

Issued by the
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN
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NATURALISATION

ASKED in Parliament, what progress had been made in dealing with arrears of applications for naturalisation, and if the Home Secretary had to make any further statement of policy in regard to fresh applications, Mr. Ede replied that since November 15 last, over 1,000 of the pre-1940 applications had been reopened. Of these, about 300 had been brought up to date by the applicants, and were now being examined. As regards other classes of applicants to whom priority is to be given, plans for dealing expeditiously with the applications were in an advanced state. Mr. Ede hoped to be in a position soon to give details of the procedure. He also stated in a written reply that 220 certificates of naturalisation had been granted since November 15.

REFUGEES AND REFUGEES

THE discussion on the refugee problem in the Economic and Social Council of UNO suffered from an ill-defined term "refugee." The English and American delegations had obviously in mind categories of persons who had been made homeless and stateless in consequence of Nazism and Fascism, and who should not be compelled to return to their countries of origin against their will. This interpretation covers Jewish displaced persons. The Russian and Yugoslav delegations referred to another class of displaced persons in Europe. There are, indeed, in the British and American zone in Germany, a number of camps with emigres from Poland, Yugoslavia and other Eastern and South-Eastern European countries, who should not be confused with genuine refugees. The inmates of these camps have, in many cases, come voluntarily to Nazi Germany, worked for the Nazi war machine, and now refuse to return to their countries for fear of punishment. American raids on two camps in Bavaria have revealed disruptive Fascist activities.

It is regrettable that UNO did not succeed in distinguishing between displaced persons who are victims of Fascism and such who are enemies of democracy. The British plan suggested the immediate establishment of an international agency under the Economic and Social Council of UNO to deal with the actual refugee problem; the Russian and Yugoslav delegations maintained that there existed only a problem of repatriating refugees and extraditing war criminals. A compromise proposal, introduced on behalf of the American delegation by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, was, in the end, accepted, and a Committee on Refugees and Displaced Persons set up, with representatives of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Belorussia, Canada, China, Colombia, Czechoslovakia, the Dominican Republic, France, Lebanon, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Poland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, U.S.S.R., and Yugoslavia.

DOCTORS' TEMPORARY REGISTRATION

According to the new Emergency Laws Act, the temporary registration of foreign doctors continues in force until 31st December, 1947.

PALESTINE IMMIGRATION GOES ON

The Palestine Government has issued 4,500 immigration certificates for the period from 15th December, 1945, to 15th March, 1946, pending the report of the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry.

Towards a Solution

The Association of Jewish Refugees have made constructive suggestions towards the solution of the refugee problem, especially the problem of Jewish displaced persons on the Continent. Their proposals were discussed at the international forum of the Anglo-American Commission of Inquiry on Palestine.

Invited to give evidence, the Executive of the AJR submitted a memorandum which distinguishes between three groups of Jewish refugees:—

1. The very small group of those Jews who want to stay in their countries of origin or who want to return to those countries.

2. Those who have family members in other countries and want to join them. The memorandum emphasised that in spite of existing immigration difficulties everything should be done to reunite families.

3. Those who have neither relatives in other countries nor want to return or cannot return, or do not want to stay or cannot stay in their present places of residence. For these, by far the largest group, the problem cannot be solved without opening the gates of Palestine. Some of them may make use of immigration possibilities to other countries; the present quota system, however, would absorb only a comparatively small number.

The bulk of the Jewish survivors still in Central Europe look to Palestine as the only goal worth while living for after they have lost everything. It was the hope to go one day to Palestine and live among their own people, which carried them through all their terrible sufferings.

The memorandum demands the transfer of the survivors to congenial surroundings where they will be well cared for and where they can again become useful members of the human community. The only land which can restore them in mind and soul is Palestine, whose Jewry is prepared to make every sacrifice to help them build a new life. The memorandum urges immigration to Palestine on a wide scale as the only practical solution and postulates a change of the constitution of Palestine so that unrestricted immigration may become possible.

The written evidence was supplemented during the London hearings of the Commission when the AJR was asked to appear as witness. No one was better qualified to speak for the refugee community in this country than Rabbi Dr. Leo Baeck, the former President of the "Reichsvertretung der deutschen Juden," who himself had shared the sufferings of Continental Jewry until 1945.

The hall of the Royal Empire Society was crowded to capacity, when Dr. Baeck—who was accompanied by Mr. A. Schoyer, Chairman of the AJR, and Mr. S. Adler-Rudel, Vice-Chairman—made a forceful plea for our people. In a passionate address, he pictured the state of mind of those Jewish displaced persons who were now asking what harm they had done that they should still be held in camps. "Jewry is a large family full of family feeling," Dr. Baeck emphasised.

He warned the Commission not to get confused by terms such as a Jewish state. The idea of a Jewish state did not mean narrow nationalistic sovereignty but a significant contribution to humanity, it was a moral and a human task, every state being part of the great community of the world and every nationality being a treasure house of humanity.

In regard to the Arab problem, Dr. Baeck declared: "There may not be friendship between Arab committees and Zionist committees but there is friendship between Arab villages and Jewish villages, and in the end villages are more important than committees."

Dr. Baeck's statement which no doubt made a deep impression on the Committee, will not fail to carry its weight when the fate of homeless Jews comes to be decided.

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FOR JEWS IN EUROPE
BABY OUTFITS FOR BELSEN CAMP
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A scheme for collecting, in exceptional cases, clothing from donors in London is under consideration. Donors who are definitely unable to send or bring clothing should ask the Clothing Department for further information.

TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF ALIENS—(Statement in Parliament)

Mr. John Lewis asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department why, in cases where he grants permission to aliens to leave the country for a temporary period, on their return their passports are stamped as being only valid for six months, after which they must leave the country; and if he will take steps to put an end to this practice.

Mr. Ede (Home Secretary). Broadly speaking an alien who is unconditionally resident in this country is allowed, on return from a short visit abroad, to land unconditionally. An alien whose stay is on a temporary basis would normally be given leave to land on a temporary basis on return and if the period endorsed on the passport by the Immigration Officer is insufficient it is open to any alien who has adequate grounds for remaining here to apply for an extension.

Mr. Lewis. While appreciating that the duration of stay of any alien in this country must obviously be at the discretion of the Home Secretary, why is it the common practice that when these men or women who are allowed to leave temporarily return to this country, their passports are stamped for a period of six months, irrespective of the condition referred to by my right hon. friend.

Mr. Ede. That is not my information, nor is it my instruction. Normally, on re-admission an alien comes back on the same conditions as those under which he was here before he left.

Herbert Friedenthal:

UNREQUITED LOVE

Love for Europe has led to one of the most tragic and, at the same time, creative stages in Jewish history—creative not for the nation as such which was atomised, but for the Jews as individuals. They received from Europe and they gave to it, and it is not incidental that for many of them Europe was represented by Germany.

In Germany, Jewish participation in public life had found its exemplary expression equalled only by Spain in the 11th and 13th centuries. There, as in no other country, Jews were leading in the cultural life of a nation which, only shortly before, had emancipated them. From Heinrich Heine to Arthur Schnitzler, there was an unbroken chain of Jewish poets and novelists, dramatists and essayists; from Leopold Sonnemann, the founder of the "Frankfurter Zeitung," to Theodor Wolff, there were Jews leading in Journalism; from Adolf Sonnenenthal, the 19th century director of the Vienna Burgtheater, to Max Reinhardt, from Ludwig Dessoir to Elisabeth Bergner, Jews excelled in German stage production. No less marked was their contribution to art from Max Liebermann to Erich Mendelssohn; their achievements in music from Jacques Offenbach to Gustav Mahler; their participation in philosophy from Moses Mendelssohn to Hermann Cohen; their work as scientists and doctors; among fourteen Jews and six half-Jews who, up to 1933, received the Nobel Prize, fourteen were German or Austrian citizens.

In the tragic personality of the philosopher Salomon Maimon (1756-1800), who broke out from Jewish life in Lithuania and became a famous disciple of Kant in Berlin, the problem of Jewish participation in German spiritual life found its first and, as it happened, last answer. Maimon was the first Jew who came straight from the Eastern Ghetto and invaded European philosophy, the first to exchange the "Talmud-Stube" against the literary "Salon;" the first to be accepted by the greatest of his time, by Goethe, Kant and the literary critics, only in order to lose what he aimed at and where he started from. His life was a warning—it anticipated in a dazzling flash the rise and fall of the generations to follow. Maimon was praised and cursed, welcomed and ridiculed, cordially received and cruelly thrown out; in two decades, he lived through the development of two centuries: the transformation of Jews into bourgeois, their access to academic professions, their achievements in art and science—and their final breakdown.

Salomon Maimon made his contribution

to German philosophy as an anonymous individual residing in Germany—like the many who followed him. He did not come as a Jew exploring the Western spirit, measuring Western achievements by his own standards; he did not come as an ambassador of the Jewish people—he had broken with Judaism, destroyed the bridges behind him before he had safely landed. The hectic speed with which he conquered German philosophy did not give him self-assurance. He was praised by Goethe and appreciated by the leading literary journals but to Kant he had devoted his work, and with the fanaticism of a monomaniac he watched his reactions towards his studies. There were only two reactions of Kant, one positive and one negative. The positive remark was made about Maimon as an individual; the negative remark directed against Maimon as a Jew. Maimon felt himself expelled by

AUSCHWITZ

Written in the concentration camp by one of its inmates.

Die grauen Vögel der Vernichtung
flattern über den Hof.
Ich höre ihren Flügelschlag
im heiseren Rufen der SS.

Ich war einmal ein Kind
und meine Mutter küsste mich.
Ich hatte Freunde
und sie spielten mit mir.

Auf dem Hofe steht ein Baum.
Die Blätter haben ihn verlassen.
Er trägt keine Frucht.
An seinen Zweigen hängt ein Mensch.

Kant from the fields of German philosophy. He had nothing to return to—he was not only without a state, he was without a nation. He died early of dipsomania.

Jewish love for German culture has sometimes been called tragic romance. If it is true that tragic romance stimulates the creativeness of poets, then it may be that German Jews became productive because Germany did not respond to their love. It is not quite so. No doubt, the German people did not answer to the wooing of their Jewish lovers. The German language, however, did respond and, with it, Europe has given of its treasures to the Jews no less than it received from them.

The Maimon episode in Jewish history was bound to end in disaster—not because of Jewish love for German culture, not be-

cause the Jews had to avoid contact with Europe—not at all. It was doomed to failure because the Jews had no defence line to fall back to when they were thrown out; because they did not act as Jews but tried to conceal their origin; because of their mimicry and not of their participation. Not that Maimon fought against Kant, had defeated him, but that he fought without the background of his people.

"The next time we meet again, we meet as equals," said Lord Gort after Dunkirk. Once again we may be called upon to find a synthesis between Europe and Judaism. Whether the Jewish nation through Palestine will give the answer collectively or whether every Jew will have to find it individually, I do not know. But we shall not find it if we are not well armed with Jewish consciousness.

PERSONALIA

Dr. Eva Reichmann-Jungmann, former editor of the German-Jewish periodical "Der Morgen," took her Ph.D. at the London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London), the subject of her thesis being "The Social Sources of National-Socialist Antisemitism."

Dr. Leo Baeck and Fritz von Unruh joined the Board of New York's "Aufbau."

Jubilees. — Two distinguished Jewish scholars from Central Europe were celebrated recently: Professor Samuel Krauss, Cambridge, formerly a Talmud authority at the Jüdisch - Theologische Lehranstalt, Vienna, attained his 80th birthday on February 18; Professor Isaak D. Markon, London, who before he came to Hamburg in 1926 had held a high position in Russia, was 70, on January 27. Max Mosheim, Cambridge, celebrated his 80th birthday on February 11.

FILM

Mr. Leopold Lindtberg, a Jewish producer from Berlin, now in Switzerland, has made the first realistic film on the refugee problem, "The Last Chance" (Empire, London). The drama, acted mostly by amateurs who had come to Switzerland on similar journeys as that one narrated in the film, has become a world success.

The story is simple. Three Allied escaped prisoners of war try to bring a group of refugees over the mountains from Italy to Switzerland. There are Jews among them—uncle Hillel, an old tailor from Poland, with his little niece; a Professor from Vienna; a German Jewess, who tries to stop the train which takes her husband into deportation, and sees her son shot by a German patrol. There are moments full of poignancy—blinding snowstorms; hunger and exhaustion; hunt by German soldiers; a deportation train on the sidings; uncle Hillel breaking down in the snow and crying out in Hebrew "Forsake us not when our strength faileth."

One of the British officers pays with his life for the rescue of some of those refugees. On his grave, his comrade has a vision: he sees the roads filled with humanity, with refugees streaming back. That woman, whose husband was deported and whose son was shot before her eyes—where to shall she go back?

NEW BOOKS: Bruno Frank, "One Fair Daughter" (Hutchinson, London); Professor Dr. Harry Friedenwald, "The Jews and Medicine," Essays, Vols. I and II (Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore); Henrik Infield, "Co-operative Living in Palestine" (The International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction, edited by Karl Mannheim, Kegan Paul, London); Theo Lang, "Erste Ergebnisse psychiatrisch-erbblologischer Untersuchungen an jüdischen Flüchtlingen" (Bulletin der Schweizerischen Akademie der Medizinischen Wissenschaften, 1945, Benno Schwabe and Co., Basel); Leopold Schwarzschild "The Red Prussian" and Franz Werfel "The Star of the Unborn" (both Hamish Hamilton, London); Leonhard Frank "Lovers in Fantasy" and F. Koermendi "That One Mistake" (both Philosophical Library, New York); Rainer Maria Rilke, "Selected Letters" (Macmillan, London); Dr. Karl Brinitzer, "The Last Word in German" (Victor Gollancz, London).

LAW and LIFE

Legal Advice Hours (for persons with limited means only): Wednesday 5-6.30 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.—12.30 p.m.

N.H.I.: DUTIES AND BENEFITS

Many people are not fully acquainted with National Health Insurance (N.H.I.), what it requires, and what it entitles to. The most essential regulations can be summarised as follows:—

All employed people, salary and wage earners up to £420 p.a., men between 16 and 65, women between 16 and 60, must be insured and should join an Approved Society (address through Employment Exchanges). The weekly contribution—one half each to be borne by employer and employee—must be put by the employer on the Insurance Card, which, together with the Record Card, must be sent in once a year to either the Approved Society or, in the case of a Deposit Contributor, to the Ministry of National Insurance, Blackpool. It is of the utmost importance to keep the Record Card up-to-date.

Each insured person must also have a Medical Card, to be obtained from the

Approved Society or the Post Office, and must register with a Panel Doctor in the neighbourhood. In case of illness the Panel Doctor should be asked to issue two medical certificates, of which one should immediately be submitted to the Approved Society (or the Insurance Committee) in order to qualify for sickness benefit, the other to the employer. At least 26 weekly contributions must have been made before such a claim will be recognised. Panel Doctor's prescriptions can be obtained free of charge from chemists.

Where the Approved Societies grant dental or optical help, members must obtain a "dental" or "optical letter," then consult the dentist or optician, who, in turn, will submit his estimate to the Society which may make a payment towards the expenses.

Hospital maintenance is not covered by the N.H.I. Special organisations, such as the Hospital Savings Association and the Hospital Saturday Fund, with branches all over the country, offer help in that respect.

Kurfuerstendamm 193-194

DR. ROBERT WELTSCH, former editor of the "Juedische Rundschau" (Berlin), re-visited Germany as a correspondent for various Palestine papers. During his stay in Berlin he made a special study of the problems of restitution and compensation.

On the day I arrived in Berlin, the American-sponsored daily "Der Tagesspiegel" reported that the municipal authorities had secured emergency relief measures for "victims of the Nuremberg laws." Even before the problem of restitution was to be finally settled they should receive regular monthly payments and they should also be given exemption from certain taxes, etc. Persons eligible for benefits under this scheme were to register with the "Vermoegens-Verwaltungsstelle" at Kurfuerstendamm 193/94 (Generalsteuer-Direktion).

I called on the manager of this office. This "Vermoegens-Verwaltungsstelle" was set up by the Nazis to handle Jewish property which had been taken from the original owners. After the central organisation of Jews in Germany ("Reichsvereinigung") had been closed down, their property came under the same administration, and this property included that of all other Jewish organisations, institutions and endowments within Germany. The property managed by the office therefore amounts to many millions of Reichsmarks. All items were carefully registered by the Nazis, including real property, bonds, banking accounts and all other assets. Many of them have been irretrievably lost during the fighting. Banking accounts, Jewish and non-Jewish, are at present blocked and it is as yet uncertain what is going to happen to them eventually. For the time being, the Allied Control Commission have not made any changes.

They kept on the "Vermoegens-Verwaltungsstelle" in its previous shape, though with a view to deciding at a later stage about the rights of the former owners, at a stage when there will be a general ruling as to the restitution of stolen property. For the time being the situation is far from clear. There is neither general agreement on principle nor anything like a general

A Jewish housewife writes from Berlin . . .

"Although we receive, as 'Victims of Fascism,' better rations than the majority of the population, we get only 10 cigarettes per month. The Food Card provides per month for 450 gr. fat, approximately 2,000 gr. meat, 600 gr. sugar, 1,800 gr. flour, etc., 400 gr. salt, as well as bread (at the moment uneatable) and potatoes. Twenty gr. of tea supposed to be issued per month, have been unobtainable for four months, and the monthly coffee ration is just sufficient for four cups. Children receive only half of those rations. In order to overcome my hunger, I have tried to get some potatoes from the country, and we have bartered a sewing machine and watches for fat. Money has no longer any value. Only by bartering can one keep alive. One pound of butter costs 5-600 marks, dried eggs have the same price. A one-carat diamond costs 25,000 marks. Good food in Berlin means flour-soup, five to six slices of bread with some uneatable fat, potatoes with some undefinable gravy and, if one is very lucky, an omelette made of dried eggs. Meat is only obtainable at fortnightly intervals and it consists mainly of bones. Fat cannot be analysed any more, even by experts. Either it is a dark-looking, smelling kind of oil or margarine which contains much water, or, a kind of Ersatz butter which is already rancid at the grocers. Milk is only obtainable in the form of powder, and only for children. We, who have gone through so much, must now suffer again because of the sins of the others."

ruling. Interest on capital is no longer paid to the State, it is now added to the capital. The British Military Government authorities are particularly helpful in this matter as was stressed by the man who gave me this information.

The present head of the Berlin central property administration—who as we have seen holds a rather important office—is Herr Willi Schweig, a Jewish man married to an Aryan. He does not belong to a Jewish religious community. He is at the same time head of the "Union of People Affected by the Nuremberg Laws," which includes the Jewish community, the Protestant and Roman Catholic Relief Committees and the Society of Friends, who look after people who do not belong to any religious group. Thirteen thousand persons now living in Berlin are among those affected. As according to the register of the Jewish community there are about 7,070 professing Jews in Berlin, the balance seems to consist of other "Non-Aryans."

The Union (the German term is "Arbeitsgemeinschaft") is of the

IN TOWNS AND CAMPS

THE FATE OF THE BRESLAU JEWS

Three Breslau survivors from concentration camps have answered our request for general and individual information about what happened to the Breslau Jewish community and the report given below is compiled from their letters. Breslau is now part of the new Polish state under the name of "Wroclaw." We understand that the few German Jews still at Breslau consider going to Erfurt in the near future. Our correspondents are Mr. Denny SCHAFFER, who is head of the Search Bureau, and can be reached under the following address: Komitet Zydowski Wroclaw, ul. Pawla Wlodkowicza 9, Wroclaw, Poland; Miss Judith STERNBERG, now in Hannover and Mr. Ernst KSINSKI, now in Berlin. Whilst no letters can be sent to them before postal communications with Germany are opened, letters to Mr. Schaeffer can be sent by air-mail, and in the ordinary way (post-age 5d. and 3d. respectively.)

In 1941 the Gestapo started to deport Jews from Breslau. Many thousands were sent to Poland and only a few of them managed to escape the gas-chambers. In 1942 a number of Jews obtained the privilege of being sent to Theresienstadt instead, mostly people invalidated in the last war and well-to-do people who managed to bribe the Gestapo officials. Prior to deportation, the Jews from Breslau were sent to various camps in Silesia, which were, in fact, ghettos in all but name. The main camps were Riebnig, near Brieg, Kloster Gruessau, near Landeshut, and the Tormersdorf settlement, near Gruenberg. After the Beate-Guttmann Old Age Home had been taken over by the military authorities, the inmates were sent to Tormersdorf under the care of Mrs. Anni Kohn. From there they were eventually sent to Auschwitz and other camps in Poland, or to Theresienstadt. By 1943, only two Jewish couples were left in Breslau as they had managed to go in hiding. In 1944, the Jewish partners of mixed marriages were also sent to Theresienstadt; many of them survived.

When the Gestapo finally left Breslau, on January 26, 1945, they took along 26 Jews who were sent to Gross-Rosen and Buchenwald. Only three of them have returned. Some of the former transports seem to have gone to Kowno and Auschwitz. Of a transport to Riga, in December, 1941, nothing has been heard since. Altogether about 10,000 Jews were deported from Breslau. Forty-eight of them survived.

Miss Judith Sternberg writes that with her transport to Auschwitz, on March 3, 1943, 1,600 persons alone were deported. All but

opinion that, on principle, everything taken away from Jews after January 30th, 1933, has to be returned. This also includes enforced sales of all kinds, i.e., sales which were effected as a result of the political situation and the general discrimination against Jews, even if they appeared to be made voluntarily. For the time being, however, this question cannot be dealt with, as there are not yet any possibilities for restitution; moreover, restitution will not be possible without some kind of general ruling which would have to apply to the whole of Germany.

The plans for restitution outlined above apply for the time being to people in Germany only. Nothing can be done in this respect from this country for the present.—Ed.

Just before going to press we received a questionnaire which is now being sent out by the Berlin municipal authorities. The questions asked cover the experiences of the individuals under the Nazis (i.e., whether they have been deported, or lived in hiding, whether they had to wear the Star of David, etc.), their family status, particulars of housing and economic conditions in each case, state of health, special requirements, and chances of emigration.

198 women and 200 men were gassed at once. Two of the women lived to see the end of the war.

RESTITUTION IN VIENNA

Property of the Vienna Jewish Community which was confiscated during the Nazi regime, will shortly be handed back to the Community. This promise was given by Chancellor Leopold Figl to Messrs. Bernard Saks and Frederick White, of the American Joint Distribution Committee, who stressed the precarious financial position of the Community. The Chancellor said that the property will be handed back to the community after a new board has been elected.

The representatives of the Joint also raised the problem of housing Jewish refugees.

GOOD NEWS FROM DEGGENDORF

A relief worker on leave in this country called at our office recently and gave us an encouraging report on the position regarding the 700 inmates of the Deggendorf camp. They are in good health and very well looked after, clothing, housing and food are satisfactory. All of them desire to emigrate at the earliest possible moment, and their greatest worry is the delay which makes it still impossible for them to join their relatives abroad. Two hundred of them are over 65 years of age, more than 500 over 55. The spirit in the camp is very good. Artistic and intellectual activities are carried on on a very high level; there are art and music classes and more than 52 language classes a week. Incidentally we have been asked to help these activities by providing all kinds of books, primers, sets of plays, etc., and music of all kinds and for all instruments. Our clothing collection will gladly forward gifts of that kind. There is also a camp theatre and an excellent camp paper which bears witness to the unbroken spirit of the camp inmates. They are very much alive to the problems surrounding them, though they cannot always fully realise all their implications. On one thing, however, they all agree: They ask for justice, and not for charity. The younger among them want to go to Palestine. As they themselves put it in an article: "We wish to lead a fruitful and creative life with our brothers in our own country."

POSTAL SERVICES WITH GERMANY?

According to the "Evening Standard," postal facilities between Germany and the rest of the world will be established by April 1.

Parcel Service to China (Shanghai) and Telegram Service to Austria have been opened.

Integration Into British Life

By E. N. COOPER, C.B.E., Chairman, London Regional Refugee Council.

As the end of the war approached and questions of post-war settlement loomed ahead, the case-working Committees centred in Bloomsbury House decided, towards the end of 1943, to strengthen personal relations between refugees and the British people among whom they lived.

Moreover, a large number of young people who had been living in the provinces were being directed by the Ministry of Labour to London only to find, when they got there, that they had to live in very difficult circumstances, often without friends and out of touch with British cultural and social life.

As a result of the strongly expressed views of persons attending a conference at which representatives of a large number of British social, cultural and educational organisations were present, the Central Office for Refugees decided to set up a new body, The London Regional Refugee Council, which would have as its main object the promotion of better understanding between British people and refugees. The Council consists of representatives

side London and invited to spend week-ends, Christmas holidays, and so on, with the British staff or the boys and girls. A concert party of young refugees has, for the last 18 months, been touring the British Youth Clubs in London. Advice has been given on educational problems.

Any member who would like to make use of the facilities of the Council should get into touch with Mrs. W. M. Buchanan, London Regional Refugee Council, 21, Bloomsbury Street, W.C.1.

Musicians Wanted!—The London Regional Refugee Council, at Bloomsbury House, has been asked to arrange a further series of concerts to be given by refugees to British Youth Clubs and other audiences in the London area. Would any keen young musicians interested in joining such a group get into touch immediately with the Head Office of the AJR.

YOUR QUESTION ANSWERED

DO I QUALIFY FOR A FAMILY ALLOWANCE?

I understand that August 6, 1946, is the first pay day for Family Allowances. I remember that when the Family Allowances Bill was discussed in Parliament last year, aliens did not qualify for an allowance. Has the position changed since?

Yes, it has. The Family Allowances Act, 1945, provides that all families living in Great Britain, whatever the nationality of the parents, may under certain circumstances qualify for an allowance. That is to say that if an alien (father or mother)—as it is in your case—has been living in Great Britain for three years in all out of the preceding four years you fulfil the requirements. For further particulars we would refer to Part II of the "Family Allowances (Qualifications) Regulations, 1946" (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1946, No. 138), obtainable for 3d. from H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2.

of the case-working Committees and of the educational, social and cultural organisations already referred to, with a smaller group acting as an Executive Committee on which there sits Mr. K. Alexander of the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain.

The day-to-day work is conducted by the General Secretary, Mrs. W. M. Buchanan, and a small office staff. Mrs. Buchanan has effected introductions of refugees of all ages to individual members of several international organisations which have local branches, such as Rotary International and Toc H. Social evenings have been arranged where all the refugees registered with the L.R.R.C. in one district have been invited to meet the secretaries and the members of many of the local organisations. On other occasions refugees have been introduced to Art Centres, Amateur Dramatic Societies, Rambling Clubs, Holiday Groups, Choral Societies, Youth Clubs, Gramophone Societies, etc. Young refugees have been invited to join in discussion groups in schools and youth organisations in and out-

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,—

I read in your interview "Palestine to the Rescue" (February issue), "Aliyah Chadasha is the political organisation of immigrants from Central Europe in Palestine." I should like to correct a misunderstanding which is certainly due to an erroneous conception frequently found within this country. Jews from Central Europe are found in all political parties in Palestine, and Jews from all other countries meet in Aliyah Chadasha, whose members adhere to its political programme irrespective of their countries of origin. Zionists from Central Europe, however, were the initiators of the new group and form the first nucleus of this steadily growing movement which expects even the support of Jews in England, again irrespective of their countries of origin.

DR. GEORG LANDAUER (Jerusalem).

JEWISH CHILDREN WANT JEWISH HOMES

Jewish families who are prepared to accommodate Jewish Refugee youths (16-22), with or without board, with or without payment, should communicate with AJR Head Office.

Collective Representation

It is one of the characteristics of our time that relief measures very largely depend on political considerations.

It is the tragedy of our position as Jews, and still more as Jewish refugees, that more than any other community in the world we depend on political trends; this implies the necessity of an active policy on our part.

To safeguard the position of a community or, as Bentham would have put it, "to bring the greatest possible happiness to the greatest number of people," means to strengthen the basis on which this community is built. The partners in this work are not private individuals but groups acting through their representatives. Joint action is therefore not only desirable—it is indispensable. The individual, however well established he may

be, cannot act on his own. Here again, we face a paradoxical situation: the individualistic outlook of many of our friends makes them misapprehend their own faculties. They are proud of their "good connections" and do not realise that in the end they depend on forces which can only be approached and influenced by political means of an organised group. They have not learned yet, in spite of the lessons of the past, that there is no escape from the fate of their community. The equality of fate does not differentiate between Jews in security and those in insecurity.

It is from this angle that the work of the AJR should be looked upon. The AJR is to safeguard the position of the Jewish refugee community in Great Britain and has to be active in the political field within the limits set by the specific situation. It is a task which demands tact and patience, and which cannot be measured only by the speed and extent of the results achieved.

In keeping permanent contact with all relevant quarters the AJR has created an atmosphere of mutual confidence. Needless to say that before carrying out official negotiations the AJR seeks the friendly advice of its closer British friends. Every Jewish refugee benefits from these collective activities. Only if the general position is clarified the way for help and guidance in the individual case is open. A single negotiation about a general problem may be of greater importance for the individual member than the personal advice he may receive from the AJR. We do not want to minimise these advisory activities. The great number of inquiries which have to be dealt with day by day prove the confidence the AJR is enjoying amongst the Jewish refugees. However, the fundamental equivalent for the membership is and will be the central representation of the Jewish refugee community as a whole. This work is to no lesser degree "practical" work than that of any charitable or welfare organisation.

IN PARLIAMENT

ADMISSION OF DISTRESSED PERSONS

According to a statement by the Home Secretary, 109 distressed persons have arrived until January 13, under the scheme announced on November 13, 1945 (see our January issue). The Home Secretary further pointed out that in his view it would not be wise at the present time to widen the terms of entry for categories not mentioned in the statement of November 13.

On February 14, the Home Secretary announced that Officers authorised to grant visas under the distressed relatives scheme are now in Germany and Austria, and that the British military authorities in those countries are working out, as a matter of urgency, the final details of the arrangements for the relatives abroad to receive and despatch letters and for clearing and transporting the persons concerned. He much regrets the delay which has occurred, but the British military authorities in the occupied territories are faced with many abnormal administrative difficulties.

RESTITUTION

On 14th February Mr. Skinnard asked to whom inquiries by refugees as to their properties, factories and machinery in Germany or Austria should be addressed; and what steps such refugees may take to obtain the removal of valuable machinery to this country.

Mr. J. Hynd, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster: The nature and scope of the restitution and compensation which it may be possible to afford, from German and Austrian resources, to people in Germany and Austria, as well as refugees from those countries, who were dispossessed by the Nazis, is a matter for agreement between the occupying Powers. We shall shortly be putting proposals to our Allies and an announcement will be made if and when quadripartite agreement is reached. Meanwhile no good purpose would be served by addressing inquiries to London departments about individual cases.

On a further question Mr. Hynd stated that at the moment no facilities to go to Germany in order to inspect property can be granted.

JEWISH MIGRATION ORGANISATIONS

The Jewish Colonisation Association (ICA), due to circumstances resulting from the war, has discontinued its work in the field of Jewish migration, except possibly in the United Kingdom. The Board of Directors of ICA, therefore, decided to withdraw from the IAS-ICA Emigration Association (HICEM).

HIAS will take over the entire programme of the work of HICEM and of its offices in Europe, South America and elsewhere, and will continue to serve the migrants as heretofore. HIAS has recently established a branch office in London (3rd floor, 37, Museum Street, W.C.1). Five offices of HIAS have been opened in Germany to assist Jewish displaced persons and refugees with their migration problems. The offices are located in Frankfurt-on-Main, Hoechst, Berlin, Baden-Baden, and Munich. Registration for emigration has begun, with 1,350 persons already registered. Affidavits from American relatives, drawn up with the assistance of HIAS in the United States, have been distributed.

THE ASSOCIATION AT WORK

SEARCH DEPARTMENT

The A.J.R. Search Department—Transmare—is carrying on its efforts to find out what has happened to relatives and friends on the Continent. Every new possibility is utilised. We do not sit back and rely on information reaching us from outside, we approach remnants of Jewish groups and communities on the Continent whenever possible to establish how much they remember about fellow-deportees. Much valuable information has thus been secured. Apart from the actual news of people having survived, we were very often able to find out what had happened to others who had died or had been murdered.

We know how difficult it is to be patient. Our friends may rest assured that everything humanly possible is being done to answer their queries. They should bear in mind, however, that there are still considerable difficulties to overcome, and that there are many cases where we shall never know what has happened for the simple reason that mass exterminations took place of which no records exist, or that existing records were later on destroyed. Our search department is working hard to obtain as much information as possible as quickly as possible, but neither we nor other organisations are in a position to give interim reports to all enquirers. People who do not hear from us may feel sure that their cases are being followed up.

AJR Head Office Announces:

We once more ask our members to watch carefully the announcements of meetings in our "AJR Information," because, as a rule, no further individual invitations to the members will be sent out.

Those of our members who pay their contributions to London Headquarters should make use of the enclosed form and return it to us together with their remittance as no individual reminders will be forwarded.

We should like to draw the attention of our friends to our advertising facilities (Commercial and Classified Advertisements, announcements under the columns "Family Events" and "Missing Relatives"). If possible, orders for advertisements should reach us not later than the 15th of each month.

FAMILY EVENTS

Mr. and Mrs. P. Y. Mayer are happy to announce the birth of a daughter CAROL ANN, sister to Thomas and Monica, on February 5, 1946, 181, Goldhurst Terrace, London, N.W.6.

MISCELLANEOUS

ONE or 2 FURNISHED ROOMS Wanted. Kitchen, bath (or use of both), required by professional man and his wife. Wife would assist in household, preferably cooking.—Box 306.

FOR SALE.—Electric Washing Machine, completely equipped (new), Electric Cooker with 4 plates (new), Paraffin Cooker 2fl. (new), 3-Cabin Trunks, 1 Vacuum Cleaner.—54, Golders Gardens, N.W.11. (Phone SPE. 5643.)

FUNDS AVAILABLE for sound business propositions. Suggestions invited, specially from Scientists and Technologists. Your interests will be scrupulously safeguarded.—Write in confidence to Box 310.

REFUGEE DESPATCH CLERK, four years' experience with big City firm, wants similar occupation.—Box 309.

ACTIVITIES IN LONDON

More than 400 people attended an AJR meeting at Friends' House, London, to hear eye-witness accounts on the situation of the Jews in Germany. The speakers were Mr. S. Adler-Rudel, Vice-Chairman of the AJR, who, on behalf of the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation and the Jewish Agency for Palestine, had recently toured the American and British zones, and Rabbi Dr. E. Munk, who plays an active part in the work carried out in the British sector by the Chief Rabbi's Religious Emergency Council. From the reports given it appeared that whilst certain improvements both in camps and towns have been observed, the position on the whole is not at all satisfactory. Much more understanding has to be shown and more effective help to be rendered. Mr. K. Alexander, from the chair, asked the audience to support the AJR in their manifold efforts to lighten the burden of the Jewish survivors.

CONCERT IN GOLDERS GREEN

Songs by Mendelssohn and Schubert, and a Sonata by Bach, formed the main part of a Concert under the auspices of the Golders Green Branch of the AJR on February 16th. The artists were Inge Markowitz, Martin Lovett and Dr. F. Berend. During the interval Dr. J. Salz, Chairman of the Branch, made a strong appeal to strengthen the cause of the AJR. The large attendance and the good response to the excellent performance proved that gatherings of this kind are highly appreciated, and that they form a valuable feature in bringing members into closer contact with each other.

AJR MEETINGS IN MARCH

Sunday, March 10th, Richmond. Terrace House, 128, Richmond Hill, 4 p.m. Dr. K. Alexander, who recently returned from a visit to Belgium, will report on his journey and on current refugee affairs.

Sunday, March 10, Cambridge. Synagogue Hall, 4 p.m. Film performance, "Land of Promise" (together with WIZO, Cambridge). After the performance, Social with tea and cake. Admission 1/6.

Saturday, March 16, Leeds. St. Martin's Institute. 7-11 p.m. Great Purim Social and Dance.

Sunday, March 31, Leeds. Jubilee Hall, 3.30 p.m. Meeting with Mr. K. Alexander, General Secretary.

AJR MANCHESTER

Every Tuesday. 8.30 p.m. Gymnastics, for Ladies only, at the Clubrooms of the Wilbraham Road Synagogue.

Sunday, March 10. 3 p.m. General meeting at the Midland Hotel. Reports, election of officers. After the meeting, Mr. S. Adler-Rudel will speak (in German), on his journey through Germany.

Sunday, March 17. 3-6 p.m. The Social Rooms at the Wilbraham Road Synagogue will be open to our members for games and dancing. In view of the existing catering difficulties this will be a Bring and Eat Party. Members are invited to contribute sandwiches and cakes generously.

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ORGANISATIONS ABROAD

The General Secretary of the AJR, Mr. K. Alexander, has just returned from Brussels where he conferred with Jewish refugees, in particular with the Comité Israélite des Réfugiés (COREF). He will pay similar visits to France and Holland, in accordance with a decision of the AJR Executive that closer personal contact should be established with organisations of Jewish refugees in other countries.

MISSING PERSONS

Inquiries from Relatives

Bertha Brieger (14.10.83, Breslau), sent to Riebnig Camp from Breslau.

Hertha Knoch (20.9.85, Breslau), removed from Zoppot-Danzig.

Enquirer: Dr. F. Guttman, 45, Queens Road, Manningham, Bradford.

Inquiries from AJR

Elsbeth Wolff (nee Ransohoff), from Aachen, Nizza-Allee, and son Thomas.

Grete Armer, from Breslau, last known address 6, Allingham Court, N.W.3.

Miss A. J. Kahn, from Bonn, Kappeler-gasse, wanted for Miss Wijngaard, Holland.

Mr. Victor Salomon (Sanderson?) and Mrs. Fanny Salomon (nee Reichel), wanted for Mrs. Helen Groshein-Krisko (nee Reichel), now at Hameln (formerly Budapest).

Inquiries from United Kingdom Search Bureau, Bloomsbury House, W.C.1.

Fred Egon Berliner (Egon O'Hara), from Vienna, last heard of in the British Army, for Mary Berliner, Vienna.

Eva Finkelstein (nee Wolgroch) and husband, Simon Finkelstein, fur merchant, from Leipzig, probably London, for Esther Wolgroch, Belsen.

Paul Sturm (stage name Hollfelds), actor, for Manfred Sturm, Graz.

Miss Margit Salm, from Berlin, for her parents Martha and Hans Salm.

Mr. Kraft-Sachs, from Berlin (Mosse and Sachs, Bankers), for relatives in Luebeck.

Rudy Strassmann, from Vienna, for Dr. Friedrich Wessley, Vienna, and Mr. Chaim Weitzner, Shanghai.

Tonia Koenigsberg, from Berlin, for Ephraim Koenigsberg, from Cracow, now in Italy.

Professor Arnstein, teacher, for Dr. Kunwaelder, from Jaegerndorf.

HAMPSTEAD COMMITTEE for the FOREST OF FREEDOM

INAUGURAL MEETING

Sunday, March 24th, 1946, at 11 a.m.

EMBASSY THEATRE, Swiss Cottage, NW3

MEMORIAL SERVICE (Rev. G. BOYARS)

Addresses by outstanding personalities

Chairman: Councillor E. SNOWMAN

All members of the AJR and their relatives and friends are cordially invited.

Please make a note of this date!

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President: Lt.-Col. Norman Laski

Chairman: Col. Marcus J. Sieff, O.B.E.

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