

INFORMATION

ISSUED BY THE

ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

C. C. Aronsfeld

HEROISM OF THE RESISTANCE

Fighters and Martyrs

In a recently published book, Mr Reuben Ainsztein sets out to disprove "the self-deprecatory approach of traditional Jewish historians to the fighting record of East European Jews".* In fact Mr Ainsztein goes further. While confining himself in substance to East European affairs on which he is an authority, he suggests that generally historians, poets and writers, both Jewish and non-Jewish, were "too preoccupied with Jewish martyrdom to appreciate Jewish heroism."

He is particularly angry with Raul Hilberg, author of the standard work on "The Destruction of the European Jews", who found that "preventive attack, armed resistance and revenge are almost completely absent in 2,000 years of Jewish ghetto history". If this is a sweeping verdict, so perhaps is Mr Ainsztein's reaction. He is refuting too much. His elaborate effort to demonstrate that whenever given the chance, Jews made good soldiers is unnecessary.

The point is: did Jews ever effectively challenge their persecutors? I remember how I, then a factory hand up North, was congratulated by my workmates when David Frankfurter in 1936 shot the Nazi boss Gustloff; well done, they said: had we at last begun to hit back? Of course we hadn't, and Israelis who talk of "cowardice" understand the Galut as little as if they were ordinary Gentiles. Jews simply could not always hit back. How many divisions did they have? one might ask, paraphrasing Stalin's query on the Pope.

With all his admirable intentions, Mr Ainsztein cannot escape the facts of life. While he describes at length and in much uncharted detail the desperate struggle in the ghettos and the death camps, he has to admit that "against the massacres the Jews were as helpless as any civilians without arms against a powerful and ruthless armed force"; they were "without any of the opportunities which the rest of the population had to obtain arms", and in one particular camp, Mr Ainsztein notes, "the inability of the Jews to create a more efficient fighting organisation was, above all, due to the unimaginable terror".

Besides, Mr Ainsztein sensibly appreciates, there were "subjective factors" which affected the behaviour of Polish and Russian Jews when they were taken to the place of slaughter. Because they were truly civilised and believed in progress and the perfectibility of man, they were the last to realise how bestial the Germans were. They "could not imagine" that the nation of Bach, Beethoven and Goethe "could possibly outdo the Turkish massacres of the Armenians"; the Final Solution confounded "even the most pessimistic of the leaders of

Polish Jewry". The "eternal Jewish optimism and faith in the ultimate triumph of justice" could not grasp "the sheer improbability" of the crime. German Jews would not even believe in anything like the Nuremberg Laws.

Part of the fiendish design was to get Jews to help in their own destruction by way of the Nazi-appointed Jewish Councils (*Judenrat*). In dealing with this delicate subject, Mr Ainsztein shows a judicious sense of discrimination. He has a definite, class-conscious animus against "the traditional Jewish establishment made up of the rich and the religious leaders, which by its very nature had always been undemocratic and collaborationist", and he cites examples of some of the Councils operating as Nazi tools; how they "deceived" and "betrayed" their charges, and how, before going into action, resistance organisations, e.g. in Warsaw and Bialystok, "had to assert their authority against the *Judenrat*".

At the same time, the Councils' "economic and administrative collaboration" is also seen as part of "the classical *Judenrat* policy of trying to ensure Jewish survival". Many of them did abet the resistance, they occasion-

ally disregarded orders, and some Jews boldly refused to join the compromising company in the first place. Mr Ainsztein for once relents in his anger: most of the *Judenrat* members—despite (according to him) their "middle-class background"—were, he says, "honourable men . . . but no more able to deal with the unprecedented situation in which they found themselves than the Czech mayor of Lidice or the French mayor of Oradour".

This consideration may well be applied to the whole story of Jewish resistance—in our age or any other. Mr Ainsztein is to be commended for his effort to trace the record of Jewish heroism, for his motive clearly is, like that one of his *dramatis personae*, "to recover Jewish dignity and self-respect through a return to the warlike traditions of the Jewish people". A little more knowledge on this score might have saved our Foreign Office from those "experts" who contrasted the "non-fighting" Jews with the "fighting race" of the Arabs.

Even so, Mr Ainsztein ought not to deprecate, because it is part of Jewish dignity, the faith of those who "saw in martyrdom the highest expressions of Jewish courage". It seems a pity he takes a consistently negative view of the religious aspect of resistance. "A society which increasingly sought escape from reality in the religious mysticism of Hassidism" need not be despised, even if it is not admired. Mr Ainsztein himself says: "Whether the supreme demonstration of human courage was physical revolt is debatable", but if (as he rightly argues) flight, in this context, is an act of courage and defiance, then surely so must have been the Sanctification of the Name. If this is to be denigrated as "fatalism", then Mr Ainsztein must be reminded of his own truthful finding that there is a fatalism which is "synonymous with heroism".

Whether the majority of East European Jews were "God-fearing people, praying and learning", as one of their apologists has claimed, is a moot point; they were ordinary people like the rest of us, behaving as everybody else would have done in like circumstances; they were neither less nor more than human, born to be neither heroes nor martyrs, and I fear there is rather more in Bruno Bettelheim's psychology than is dreamt of in Mr Ainsztein's historical philosophy.

This book is a useful addition to historical research, though scholars are likely to frown upon the author's often all too polemical approach. New sources in Yiddish, Polish and Russian (most of them published in Eastern Europe) have been consulted, though possibly not always with the necessary pinch of salt; the "select bibliography" names about 400 titles, and to peruse the 73 pages of Notes is in itself an education. The number of minute details added to the general picture is truly remarkable. Unfortunately Mr Ainsztein was often too zealously engrossed in the trees and so lost sight of the wood—that greater vision in which Jewish resistance is part not only of Jewish history but of the making of man, anywhere, as he meets the challenge of evil.

The Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain

reminds members and friends that it will hold its

GENERAL MEETING

on Tuesday, June 17, at 7.45 p.m.

at Hannah Karminski House,

9 Adamson Road, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3

I

Report on AJR Activities

Treasurer's Report

Election of Executive and Board

(The list of candidates submitted by the Executive is published on page 12.)

II

MISS LUCIE SCHACHNE

Administrative Officer of the Camden Committee for Community Relations will speak on

STRIKING NEW ROOTS

Pre-war Refugees and Post-war Immigrants—a Comparison

Non-members are not entitled to vote, but are welcome as guests at the meeting.

* Reuben Ainsztein, *Jewish Resistance in Nazi-Occupied Eastern Europe*. With a historical survey of the Jew as fighter and soldier in the Diaspora. 970pp. London. Paul Elek. 1974. Price £12.50.

DEUTSCHE SOZIALVERSICHERUNG

HACHSCHARAH-AUSBILDUNG

Nach der Praxis der deutschen Versicherungsanstalten koennen Zeiten, die Juden waehrend der Nazi-Herrschaft auf Hachscharah zugebracht haben, als Versicherungszeiten anerkannt werden, wenn Beweise (z.B. alte noch vorhandene Bescheinigungen oder gegebenenfalls zwei Zeugenaussagen) vorgelegt werden, die dartun, dass es sich um eine auf Veranlassung juedischer Organisationen vorgenommene Hachscharah (praktische Ausbildung zur Vorbereitung der Auswanderung nach dem damaligen Palaestina) handelte.

In so gut wie allen Hachscharah-Faellen ist die Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen von ausschlaggebender Bedeutung. Da die Nachentrichtung nur noch bis zum Ende des Jahres 1975 beantragt werden kann (siehe den folgenden Artikel), ist es im Interesse der Berechtigten erforderlich, den Antrag auf Anerkennung der Hachscharah-Zeiten zusammen mit dem Antrag auf Genehmigung der Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen bald zu stellen. Es empfiehlt sich, sich hierbei fachkundigen Rates zu bedienen.

NACHENTRICHTUNG VON BEITRÄGEN

Fristablauf fuer Antragstellung auf Genehmigung: 31.12.1975

In AJR-Information ist vor Jahren ueber die Moeglichkeit der Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen zur deutschen Sozialversicherung berichtet worden. Eine Nachentrichtung bedarf der Zustimmung der zustaendigen Versicherungsanstalt. Diese Genehmigung wird nur auf Antrag erteilt.

Das soeben ergangene 18. Rentenanpassungsgesetz vom 28.4.1975 bestimmt, dass ein Antrag auf Genehmigung der Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen nur noch bis zum Ende des Jahres 1975 gestellt werden kann. Es ist nicht erforderlich, dass ueber den Antrag zu diesem Zeitpunkt bereits entschieden wird. Zur Wahrung des Rechts der Nachentrichtung genuegt es, wenn der Antrag bei der zustaendigen Versicherungsanstalt vor Ablauf des Jahres 1975 eingegangen ist. Ein besonderes Formular oder eine besondere Form ist fuer den Antrag nicht vorgeschrieben. Die Frist ist eine Ausschlussfrist, d.h. sie gilt uneingeschraenkt. Bei Versaeumung der Frist geht das Nachentrichtungsrecht verloren, selbst wenn die Fristversaeumnis unverschuldet ist.

Verfolgten des Nationalsozialismus steht das Recht der Nachentrichtung abgesehen von anderen Voraussetzungen dann zu, wenn eine versicherungspflichtige Beschaeftigung durch Verfolgungsmassnahmen unterbrochen worden ist oder wenn der Betreffende bei Beginn der Verfolgung arbeitslos war. Wenn die eben dargelegten Voraussetzungen einer Verfolgten-nachentrichtung nicht vorliegen, kann eine Nachentrichtung nach dem Rentenreformgesetz angezeigt sein, insbesondere wenn einige Monate zur Erfuellung der Wartezeit fehlen. Auch dieses Nachentrichtungsrecht erlischt Ende des Jahres 1975.

Das Nachentrichtungsrecht kann je nach der Lage des Falles von ausserordentlicher Bedeutung sein. In manchen Faellen kann man durch die Nachentrichtung ueberhaupt erst

ein Recht auf eine deutsche Rente begruenden. In manchen Faellen wiederum, insbesondere bei Jung-Auswanderern liegen deutsche Sozialversicherungsbeitraege nur in niedrigen Klassen (haeufig in der niedrigsten Klasse) vor, sodass die auf diesen Beiträgen beruhende Rente nur ganz klein sein wuerde; die Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen kann das Recht auf eine gute Rente begruenden. Die Bezugnahme auf Jung-Auswanderer zeigt, dass die Nachentrichtung fuer ehemalige Lehrlinge und Personen, die auf Hachscharah waren, besonders wichtig ist.

Dieser kurze Artikel erhebt keinen Anspruch auf Vollstaendigkeit. Personen, die glauben, zur Nachentrichtung von Beiträgen berechtigt zu sein, sollten Rechtsrat einholen, zumal da die gesetzlichen Bestimmungen ueber Nachentrichtung kompliziert sind.

HAUSHALTSSTELLUNGEN VOR AUSWANDERUNG

In einer Reihe von Faellen sind Verfolgte des Nationalsozialismus (nicht nur Frauen, sondern manchmal auch Maenner) in Deutschland vor ihrer Auswanderung in Haushaltsstellungen gegangen, um alsdann eine Stellung in Grossbritannien anzunehmen. Auch wenn dies nur fuer eine kurze Zeit geschah, waren sie waehrend dieser Zeit in Deutschland versicherungspflichtig. Zu der Versicherungszeit kommt dann eine sogenannte Ersatzzeit hinzu, die vom Tage der Auswanderung bis zum 31. Dezember 1949 waehrt, also mindestens 10 Jahre umfasst. Zusammen mit britischen Versicherungszeiten wird dies in der Regel ausreichend sein, um bei Erreichung des erforderlichen Alters eine gemeinschaftliche deutsch-britische Altersrente zu erhalten, die hoeher ist als die britische Old Age Pension allein. Unter Umstaenden kann auch in Deutschland eine Nachversicherung durchgefuehrt werden; dies haengt vom Einzelfall ab.

REGISTRATION OF ASSETS IN GDR

The recent Foreign Compensation (German Democratic Republic) (Registration) Order 1975 provides for the registration by United Kingdom nationals of property in the German Democratic Republic and/or Berlin (East). Application forms are obtainable from the Secretary, Foreign Compensation Commission, Alexandra House, Kingsway, London WC2B 6TT. The completed forms have to be received by the Commission on or before 30th January 1976.

The Order notes that the British Government "contemplate an agreement of the Government of the German Democratic Republic providing for the payment of compensation by the latter Government". Details of those eligible to register claims are given in Statutory Instrument 1975 No. 410 (H.M. Stationery Office, 8p.).

The AJR is not in a position of giving advice to individual enquirers. It is, however, hoped to give some further general guidance about the terms under which the Order is applicable to naturalised former refugees in one of our next issues.

PLIGHT OF SYRIAN JEWRY

An article by a Danish journalist on the staff of the Copenhagen daily, Politiken, describes a visit he recently paid to Syria and the desperate situation of Syrian Jewry. In Damascus, wrote Mr. Ole Rossel, many people professed not to know anything about the Jews of the Syrian capital. He was met with evasion and obstruction when attempting to find a particular street inhabited by Jews and even a Jew with whom he was put in touch was too frightened to help the Danish journalist.

Eventually he found the narrow and shabby-looking street he was looking for, blocked by a barrier where three men, apparently police officers, tried to discourage Mr. Rossel from entering. He was eventually allowed in on condition he was accompanied by one of the police officers and that he would not speak to anyone or take photographs. Mr. Rossel was not told why the street was sealed off while other Jews were permitted to live outside it, nor why other Damascus Jews who have obtained permission can move about the city, while those who live in the street cannot leave it without special police permission.

The 4,000 or so Jews living in Syria, mainly in Damascus, Aleppo and Kamishli, have no civil rights, are not allowed to vote and are barred from employment in the civil service and local government. Syrian Jews are also not allowed to serve in the police or armed forces and no Jew has been admitted to a Syrian university for several years. Three Jewish schools remain open under Arab direction, and the small number of synagogues still open are under constant police surveillance. Most Jews in Syria cannot even obtain permission to have a telephone installed. In Kamishli, in northern Syria near the Turkish border, Jewish homes are specially marked out and it is official policy to discourage the local population from buying from Jews.

Syrian Jews are not allowed to leave the country. Last year three Jewish sisters and a friend trying to escape to Lebanon were found murdered, together with two Arabs who had been helping them.

PLEA FOR DR. MIKHAIL SHTERN

Dr. Mikhail Shtern, the Jewish physician gaoled for eight years by a Vinnitsa court in December, has been transferred to a prison camp near Kharkov. His son August, who now lives in Israel, on a visit to London emphasised that his father was a very sick man and could not survive the harsh camp conditions. He said that the Soviet Supreme Court was expected to hear his father's appeal soon, and the support of Western doctors could be of great influence. August has discussed with many distinguished members of the medical profession in Britain ways to help his father.

Dr. Shtern was arrested in May last year and later charged with swindling and accepting bribes after August had applied to emigrate to Israel. Academician Andrei Sakharov, the dissident Soviet scientist, has described the trial as "antisemitic provocation", and thousands of people in the West, including leading doctors and scientists, have protested.

HANGED JEWISH K.Z. CHILDREN REMEMBERED

On April 20, 1945, 20 Jewish boys and girls between five and 12 years old and originating from various countries, were hanged in Hamburg on the site of the school Rullenhuser Damm. The children had been used for medical experiments in the Neuengamme concentration camp. They were taken to Hamburg and killed, when the British troops were near, probably in order to leave no traces of the atrocities committed on them. To commemorate these victims of National Socialist terror on the 30th anniversary of the crime, a wreath was laid down in the school.

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HOME NEWS

ARAB TRADE BOYCOTT

A delegation from the Board of Deputies, led by the board's president, Lord Fisher, met the Secretary of State for Trade, Mr. Peter Shore, about the intensification of the Arab boycott in Britain. Mr. Shore undertook to consider the question of discriminatory practices in commerce and employment which are contrary to the public interest. The delegation stressed both the immoral nature of a boycott based on religious and racial discrimination and its damaging effect on Britain's economy.

An anti-boycott umbrella organisation has been set up at the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce in London with the participation of the Board of Deputies, the Zionist Federation and the B'nai B'rith. Mr. Lewis Goodman, chairman of the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce, called on British businessmen to repudiate the boycott not only on moral grounds of business integrity, but also because in the long run it would make good business sense.

The Government have, however, now made it clear that they intend to take no official action against the boycott. Reiterating the fact that the Government were opposed to and deplored all trade boycotts other than those sanctioned by the United Nations, Mr. Eric Deakins, Under-Secretary for State, said in the Commons that "how exporters act in particular cases must remain a matter for their commercial judgement". The Government supported all positive measures aimed at the peaceful resolution of the conflict between Israel and the Arab States, of which the Arab boycott in Israel was one element. In the meantime, British exporters could raise with Mr. Deakins' officials any boycott problems they face.

The World Jewish Congress executive, meeting in London, decided to set up a sub-committee to co-ordinate the activities of communities against the Arab boycott.

PRO PALESTINIANS' PROPAGANDA

Arab students in the Northampton area who are trying to enlist British sympathy for the Palestinians' cause showed propaganda films and distributed anti-Israel leaflets after hiring Kettering borough council's Corn Market hall for a supposedly religious festival. The caretaker of the building, who saw part of the film, said it was clearly designed to whip up hatred against the Jews. He reported the matter to the council, who are now to make stricter checks on the hiring of the hall. Special Branch officers are also investigating the activities of the Arab students, some of whom attend the technical college at Kettering, live in local flats and are well known for their big spending.

FASCISM IN EUROPE

The main subject of discussion at the annual meeting of Manchester Ajax was the growing threat of fascism in Britain. Mr. Aubrey Erstling, giving the defence report, said that the threat of fascism had never been more apparent, pointing out that a recent National Front march through Manchester had more of a turnout than Oswald Mosley had in his heyday.

An appeal was made for the support of all ex-Servicemen in their fight against fascism. It was suggested that anti-fascist leaflets should be distributed in areas adjoining those where a National Front candidate was standing in local elections.

With acknowledgement to the news service
of the Jewish Chronicle.

RACE RELATIONS

At a meeting of the Board of Deputies held in London Mr. Martin Savitt, chairman of the defence and group relations committee, announced that a security officer is to be appointed by the board to watch over the safety of Anglo-Jewish communal buildings, synagogues and schools. Mr. Savitt castigated communal organisations for not implementing the many measures circulated by the board to safeguard communal buildings against terrorist attacks or arson.

Reporting on an *ad hoc* legal committee now considering the workings of the Race Relations Act, Mr. Savitt said it was preparing a memorandum for the Home Secretary, Mr. Roy Jenkins. This sought an amendment to Section 6 of the Act which at present required proof of intent to stir up racial hatred before a conviction could be obtained.

The Race Relations Board received a complaint from a London woman, who reported that the American-owned Gulf Oil Company deprived her of a secretarial post because her husband is a Jew. She herself is not Jewish and was offered the post with the company but, after returning from her honeymoon, she was told she could no longer have it because her husband was Jewish. She is being represented by Mr. Victor Mishcon in her complaint, which is widely regarded as a test case.

HUNGER STRIKES

Hunger strikes were held throughout Britain recently in support of a Soviet Jewish family refused permission to emigrate to Israel for the past five years. The fasts were on behalf of the family of Dr. Vladimir Slepak, who had also been on hunger strike for some time. Protests were held as well on behalf of Dr. Vladimir Prestin, a Moscow Jewish physicist who has been seeking to emigrate for the past four years, and generally against the refusal of the Russian authorities to allow Soviet Jewish families to emigrate.

PRESS COUNCIL'S DECISION ON TIMES ADVERT

The Press Council received a complaint that the full-page advertisement placed in The Times by the Committee for Justice in the Middle East headed "Shouldn't Britain Come First?" was defamatory of a loyal section of the population. The advert had attacked Zionist fund-raising and suggested that British money should be used for welfare projects in Britain. The Press Council, rejecting the complaint that the advertisement was an act of antisemitism, said in its ruling that it was a strong attack upon Zionism but not upon members of the Jewish faith as such.

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Bill Penalises Synagogues

The Government's proposed new Land Bill could imperil current trends aimed at closing declining synagogues and establishing new ones in areas of growing Jewish population. A campaign has been launched to obtain exemption for churches and synagogal organisations from certain restrictions contained in the Bill. Such restrictions would affect all social welfare and educational organisations but would make its biggest impact on synagogal bodies. Under the proposed terms of the Bill, all land required for private development would first be acquired by local authorities at current use value, so that a redundant synagogue in the midst of commercial buildings would be sold as a synagogue and thus much lower than neighbouring properties. If the development value of these redundant buildings cannot be realised by the United Synagogue and other synagogal bodies, they will be prevented from acquiring the necessary capital with which to finance new synagogues in peripheral areas to which the Jewish population is moving.

Israel Fabric Fair

A wide array of fabrics and designs was on display at the first Israel Fabric Fair to be held in Britain at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Marble Arch, London. The event was organised by the Israeli Embassy in conjunction with the Anglo-Israel Chamber of Commerce.

Hendon Home

As the result of a £110,000 extension just opened, accommodation at Waverley Manor (the Maurice and Samuel Lyon Home) in Hendon has been substantially increased, although £35,000 of the cost of the extension has still to be found.

Administered by the Friends of the London Jewish Hospital, Waverley Manor provides temporary accommodation for the able-bodied elderly. Patients from the London Jewish Hospital have first priority, although contact is maintained with other Jewish welfare organisations. The home also encourages daily attendances by elderly people.

Norwood Help

Norwood Homes are assisting the families of 100 Orthodox Jewish children in the Stamford Hill area. An office has been set up in the Lubavitch Foundation building, after discussions between Norwood and Lubavitch officials. Hardship exists among Orthodox families, and many large families in Stamford Hill are in need of financial as well as medical help.

Manchester Community Centre

The name of the late Abraham Moss, a former Lord Mayor of Manchester and president of the Board of Deputies, is commemorated in the new community centre formally opened by Mr. Anthony Crossland, the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Designed to serve the Cheetham/Crumpsall area, the unique multi-purpose complex includes two comprehensive schools and a college of further education and contains a recreation centre with sports hall, swimming pools, dance area, sauna baths and many other facilities, including 23 acres of playing fields. The centre of the complex has adult and children's libraries with every modern device, a crèche, a 250-seat theatre, theatre workshop, shops, old people's clubs and catering facilities.

Function for Soviet Jewry

The Liverpool 35s group projected a dramatic presentation of the plight of Soviet Jewry at a lunch-time performance at the Everyman Theatre. Yvonne Mitchell and Michael Radcliffe voiced the words of Silva Zalmanson and her husband Edward Kuznetsov on their life in Russian prison camps. Joy Goodman sang songs of the yearnings of Soviet Jewry for a brighter future.

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NEWS FROM ABROAD

UNITED STATES

Holocaust Centre

In co-operation with the Yeshiva of Flatbush, Professor Yaffa Eliach of Brooklyn College has founded a Centre for Holocaust Studies, of which she is the director.

Professor Eliach believes that the activities of Orthodox Jewry, including Chasidim, especially their resistance movements during the Holocaust, have been greatly under-documented. She states there has been no systematic collection of testimony from Holocaust survivors outside Israel, and that there are thousands of people in the greater New York area alone whose stories should be recorded.

Defence League Violence

Nineteen-year-old Philip John Goodman, described as an "explosives expert" and a member of the militant Jewish Defence League, has been charged with the bombing of the United Nations Association Information Centre and Iraqi Airways office in Los Angeles. He was also accused of placing a dynamite device, which failed to go off, at a local travel agency promoting tourism in the Soviet Union. Last November the bombing of the United Nations' centre damaged the building and six nearby businesses and destroyed thousands of dollars' worth of Unicef Christmas cards. The Iraqi Airways bombing on April 5 shattered a 30-foot glass window. Neither bombings caused any injuries.

Six JDL members have been charged with battery and disturbance of the peace in an invasion of the Jewish Welfare Federation offices in San Francisco on April 3. The leader of the JDL group stated that the purpose of the action was to publicise the JDL's efforts to "democratise the JWF board of directors" and prevent the alleged disbursement of JWF funds to non-Jewish organisations.

Black-Jewish Co-operation

A change is occurring in Black-Jewish relations in the United States, which have been strained during the past few years. Since the beginning of this year a number of conferences have been held and joint statements by Black and Jewish leaders aim at increasing co-operation between the two groups. A recent meeting between Black and Jewish leaders dealt with problems arising from the recession in the United States. Blacks are also being urged by their leaders to support Soviet Jewry. Amsterdam News, published in New York, the largest Black-oriented newspaper in the United States, in a full-length editorial called for Black-Jewish co-operation.

Mr. Bayard Rustin, an active and prominent participant in the Black civil rights movement for more than 30 years, said that investigations had shown that the overwhelming majority of Black people and their leadership are not antisemitic and are in fact pro-Israel — the antisemitic element in the Black community is less than three per cent of it. Mr. Rustin has joined with a fellow Black civil rights veteran, Mr. A. Philip Randolph, in forming the Black Americans to Support Israel Committee, which 100 Black leaders have promised to join. Referring to "the abysmal and tragic history of Arabs in regard to Blacks and Black Americans", Mr. Rustin has pointed out that the Arabs initiated the slave trade, supported anti-Black movements in Arab countries like Ethiopia and Somalia, and hurt developing nations in Africa as well as poor Blacks in America by their oil policy.

University Fights for Soviet Lecturer

Columbia University, one of America's leading higher institutions of learning, has barred any dealings with the Soviet Union or its universities unless and until the Russians allow Dr. Vitaly Rubin to accept a teaching post at the university. Dr. Rubin, a specialist in Chinese philosophy, was invited to teach at the university in 1973. He accepted, but has been unable to obtain an exit permit for Israel, for which he has been applying since 1972.

Fascist Bishop Allegations

The US Government has announced that it will institute legal proceedings to revoke the American citizenship of Bishop Velerian D. Trifa, the Romanian Orthodox Bishop of America. This comes after nearly three years of pressure from Romanian Jews in America and an exposé by a Jewish correspondent at the United Nations. Bishop Trifa is alleged to have participated in racist atrocities and to have misrepresented his record to the American immigration authorities.

Statements and documents have been collected by the Bishop's main accusers, the small Romanian Jewish Federation of America and Mr. David Horowitz, editor and publisher of the United Israel Bulletin and UN correspondent for several English-language Jewish newspapers. These accuse Bishop Trifa of having played a key role as a student leader in an abortive Iron Guard uprising in Bucharest in 1941 which turned into a pogrom in which hundreds of Jews died. He is also accused of taking part in the formation of political assassination squads and being involved in the killing of prisoners.

Bishop Trifa has always denied the accusations, although he has admitted wearing Iron Guard Storm troopers' uniform and making antisemitic speeches.

ARGENTINA

Antisemitic Campaign

Dr. Nehemias Resnitzky, the president of Daia, the representative organisation of Argentine Jewry, told a press conference in Buenos Aires that Arab emissaries in Argentina are using both fascist elements and pro-Soviet and pro-Chinese extreme Left-wing supporters to mount an antisemitic campaign in all parts of the country. Warning that the campaign was camouflaged as anti-Zionist, Dr. Resnitzky said that the broad strategy was aimed at instilling hatred of the Jews in the mass political movements and in the universities where future leaders were expected to emerge. He also pointed out that officials delivered antisemitic and anti-Zionist speeches at the opening of Palestine Street in the important town of Rosario some 200 miles from Buenos Aires.

Young Doctor Murdered

Dr. Mario Alberto Gershanik, a popular young Jewish pediatrician and a highly regarded member of the pediatrics department of La Plata National University, was shot dead in his La Plata home. A group of 15 men broke into his house at midnight, riddling Dr. Gershanik with bullets in front of his wife and 11-month-old daughter when he resisted their attempts to kidnap him. The Medical Union of La Plata suspended activities in protest against the murder.

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CANADA

Terrorists

Canada's External Affairs Minister, replying to a question in the House of Commons in Ottawa, confirmed that the United Nations has invited the Palestine Liberation Organisation to attend the fifth World Congress on Crime in Toronto in September. However, Mr. MacEachen left room for speculation whether the PLO representatives would be admitted to the country. Canada as host to the conference had, he said, assumed an obligation to receive those members invited by the UN. However, each person coming to Canada would be expected to meet normal admission requirements.

Because PLO representatives are expected to attend as observers, an invitation for the use of the Osgoode Hall Law Courts in Toronto for part of the congress has been withdrawn by the Upper Canada Law Society.

Bill of Rights

Mr. Robert Kaplan, a Toronto Liberal MP, has introduced an amendment to the Canadian Bill of Rights to prevent foreign agencies from using discrimination as a basis for investing in Canada. The amendment is needed, says Mr. Kaplan, in view of the international efforts being made by Arab governments and agencies to blacklist Jewish business interests.

SOUTH AFRICA

Hitler Birthday Party

In Hillbrow, the most thickly populated and cosmopolitan area of Johannesburg, 1,000 members of Jewish youth organisations clashed with young German immigrants celebrating the anniversary of Hitler's birthday. When news first spread that a Hitler birthday celebration was going on, Jewish youths demonstrated outside a German restaurant in Hillbrow.

Spokesmen for the South African German community subsequently expressed their disgust at the attempt to celebrate Hitler's birthday, stressing that only German newcomers were involved in the incident.

FRANCE

Paris Synagogue Bomb

A bomb devastated the Rashi Synagogue in rue Ambroise Thomas in the heart of Montmartre. Six cars parked nearby were destroyed by the blast, which also blew out windows for a considerable distance. Nobody was injured. Police inquiries have not yet found the instigators of the outrage.

War Criminals

Wearing white hoods to avoid identification, five men claimed at a press conference in Paris that a new organisation had been set up to "eliminate" all Nazi war criminals who had so far escaped punishment. According to the five, the members of the "Action Committee Resistance and Deportation" included Jewish and non-Jewish victims of Nazism. The committee believed that the measures being taken to search out Nazi criminals were not vigorous enough, and they claimed to have the means and the determination to carry out their threats.

Producing thick files on two men said to be living peacefully in West Germany, the five said one was a Munich estate agent and the other a Duesseldorf doctor. The estate agent was stated to be a former SS officer responsible for the massacre of thousands of Soviet partisans and Jews near Krasnodar in 1942 and 1943. The doctor was said to be a former Nazi Foreign Ministry official responsible for the Final Solution.

Ida Herz

MEETING THOMAS MANN

Recollections on his Centenary (June 6, 1975)

The relatively few lively pictures I can still recall of the many meetings I had with Thomas Mann in the course of more than thirty years remind me how many of these precious moments I have in fact forgotten. The modulation, the timbre of his voice, are still preserved in my inner ear. When I read any of his writings, be it a letter, an essay, or one of his novels, it is always as if he were reading them aloud to me. How often did I listen to him when he read in the family circle, with perhaps one or two other friends present, a piece he had completed in the morning hours in the seclusion of his study.

It was in the summer of 1925, when I was working on his library, that I heard him thus for the first time. At supper, he asked us: "Would you like me to read tonight from my essay for Keyserling's *Ehebuch*?" In the study only the standard lamp with a large yellow shade was burning and threw a soft and golden light on the easy chair, a beautiful piece of furniture with richly carved arm supports in the shape of swans' heads and their curved necks. It was a relic from the parental home in Lübeck. There Thomas Mann sat down, the loose pages of the manuscript in one hand, in the other the shortening end of a cigar. He waited until he had settled down, then he cleared his throat and began. For me it was a solemn moment. Not so for him: everything happened with intimate informality.

Many of Thomas Mann's critics, especially those in Anglo-Saxon countries, think of him as pompous and solemn. This is sheer nonsense. The pomposity and solemnity is all in their own imagination, deriving no doubt from the considerable intellectual challenge of his creative work. Confrontation with the exceptional tends to make us shy; and we are reluctant to admit the difference which often exists between person and personality. In Thomas Mann's case it was the more bewildering because he himself did not take notice, or did not seem to notice the effect upon others of his unaffected simplicity.

Thomas Mann met his visitors without expectations of any kind, neither in this direction nor in that. They had told him in their letters why they wanted to see and talk to him, and had asked whether and when they might come. That was enough for him. He then knew where the person hailed from, in the literal and the figurative sense. Who and what he was, was something still to be discovered.

Understandably, most of his visitors came with preconceived ideas about him. After all, they had read his works and discussed them with their friends or in print. Now, they looked forward to the opportunity of developing their thoughts in brilliant conversation with the author. This was their hope—until... Until they were confronted with the object of their long curiosity. However, the object of their curiosity was not willing to follow suit. He was looking forward to a leisurely talk with a pleasant companion, maybe on the walk he took regularly with his dog after three exhausting hours at his desk. Unexpectedly, surprisingly this was the moment of truth. Few recognized it as such. They were convinced that it was

Thomas Mann who had failed them. "He is an uninteresting bore", some of them complained. And in their vanity, they did not reflect how revealing of themselves such a remark was.

After a hard day's work, Thomas Mann loved to have guests, so long as, he once wrote to Agnes Meyer, "I can trust their sincerity." What he meant by this was: so long as he could believe in their sympathy. In fact, he could only live, and only work, in an atmosphere of sympathy. Then all his gifts unfolded, in other words: his genius. And then his genius generously returned a hundredfold the sympathy he received. The world at large learned very late that it was this abundance of sympathy with humanity which inspired his thoughts and actions. People who met him only once were inclined to take his innate shyness for aloofness, and the apparent aloofness for haughtiness.

Helpful to Fellow Writers

This false image that people often made for themselves is now slowly making room for a truer one. This, I believe, is chiefly due to the publication of his letters. Thomas Mann rarely left a letter unanswered. Short and factual though the answer may have been, it was not merely polite, it was always friendly. Behind the writer he saw the person. When, in 1925, I was putting his large library in order and cataloguing it, he complained to me of the overwhelming influx of books sent to him by publishers and by writers anxious to have his opinion. "If only I had the heart to throw a book away as many of my colleagues do. But behind each book there lives a man, who tried to put his best into it." This remark was characteristic of him. Well into old age he was willing and ready to compare his own beginnings with that of his younger contemporaries.

I once asked him what he felt about the great success of Buddenbrooks once the cheap one-volume edition was put out by his publisher S. Fischer of Berlin in 1903. "Not as happy as you may think. I only felt the very heavy responsibility. Would I be able to live up to it? It was really more discouraging than encouraging." Such reservations were, I think, responsible for his often far too kind criticism of writers. "A young writer's life is nowadays much more difficult than it was when I was young", he once said to me when we were talking of his son Klaus, of whose great talent he was convinced from the beginning. "He has the talent", he said, "what he will make of it, is a question of character".

If I were asked to offer a characterization of Thomas Mann in a couple of words, I think, I would say: "He was *un homme de bonne volonté*". For this implies both a belief in the fundamental goodness of man and the will to realize it in action. At the same time it demands recognition of the human limitations imposed by man's frailties and subsequent failings. With ironic wisdom and wise irony Thomas Mann therefore decided that the best could expect or demand from himself and his fellow human beings was "intelligent kindness".

DEVELOPMENT AND DECLINE OF YIDDISH

A Linguistic Study

Opening a scientific book on Yiddish, one is reminded of the great changes which opinion on this language underwent within one lifetime. At the beginning of this century it was still regarded as adulterated German—Treitschke had called it *verhunzt* (marred). Towards the end of the first world war, a reappraisal of Eastern Jews took place among German Jews who had come into contact with them in their own sphere, expressed by books such as "Das ostjüdische Antlitz" by Arnold Zweig, with portraits by Hermann Struck. Yiddish folksongs, theatre troupes and translations of the classics of Yiddish writing, Mendele Moicher Sforim, Perez and Sholem Aleichem led to a reevaluation of the language. At the same time, philologists showed that it was a language with its own laws, not merely a dialect; Yivo, the Yiddish Scientific Institute in New York (originally in Wilna), did much to explore and present this aspect. Politically, though being the official Jewish language in the USSR, Yiddish has been hit hard by the catastrophes that wiped out so many of its speakers. It is struggling against Hebrew in Israel, but "colonial" Yiddish, especially in America, is more or less still holding its ground.

The present book* has arisen from a Ph.D. thesis at Heidelberg, 1936. It is now produced with the support of the Ministry of Education of Württemberg-Baden, the University of Heidelberg and the publishers—a fine example of that restitution in the spiritual field which is not rare these days but not often recognised.

The first part surveys the history, distribution (with a map) and prospects of Yiddish. The second half gives a phonology of the language which does not concern us here. Yiddish goes back to the 13th century but evolved chiefly in the 16th. It has two main branches, east and west Yiddish, the former coming predominantly from East Middle German, the latter from Bavarian. It was formed by a synthesis of these two dialects, with an underlying Franconian-Alemannic layer. The causes of its formation are varied: migrations of Jews, chiefly to Poland, separation from the environment but also participation in world trade and autonomous jurisdiction which provided in particular Hebrew words. The chief components of Yiddish are German, Hebrew and Slavonic, with a slight admixture of old French words—the Jews in the Rhineland spoke predominantly French till the 13th century, e.g. *schalet*, praised by Heine, from *chald*, or *laienen*, to read, from *leier*. Other words came from Church Latin, such as *ören* from *orare*, *bentschen* from *benedicere*, *Memorbuch*, etc. If anyone were tempted to look down haughtily on this mixture, he might consider that present-day English comprises Anglo-Saxon, Danish, Celtic, Latin, Normanic and French components. As a living language, Yiddish is still growing. Not only are many new Hebrew words accommodated, in particular modern technical expressions, but there are also "take-overs," say from English, in particular in America. An amusing example from the days when immigrants were still struggling with the host language is the following: "like," in the sense of "equal to", is in Yiddish *glach* (*gleich*), so the word "to like" became *glachn*!

HANS I. BACH

* Jechiel Bin-Nun: *Jiddisch und die deutschen Mundarten*. Max Niemeyer, Tübingen 1973.

Gabriele Tergit

THOSE YOU HAVE KNOWN

German Theatre in Exile

During the first centuries of the Christian era people in Alexandria saved the Greek and Roman manuscripts, the documents of a dead great epoch. They collected, registered and edited them exactly in the way as it is done today. I do not want to compare that great period with the time between 1890 and 1929 in Berlin and Vienna, but it is worth noting that the literature about the arts of those decades is constantly growing.

One of the personalities who takes an important part in this research is Prof. Marta Mierendorff. In 1973 she organised an exhibition in Hollywood, displaying material pertinent to artists who had been forced to leave Germany and Austria under the Nazis. The catalogue of this exhibition on which the following article is based is a mine of information. Prof. Mierendorff's approach to her subject is "zweigeleisig". She not only deals with the victims of Nazi persecution, but also follows up the life stories of the persecutors, some of whom continue to work successfully after the fall of the régime.

One of the examples is Elisabeth Frenzel. She published a book: "Judengestalten auf deutscher Bühne, 1940". It includes pronouncements like the following ones: "Jessner benutzt des melancholischen Hamlets Schicksalstragödie zu einem talmudischen Hokuspokus", or "Hebbels Herodes und Marianne macht er ein Synagogenbeispiel unter Aufsicht des Rabbinats". Elisabeth Frenzel also compiled the titles of 2,000 theatre plays by Jewish authors and the names of 3,000 Jews in theatre and film for the "Einsatzstab Rosenberg". This record of hers did not prevent her from continuing to publish works after 1945. They include: "Daten deutscher Dichter", Kiepenheuer & Witsch, 13-17. Auflage, DTV, 1964 41-65; one of the critics describes it as "Fragwürdige Daten", but it has remained an important book for students all the same.

Another still active ex-Nazi is Heinz Kindermann. In "Theater und Nation" (1943) he wrote: "Wherever the Germans got hold of German territory in order to reconstruct it, the German theatre is rising. From the Hague to Oslo and to Athens the German actors, directors and stage designers move in. All theatres spread their Germanic culture". Today, Kindermann is a member of the Austrian Academy, Vice-President of the "Federation Internationale pour la Recherche Theatrale", founder of the "Institut für Theaterwissenschaft" at the University of Vienna, author of a ten volume "History of the Theatre".

The refugees who settled on the West Coast of the United States were confronted with a strongly organised Nazi propaganda machine. In Los Angeles the Stürmer was sold in the "Aryan Bookstore" and distributed in the film studios. It was the time when Sinclair Lewis wrote the novel with the ironic title: "It can't happen here", showing how easily a Nazi take-over could happen in the United States. In 1935, my colleague, C. Z. Klötzl, went to the States because he could not make a living in Jerusalem. He soon returned: "No thank you, the anti-semitism is worse than it was in 1932 in Germany, the Nazis will take over". The strong British Empire, a haven of tolerance, Palestine appeared safer than the U.S.A. People's memories are very short.

Reinhardt had been in the United States for the first time as early as 1912, when he staged Sumurun in New York, and from then onwards he returned time and again. The Nazi press of Southern California did not consider him as an emigrant, he was the internationally celebrated magician. In 1937 he said to Klaus and Erika Mann: "You simply must stay here. It's going to be a new centre of culture. America is going to take over the cultural heritage of Europe". An American pupil of Reinhardt's school persuaded her father to make a contract with him under which, in 1934, he produced "A Midsummer Night's Dream" in the Hollywood Bowl with its 20,000 seats for a twelve-day run. The revenue reached the staggering total of 250,000 dollars, virtually the cost of the stage event which was spectacular beyond most theatre people's dreams in those days, but disappointing like Reinhardt's film of the same play, transferred from simple Greece to overcrowded baroque, remarkable only for a shimmering shining Oberon, an unforgettable little Indian boy with turban and jewellery, made up from one Shakespeare line, and Mickey Rooney's Puck, a mischievous laughing boy, not the customary dressed-up girl.

In 1940, people in Hollywood devoted their lives to save those who were trapped in the occupied countries of Europe. Charlotte and William Dieterle and Lisl Frank, Massary's daughter and Bruno's wife, supplied affidavits, obtained visitors' visas and "courtesy contracts" which the employers considered as investments in talent, but most of which turned out to be charity.

Lubitsch, Dietrich, Dieterle, Jannings had come earlier, and expectations were high. Yet what had ended in Berlin in 1933 could not be resurrected in Hollywood in 1940. Barnowsky, who had first joined his nephew, film director Lothar Mendes in London, was advised by Joseph Schildkraut to try Hollywood. He found shelter at MGM but left no trace, and became instructor of dramatic art at Hunters College. He died at a very old age in New York.

Leopold Jessner first went to Tel Aviv, where he directed "The Merchant of Venice" for "Habima". The Venetians were shown as playboys, the great men of the play were Shylock and Gobbo. "But it was these playboys who have painted some pictures and built some edifices", said Gottlieb, who had been Hilpert's assistant at the Volksbühne, "and not Shylock and old Gobbo on the Ponte Vecchio. The "Merchant of Venice" is an antisemitic play, you cannot turn it upside down for Tel Aviv". A "courtesy contract" brought Jessner to Hollywood. With so-called Continental players and Dieterle's financial backing, he staged Wilhelm Tell. It was a disaster. Neither money nor speech coaches could overcome the language barriers in a production with so many performers of different nationalities. But Jessner was happy, his belief in the values of American democracy made him feel that he was a free individual for the first time in his life. He made a famous speech "Die Zions-Seele", he performed "The Marseillaise" for the Free French. Together with Hans Sahl and Iwan Heilbut, he planned a "Peace Chorus". His autobiography bears the title: "No East, no West, Judaism".

Brecht sold his plays to the film industry at a high price. He bought a beautiful house

in Santa Monica, now a tourist attraction. He coached Charles Laughton for the title role of his "Galilei". In 1947, he testified before the House Committee on un-American Activities in Washington. Within a few days he left the United States, where he had lived since July 1941.

In the same year the Cabaret der Komiker celebrated its 25th birthday on the West Coast, with Robitschek, Siegfried Arno, Bressart, Kitty Matter, Oskar Karlweiss. The Turnabout Theater arranged shows with Lotte Goslar, Elsa Lanchester, Elisabeth Neumann, Valeska Gert opened the Beggars Bar.

Friedrich Holländer tried to recreate his Tingel-Tangel in a garage on Santa Monica Boulevard seating 300 people. Performed in English, the revue had a glamorous opening night with prominent Hollywood personalities present. But Holländer's manager disappeared with all the profits. R.K.O. offered him a three-year contract. In comes American bureaucracy. As he had been working on a visitor's visa he had to leave the United States in order to immigrate legally—on a British quota number. This Berliner was born in London. Holländer waited in Mexico whilst Dieterle took care of all his visa formalities. He returned to Hollywood, composed film music, wrote a book: "Those Torn from the Earth" (1941), prefaced by Thomas Mann, and a second autobiography, "Von Kopf bis Fuss, Mein Leben mit Text und Musik", (München 1965).

The greatest difficulties had to be faced by the actors. Charles Higham and Joel Greenberg wrote in "Hollywood in the Forties": "For European expatriates the war movies provided a field day. Here they came into their own not only as performers but also as directors, writers and technicians... Dozens of faces familiar from the pre-war Continental stage and screen turned up again in unwanted surroundings, often speaking thickly accented and ungrammatical English. Some of the former leading lights of the Berlin theatre found themselves playing not Shakespeare and Ibsen but Nazi officers or partisan leaders..."

A special case was Bassermann. He was over seventy. Dieterle helped him find work immediately in the film industry. He played small or silent parts. The pattern of his life continued. In 1940, he cancelled his contract with MGM because his wife had not been given a part for six months. They played together only once, in "Gespenster" with Ernst Deutsch, Ruth Albu and Ludwig Stoessel. After the war Bassermann commuted between Germany and New York. He died on a flight from New York to Zürich in 1952.

Bressart, Sigi Arno, and Granach played in Lubitsch's "Ninotchka". Gisela Werbezirk, Reinhold Schünzel and Donath appeared in films and in Cabaret. Granach has written one of the most moving Jewish life stories: "Hier geht ein Mensch", and moving was its effect, an announcement in 1948: "In New York lebende Freunde aus Granachs Heimatstädtchen, 'Club der Herodenker Landsleute', treffen sich jährlich am 14 März, um das Kaddisch für ihn zu beten".

Ludwig Hardt, whom Hinkel had forbidden to work even within the framework of the Jewish "Kulturbund", continued to read Heine. Paul Henreid became a famous film actor. Homolka, who spoke fluent English, had married a Baroness Hatvany. After her death he married Florence Meyer, daughter of Eugen Meyer, publisher of the Washington Post. He became a Hollywood star, but still gave lectures in German and read from Brecht's "Spitzköpfe and Rundköpfe".

Continued on page 7, column 1

Those You Have Known

Continued from page 6

Ernst Deutsch was not happy. He said later: "Ich werde über die Emigration nicht sprechen. Ich sage Ihnen nur eines, ausser einer unheilbaren Krankheit kann einen nichts Schlimmeres treffen als die Emigration."

Of great importance was Rabbi Sonderling from Brünn. His Fairfax Temple was closely linked with the German-Jewish Club of 1933. Anna Mahler did a bust of him. There was a Fairfax Temple Journal, published by the Society for Jewish Culture, an open, tolerant society, which also showed films from many countries and the speakers at whose meetings included Heinrich and Erika Mann and Helene Weigel. On the death of Leopold Jessner and Joseph Schildkraut the old unwritten law which forbids the placing of a corpse in a synagogue was broken. In response to demands by liberal Jews, the bodies first of Jessner, later of Joseph Schildkraut were displayed before the Holy Ark of the Fairfax Temple.

Fascinating is the story of "Aufbau". To counteract the threats of Nazi propaganda, the News Research Center was established. The Hollywood Anti-Nazi League of the Motion Picture Industry published "Hollywood Now", a journal in defence of American Democracy. From July 1938 onwards, the German-Jewish Club of 1933 printed "Mitteilungen". Later the fast growing club published a monthly called "New World". On the East Coast a German-Jewish Club and a German-Jewish centre had been in existence since 1924. Their paper (1931) appeared under the title "Aufbau, Nachrichtenblatt des German Jewish Club Inc." When Manfred Georg became the editor of the "Aufbau" he covered the West Coast as well. But as the need for a local paper persisted, Georg Simmel and R. A. Braun printed "The Friendly Adviser". When, after 1945, the Displaced Persons arrived, the Jewish Club published again a Mitteilungsblatt in German.

In 1940 the board of the German-Jewish Club of 1933 decided to disband the word "German" in its name and became the "Jewish Club of 1933". Professor Mierendorff thinks it was done to attract other European nationals. But I rather think that, as in London, the war was then directed against anything German, including the language, and it is not by chance that at the same time a leading Jewish paper "California Jewish Voice" wrote: "There is no place for German Theatre". A German theatre, "Die Freie Bühne", had been founded in 1939 by Walter Wicclair (Wielau, Weinlaub). Schünzel, Donath, Martin Berliner, Werbezirk had just a big success with "Arm wie eine Kirchenmaus", when "German" theatre with a strictly Jewish refugee cast had to stop.

In June 1940, the Alien Registration Act was promulgated, a law which, for the first time in American history, required the registration and finger-printing of a large minority—the three and a half million non-citizens of the United States. Approximately 10,000 anti-Nazi refugees on the West Coast were classified as enemy aliens and a curfew was introduced. Thomas Mann and Bruno Frank published a pamphlet: "Are refugees aliens?"

On August 1, 1942 the Austrians of all people were exempted from the Enemy Aliens Act. In 1944 Leopold Jessner, was asked by Washington to furnish a list of actors, cabaret people, stage managers, producers, conductors and composers who would be willing to work for the office of Strategic Services in their former countries.

Hans Jaeger

THE BORMANN SAGA

A recently published book by a Soviet contemporary historian who also became known by his work, "The Death of Adolf Hitler", brings a completely new element to the abundant literature on Bormann.* It does not indulge in sensationalism, but is restricted to an account of facts. The interest in Bormann had been revived by Speer's memoirs where Bormann, the man with a steep career after an obscure past, is described as a demonic character combining a zest for intrigues with cruelty and wickedness.

The author had a special reason for taking up the subject again. When he served on the staff of the First Byelo-Russian Army, he learned as early as May, 1945, that Bormann's diary had fallen into Russian hands but had immediately been sent to Moscow. It took a lot of effort to trace its whereabouts. In the course of his search Besymenski met Marianne Weinert, daughter of a Communist propagandist who was very well known in the 'thirties; she had translated the diary into Russian.

The diary covers the time from January 1 to May 1, 1945, and the publication links the text with commenting explanations. Frequently the diary text only serves as a kind of garnish to the explanations. The entries in the diary are mostly restricted to the dates of events and meetings. Very often these make awkward reading. Thus, the entry on April 30 only records the fact that Adolf and Eva Hitler had died—and for the word "died" runic letters are used. The last entry, on May 1, is laconic indeed. It just states: "Attempts to break out".

The diary reflects the author's views on some aspects of political developments. Thus, he rejects the habit of singling out some German areas as the cradle and stronghold of National Socialism. He is not convinced of the "Bavarian theory", and he is right, as reality is much more complex. He refers to Mecklenburg, an area of feudalism. There, the Free Corps of Rossbach was active. Bormann was one of them and in connection with a bestial vehme assassination of a certain Kadow, an alleged "traitor", he was sentenced by mild judges to one year. Thus Bormann had started his career and, in the eyes of his comrades (one of them was Rudolf Hoess, the Auschwitz Commander), proved himself as a "useful" member of the community. He knew how to use his opportunities. It is not too well known

* Lew Besymenski: Die letzten Notizen von Martin Bormann. Ein Dokument und sein Verfasser. Prepared by the publishing house of the press agency Nowosti, Moscow. Translated from Russian by R. Holier, Deutsche Verlagsanstalt, Stuttgart, 345. pp. DM 28.

that, fully aware of the advantage, he married Gerda, the daughter of Major Buch, who was chairman of the supreme court of the Nazi party and a close friend of Hitler. His speculation proved right. Hitler acted as a witness at the marriage ceremony. Bormann had joined the gang.

In the 'thirties, he organised the collection of funds. When various high functionaries tried to raise donations at random with the prospect of transforming them into personal tributes, Bormann, backed by Rudolf Hess, restored discipline. From then onwards, there was only the Adolf Hitler Donation, and Bormann was solely responsible for its administration. He had an iron grip on the Gauleiters, and nobody dared to risk a reprimand by him. In the Party he was more feared than Himmler, and Hitler soon considered him as indispensable.

The Adolf Hitler Donation became the source of many financial operations. First, the SA was financed by it. Later, certain amounts also went to the party organisation abroad. Even the fees for all stamps which showed the "Fuehrer" were branched off for the fund. In this way, the purchase of private houses and the creation of the private gallery in Linz were made possible. Equally the building complex on the Obersalzberg, including the "Berghof", were bought with the help of the fund. With the prodigality of Roman emperors and Oriental potentates, billions were squeezed out of a nation, which had just experienced the most horrible economic crisis, or voluntarily donated by those who were so grateful for being again masters in their workshops.

The author made the best use of the diaries and proved himself to be a skilful research worker. He found a telephone number in Blankensee, Mecklenburg, not far from Neustrelitz. As the name puzzled him, he went on an exploring expedition and found out that Hitler, Eva Braun, Bormann and others had their ostentatious celebrations in the manor house of that place; SS had a camp in the forest and, at the end of the war, sealed boxes were secretly taken there. Bormann had bought a number of estates in Mecklenburg, because he knew that Hitler liked the area, and he speculated that Hitler would then often be his guest. Dozens and dozens of estates in the district were in the hands of Germany's "elite", bought up at the time of Germany's greatest misery with the money of the Adolf Hitler Donation, thoughtfully arranged at short distance from the death camps of Ravensbrueck and Sachsenhausen, where "the idealistic fighters" inspected their victims before they turned to their carousels to relax from their straining work for a better Germany. All this was organised by Bormann who had built up his sphere of power, just as Goering, Goebbels, Himmler did, but only with one difference: he acted much more in the dark, and nobody knew very much about the details. All this engendered fear.

He was hated. Yet this became evident only after 1945. Goering, who never minced his words, called him a big intriguer, a dirty pig and the Mephisto around Hitler. If Bormann dropped a note about someone, that particular person was doomed. Hitler's driver, Kempka, said that nobody was hated as much as Bormann, and he emphasised his ruthlessness and brutality. If people did not obey blindly, Bormann started proceedings, and his "friend" Himmler helped him. Actually, both hated each

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Continued on page 8, column 1

THE BORMANN SAGA

Continued from page 7

other. It was a pitiless fight for the influence on the "boss". (They were, however, united against third persons; therefore, Speer had to be the loser.) Bormann pushed aside Goering, Goebbels, Rosenberg and, at the end, even Himmler. But when he had achieved this aim, nobody was left around Hitler, and Hitler was nothing. It was a Pyrrhic victory. Werner Koeppen, Rosenberg's link with headquarters, said that Bormann never looked for the footlights, but that he monopolised all power.

Much space of the book is dedicated to Bormann's role in the Hess action. Hitler several times envisaged an agreement with the West from a position of strength. But when he had become strong, he decided that much more could be achieved by force. In spring 1941, the power of the Third Reich was at its peak. The version that Hess acted on his own initiative was spread by Bormann, and it was he who advised Hitler to declare Hess insane. This does not prove anything either way. In the author's view Hitler was too much exposed to risk a personal participation in the venture. Therefore, he was left the chance to disown Hess in case of failure. According to the English historian, James Leasor, all those close to Hitler knew that Hitler was fully informed, but they were politically minded enough to take cover in case of failure.

The author maintains that it was in particular SS leaders who wanted a political block with the U.S. and Britain. He even asserts that they took "soundings functions for a separate peace" from the men of July 20, 1944, who were in their hands, and that Goerdeler even offered the SS to use his links with the Western allies. Yet, the author claims, Bormann certainly did not belong to the protagon-

nists of a separate peace, though he realised that after the war co-operation with the Western powers would be necessary. He wished to be informed about all contacts, in order—to strengthen his own position.

Near the end of the book, Besymenski, so to speak, gives a history of the search for Bormann and the theories about him developed from 1945 until now. He quotes SS General G. Berger who is firmly convinced that Bormann went to Latin America, and Hildegard Buch, Bormann's mother-in-law, who said that Bormann was still alive in 1949. He reserves his own judgement and only mentions that the prosecutor declared the case as closed in March, 1973. But doubts still remained. Weighing the pros and cons, one feels impelled to ask whether the constant reports do not serve the purpose of diverting attention from those who are still alive and active.

The last chapters are dramatic. It is not surprising that at the end political propaganda becomes more intense. Explanations of fascism sound like articles in Pravda. The author's eagerness to protect mankind against new ordeals does not prevent him from using clichés, platitudes and one-sided statements. Reports on scenes which happened during the occupation of Berlin are described as the revenge of the defeated people, although this issue was more complex.

This book carries much new material, revives the memory and brings some of the most exciting months of our time into focus again. Besymenski did not want to write a biography of Bormann. He rightly says the man was mediocre—and this is typical of all of them. They were robots. They were narrow anti-intellectual bureaucrats. This is Besymenski's verdict. He thinks this was no coincidence. In his view they executed the orders of Germany's social oligarchy—a conclusion which again might be somehow controversial.

THE TUEBINGEN JEWS

A Documentation of their Fate

The main source of the recently published book "Die Tuebinger Juden" by Lilli Zapf (Katzmann Verlag, Tuebingen, 1974, 288 pp., DM 28) is, according to the authoress, her "private correspondence through many years with the emigrants". Her study is very impressive. It lays stress on the history of the recent past which is based on well represented documentary material, whereas the earlier history of the Jews in Tuebingen is compressed to 20 pages. Apart from letters, other available or newly discovered sources are also quoted. The first-hand knowledge of Tuebingen citizens is made use of, and even the archives of the Tuebingen University were searched.

The non-Jewish authoress dedicates her book to her "Jewish friends all over the world". The main part (about 100 pages) consists of descriptions of the destinies of 75

emigrated and over 20 deported Jews. As far as the emigrants are concerned, their life stories are mainly based on recent reports and letters. The fate of the deportees is recorded with the help of official material, witness reports, private communications and published literature in memory of the Wurttemberg Jews. The fact that, throughout the book, numerous dates and particulars are stated is bound to give the reader the feeling of accuracy, and this, after all, is decisive for the value of a publication of this kind. On the other hand, the book, unfortunately, lacks a clear and systematic exposition, and this deficiency sometimes also results in repetitions. In the comparatively brief chronicle of the antisemitic measures and the anti-Jewish terror acts in Tuebingen the excerpts from the Land Register recording "changes of property", in other words the enforced "Arisierung", are of special interest.

The book carries lists of the district rabbis (3) who, officiating in Muehringen and Horb respectively, were also in charge of the Tuebingen Jews, of the teachers and cantors (6) and of the community chairmen. A local Tuebingen community existed from 1882-1939, the Synagogue from 1882-1938. Though, strictly speaking not pertinent to the history of the Jews in Tuebingen, the book also carries lists of the Jewish students at the university (1803-1842 and 1910-1935), which are of particular interest from a general biographical point of view. They include Berthold Auerbach (1832), Arnold Zweig (1919) as well as the Zionist politician Siegfried Kanowitz and Arthur Posner (later rabbi in Kiel).

Today a Jewish community in Tuebingen no longer exists. The Jews of Wurttemberg are organised in the Israelitische Religionsgemeinschaft Wuerttembergs which comprises altogether about 800 members, most of whom live in Stuttgart. There is, however, the Institutum Judaicum at the Tuebingen University, whose members helped Lilli Zapf by their advice and encouragement. Her book is the first detailed study of the history of the Jews in that ancient town on the Neckar.

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SCENE FROM ISRAEL

IMMIGRATION DECLINE

Figures issued by the Central Bureau of Statistics show that 4,180 newcomers arrived in Israel between January and March this year, against more than 9,600 during the first quarter of 1974. The biggest drop was in arrivals from the Soviet Union, only 2,400 arriving up to March 31 compared with 5,700 in the same period last year.

HARD-LINE POLICY WARNING

Speaking to a *Jewish Chronicle* reporter Rabbi Dr. Arthur Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, on a visit to London warned the Israeli Government that a hard-line policy would be to the disadvantage of the State. He did not believe that anything but a policy of moderation would lead to the establishment of peace and security for Israel which, he said, must take the initiative in peace-making. The time was now ripe for a major Israeli peace initiative. There was no American support for an Israeli hard line—only for moderation. "Time is running out", Dr. Hertzberg declared.

YEMENITES INVITED TO RETURN

In 1949 and 1950, the Jewish Agency airlifted some 46,000 Jews—almost the entire Jewish population of Yemen—to Israel. Now, according to a report in the Paris daily, *Le Monde*, the Yemeni Foreign Ministry has issued a statement inviting Jews who had left Yemen for "occupied Palestine" to return. The statement emphasised that returning Jews would "enjoy all the rights of citizenship" and would be able "to live a life of security and peace".

DESECRATION OF RELIGIOUS SITES

U.N. Resolution Condemned

Fifty-three Christian and Moslem religious leaders living in Israel have denounced as "ludicrous" the resolution of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights alleging Israeli desecration of religious sites and violation of the rights to worship in occupied areas. The statement said that the resolution approved in Geneva in February was "completely false and unfounded and motivated by purely political purposes . . . only since 1967 have all religions been free to worship at all the holy places in Jerusalem". (Israel recaptured the Old City of Jerusalem from Jordan in 1967 and incorporated East Jerusalem with West Jerusalem.)

The signatories to the statement of denunciation included the Moslem Kadi (religious judge) of Jaffa Sheikh Tafi Mahmud Asliya, an Anglican priest, a Baptist pastor, the abbot of the Catholic Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem, and the head of the Latin parish of Haifa.

NEW UN REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Chaim Herzog has been appointed Israel's permanent representative at the United Nations, in succession to Mr. Yosef Tekoah, who has been installed as president of Beersheba University.

Fifty-six-year-old Mr. Herzog, an honorary Knight of the British Empire, was born in Belfast, and is the son of Dr. Isaac Herzog, the first Chief Rabbi of Israel and former Chief Rabbi of Ireland, who died in 1959.

WHERE IGNORANCE IS BLISS

Israel was shocked as well as amused by the results of a questionnaire distributed among young candidates for civil service posts. Most of them had an average of ten years schooling behind them. One candidate described Albert Einstein as a famous philanthropist, who had excelled in Magbit (Israel Appeal) contributions. Asked to name U.S. States, one candidate listed "Brooklyn, Los Angeles, Miami Beach, Canada and Florida", another "Ireland, London, Scotland, Britain and America". Shakespeare was classified as "a famous musician", "the writer of books in the Diaspora as well as a musical", and by a third candidate as a famous scientist. Great difficulties were encountered in defining a dinosaur. One candidate answered "a lawyer", another thought it was the name of "the first President of the State of Israel", whereas Hiroshima was "a town they burnt down in Poland". The Ministry of Education found itself under concerted attack in the press over the depth of ignorance revealed in these and similar replies by some of the candidates.—(JTA)

CONCERTS IN SPAIN CANCELLED

A series of concerts which were to have been given by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Madrid this season have been cancelled by the Spanish Foreign Ministry. The main reason for the decision is believed to be the extent of the security measures which would have to be taken for the orchestra's protection, and Spain's pro-Arab position seems also to have been a factor.

A concert agent in Madrid has confirmed that Israeli artists are now boycotting Spain as a consequence of the Spanish decision.

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PERSONALIA

SAUL AMIAS RETIRES

The Rev. Saul Amias has retired after 44 years' service to the Edgware (United) Synagogue, which he helped to found. A gathering at the Edgware Synagogue paid tribute to Mr. Amias for his wide-ranging achievements as minister, educationist, social worker, local and national celebrity and leader.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Rabbi Dr. Solomon Brown, senior minister of the United Hebrew Congregation in Leeds, and Rabbi Dow Marmur, of the North-Western Reform Synagogue, share the Sir Robert Waley Cohen memorial scholarship tenable this year.

Dr. Brown will study Jewish life and Jewish ethical values in South Africa. Rabbi Marmur is to study Jewish adult educational ventures in the United States and Canada, and he will look out for ideas that could be adopted in this country, particularly leading to the establishment of a part-time college for further Jewish education.

PEACE PRIZE FOR ALFRED GROSSER

This year's Peace Prize of the German Book Trade was awarded to the Paris politologist, Professor Dr. Alfred Grosser, an active promoter of Franco-German understanding. Grosser is of German-Jewish parentage; his father was the Frankfurt paediatrician, Professor Dr. Paul Grosser, and the family left Germany in 1933.

RABBI DR. F. PINKUSS, 70

Professor Rabbi Dr. Fritz Pinkuss (Sao Paulo) celebrated his 70th birthday on May 13. After the completion of his studies at the Berlin Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums, Dr. Pinkuss was appointed rabbi of Heidelberg. In 1936 he emigrated to Brazil, where together with other immigrants from Central Europe, he founded the "Congregacao Israelita Pauista", of which he has been the rabbi ever since. He also teaches on Jewish subjects at the university, and the collection of his lectures was recently published (in Portuguese) under the title "Ways of Jewish Thought".

AWARD FOR ANTI-NAZI

The Grand Federal Cross of Merit was awarded to 71-year-old Konrad Hoffmann (Hamburg). Herr Hoffmann was a founder member and, for many years, chairman of the "Notgemeinschaft der durch die Nuernberger Gesetze Betroffenen" and also plays an active part in the Federation of Societies for Christian-Jewish Co-operation, the German-Israel Society and the German-French Society. Born in Berlin and trained in the banking trade, Konrad Hoffmann held a position in Hamburg with the banking house Gebrueder Arnhold until 1938. He was dismissed from military service because he refused to get divorced from his Jewish wife and had to do forced labour during the last period of the war.

Letter to the Editor

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS ELECTIONS

Sir,—In your March edition you report about my letter to the New York Times in which I "warned against pre-emptive war." In this report you say that I informed Mr. Korn, the chairman of the W.J.C. chapter in Israel, that "if wished he could no longer occupy such a position" (chairman of the Governing Council). You continue to say: "He did not stand for re-election, and Mr. Philip Klutznick succeeded him." This report leaves the reader with the impression that Mr. Klutznick succeeded me in this position because of the letter I wrote to Mr. Korn.

In reality I had decided almost a year before the Plenary Session that I would prefer to serve as vice-president of the W.J.C. rather than in any other capacity. I was indeed elected to the vice-presidency at the meeting in Jerusalem.

(Dr.) JOACHIM PRINZ.

306 Elmwynd Drive,
Orange, New Jersey 07050 (USA).

HOLOCAUST BOOKS

The World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Survivors' Association has announced in Jerusalem that a special £1 million (about £714,000) fund is to be established to promote studies of the Holocaust. The fund is to mark the 30th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps, and its first act will be to finance the publication of ten books on the Holocaust. These were chosen from more than 100 entries by a committee headed by the writer Elie Wiesel.

FAMILY EVENTS

Entries in the column Family Events are free of charge. Texts should be sent in by the 15th of the month.

Birth

Kent.—A daughter, Tina, to Mr. and Mrs. Kent of Ilford, a granddaughter for Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fabian, a great-granddaughter for Mrs. F. Fabian.

Engagement

Fabian : Stone.—Mr. Paul Fabian, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fabian and grandson of Mrs. F. Fabian to Miss Lynda Stone.

Deaths

Freiwald.—Mr. Lazar Freiwald (formerly of Krakau), passed away peacefully after a short illness on May 15. Deeply mourned and missed for ever by his loving wife Edith (née Meyer), only granddaughter Joan, relatives and his numerous friends by whom he was held in high esteem.

Milford.—Mr. Egon Milford (formerly Dr. Grünhut) from Vienna, died tragically on April 30 following a road accident. He is deeply mourned by his wife and sons and his many friends.

Morley.—Mr. Martin Morley of 26, Corringham Court, Corringham Road, London, N.W.11 died on May 8. Deeply mourned by his wife Lucie, his relatives and friends.

Philipp.—Mr. Richard Philipp of 44, Ellesmere Road, Dollis Hill, London, N.W.10 passed away on April 29 at the age of 80. Sadly missed by his wife, Fanny, son, Charles, daughter, Cynthia, daughter-in-law, Miriam, David and brother Walter, relatives and friends. Many thanks to the Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue and to all those who attended the funeral.

Rauch.—Mr. W. Rauch of 3, Manor House Drive, London, NW6 7DE (formerly of Goerlitz), passed away on May 2 at the age of 67. Sadly missed by his wife, son, brother and mother-in-law.

Silber.—Mr. Julius J. Silber of 28, Kingsley Way, London, N.2 passed away peacefully on April 3. Deeply mourned by his wife, Marguerite and his son, Stephen.

Wartenberger.—Mrs. Martha Wartenberger, formerly the kind and competent Secretary of the Jewish Relief Association, Bombay, passed away in Indore in April. Sadly missed by her many friends all over the world.

CLASSIFIED

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ELDERLY LADY would like young companion (student) for 2 weeks' holiday in June or July. All expenses paid plus pocket money. Please apply in writing to: Mrs. M. Casson, Social Services Department, AJR, 8, Fairfax Mansions, London, NW3 6JY.

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Miscellaneous

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Personal

PROFESSIONAL LADY, interested in theatre, music, exhibitions, week-end outings and many other subjects and events, would like to meet ladies and gentlemen of similar interests. View companionship, sharing interesting, stimulating activities. Preferably N.W.1, N.W.8, N.W.3, N.W.11. Age group 50 to 65. Box 495.

MIDDLE-AGED LADY would like to meet a gentleman living in London area—not over 70 years of age. Marriage considered. Box 496.

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GENTLEMAN, late thirties, in excellent position, wishes to meet attractive young lady, good family background, object matrimony. Box 501.

THEATRE AND CULTURAL NEWS

Bonn. A proud report emanates from the West German capital: the "Rheinische Landesmuseum" offers a rich display of local cultural history, and does not mind going back 50,000 years; enumerating all the prominent Rhineland people with close relations to the area, it issues a sort of "Top of the Pops" list, crowned by the Neandertal man, Ludwig van Beethoven and Konrad Adenauer.

Vienna. The Director-elect for the Vienna State Opera for 1976 is Dr. Egon Seefehlner who will return to his native city after many years in Berlin. Among expectations of the still very opera-minded Viennese is the hope that Seefehlner will succeed in bringing back Karajan to conduct at the Opera House.

To mark the 90th anniversary of the birth of the author and producer Berthold Viertel (1885-1953) an exhibition under the heading "Berthold Viertel und Wien" is being held in the foyer of the Burgtheater.

Bregenz. The English drama "Kohlhaas" by James Saunders, based on the famous Kleist novel, combines an old subject with new techniques. In a translation by Hilde Spiel, nine actors performed the commendable feat of playing the 21 parts in the "Theater für Vorarlberg". Their success was registered far beyond the shores of Lake Constance.

Old titles—new productions. Among recent productions in German theatres, one finds Ibsen's "Frau vom Meere" (Darmstadt) and "Wildente" (Schauspielhaus Hamburg). Strindberg's "Gespenstersonate" was revived in Bonn, Schnitzler's "Anatol" in Vienna and Munich. Schnitzler also features at the Berlin Schlossparktheater with a Double Bill "Der grüne Kakadu" and "Literatur". It would seem that this very Austrian dramatist whose works had been lost to practically a whole generation during the Nazi years, will now be

given his rightful place among the great writers of this century, and not only depicted as "scriptwriter" for the "La Ronde" film, which was the film version of his sequence of dramatic scenes "Der Reigen".

Familiar Face. In a recent instalment of BBC's TV series "The Brothers", Frederick Schiller played an alpine innkeeper with verve and humour.

Obituary. The death is announced of Anton Paulik, the Vienna operetta conductor. Paulik who was in his seventies, became chief conductor of the "Theater an der Wien" in 1931, and looked after the operetta section of the Vienna Volksoper since 1945. Invited by the English National Opera Company in the autumn of 1974, the number of "Fledermaus" performances at the Coliseum under his baton was unfortunately cut short by a labour dispute. S.B.

PORTRAITS OF BERLIN WOMEN

Under the heading "Berlinerinnen — Bekannte und unbekante Frauen in Berlin" the Berlin Museum (Lindenstrasse) arranged an exhibition of portraits. Among the 200 exhibits are original portraits of Charlotte Berend-Corinth, Nelly Sachs, Henriette Herz and Rahel Varnhagen as well as photographed portraits of Alice Salomon, Lise Meitner and Mascha Kaleko. The Exhibition—held in International Women's Year — at the same time represents an interesting chapter of Berlin portrait art, with works by, among others, Max Liebermann and Lesser Ury, Josef Oppenheimer and Emil Orlik. The Exhibition was opened by the active director of the Museum, Professor Dr. Irmgard Wirth, and four piano compositions by Fanny Hensel, née Mendelssohn Bartholdy, were performed on the occasion.

FLORENCE'S HERITAGE

Jewish Books Threatened

When, on November 4, 1966, the River Arno broke its banks and houses, art galleries, museums and libraries were flooded, priceless works of art were damaged or destroyed. Florence's Great Synagogue, one of the most beautiful synagogues in Europe, was also damaged. The Great Synagogue has now been restored, thanks to a "Florentine Restoration Fund" launched by the Jewish Chronicle and administered by the Central British Fund.

However, according to an article by Rabbi Dr. H. Rabinowicz in the *Jewish Chronicle* very little has been done to restore Florence's valuable Jewish library where 15,000 books, many of them early Italian prints of the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and many Hebrew manuscripts, were completely soaked. The damaged books were placed in boxes and deposited in non-air-conditioned rooms, uncatalogued and unlisted. Now, eight years after the Arno disaster, these literary treasures have not been salvaged.

In attempting to eradicate all traces of Judaica, the Nazis destroyed three million Jewish books in 20 European countries, including the famous collections of Ferrara, Rome and Turin. Unless world Jewry saves the waterlogged books of Florence, a further irreparable loss to Jewish culture will occur.

MEIN KAMPF

Dutch Translation Confiscated

The police confiscated 795 copies of a Dutch translation of *Mein Kampf*. Two Dutch publishers have been fined £350 by a Rotterdam court for infringing the copyright laws by this illegal printing. The publishers, said the Attorney-General, wanted to make money out of a book which was better left unread by the public at large.

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AJR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, June 17

As readers will have seen from the announcement published last month and repeated on the front page of this issue, this year's Annual General Meeting of the AJR will be held on Tuesday, June 17, at 7.45 p.m. in the Hall of Hannah Karminski House, 9 Adamson Road, N.W.3. In the first part of the meeting, reports will be given on the activities of the AJR, especially on new developments during the year under review. As usual, the business proceedings will be followed by a talk on a topical subject of special interest to our friends. This year, we have the pleasure of welcoming as a speaker Miss Lucie Schachne, who is well known to many in our midst and who also frequently contributes articles and book reviews to AJR Information. Miss Schachne, who has always been active in Jewish affairs, is now Administrative Officer of the Camden Committee for Community Relations, which deals with the manifold problems of the post-war immigrants from overseas, especially from the West Indies, Cyprus, India and Pakistan. There are spheres in which these problems are similar to those we had to face after our arrival and others, in which the position is entirely different. The speaker will, among other things, deal with questions such as integration or separateness, self-representation or dependence on outside help, moderate or militant attitude *vis à vis* the authorities. She will also mention ways in which members of our community could render constructive help to the newcomers. Speaking from first-hand knowledge, her comparison between the two groups of arrivals will be of particular interest.

The proceedings of the General Meeting will include the elections to the Executive and the Board. The following proposals are submitted by the Executive:

Committee of Management (Executive). The members of the present Executive stand for re-election. They are: Mr. W. M. Behr, O.B.E. (Chairman), Mr. C. T. Marx (Vice-

Chairman), Dr. F. E. Falk (Treasurer), Dr. W. Rosenstock (General Secretary), Dr. E. A. Lomnitz (Deputy General Secretary), Mrs. R. Anderman, Mr. S. Bischheim (Trustee), Mr. A. S. Dresel, Mr. C. F. Flesch, Mr. O. E. Franklyn (Trustee), Mr. E. K. Heyman, Dr. A. R. Horwell (Trustee), Mr. E. A. Sonnenberg, Mr. L. Spiro.

Board: It is proposed to re-elect the members of the present Board. They are: Mrs. R. Abels, Mrs. O. Albrecht, Mr. R. Apt, Miss M. Babington, Mrs. A. Berent, Mrs. R. Berlin, Dr. J. Bondi, Dr. W. Breslauer, Rabbi I. Broch, Mr. F. Dannen, Dr. W. Dux, Dr. R. Elton, Dr. H. Feld, Dr. A. Fleiss, Mrs. A. Fleiss, Dr. H. G. Francken, Mr. R. J. Friedmann, Mrs. Elisabeth Goldschmidt, Dr. Erna Goldschmidt, Mr. R. Graupner, Dr. F. Gumpert, Sir Ludwig Guttman, Mr. S. F. Hallgarten, Mrs. G. Hambourg, Mr. E. Haymann, Mr. Herbert M. Hirsch, Mrs. Susanne Horwell, Mrs. M. Jacoby, Dr. A. Kaufmann, Mr. E. C. Kent, Dr. L. G. T. King, Mrs. F. Kochmann, Mr. M. Kochmann, Rabbi Jakob J. Kokotek, Dr. H. Lawton, Miss J. Lee, Dr. Rita Lehmann, Dr. G. Leon, Dr. F. Levy, Dr. Julius Loeb, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Mrs. Ilse Loewenthal, Dr. E. Magnus, Mrs. M. Mautner, Rabbi Dr. I. Maybaum, Mr. H. C. Mayer, Mrs. Gabriele Meyer, Mrs. L. Meyer, Dr. H. Neufeld, Mr. E. Plaut, Mrs. M. Pottlitzer, Mr. W. R. Powell, Dr. Eva Reichmann, Dr. E. Reifenberg (Gabriele Tergit), Mr. A. Reimann, Mr. J. Sachs, Mrs. Charlotte Salzberger, Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger, Mr. F. Samson, Dr. H. G. Sandheim, Mrs. M. Schurmann, Mrs. D. Segall, Dr. W. Selig, Mr. P. E. Shields, O.B.E., Mr. E. Speyer, Dr. Laura Stein, Miss Renate Stern, Mr. Julius Strauss, Mr. G. Streat, Mr. G. L. Tietz, Dr. U. Tietz, Mrs. Eva Trent, Dr. Valerie Wills, Dr. Charlotte Wittelshoefer, Mr. H. Wreschner.

It is proposed to elect as new Board members: Mr. F. Lieberman, Dr. L. Nelken, Mr. F. S. Worms.

The Board also includes representatives of the Provincial groups.

OTTO SCHIFF CENTENARY

To mark the centenary of the birth of Otto M. Schiff on May 8, an informal gathering took place in the Home for elderly Jewish refugees which commemorates his name.

As chairman of the Jewish Refugees Committee from its inception in 1933 until 1949, Otto Schiff played a decisive part in the rescue of the persecuted Jews in Germany and subsequently in Austria. Whilst many remember his devoted work at Bloomsbury House, especially during the emergency period between the November 1938 pogroms and the outbreak of war, his untiring and effective pleas to the British authorities for a relaxation of their admission policy became known to the wider public only by more recent historical works such as A. J. Sherman's scholarly book "Island Refuge".

Otto Schiff was born in Frankfurt and came to London as a young man. Originating from a well-known German-Jewish family, he had particularly close ties with the German Jews and understood the impact of the catastrophe on this old-established Jewish community. It was therefore a matter of course that, when the AJR was founded in 1941, its honorary officers from the very beginning kept close contact with Otto Schiff and regularly benefited from his advice.

When in 1955, three years after his death, the first Old Age Home for Jewish refugees was founded, it was given the name Otto Schiff House. At the centenary gathering, Mr. H. Oscar Joseph, O.B.E., paid tribute to the outstanding personality and signal services of Otto Schiff. The function was a reunion of former fellow workers at Bloomsbury House and was also attended by relatives of the late Otto Schiff, members of the Management Committee and the House Committee as well as the residents and the staff of the Home.

TAXABILITY OF INVALIDITY PENSIONS

Could the member, who enquired about the position over the phone on May 9, please ring the office again.

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