Arendt in this character:

"The idea of making the century's great crime look dull is not banal. Politically, psychologically, the Germans had an idea of genius. The banality was only camouflage. What better way to get the curse out of murder than to make it look ordinary, boring, or trite? With horrible political insight they found a way to disguise the thing. Intellectuals do not understand. They get their notions about matters like this from literature. They expect a wicked hero like Richard III. But do you think the Nazis didn't know what murder was? Everybody (except certain bluestockings) knows what murder is. That is very old human knowledge. The best and purest human beings, from the beginning of time, have understood that life is sacred. To defy that old understanding is not banality. There was a conspiracy against the sacredness of life. Banality is the adopted disguise of a very powerful will to abolish conscience. Is such a project trivial? Only if human life is trivial. This woman professor's enemy is modern civilisation itself. She is only using the Germans to attack the twentieth century—to denounce it in terms invented by Germans" (p. 18/19).

Saul Bellow, who is still hurt by the empty generalisation of the word *Ostjude* hits out against Margotte-Arendt: "As though to be Jewish weren't trouble enough, the poor woman was German too" (p. 17).

Walter Laqueur† surveys the same period of history as does Hannah Arendt. But here is nothing of Miss Arendt's despair. His chapter "The Cultural Scene" is a masterpiece of sociological assessment of contemporary history. The other three chapters are: "The Postwar Period", "The Economic and Social Trends" and "European Politics: 1955-1969". Above all, he looks hopefully into the future: "Not decay but the resilience, the will to survival, that Europe displayed after 1945 constituted the great novelty, and a source of renewed hope for its future. Far from dying in convulsions as Sartre had predicted, Europe has shown a new vigour which has astonished friends and foes alike. European ideas and

† Walter Laqueur: *Europe Since Hitler*. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, London. 434 pp. 65s.

‡ *Judaism Despite Christianity*. Edited by Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy. University of Alabama Press. University of Alabama. 198 pp. \$7.00.

Continued on next page, column 3

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* Hannah Arendt: *Men in Dark Times*. Jonathan Cape, London. 272 pp. 45s.

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GERMAN-ISRAELI CULTURAL LINKS

Increased Co-operation

"Only by showing them the problems, can you make young Israelis understand German culture", says Dr. Kay Hoff, author of the novel "Bödelstedt oder Würstchen bürgerlich" and of many radio and television plays. Dynamic, unconventional, not at all the type of a civil servant, he sits in an open shirt at his desk in the German Cultural Centre in Tel Aviv, with a view of the new town hall. It is Khamsin and the air conditioning is still on its way from Germany. "There is no time left for writing but it's fun to plan everything—from the upholstery of the furniture to the books of the library, the language courses, the lecturers, the concerts".

Ten months ago, Dr. Hoff took over as director of this Centre which, in its way, is unique—it is not one of the chain of "Goethe Institutes", and though it falls under the jurisdiction of the German Foreign Office as part of the German Embassy, it enjoys a large degree of autonomy. Dr. Hoff has no predecessor. When, at the end of the 'fifties, the Tel Aviv paediatrician Prof. Dr. Walter Hirsch opened his German-language library to the public, it counted 2,000 volumes, frequented by 20 readers. Today it has grown to 11,000 volumes, and the number of regular readers has swollen to 2,140. Between 3,000 and 4,000 volumes are constantly on loan.

On a Monday morning when I visited the library, some elderly gentlemen leafed through the latest German dailies and two female officials were busy handling the line of clients waiting to take out books, in their majority ladies from 50 years onwards. "It is nice to be able to offer something to older people. Here we have a public that doesn't exist any longer in Germany, the universally 'Gebildete'... whose 'Bildung', though, is somewhat dusty. Naturally, we are more interested in attracting young Israelis", admits Dr. Hoff.

He is especially proud of the Centre's three German language courses boasting 400 students. Who are these students? Their countries of origin, in their order of frequency, are: Israel, Eastern Europe, Germany, Western Europe (exclusive of Germany), Iraq, Morocco, Egypt, Yemen. The age group of 20 to 30 years is dominant, comprising 40 per cent of all pupils, followed by the group of 30 to 40 years (22 per cent) and by young people up to 20 (16 per cent). The "middle aged" between 40 and 50 make up ten per cent, children up to 15 years seven per cent, and those above 50 years five per cent.

Though the participants are widely heterogeneous, almost all of them have at least some latent knowledge of German, mainly from the German or Yiddish of their parents, or picked up from German-speaking acquaintances. This knowledge often remains unconscious, and such students when registering for a course, declare that they don't know any German. All the more are they surprised, and pleasantly so, when making rapid progress at the audio-visual tuition, as some of their latent knowledge is activated. For advanced students there is a seminary on the change of the

German language in the literature of the past few decades. Text book: Günther Grass "Cat and Mouse".

Last winter, the cultural activities took place in the library; now, a new lecture hall has been added with the latest equipment for stereo music, radio plays and films. A series of German TV plays will begin next month. Since last spring, among the guest lecturers have been Prof. Irving Fetscher, Dr Kurt Meissner, Jürgen P. Wallmann, Prof. Carl Vogel, Horst Krüger, Dr Rainer Kabel, Horst Bieneck, Prof. Max Hense. In the forthcoming season Karl Ruhrberg, Peter Härtling, Dr. Günther Rohrbach, Bernt Engelmann, Theo Sommer, Helmuth Heissenbüttel, Alexander Mitscherlich, Dieter Wellershoff, and Hans Albert Walter are expected.

The Cultural Centre works in close co-operation with the Cultural Department of the German Embassy which is headed by Dr. Christoph Niemoeller. In the year 1963, the Knesset passed a resolution that relations with the Federal Republic of Germany should be limited to the political and economic sphere, to the exclusion of cultural contacts. Although this decision, in spite of repeated promises, has not been revoked formally, it has become meaningless.

A climax, no doubt, was reached with the recent visit to Israel of the "Stuttgarter Ballet". The presentation of the musical score was in the hands of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra which plans a *tournee* to Germany in the next year. At present the Israel Chamber Orchestra is on a visit to the Federal Republic. Its conductor, Gary Bertini, left it to each individual member to decide whether or not to participate, yet all went along. In the meantime, a number of German musicians performed in Israel.

The famous Berlin Kabaret "Stachel-schweine" last winter attracted audiences totalling 12,000, and their success has encouraged their colleagues in Düsseldorf, "Kom(m)ödchen" to follow their example in the coming months. A "Week of German films" in Tel Aviv and Haifa was seen by 14,000 people. Exhibitions are not hampered by language difficulties, and after a Kafka, Brecht, and Beethoven show, a Dürer display is envisaged for the Dürer Year. Böll's "Ansichten eines Clowns" will be the first book of contemporary German fiction to appear in Hebrew (Massada Publishing, Jerusalem), and a Hebrew anthology of present-day German fiction by Reich-Ranicki is in preparation.

Of great promise is the cooperation in the field of science which, on the Israeli side, is most outstanding in the Weizmann-Institute, and on the German side, is being supported by the Stiftung Volkswagen. In the past year, for the first time, German-Israeli sporting events have been given the official stamp of approval. Another positive feature is the growing youth exchange. About 5,000 young Germans visit Israel every year, and 6,000-7,000 Israeli youngsters tour Germany.

EUROPE—YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

Continued from page 9

techniques have spread to all corners of the earth and European civilisation is still the model for the entire world. The age of European political predominance has ended but no other centre has so far wrenched from Europe the torch of civilisation. In a wider sense the European age has only begun" (p. 403).

Hannah Arendt never asked: when did "the dark times" begin? This question is the starting point of the dialogue between Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy† and Franz Rosenzweig. Their answer points to the sixteenth century, to Descartes' philosophy which initiated our technological age. But this does not make Rosenzweig and Rosenstock prophets of doom. Technology has created our predicament, technology is capable of curing it. Judaism and Christianity, both different, are equally necessary to lead modern mankind to a better future.

Franz Rosenzweig's *Stern der Erlösung* is untranslatable. The parts which Nahum Glatzer translated gave the English-speaking readership only limited access to this unique work. All the more is our gratitude due to Eugen Rosenstock-Huussy for bringing out this volume of Rosenzweig's thoughts which preceded his *Stern der Erlösung*. An introduction of 26 pages by Harold Stahmer provides the reader of the correspondence between Rosenstock and Rosenzweig with a guide which gives real help. So do Alexander Altmann's and Miss Dorothy Emmet's essays. Rosenstock added an essay of his own, "Hitler and Israel", which fits well into the overriding subject of this book.

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

TRADE EXPANSION DISCUSSED IN BRUSSELS

Ways to increase trade between Israel and West European countries were discussed in Brussels at the end of November at the second regional convention of Israel's bi-national Chambers of Commerce in Europe.

Mr. P. Hiernaux, president of Belgium's National Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said that during 1969 goods worth £16,500,000 were exported to Israel while Israel sent to Belgium and Luxembourg exports of about the same value. Delegates from Britain, Belgium, France, Holland, Sweden, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, West Germany and Israel attended the convention.

Israel also wants to increase her trade with South Africa, and has already opened negotiations which, it is hoped, will lead to export agreements with a number of the country's marketing boards. Announcing this in Johannesburg, the new Israeli trade consul, Michael Ram, forecast that South Africa's exports to Israel could be rapidly increased from the present yearly total of £2,500,000 to more than £14,000,000. He added that the South African authorities had approved a number of investment projects in Israel.

CIVIL DIVORCE GRANTED

The first civil divorce in Israel's history was granted by the Jerusalem district court in November under the provisions of a law empowering it to grant a divorce in special cases. The couple concerned were married at an English registry office six years ago. The husband is a Jew and the wife a Christian, though both are Israeli citizens. Legal circles here do not think that the case has any bearing on Jewish marriages or divorces which are still the sole prerogative of the rabbinate.

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FROM THE ISRAELI SCENE

ELECTRONICS EXPORTS

Addressing executive members of the Jerusalem Economic Conference in mid-November, Israeli Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir announced that diamond and citrus exports decreased by 6 and 5 per cent respectively during the first nine months of 1970 as compared with the same period in 1969. Military exports were also down owing to an increased home demand. Between January and September, electrical and electronic manufacturers increased their export sales by 70 per cent, the garment industry by 40 per cent, basic metals by 34 per cent, rubber and plastics by 25 per cent and metal products by 22 per cent. Farm products, other than citrus, went up by 40 per cent.

The Jerusalem Economic Conference is a partnership established in 1968 between the Israeli Government and businessmen at home and abroad.

CHOLERA IN GAZA

Israeli health officials confirmed on November 29 that there had been 13 new cases of cholera in the Gaza Strip, bringing the total number to 138 since the outbreak of the disease in the Strip on November 13.

EBAN DENIES HIT AT BRITAIN

The Israeli Embassy in London has denied agency reports which appeared in the press all over the world that Mr. Abba Eban, Israeli Foreign Minister, in a speech to the San Francisco Commonwealth Club said that "it is tragic but Britain is uncommitted to the human race as a whole". The embassy stated that Mr. Eban in fact said: "There is no particular (British) disengagement from Israel as such. There was once a British global responsibility affecting the entire human race. Now because of economic preoccupations there is disengagement from previous interests in the Middle East and across the world. Since there is no British strength in the area the British sense of responsibility has lessened. Britain has withdrawn into itself because of its preoccupation with economic reconstruction."

RECORD ENROLMENT AT ISRAELI UNIVERSITIES

At a recent press conference in Jerusalem, Mr. Avraham Harman, president of the Hebrew University, announcing an unparalleled programme of expansion and reorganisation, said that a total of 16,000 students had joined this university for the new academic year. The programme includes the establishment on Mount Scopus of an institute for research into Israel's economy and society in memory of Levi Eshkol, the former Premier. More than 12,000 students have been admitted to Tel Aviv University: a further 3,000 qualified, but could not be accepted because the university is full. A total of 5,200, including 800 from abroad, have enrolled at Bar-Ilan University. The Technion opened its academic year with 5,000 undergraduate and 2,200 graduate students.

Negev University at Beersheba began the 1970-71 academic year with 2,600 students in its three faculties. The university, which is still in the building stage, has a 60 per cent larger enrolment than last year.

RECTOR WARNS STUDENTS ABOUT DRUGS

Students of Hebrew University in Jerusalem were warned by Professor Jacob Katz, the rector, that they would be expelled if found taking drugs. Overseas students must sign an undertaking that they abide by the legal drug prohibitions. The rector's warning follows reports of increased drug-taking in Israel. A total of 1,483 people, including 404 minors, were charged with drug offences in the first eight months of 1970, a rise of 641 over the same period last year.

SYNAGOGUE DONATED BY SIR ISAAC WOLFSON

Another synagogue given to Israel by Sir Isaac Wolfson—Ohel Itzhak at Kfar Hanoar Hadati near Haifa—has been consecrated.

CYPRUS DEAD REBURIED

Cabinet Ministers and other Israeli leaders attended the reinterment in Haifa in mid-November of the remains of 168 "illegal immigrants" who died in British detention camps in Cyprus between 1946 and 1949 while waiting for admission to Israel. Relatives and former "illegal immigrants" were also present at the service in Haifa's new cemetery where members of the military Rabbinate, who carried out the arrangements, officiated.

PROSELYTES

A total of 2,300 people have converted to Judaism in Israel since the establishment of the State in 1948. This represents half the number of applicants. Most of the converts were partners of mixed marriages.

CHURCH TURNED INTO HOSTEL

Built nearly a century ago by French pilgrims, the former Church of Notre Dame de France, facing the Old City of Jerusalem, has been bought by an Israeli organisation and will be converted into a hostel for 300 Hebrew University students.

DESALTING UNITS EXPORTED

Israel has become a major exporter of water desalination units utilising the system invented by Professor Alexander Zarchin whose name is associated with the company producing the units at Tel Baruch. Five units are to be supplied to Iran during 1971; four more will be sent to Holland and the Canary Islands. The company has exported ten desalination units during the past two years.

JEROBOAM'S GOLDEN CALF

One of the most striking of this season's archaeological finds has been at Tel Dan, in the northernmost part of Israel. Dr. Avraham Biran, the director of Israel's Department of Antiquities, believes they have found the altar which once supported the golden calf set up by Jeroboam when he revolted against the rule of Solomon in Jerusalem and provided his people with their own god to worship. The site was fortified by Jeroboam against attack from Damascus 37 miles away.

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W. Rosenstock

THE IMAGE OF GERMAN JEWRY

A Recent Publication

In a recently published book, "Germany Without Jews",* the German writer, Bernd Engelmann, sets out to describe the contributions made by Jews and persons of Jewish origin to German life until 1933 and to assess the losses sustained by the racial policy of the Nazi régime. This is certainly a laudable object, and the author's good intentions are recognisable throughout the book. Yet he has only succeeded to a certain extent.

One of the shortcomings of the book arises from the author's tendency to oversimplify the Jewish problem. "The typical 'Jewish' professor of the nineteenth century," he writes, "came of a well-established family, was baptised, and had in many cases changed his name. He was just as patriotic, immaculately dressed and adhering to academic etiquette as his 'Aryan' colleague." If there was antisemitism in spite of this total assimilation, it was, according to Engelmann, due to the influx of Jews from the East which kept the difference between Jews and Germans alive. This is not in accordance with the facts. The antisemitism of the nineteenth century was first and foremost directed against the alleged preponderance of assimilated Jews in German public life.

The actual problem can be illustrated by an episode which Weizmann relates in his autobiography "Trial and Error". When Weizmann taught at Manchester University, Rutherford used to tease him about his Zionism. One morning, Rutherford asked him: "What's wrong with England? They have just appointed Israel Gollancz Professor of Old English Literature." "All right, but what would you think," Weizmann replied, "if England had ten chairs of English literature, and ten Jews got them?" "Oh, that would be a national calamity," Rutherford exclaimed.

The share of Jews in German life was grossly exaggerated in the antisemitic propaganda, but a thorough analysis of the underlying group tensions would have been preferable to Engelmann's superficial philosemitic approach, however nobly motivated.

The author includes in his enumeration baptised Jews and persons of only partial Jewish origin. Whether and to what extent people who no longer belong to the Jewish community may be regarded as Jews, is a controversial question. It should, however, be kept in mind that prominent scholars, scientists and artists often hailed from families who had gone through the process of total assimilation. Their exclusion from Engelmann's "balance sheet" would have resulted in an incomplete, and therefore wrong assessment. This approach does not imply the acceptance of the racialist policy of the Nazis. On the contrary, his numerous examples confirm the absurd effects of the Nazi theory. With the same object in mind the Jews themselves in 1934 published a comprehensive work about the achievements of Jews and other "non-Aryans".† The Nazis quickly recognised that the book was meant as a challenge and confiscated the copies before they could be put on sale.

The author mentions numerous partly Jewish members of the aristocracy, e.g., the Arcos

* Bernd Engelmann: *Deutschland ohne Juden. Eine Bilanz.* Franz Schneekluth Verlag, Muenchen, 1970. 525 pp. and illustrations. DM 28.
† *Juden im deutschen Kulturbereich. Ein Sammelwerk.* Edited by Siegfried Kaznelson with a preface by Richard Willstaetter. Juedischer Verlag Berlin, 1934. A second, considerably extended edition with an introduction by Robert Weitsch was published in 1959.

and the Henckel-Donnersmarks, and of the intelligentsia, e.g., the Doves, Droysens and von Baeyers. He is, however, sometimes carried away by his zest to trace Jewish ancestors. For example, the morganatic wife of Prince Adalbert of Prussia, Baroness von Barnim (original name Therese Elssler), was not of Jewish origin; neither was Max Bruch, in spite of his composition based on the "Kol Nidre" melody. Their definitely non-Jewish forefathers are listed in the "Neue Deutsche Biographie".

On the other hand, the Stahlhelm leader, Theodor Duesterberg, was of partly Jewish origin. His grandfather was the son of the chairman of the Paderborn Jewish community. This is correctly recorded in the text of the book. Yet the photo carries the caption "Theodor Duesterberg, Rabbiner-Enkel". Has this inaccurate wording been chosen for the sake of sensationalism?

The book mentions a great number of prominent scholars, scientists and artists. It also lists Nobel Prize winners and recipients of the Pour le mérite as well as pioneers in the field of medicine. These compilations are certainly of value, especially as readers in post-war Germany cannot be familiar with the facts.

In the chapter on political activities the author commemorates many Jewish fighters for democracy and socialism. He also mentions some Right-wing persons of full or partial Jewish origin. Thus, Kurt Eisner's assassin, Graf Arco, was the grandson of the baptised Cologne banker Eduard Freiherr von Oppenheim. Eisner's secretary, Felix Fechenbach, was violently attacked by the Right-wing editor of the *Sueddeutsche Monatshefte*, Paul Nikolaus Cossmann, a baptised Jew. Both died at the hands of the Nazis: Fechenbach was shot in 1933 and Cossmann perished in Theresienstadt.

One chapter is devoted to the contribution by Jewish scientists to nuclear research. The application of the research to the development of the atom bomb was the source of many inner conflicts for those among them who, like Einstein, were at the same time great humanitarians. In any case, however, the enforced emigration of Central European scientists

shifted the centre of research to the United States and thus also reduced Germany's war potential.

A special chapter under the heading "Der selbstzertretene Siegerkranz" deals with the general detrimental effects of the antisemitic policy of the Nazis on the war effort. This chapter can only be described as disastrous. The author explains in glowing terms how Germany might have won the war if the régime had not been anti-Jewish. The German Jews and "Mischlinge" would have joined the Forces; the military and civil personnel and the rolling stock required for the deportations and exterminations would not have been diverted from the actual war effort; the Jews in Eastern Europe, according to Engelmann as dissatisfied with the Communist régime as they were with the Tsar, would have welcomed the Germans, as they welcomed Ludendorff's appeal "Zu die Jiden in Paulen"; they would even have joined the German forces like the "Volksdeutsche" in the occupied territories; the Eastern Jewish masses and the Jews of German ancestry in the U.S. would have been as pro-German as their fathers were during the first years of the First World War. The whole picture is too gruesome to be imagined. As if a Nazi tyranny all over Europe would not have been a catastrophe in any case, with or without its racist connotations. In his introduction to this chapter the author writes that he wants to leave it an open question whether a German victory would have been desirable for anybody, including the German people. He should have clearly stated that it was not "desirable", as Erich Kaestner did after the First World War, when he wrote his famous poem, "Wenn wir den Krieg gewonnen haetten", which ends with the words: "Zum Glueck gewannen wir ihn nicht." One may disagree with Kaestner's verdict on Imperial Germany, but there can only be one view on the role of Nazi Germany.

In fact, the author's macabre speculations only serve as a journalistic device to wrap up German Jewry's record in the First World War. This journalistic approach may also account for the eye-catching heading of the book. Present-day Germany is not "judenrein" as the title suggests, and the author himself makes interesting observations about the structural and numerical differences between pre-war and post-war Jewry in Germany.

The journalistic approach is also reflected in the lack of any clear exposition. There are numerous instances of overlapping, back references and promises "to deal with this question later on". The number of factual errors also somehow exceeds the quota which has to be allowed for in a reference book of this kind. Mahler, to mention one example, died in 1911 and could therefore not have advised Thomas Mann on the musical aspects of "Doktor Faustus". The names Max and Moritz are not always synonyma in German literature, and the "Lektor" of the S. Fischer Verlag was not called Max but Moritz Heymann. Willstaetter resigned before 1933 (in 1924) but he stayed in Germany and fled to Switzerland only shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War. There is also some confusion about the racial legislations of 1933 and 1935.

To assess the value of the book it is irrelevant, whether it is useful for Jewish readers, because a great amount of literature on the subject is already available to us. The test is, whether the factual information and the way in which it is presented conveys a correct image of German Jewry (in the widest sense of the word) to readers in post-Nazi Germany. Engelmann's initiative, diligence and good will certainly deserve recognition but the result of his labours cannot be welcomed without reservations.

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IN MEMORIAM

JACOB BLAUSTEIN

The American Jewish leader, Mr. Jacob Blaustein, died at his farm near Baltimore on November 15 at the age of 76. He was an executive member of the American Jewish Committee and its president from 1949 to 1954 and also held leading positions with the "Joint" and several other Jewish organisations. Through his very important personal and political contact with the White House, he also played an important role in the negotiations preceding the Hague Conference on reparations to the Jews and in the achievement of the ensuing agreement on payments to the victims of Nazi persecution. He was a member of the Presidium of the Claims Conference and a Vice-President of J.R.S.O.

Together with his father, an immigrant from Lithuania, he founded the Standard Oil Company. Several United States Presidents made use of his knowledge and ability. At the United Nations formative conference in San Francisco in 1945, Mr. Blaustein served as consultant to the American delegation and played a most important part in getting the human rights provisions included in the U.N. Charter.

MR. MARTIN MAIER

Mr. Martin Maier, a prominent member of the Newcastle community, died on November 22, at the age of 77. Mr. Maier went to Newcastle in 1938 as a refugee from Nazi Germany. He brought with him industrial expertise, and by setting up a factory in the area he helped towards reducing unemployment. He loyally supported all local Jewish organisations, and was one of the founders of the Newcastle JNF. For some years he also held the office of vice-president of the local JPA committee.

FRITZ VON UNRUH

The poet and writer, Fritz von Unruh, died at Dietz an der Lahn at the age of 85. Born into an old aristocratic family as the son of a general, he first embarked on a military career but resigned his commission as an officer in 1911 in order to be free for launching the production of his first drama, "Offiziere". At the outbreak of the First World War, he volunteered for the Forces. His experiences made him an ardent pacifist and the publication of his narration "Opfergang" resulted in court martial proceedings. After the war, he was an active supporter of the Weimar Republic and in 1932 tried to rally the democratic forces in a fight against the rising Nazi danger. He had to flee in 1933. He first went to Italy and later to France, from where he escaped to the U.S.A. in 1940. In 1962, he lost all his possessions during a flood catastrophe in Atlantic City and returned to Germany.

DR. FRIEDRICH RIESENFELD

Dr. Friedrich Riesenfeld, who died near Paris at the age of 82, was a founder and, for many years, the Chairman of "La Solidarité", the AJR's corresponding organisation in France. In this capacity, he was also well known to honorary officers of the AJR and of the "Council of Jews from Germany", who gratefully remember his devoted services to his fellow refugees.

MRS. IDA WARTENBERG

Mrs. Ida Wartenberg, of Otto Schiff House, passed away recently at the age of 96. She was the oldest resident of the Home and had been living at Otto Schiff House since its inception. A highly cultured and always cheerful lady, she was greatly liked by her fellow-residents and the staff. We express our sympathy to her daughters, Mrs. Frieda Kochmann (a member of the House Committee) and Mrs. Ilse Joseph.

DR. GUSTAV WARBURG

Dr. Gustav Warburg died in Strasbourg at the age of 70. The son of the botanist and President of the World Zionist Organisation before Weizmann, Professor Otto Warburg, he was, before 1933, foreign editor and music critic of several North-German papers. He left for England in 1933 and held senior positions with the Board of Deputies, the Wiener Library and the Anglo-Jewish Association. In 1948, he was appointed representative of the Co-ordinating Board of Jewish Organisations to the U.N. and, in this capacity, moved to Geneva in 1959, where he also became European Director of the International Council of B'nai B'rith. He retired recently but remained Consultant for B'nai B'rith and decided to move to Strasbourg to devote his efforts on behalf of B'nai B'rith to the Council of Europe and to carry out research work on Human Rights.

An expert on Nazism, Dr. Warburg published a standard work, "Six Years of Hitler" before the war and also put his special knowledge of German politics and of refugee problems at the disposal of the British and international authorities and Jewish organisations. On several occasions, Dr Warburg contributed to this paper and he was known to many of his fellow refugees as a helpful friend and adviser. We extend our sympathies to his widow, Mrs. Miriam Warburg (former General Secretary of Youth Aliyah in Great Britain), his children and grandchildren.

RABBI DR. RICHARD FEDER

Dr. Richard Feder, Chief Rabbi of Czechoslovakia, has died at Brno, at the age of 95. He was a survivor of the Auschwitz and Theresienstadt concentration camps. During the Second World War he joined the Czech resistance movement and was hunted down by the Nazis and imprisoned. He was made "Chief Rabbi of Czech lands" in 1953.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ERNST MORITZ ARNDT

Zu F. Hellendalls "Letter to the Editor" ("AJR Information" November, 1970) moechte ich folgendes bemerken:

Das von den Schuelern des Bonner Gymnasiums beigebrachte Zitat ueber Arndts Antisemitismus gibt zwar ganz genau den Fundort in Arndts Werken an, aber nicht den sachlichen und zeitlichen Zusammenhang, in dem diese Aeusserung gefallen ist. War es Ausfluss einer antisemitischen Propagandarede oder ist es von Arndt zu seiner Verteidigung in dem Verfahren gebraucht worden, das schliesslich zu seiner Absetzung von seiner Bonner Professur durch die preussische Reaktion fuehrte? In beiden Faellen bleibt es natuerlich antisemitisch, aber mit ganz gewaltigen Unterschieden. Jedenfalls war die Aeusserung bis zur Entdeckung durch die Bonner Studenten in weitesten Kreisen unbekannt. Selbst wenn noch weitere antisemitische Aeusserungen Arndts beigebracht werden koennten, so sind diese, im Gegensatz zu manchen anderen antisemitischen Aeusserungen jener Zeit, auf seine Zeitgenossen einflusslos und unbeachtet geblieben. Man kann doch eine solche Aeusserung nicht mit der antisemitischen Propaganda vergleichen, die Heinrich von Treitschke nach der Gruendung des Kaiserreiches ausuebte und durch die er zahllose junge Menschen antisemitisch und chauvinistisch infizierte. Aehnliches gilt von der antisemitischen Haltung des Philosophen J. G. Fichte, eines Zeitgenossen Arndts.

Herr Hellendall spricht von den von mir eroeuhnten "allegedly liberal views of E. M. Arndt". Wenn er sich ueber E. M. Arndts liberale Haltung und seine Verfolgung durch die reaktionaeere preussische Regierung unterrichten will, so empfehle ich ihm, ein gutes deutsches Geschichtsbuch aus der Zeit vor 1933

zu lesen, oder die entsprechenden englischen Werke des grossen, 1968 verstorbenen Historikers G. P. Gooch ueber Deutschland zu studieren.

(Dr.) WALTER OSTWALD.

London, N.W.11.

GROSS-BREESEN

Sir,—Before the war, about 30 boys and girls emigrated to Australia after having been trained at the Jewish Training Farm Gross-Breesen near Breslau. Some of them left Australia after the war and possibly are now living in the U.K. They may include Frank Shelley (formerly Franz Czollek), H. Strong (formerly Stranz), and Fritz Immerwahr.

I should be grateful if readers who can give information about the whereabouts of any of the above mentioned kindly contacted me.

Yours, etc.,

(Dr.) W. S. MATSDORF.

c/o 131 Sderot Hamaginitim,
Haifa, Israel.

BUCHAU AM FEDERSEE

Sir,—As I intend to write a work about the history of the persecution of the Jewish community at Buchau am Federsee, I should be grateful if any readers who come from that place kindly got in touch with me. I should particularly like to know the addresses of the following Jewish refugees from Buchau who probably now live in this country: Mr. Max Davis (formerly Dreifuss), born October 3, 1913; Mr. Karl Gabriel Erlanger, born August 15, 1895; Dr. Lothar Marx, born August 20, 1911; and Mr. Hermann Vierfelder, born March 30, 1905.

Yours, etc.,

REINHOLD ADLER.

c/o 30a Bushey Hall Road,
Bushey, Herts.

Dr. Kurt Ball-Kaduri (Tel Aviv) will celebrate his 80th birthday on January 20. Former Berliners will remember him as a well-known lawyer who was an expert on tax law. Coming of a highly assimilated family, he was always conscious of the particular position in which the Jews in Germany were placed and with which he dealt in his reminiscences "Juedisches Leben—einst und jetzt" (Muenchen/Erlangen, 1961). A special chapter of this book is devoted to the "Calauer Judenhause", a house in the small town of Calau (Niederlausitz) which had been acquired by his grandfather, Meyer Ball, and which, when it was no longer permanently occupied, served as a meeting place of three generations of the family until 1938. Together with his wife, the music critic, Lotte Ball-Senger, and his two sons, Dr. Ball emigrated to Palestine in 1938. There he has embarked on activities which have become most important for German-Jewish historiography.

He collected eye-witness reports and other material relating to the situation of the Jews in Germany under the Nazis. These labours resulted in the publication of two books, "Das Leben der Juden in Deutschland im Jahre 1933" (Frankfurt, 1933-1963) and "Vor der Katastrophe—Juden in Deutschland, 1934-1939" (Tel Aviv, 1967) as well as in numerous essays. Whilst it is only understandable that Jewish history under the Nazis is in the first place associated with the extermination of millions during the war, it is often not sufficiently realised that the catastrophe started in pre-war Germany with the increasingly intense discrimination against, and persecution of, her highly integrated Jewish population. It is therefore particularly gratifying that Dr. Ball has helped to save this aspect from oblivion. We extend our heartiest congratulations to him.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 18th of the month.

Birth

Gould.—On December 5, 1970, a daughter (Sunita Miriam) to Irene (née Herz) and John Gould, of 48 Cottenham Drive, London, S.W.20. First grandchild for Dr. and Mrs. E. Gould, 18 Old Manor Court, London, N.W.8.

Engagements

Hahn-Kleinmann.—Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Hahn, 97 Park Avenue North, London, N.W.10, have much pleasure in announcing the engagement of their son Michael James William to Eve, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alf Kleinmann, 3 Irvin Gardens, London, N.W.10.

Sinai-Black.—The engagement is announced between Linda, only daughter of J. K. Sinai, of 124 Heywood Road, Prestwich, Manchester, and the late Rose Sinai, and Peter, elder son of Robert and Renee Black, of 44 Montclair Drive, Mossley Hill, Liverpool 18.

Golden Wedding

Seidler.—Mr. and Mrs. David Seidler, 5 Yorath Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff (formerly of Brno, Czechoslovakia) celebrate their Golden Wedding on January 2.

Birthday

Bernheim.—Mr. Heinrich Bernheim, of 17 Parsifal Road, London, N.W.6, will celebrate his 92nd birthday on January 17.

Deaths

Eger.—Mrs. Maria (Mia) Eger, wife of the late Herbert Eger, passed away suddenly on December 14th, 1970, aged 71 years. Sadly missed by her children Kurt Leo and Hanna Ruth, grandchildren and daughter-in-law.

Pulver.—Mrs. Pauline Pulver (formerly Vienna) of 4, Glencairn Drive, Glasgow, S.1., passed away on December 11th, 1970, after a long illness bravely borne. Deeply mourned by her mother Mrs. Sabine Gottlieb and her sister Mrs. Yetty Ritter, relatives and numerous friends.

Rickenback.—Mrs. Adele (Els) Rickenback (née Koperberg), passed away on November 9, 1970, aged 54. Deeply mourned by Peter, Elizabeth and Martin Rickenback, 14 Rosslyn Hill, London, N.W.3.

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MISSING PERSONS

AJR Enquiries

Broczynew. — Anni Broczynew, former address, Blindengasse 4, Vienna 8, Austria, about 48 years of age. Anybody who knew her should, please, contact the AJR.

Leaver.—Mr. J. J. Leaver, last known postal address P.O.B. S1312, Perth, W. Australia, 6001.

Kremer.—Mrs. Erna Kremer, last known address: 44 Pattison Road, London, N.W.2.

Zimmer.—Mrs. Seraphine Zimmer, last known address: 3 Henry Road, London, N.4.

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ORGANISATIONAL NEWS

BOARD OF DEPUTIES' MEETING

During their meeting at Woburn House, London, in November, the leaders of the Board of Deputies split in their assessment of Sir Alec Douglas-Home's policy statement on an Israeli-Arab settlement in his speech at Harrogate. Alderman Michael Fidler, M.P., President of the Board, asserted that Sir Alec's sympathetic attitude towards Israel had remained unaltered. Dr. S. Levenberg, chairman of the Erets Israel committee, described the Foreign Secretary's speech as "a deliberate attempt to placate Arab opinion" and contrary to Sir Alec's statements in the past.

During the debate on the report of the Board's executive committee, several deputies urged that Mr. Victor Mishcon should reconsider his decision to resign as chairman of the Radio and TV committee. Mr. Mishcon, who is also vice-president of the Board and chairman of its Jewish defence committee, submitted his resignation because of the increase in his other commitments. The president assured the Board that Mr. Mishcon's resignation was not due to any "personal differences" and that the hon. officers and the executive had accepted it with regret.

The Board of Deputies also sent an urgent appeal to Mr. Nikolai Podgorny, President of the Soviet Union, requesting him to stop the persecution of Russian Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel. Lord Janner, chairman of the Board's foreign affairs committee, told the Deputies that both he and the President had written to Mr. Heath about the treatment of Soviet Jews at the time of Mr. Gromyko's recent visit to London. The Prime Minister had replied early in November that he had spoken to Mr. Gromyko on this matter and the Soviet Foreign Minister's response had been that some Jews were allowed to move from the U.S.S.R. to Israel, but that the number permitted to go was an internal affair of the U.S.S.R. The Prime Minister also stated that he was sure that when the Board's representatives met Sir Alec Douglas-Home, he would "wish to give sympathetic consideration" to their request to raise the plight of Soviet Jewry at the United Nations.

SUCCESS OF REFUGEE ARTIST

Mrs. Emmy Sachs

Mrs. Emmy Sachs who, together with her late husband, came to Glasgow as a refugee in 1938, scored a remarkable success, when her paintings were recently exhibited in her first one-woman show at the Blythswood Gallery (Glasgow). This 83-year-old lady took up painting only 20 years ago and her high artistic standing is reflected in the fact that most of her works were sold a few days after the opening of the exhibition. Her achievements were acclaimed in an article, published in the "Glasgow Herald." Mrs. Sachs, who was born in Austria, is an interested member of the AJR Glasgow group.

CONTINENTAL JEWRY BECOMES SELF-SUPPORTING

The European Council of Jewish Community Services held its 23rd statutory meeting in London on November 29/30. Fourteen countries of the 18 member national communities were represented, including the Jewish communities of Rumania and Yugoslavia.

The session was preceded by a reception given by the chairman of the Central British Fund, Mr. H. Oscar Joseph, O.B.E., at which the representatives of the European Council met leaders of the Anglo-Jewish community.

Subjects under discussion at the meeting included the relationship between the West and East European Jewish communities, particularly Rumania and Yugoslavia. It was reported that fund-raising campaigns made throughout Western Europe during the past year for refugees from Czechoslovakia and Poland and for the Jewish victims of the Rumanian flood disaster last spring, together raised well over a quarter of a million dollars. [As already mentioned in the July issue of "AJR Information", the Council of Jews from Germany also sent a special contribution to Rumania after the flood disaster.—The Editor.]

Mr. Michael Harris of London, chairman of the Commission on Youth Centres and Camps, announced plans for a European regional meeting of German-speaking countries between students and leaders of Jewish communities to be held in Zurich in January, 1971.

Miss Joan Stiebel, joint secretary of the Central British Fund and co-chairman of the Association of European Jewish Community Executives, gave a report on plans for the forthcoming International Conference of Jewish Communal Service to be held in Jerusalem in August, 1971.

Much concern was expressed about the need for developing comprehensive Jewish cultural programmes in the European Jewish communities. Plans were considered for the establishment of a European Jewish film library, correspondence courses on Jewish subjects, and the development of courses on Jewish studies aimed primarily at university students, along the lines of a successful French Jewish community programme which has been established in Paris.

The meeting ended with a thorough discussion of the financial needs of the European Council. These will now have to be covered by the European communities themselves without the assistance of the American "Joint" which during the past ten years has helped to organise and support the council.

OTTO SCHIFF HOUSE Sun Lounge Opened

Residents and their relatives and members of the House and Management Committees celebrated the opening of the recently completed Sun Lounge at Otto Schiff House. The new lounge, which replaces the dilapidated former conservatory, will considerably add to the amenities offered by the Home and the party arranged for its inauguration was greatly enjoyed by all present.

LECTURE ON JEWISH SELF-HATRED

The 15th Noah Barou Memorial Lecture was delivered on November 26 by Dr. Lionel Kochan, Bearsted Reader in Jewish History, University of Warwick, on the subject of "Jewish Self-Hatred". Mr. Mordecai Levine was in the chair.

It was certainly no accident that most of the examples quoted by the speaker lived in Central Europe. This is due to the particular political climate of these countries, and also to the fact that the phenomenon of self-hatred is one of the effects of emancipation, which set in earlier in Germany and Austria than in other countries. In his systematic analysis, Dr. Kochan *inter alia* dealt with the attitudes of Rahel Varnhagen, Heine and Rathenau, for whom their Jewishness evoked feelings of inferiority, at least during certain periods of their lives. With regard to Karl Kraus, the speaker said that this publicist's attacks on Jewish journalists and Jewish war profiteers were not necessarily directed against their Jewish origin, but first and foremost against the kind of activities carried out by them.

Dealing with the various answers to self-hatred, the speaker mentioned the concentration on religious and ritual values, furthermore the revolutionary conception, according to which a victory of Socialism would *ipso facto* solve the Jewish problem, and Zionism. Dr. Kochan pointed out that, in a way, Zionism was also a reaction to self-hatred—a hatred of the Ghetto past. In Israel, this attitude has resulted in a hatred of the Diaspora, and thus, in the view of the speaker, in the acceptance of the reasons for which non-Jews hate Jews. This represents an assimilation to the sense of value of the non-Jews.

The speaker came to the conclusion that the period of self-hatred has now come to an end. The "melting pot" theory has been replaced by the idea of a pluralistic society which allows all sections of society to develop their own values within the general pattern of public life. As an example Dr. Kochan quoted the demands of Negro students for special study courses on their history. Similarly, there is an urge among the Jewish academic youth for the establishment of special Chairs and seminars for Jewish research. This longing for Jewish identity is also to be met among Jewish members of the "New Left".

After the stimulating and thought-provoking lecture, the audience was treated to a lengthy discourse, which was supposed to be a vote of thanks and in which the speaker was criticised for things he had neither said nor meant.

W.R.

ZION HOUSE LECTURES

The subject of this year's series of six Zion House lectures will be "Jewish Communities outside Israel—Their Present and their Future". The first lecture will be given by Mr. C. C. Aronsfeld on "Great Britain and Australia" on January 12, and the second lecture on January 26 by Mr. J. Cang on "Russia and Satellites". The subsequent lectures will deal with U.S.A. and Canada, South America, France, and South Africa and Rhodesia. The lectures will be held at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3, at 8.15 p.m.

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JEWRY IN THE EAST

"ANTI-ZIONIST" CAMPAIGN IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The latest shot in the Czechoslovak "anti-Zionist" campaign was an article in "Bratislava Pravda", entitled "Zionism is one of the varieties of anti-Communism." The article, broadcast over Bratislava Radio, repeated the charge that "international Zionism" was behind the reform movement. It also charged that "Zionist subversion" was continuing. The chief object of attack is Dr. Frantisek Kriegel, one of the leaders of the liberation period, who is a Jew. He was described as chief "Zionist agent" both before and during the Dubcek régime. He and his group of close associates are alleged by the Slovak newspaper to have held meetings in a private house for many years before Czechoslovakia broke off relations with Israel in 1967. These meetings, it said, were often attended by the Secretary of the Israeli Embassy in Prague, a Mr. Zucker. The group was also accused of having been in contact with foreign espionage centres. The "Kriegel Club" was most active after January, 1968, when Dubcek assumed office, the paper stated, adding that its members "gradually seized key positions in Party and State". The paper also noted that although the entry of the Warsaw Pact troops into Czechoslovakia put an end to the broad activity of Zionism among the masses, it succeeded in preserving "its basic activity. . . . The illegal activity of Zionism in the country did not stop."

The Czechoslovak communications media have been accusing the Jews of responsibility for the "counter-revolution" and, as a corollary, for the Russian invasion. In their attacks on "Zionism" they have largely drawn on Russian material.

"FOLKS-SZTYME" NOT CLOSING

Correspondents of 'Folks-Sztyme', the Warsaw Yiddish paper, have met for the first time since the "anti-Zionist" campaign started in Poland in March, 1968. A report of the meeting appeared in "Folks-Sztyme" and in its Polish-language section. The Polish coverage included a photograph of several of the participants. No names were given in the caption. The journalists were reassured that there was no question of closing down the paper and were asked to improve its quality. "Folks-Sztyme" is now the only Yiddish paper for the estimated 8,000 Jews who remain in Poland. Its editor, Shmuel Tenenblatt, claims that it has a circulation of 3,000; even if this is correct, many copies are read, not by Jews in Poland but by former Polish Jews who have emigrated and now live abroad.

STATE PRIZES WON BY SOVIET JEWS

There are about 40 identifiable Jews among the 239 Soviet scientists, engineers and artists awarded State Prizes on the anniversary of the October Revolution. The Soviet news agency, Tass, reported that the Yiddish-language paper, "Birobidjaner Shtern", published in Birobidjan three times a week, has been awarded a certificate of honour by the Russian Federative Republic to mark the paper's 40th anniversary. The "Birobidjaner Shtern" claims a circulation of 12,000.

THREE YUGOSLAV JEWS RECEIVE TOP AWARDS

Of the 24 recipients of Yugoslavia's highest award on November 29, Republic Day, three were Jews—Emerich Blum, Oscar Davitcho and Dr. Oscar Danon. All three were former partisans who fought against the Nazi occupiers during the Second World War. Mr. Blum, who is 59, an engineer by profession, was imprisoned by the Nazis in various concentration camps, but succeeded in escaping in 1944 when he joined the partisans. He is now head of one of Yugoslavia's largest industrial undertakings, Energoinvest. Mr. Davitcho is one of the country's foremost writers. He was born in 1909.

Dr. Danon, born in 1913, is one of Yugoslavia's best-known conductors and composers.

YIDDISH NOVEL RE-ISSUE

A new edition of "Zelmenianer", a novel by Moyshe Kulbak which is regarded as one of the best examples of Soviet-Yiddish prose, is to be published early in 1971. "New Books in the USSR", the bibliographical weekly announcing this, said that 10,000 copies will be printed. "Zelmenianer" was first published in 1931, and then a second edition came out in 1935. It is virtually unknown to the present generation of Soviet-Yiddish readers, because Kulbak was a victim of Stalin's purges in the 'thirties. It was not until the early 1960s that the novel reappeared in Russian and White Russian translations.

BUDAPEST PAPER 25 YEARS OLD

"Uj Elet", Hungarian Jewry's fortnightly official newspaper, has commemorated its 25th anniversary. It has reprinted a 1945 report listing 97 places in Hungary where Jews lived before the Second World War, but to which not a single Jew returned at the end of the war. In 1939, there were about 444,500 Jews in Hungary; today there are about 80,000.

CLUJ SYNAGOGUE TO BECOME HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Rumania has decided to dedicate a restored synagogue at Cluj to the memory of about 180,000 Jews who were deported by the Nazis from northern Transylvania in 1944 to Auschwitz concentration camp where they died.

The Federation wants to inscribe the names of all these victims of Nazism on the walls of the synagogue; but it does not possess a full list and it appeals to relatives and friends to send in writing the first names and surnames of victims, their ages and places of birth to the following address: The Federation of Jewish Communities, 9 Strada Sf. Vineri, Bucharest, Rumania.

RESCUE AND RELIEF

Some of the 12,000 Jews to come out of Poland in 1970 have found a haven in various parts of Europe. Those who have come to Britain are helped to set up home by the Jewish Refugees Committee, the case-working body of the C.B.F. The Central British Fund has also made a contribution of £1,000 towards the running of the Copenhagen Community and Youth Centre which serves a large number of refugees from Poland.

Most of the rescue efforts in Moslem countries are directed at two particularly helpless sections of the Jewish community—the aged and the children. The Jewish populations of 35,000 in Morocco and 12,000 in Tunisia are protected by their governments, but the constant state of anxiety generated by anti-Israel hostilities has convinced most of them that after hundreds of years of living in peace with their Moslem neighbours, there is no longer any future for Jews in those countries. Among many of the Jewish population of around 75,000 in Iran, Jews are streaming in from isolated communities to the larger cities, creating additional health and welfare problems.

The Central British Fund continues to play an important part in helping to alleviate the horror of living in these countries, by recent contributions to the rehousing of Jews in Casablanca, for the modernisation and re-equipment of the kitchens at the Casablanca Old Age Home, and a number of other grants.

It is for essential, life-saving work among the latest waves of Jewish refugees—and the aged and the children still living in North African countries—that the Central British Fund and British OSE (which provides health and medical services) make their joint appeal.

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