

RESTITUTION OFFICE

The "Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany" of which the Association of Jewish Refugees in Great Britain is the British constituent member, will, on the suggestion of the Control Office for Germany and Austria, Norfolk House, London, S.W.1, open a

RESTITUTION OFFICE

under the management and direction of Reichsgerichtsrat a.D. D. Cohn.

The Control Office have accorded official recognition to the above office and have given assurance that they will co-operate with it in every possible way.

It should be noted that this step is not caused by any change in the legal position regarding restitution. In fact, the whole question is still being discussed with the various authorities concerned. It is felt, however, that our members and other interested persons including their legal advisers, with whom the office will keep close contact and on whose activities the office does not wish to encroach in any way, will welcome a central office concentrating its activities to all problems connected with restitution.

The activities of the office, therefore, will comprise

(1) To advise and inform refugees and their advisers generally on all laws, ordinances, decisions, etc., concerning restitution in any part of Germany or other countries, including provisional measures for the protection of property pending further legislation such as provided for by Law 52 of Military Government.

(2) To assist refugees and their advisers in getting information from German banks, courts or other authorities which might be necessary to prove or substantiate their claims wherever difficulties are encountered.

(3) To accept applications for registration of claims against Germany for the restitution of or compensation for property lost through "Internal Loot" which had to be made, until recently, to the Control Office and now to the Zentralamt fuer Vermoegensverwaltung, Sellenstr. 28, Stadthagen, Germany, and which in future may be passed on through the restitution office. In the interest of a survey of those claims which are being brought forward it is highly recommended to make use of that facility.

If claims have already been made to the Control Office or Zentralamt, no further claim is necessary for the time being.

(4) To assist refugees who are not in a position to afford the services of a qualified legal adviser in preparing their applications for registration and, at a later stage, in giving such assistance as may be necessary when legislation in restitution matters has been enacted.

The office will be situate on the premises of the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, Fairfax Road, London, N.W.3, and will be open at the following hours: **Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, from 3 to 6 p.m., Sunday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.**

No charge will be made for forwarding an application for registration to the proper authorities. In all other cases a basic charge of 5/- will be payable for every inquiry, and postal orders to that amount should be sent with any written inquiry. If in the discretion of the manager of the Restitution Office a matter involves special expense or extraordinary work, the office may be entitled to make an appropriate higher charge.

The Restitution Office cannot make themselves responsible in law for the correctness of any information given though, of course, they will do their best to assist refugees in the right way.

NEW LIGHT ON RESTITUTION

We have repeatedly pointed at the political and economic difficulties which stand in the way of solving the restitution problem. During the past few months, negotiations in this respect have been intensified, and although no settlement has been reached yet, at last the outlines are becoming visible as to the trend a future solution is likely to take.

Partners of the discussions have been the Military Government, the Occupation Authorities, either separate in the different zones or united in the Allied Control Council, the German Laenderregierungen, the large Jewish organisations (refugee organisations and others), and the representatives of the Jews in Germany.

The following questions may be singled out from the intricate mass of problems:

(1) Will it be possible to achieve a restitution law for the whole of Germany or will the different zones promulgate different laws? Up to the present time no decision has been taken. Should a uniform law not be achieved it is to be hoped that at least joint agreement will be reached on the basic principles of Zonal laws.

(2) Will the law deal with compensation for all losses or will in the initial stage only the refund of existing identifiable property be considered and the vast range of compensation for money losses be reserved to a separate ruling at a later date? There seem to be indications which point to such a course because Germany's economic position is far from being so stabilised that complicated financial questions can be even touched upon at the present junction.

(3) A much contested subject is that of jurisdiction. Many cases will require the decision of a Court or Tribunal, and here the question arises whether German Courts or mixed Courts with Allied judges shall be competent. Our endeavours are focused on the elimination of German juries. However, we must realise that for lack of Allied manpower we shall not find full recognition of this demand, but we hope that at least the court of first instance will include a representative of the victims and that the court of appeal is to be constituted in such a manner that German influence is excluded.

(4) An equally weighty problem is that of the property of Jewish organisations and communities as well as the so-called heirless property which belonged to families who have been exterminated. Never must this

property fall into the hands of the German state as it would happen if German law were applied. Most of the newly established Jewish communities in Germany are of a dwarfish shape, and therefore they cannot be considered as legal successors to the previous communities although, their interests have to be taken primarily into account. Here, a Jewish Corporation of an international juridical nature will have to be set up consisting of a representation of the former Jews from Germany now living outside that country, of a representation of the Jews in Germany and the important Jewish international bodies. This Corporation shall act as trustee for communal and unclaimed property and use the proceeds for resettlement and rehabilitation of the victims.

(5) To strengthen the fund of this Corporation it is under discussion to curtail the right of succession to a certain extent.

(6) The last and most subtle problem is that of transfer. Although we all know that restitution will become only then genuine when its practical inferences have been made accessible to the claimants outside Germany, we must be under no illusion that for the present and probably for the immediate future this side of the problem will remain unsolved. As long as Germany's economy is not put on a solid basis, as long as Germany's currency is not adjusted, this question will probably have to be shelved in spite of its importance.

This survey of pending negotiations reveals that the matter of restitution has neither been neglected nor forgotten. The efforts for a satisfactory settlement have involved and are involving painstaking work. We trust that the work will find its reward in the forthcoming Peace Treaty with Germany by recognition of Germany's responsibility for restitution towards Jewish victims.

In all those negotiations, the Association of Jewish Refugees and even more the Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany have taken an active part. The negotiations are going on in London and Washington as well as in Germany, where the chairman of the AJR, Mr. A. Schoyer, is acting as representative of the aforementioned Council.

The announcement regarding the establishment of a Restitution Office officially recognised by the Control Office for Germany and Austria is evidence that the Council has been assigned a prominent place in these negotiations.

Maurice Pearlman:

HUNGARY'S JEWS

Mr. Pearlman, an outstanding Jewish author and journalist, who served in the Psychological Warfare Division of the British Army, has recently visited the Balkan countries. In this article, he analyses the conditions facing the Jews of Hungary in the post-war era.—Ed.

One hundred thousand out of the 180,000 Jews in Hungary to-day eat a free midday meal provided by the American Joint Distribution Committee, consisting of soup and bread most days, with meat added three times a week. That is as good an index as any to the current state of Hungarian Jewry.

One hundred and eighty thousand are all that is left of the 725,000 acknowledged Jews who lived in greater Hungary at the outbreak of the war. Almost all the rest perished at the hands of the Germans and Hungarian fascists.

The Pretext

Hungary was occupied by German troops, to stiffen her anti-Allied resistance and prevent her from slipping out of the war. Five weeks later, Hungary was bombed by the Anglo-American planes for the first time. This gave the Germans the pretext—as if they needed any—of treating Hungarian Jews as they had treated Polish and German Jewry (though details were not known at the time). They started with Jews in the provinces. There were then some 200,000 Jews in Budapest and nearly 600,000 professing Jews in the rest of Greater Hungary. They followed their usual form: Jews concentrated into ghettos; ghettos emptied into waiting cattle trucks, and from there the long train ride to the Auschwitz crematories.

News of provincial relatives deported to an unknown destination soon trickled through to the Jews of Budapest, up to that moment largely intact. The news came through the Zionist underground. And Zionist leaders in Budapest were quick to take their cue.

Though German troops were in the country, there was still a formal independent Hungarian government. And it was still somewhat sensitive to world opinion. Now it became known that some 7,800 Palestine certificates had been granted to Hungarian Jews. Switzerland was the protecting power for Britain. The Zionists therefore turned to the Swiss for protection for these 7,800 Jews. On the strength of this, the Swiss allowed them to issue Schutzpässe for certificated Jews, and the Zionist headquarters became a kind of auxiliary Swiss consulate, under Swiss protection, issuing survival passes to Jews. It is now no secret that they did not restrict the number to 7,800.

Two Heroes

Two heroes of the Nazi occupation of Hungary, a Swiss and a Swede, worked with the Joint Distribution Committee to save the lives of Hungarian Jews trapped in the Nazi web, and theirs is a chronicle approaching the frontiers of the unbelievable. The Swiss, Saly Mayer, was the J. D. C.'s chief agent in Europe. With the full knowledge of the U.S. State, War and Treasury Departments, Mayer met for months with Nazi Gestapo men on a bridge spanning the river between Austria and Switzerland and bargained with them for lives—bargained without the Nazis gaining one cent. In negotiations which Mayer purposely prolonged, he made fanciful promises to the Nazis of money and supplies to prevent the deportation to concentration camps of 200,000 Jews in Hungary. The Germans halted their deportation plans while Mayer negotiated and stalled for time—stalled until Soviet troops reached Hungary and the Nazi occupiers fled or were captured.

Raoul Wallenberg was attached to the Swedish Legation in Budapest during the war. Personally he negotiated with Szalasi, leader of the Nazi Arrow Cross in Hungary, and succeeded in obtaining written confirmation of 1,000 protection passports issued by Sweden to Hungarian Jews who had family or business connections with neutral Sweden. He signed a total of 5,000 of these passports in King Gustaf's name guaranteeing Hungarian Jews rights equal to those belonging to neutral nationals. Despite threats to him personally, including stoning of his automobile and actual kidnapping by the Nazis, Wallenberg continued his efforts. His activities in behalf of the persecuted Jews of Hungary seem almost fictitious. He helped Jewish prisoners escape; he helped Jewish "enemies of the German State" receive medicines,

food, clothing. Again there were negotiations, again Wallenberg stood firm in the face of threats and again he achieved his end: the Jews he had managed to bring under Swedish protection remained free from forced labour.

On October 15th, 1944, with Russian troops already on Hungarian soil, the Regent Horthy called for an armistice with the Russians. He was arrested by the Germans and the Hungarian fascist leader Szalasi installed in power. October 15th is the birth-date of the Budapest tragedy. For Szalasi's first order was the deportation of Budapest Jewry. His "arrow-cross" fascist thugs, the Nyilos, were there to carry it out. After a few days, however, the Zionists collected as many Jews as they could in central buildings marked with Swiss protection notices indicating that occupants were in possession of Schutzpässe. They even sent out members of the Zionist pioneer Hechalutz, dressed in Nyilos uniform, to "arrest" Jews in exposed streets and bring them to what later became known as the "Swiss Houses."

Later that month, a closed gate ghetto was established in the predominantly Jewish district of Pest. The Russians appeared too soon for the Germans and Nyilos to carry out their plan to blow up this ghetto with its 60,000 Jews.

And that is the major part of the story why there are some 100,000 Jews in the Hungarian capital to-day.

No Welcome

Liberation found the surviving Jews of Hungary in much the same plight as their comrades in other liberated lands. Some 15,000-20,000 left in the immediate post liberation months with Palestine as their destination. There were no "welcome" notices on the porches of the former homes of those who remained. They suffered the same property restitution difficulties with which we have become all too familiar in all Axis occupied lands. Moreover, Hungarians with a long history of Anti-Semitism, were not prepared to change their mood overnight—particularly if it meant giving up homes and furniture of comfort to which they had become accustomed. There were minor pogroms at Miskolc and Kunmadaras, and many Jews living in small scattered communities in the provinces fled to security in Budapest or the larger provincial cities of Debrecen and Szeged. The general economic collapse of the country did not serve to ease the lot of the Jew. Nor did that lot improve when the inflation earlier last year sky-rocketed the Pengo to astral heights.

The cultural picture of Hungarian Jewry is happier than the economic. There are schools run by the Jewish Community and recognized by the State. There are Yeshivot. The Zionist Movement flourishes—with all its parties, and is legal in the country. The community runs a weekly 16-page paper, "Uj Elet" (New Life) which is quite a reasonable product and furnishes much news of Palestine and the Jewish world. *The spirit is high in the Hachsharoth and in the youth institutions, many of which are run by the different Zionist youth movements.* Among the rest of the population the spirit is much conditioned by the general state of poverty, the rigidly closed doors of Palestine and the uncertainty of the future mood of their non-Jewish neighbours. At the moment, some have told me, until the peace treaty has been concluded, the country is very anxious not to offend world opinion by anti-Semitic excesses. And the Government as well as the Government parties, which are far from being anti-Jewish are doing all they can to hold extremists in check. Whether they will find the strength to continue this task of restraint after the peace treaty is signed is not so certain.

OWING TO THE FUEL CRISIS THE
PRODUCTION OF THE PRESENT
ISSUE WAS DELAYED

Franz Rosenzweig
Series of Lectures
under the auspices of the AJR

Thursday, March 27th, 7.45 p.m.
1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6.
Dr. LUDWIG FEUCHTWANGER:
"Jewish Past in England and Germany,"
A Comparison

Monday, April 14th, 7.45 p.m.
1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6.
Dr. N. BAROU:
"The Jews in the World."

Monday, April 28th, 7.45 p.m.
Stern Hall, 33 Seymour Place, W.1.
Professor S. BRODETSKY:
"The Future of British Jewry."

Please note that the March Lectures and first April Lecture will be given at 1 Broadhurst Gardens, and the Concluding Lecture by Professor Brodetsky at Stern Hall. Free admission without ticket.

JEWISH REPATRIATES ARRIVE IN AUSTRIA

The first group of 34 Austrian Jews repatriated from Shanghai arrived in Vienna recently. Another 766 are expected soon. In addition to 1,300 Austrian Jews in Shanghai, 357 Jews in Palestine have received repatriation visas from the Austrian Government.

The repatriates have been placed partly with relatives, while others have been accommodated in an hotel by the Joint Distribution Committee. The Municipal Housing Office has promised to place two communal buildings at the disposal of repatriates arriving in the future, but the problem is not yet finally settled.

The repatriates related that they have been staying two days at a camp in St. Martin, near Villach. Some of their luggage was stolen by Polish Fascists living in the D.P. camp.

The Jewish population of Vienna has risen from 3,000 to 6,200 during last year.

The increase is due to the return of several hundred Jews from concentration camps and about 400 refugees from England. The balance is made up by Jewish refugees who have returned from France, Palestine and Switzerland.

Jewish communities were formed during the past year in Linz, Salzburg, Graz, Innsbruck and Bad Ischl but all these communities together do not count more than 300 Jews apart from displaced persons.

BELGIUM

The corresponding organisation of the AJR in Belgium, the Comité Israélite des Réfugiés (Coref) is in the happy position to announce that the regulations sequestering the property of all refugees of German origin have been annulled.

A law of January 23rd, 1947, provides that anybody who has done war service in the interest of the Allied nations or who was treated as enemy by the Hitler regime and remained loyal towards Belgium can apply for the lifting of the sequestration. These conditions are fulfilled by all those who have on their identity paper the stamp "non-enemy." As all genuine Jewish refugees are described as non-enemies they have complied with the conditions.

Our friends in Belgium have rendered a great service to all refugees by their unceasing efforts to abolish the sequestration.

NEW TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

In the February issue of "AJR Information" we reported on the new travel documents for refugees. We should like to stress that these documents can only be applied for by persons desiring to travel abroad.

Travel documents issued before the new arrangement came into force remain valid until their expiration. The new travel documents do not replace police registration books or other similar identity documents.

The holders of Travel Documents are not affected by the mutual abolition of visas which has been arranged for with France, Belgium and Norway and which is pending with Holland, Denmark and Luxemburg.

UNFORTUNATE CONCURRENCES

From a Special Correspondent

Western Germany, February, 1947

This country looks dark and poor.

In fact, it is dark and poor, and—cold, this time of the year being much harder and more depriving than the first post-war winter. The coal and fuel position affects the population at least as much as the lack of food, probably even more because coal is, too, an essential factor for both everyday life and work.

Wherever you go these days you come across people of all ages, pulling their little primitive carts laden with somewhere collected fire-wood. This picture is significant, it follows you whether you are in the utterly damaged, almost Pompeii-like looking towns along the Rhine and the Ruhr or whether you drive through the peaceful countryside of Westphalia or Greater Hesse.

Things have grown even more complicated since the considerable influx of German refugees from the East began, resulting in a dangerous overpopulation in certain districts.

Slow Progress

Jews, scattered over Northern and Western Germany, having survived many years of brutal persecution react strongly to present conditions. Their gradual rehabilitation is often hampered by the unfavourable economic position, and their demands cannot always be met as quickly as it should be desired. Whilst all the victims from Nazi oppression persistently fight for their rights and preferential treatment, the unfortunate position does not always permit their requests to be granted. This creates understandable tension and annoyance, and the British administration is easily held responsible for every change for the worse.

Communal Set-Up

In circumstances such as these it is a most difficult and not at all enviable task to rebuild a Jewish community, to restore some sort of Jewish life, and to get institutions going. Everything has, so to say, to be done from scratch because Jewish communal property is in ruins, leading Jewish personalities were either put to death or emigrated before the war, and what is left over of a once large Jewish population is a mixture of people: ex-persecutees, partners of mixed marriages, and repatriates, originating from many different lands and coming from various strata of life. Jewish communities of to-day feel the lack of spiritual guidance; there is, for instance, no permanent rabbi who could have a manifold field of activities. Cultural instruction is negligible, and it is sometimes as though Jews were knit together merely by the fact that their congregations distribute relief supplies from Jews overseas. It is hoped that the internal set-up of larger communities will soon be properly established, and that their organisation at regional, land, and zonal level, still in its beginnings, be put on a sound basis.

Staying On Or Leaving?

Emigration: no doubt, the majority probably have the wish to leave Germany. At the moment there is hardly any possibility for Jews in the British zone to emigrate to the United States, but now there appears to be some hope that of the more than 1,000 Palestine certificates, recently allocated to the zone, some may be issued to Jews who live in town communities. In this connection, it must not be overlooked that a certain number of Jews, mainly middle-aged people in larger towns, who have been able to re-establish their business or profession or, otherwise, have found some suitable work, will postpone a decision regarding their future plans until such a time when they can judge better whether it is worth while exchanging a more or less moderate living in Germany (under abnormal conditions) for a hard life abroad (under normal circumstances).

Just in spite of this lasting uncertainty as to a Jewish existence in a country where our people were murdered or uprooted, where anti-Semitism is by no means dead (though there are frequent instances of cordial relations between Jews and non-Jews), the courage and zeal in the rebuilding of Jewish institutions is remarkable and demands the highest respect.

Outlook

The struggle of the Jews for an existence in this country, be it permanent or temporary, will go on for some time to come. Immediate physical

needs rank first but the continuous cry for restitution, for compensation, and for tax relief is by no means of a secondary nature.

The future of Jews in Germany and their final decision will much depend on the date when restitution can be legally enforced and on the speed with which the procedure will then be carried out.

Food and fuel supplies are closely linked up with the material conditions in general: the shortage of commodities, the removal of industrial plants (which otherwise could produce more consumer goods, partly exportable), with transport, with zonal and inter-zonal economic policy—to quote the major points. And the complex question of restitution largely depends on the expected directives of Military Government and the machinery to be set up by the appropriate German authorities.

Meanwhile, Jews abroad should continue to supplement, through proper channels, the, in the majority of cases, still insufficient food rations received by Jews over here, to send them good, though necessarily, second-hand clothing, and to help them spiritually, too. Being shut up from the world for so many years, Jews in particular are hungry for reading material. Agreed, this cannot fill their bellies, but at least it may make people somewhat happier.

Happiness means much in this sphere of destruction, uncertainty and isolation where a stability of life cannot be achieved yet . . .

E.G.L.

What the Press says . . .

I.R.O.

"In recent weeks fresh hopes of effective work for the refugees have grown. Many countries, not least Britain herself, now realize more keenly their needs for manpower, and are beginning to look on the displaced persons as a reservoir to be tapped to their own advantage. The organisation of such migration and re-settlement will be the most important task of the I.R.O., rather than the mere administration of displaced persons' camps, urgent though the latter task may be in the light of Unrra's impending demise. Unrra has helped to keep the displaced persons alive, and has prevented a total collapse of their morale. I.R.O. must select and equip them for new tasks and disperse them to new communities and a new life. If the camps are to close at last, then countries requiring foreign labour should give preference, where other things are equal or even nearly equal, to refugees or displaced persons over other immigrants; and an active international organization is needed to persuade and assist them to do so."—*"The Times."*

MAIL FROM GERMANY

The Assistant Postmaster General stated that the average time taken for ordinary mail posted in the British zone of Germany to reach the United Kingdom is thirteen days.

IN PARLIAMENT

NATURALISATION

Altogether 4,421 certificates of naturalisation were issued during 1946, stated the Home Secretary in the House of Commons on January 23rd. 3,314 of these certificates were granted in the second half of the year when the preliminary work done in the early part of the year began to produce its full results.

The number of certificates per month are as follows:—January, 78; February, 78; March, 140; April, 175; May, 266; June, 380; July, 443; August, 394; September, 652; October, 536; November, 496; December, 793.

On January 30, the Home Secretary stated that the Inter-Service Naturalisation Board had already reviewed over 4,000 cases out of a total of 7,000 and that he hoped it would be possible to deal with the balance within the next few months. It has been the desire of the Government, he stated, that applications from Servicemen and ex-Servicemen should be dealt with as rapidly as is consistent with proper inquiries. "I think," the Home Secretary concluded, "that the record I gave last week (see above—the Ed.) indicates that we are now proceeding at as great a speed as possible having regard to the security problems which are involved."

NO ENFORCED REPATRIATION

The personal case of a Hungarian who had been admitted to this country by falsely claiming to be a British subject and who was now pressed to leave was discussed at Question Time in the House of Commons on January 23rd. Mr. S. Silverman asked the Home Secretary to bear in mind, albeit however false the pretence was, the alien would now be dead if he had not made it. It was the only means of saving his life. In his answer the Home Secretary stated that he had always endeavoured to adopt as liberal an attitude as he could in cases like this and that he took particular care to see that no person was compelled to leave for a country where his religious or political views were likely to bring him into difficulties with the prevailing authorities there. The alien in question would be required to leave this country only for some destination where he would be safe from religious and political persecution.

EMPLOYMENT OF D.P.'S

On January 28th, the Minister of Labour, Mr. Isaacs, stated that, in addition to the existing arrangements for bringing women displaced persons to this country for domestic work in hospitals, he was now considering, with other Departments concerned, the possibilities of meeting current

manpower shortages by recruitment of displaced persons. Officers of the Ministry of Labour have already been in many of the camps classifying the inmates and finding out their capabilities, especially the women workers.

The Minister promised that identical arrangements would be instituted with regard to men. The main difficulty in admitting a large number of persons was the lack of accommodation. "Well over 1,000 women displaced persons," the Minister said, "who have come here to work in institutions and hospitals have given the greatest satisfaction and are an excellent type of person."

On February 20, Mr. Isaacs stated that 1,372 women had already started work in British sanatoria and hospitals and that several hundred more, who had been passed as suitable, would be brought over as soon as possible. On a supplementary question by Mr. Silverman, Mr. Isaacs promised to consider whether the restrictions on aliens who had already been admitted but who were forbidden to work owing to the terms of their entry permit might now be reconsidered.

REFUGEE CHILDREN

On February 10, on a question by Major Legge-Bourke about the naturalisation of refugee children who had originally been admitted as transmigrants, the Home Secretary replied: "When these children were brought here in the early days of 1939, the intention was that many of them would emigrate to other countries, but the position was entirely altered by the war. Many of the older boys and girls at the age when they would have been emigrating joined His Majesty's Forces and the younger ones have grown up in our schools and often have become, in effect, adopted children of their British hosts."

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Asked by Mr. Driberg at the Session on February 20, if the British representative on the commission now engaged in drawing up an international bill of human rights will press for the inclusion in this document of specific provisions for the abolition of any political, social or economic disability based on racial discrimination, Mr. McNeil replied on behalf of the Foreign Secretary: "The United Kingdom Delegate will not fail to advance by the most appropriate methods the declared purpose of the United Nations; that is the promotion of human rights without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

Following this statement, Mr. Driberg expressed the hope that the provisions should be as specific and as definite as possible so that the document will not become a "dead letter."

"Would You Spell Your Name, Please?"

(Continued from "STARS IN EXILE,"
"AJR Information," January, 1947)

When Fritz Kortner was still in London he always wanted to write a play with the title "Would you spell your name, please?" He wanted to picture the tragedy of a great actor in exile whose name was once a household word at home, and who is now asked all the time to spell his name. The situation for the film people was a little bit easier, because in spite of language difficulties their names were familiar everywhere, even if their pictures were only shown in the continental shop-windows of Oxford Street, in the "Academy" and "Studio One." All over the world the names of director Fritz Lang and his star Peter Lorre of "M" fame were known to the cinemagoers, so they only had to learn the new language to continue their careers. Of course, for the actors themselves it was not so easy to acquire the working knowledge of the new media, but even Albert Bassermann at his age learned English quickly.

German producers were "trade marks" and German and Austrian directors settled down easily. Henry Koster, Detlef Sierk, Max Ophuels, Otto Preminger, Billy Wilder and Walter Reisch (who wrote once "Maskerade") in California, Emmeric Pressburger, Karl Grune, Carl Lamac, and Paul Ludwig Stein in London; Max Neufeld in Italy found a new field of activities. It was an advantage for them that names like Lubitsch and Wilhelm Dieterle were already familiar to the industry before Hitler had come to power and made a mass exodus necessary. The biggest "hit" was no doubt Felix Jackson who started in Berlin as a playwright under his real name Joachimsohn, and became the producer and husband of Deanna Durbin. Hedy Lamarr of "Extase" fame was already well known before she arrived in Hollywood, and Felix Bressart could be seen in a great number of pictures. But Bressart was clever enough not to rely on the screen; he studied medicine and became a good doctor "as a sideline."

Ludwig Stoessel, Ilka Gruening, Kurt Bois, Wolfgang Zilzer, Lotte Stein and several others can be seen occasionally in American pictures, while actors like Martin Miller, Herbert Lom, Dr. F. Wendthausen, Lucie Mannheim, Oskar Ebelsbacher, and Gerhard Hinze—to name only a few—appear frequently in British films. Lili Palmer, the daughter of the late Dr. Peiser in Berlin started in London before the war, and she is now in Hollywood, "top of the bill," as they say there. She was quite unknown when she arrived in this country and had not the advantage of Anton Walbrook-Wohlbrueck, for instance, who had his name made through the success of "Maskerade."

Some others switched over to different jobs. Gitta Alpar is today a highly paid "coach" for all

singing stars of the "Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer" and Richard Tauber, who, for some time, made pictures in London, returned happily to radio and stage. Marlene Dietrich, of course, stayed in pictures through all the years and is just doing "Golden Earrings" in Hollywood. Berthold Viertel, who directed "Cecil Rhodes" with Huston and Homolka in this country, returned to his old love and writes wonderful poems in New York. Erich Pommer went back to Germany as control officer for the United States to reorganise the new film industry.

Leopold Lindtberg's name became famous only in the last year. He lived for over twelve years in Switzerland, went before the war every year to Palestine to direct a play at "Habimah"; Lindtberg even produced several pictures but only "Marie Louise" and "Last Chance" brought him fame.

A good story makes sometimes all the difference between obscurity and fame, and some very good writers for the screen are today all over the world in excellent jobs. Wolfgang Wilhelm, Fritz Gottfurcht, and Herbert Victor-Juttke in London; H. G. Lustig, Hans Rameau, Georg Froeschel, Hans Wilhelm, Robert Thoeren, Arnold Lippschitz, Gina Kaus, Hans Kafka in Hollywood, are the backbones of the success stories in the dream factories of the world cinemas . . . and today there is little tragedy in the life of the film people. Very seldom the question is asked, "Would you spell your name?" People know by heart how to spell the strange names.

NEW BOOKS.—Alfred Doebelin: "Der Unsterbliche Mensch" (Karl Alber, Freiburg i.B.); Arthur Koestler: "Spartacus" (W. Ehlglücksfurtner, Mainz); Heinrich Heine-Gedichte, Gedanken, Einfälle; eingeleitet und ausgewählt von Dr. Hans W. Eppelsheimer (Heinrich Heine Verlag, Mengen, Württemberg); Compton Mackenzie: "Dr. Benes" (Harrap, London); Alfred Weber: "Abschied von der bisherigen Geschichte" (Classen und Geverts Verlag, Hamburg. A. Francke, Berne); G. Barraclough: "Factors in German History" (Basil Blackwell, London); David Daube: "Studies in Biblical Law" (Cambridge University Press); George W. Keeton and Georg Schwarzenberger: "Making International Law Work" (Stevens and Sons, Ltd., London); P. Meinhardt: "Inventions, Patents and Monopoly" (Stevens & Sons, Ltd., London); Hans Feibusch, "Mural Painting" (Adam & Charles Black, London); Cyrus Adler & Aaron M. Margalith; "With Firmness in the Right"—American Diplomatic Action affecting Jews, 1840-1945 (The American Jewish Committee, New York); Hannah F. Cohen, O.B.E.: "Let Stephen Speak" (Sylvan Press, London); Cecil Roth: "The History of the Jews in Italy" (The Jewish Publication Society of America).

A PLEASANT BOOK

(Leo Kahn, "Obliging Fellow," Nicholson & Watson, 6/-).

This is a pleasant book, not only according to G. B. Shaw's differentiation between pleasant and unpleasant plays. It is pleasant notwithstanding its topic—the unpleasant scenery of an internment camp—because it has humour, satire, irony and certainly some deeper significance.

Kahn's novel sets an idyllic pace although it conjures up the hectic times of 1940; it is calm and composed although that year the world was running amok; it is witty and amusing not by overlooking the hysterics of which most of us had been guilty but by looking back at them and demonstrating their vanity and futility.

The many male refugees who in that glorious summer proceeded via various transit camps to the Isle of Man, will recapture in this book their own story—with the air of experts will they scrutinize the characters, atmosphere, facts, and they will find their experiences and impressions confirmed by the exactitude of an observer viewing a distant historic event; and females will ponder with amusement and envy over those micro-communities which had sprung up in different places in "Manx," with ambitions, laws and problems of their own.

Leo Kahn's story tells of the ventures and adventures of a man called Raphaelson, who, commercial traveller by profession, makes much better headway in those extraordinary circumstances than many of his learned friends and colleagues, and achieves a kind of career, culminating in his appointment as the secretary of the camp-university and finally as camp-supervisor. Raphaelson—the "Compleat Internee"—helps everyone—not least himself. He is the "Obliging fellow" of which the title speaks, and his faults and peculiarities are drawn with so much understanding and humanity that the book will no doubt appeal to readers beyond the narrow limits of the refugee community.

To us, however, it is more than a humorous story tinged with satire and irony—we are in a position to acknowledge its deeper significance because it relates an episode in our own lives. And for this we would not like to miss it. H. F.

PERSONALIA

Kurt Stillschweig, Stockholm, the well-known expert on Jewish minority rights, whose book "Die Juden Osteuropas in den Minderheitsverträgen," published in Berlin, 1936, is one of the standard works on this subject, has again published some booklets which are of great interest to the Jewish scholar. "Nationalism and Autonomy among Eastern European Jewry," and "Jewish Assimilation as an Object of Legislation," deal with problems which belong to the past, but even so they give interesting and valuable aspects on the future legal development of those problems.

Dayan Dr. J. Jakobovits died in London at the age of 60. He was appointed a Dayan two years ago. Before coming to this country he had been Dayan and Rabbi of the Jewish Community, Berlin, since 1928.

Wilhelm Levison, who died in this country on January 17th, was for many years Professor for Mediaeval History in Bonn. His work was mainly dedicated to that period, in which the development of Western civilisation was in its early stages. He was recognized throughout the world as an authority on the intricate critical questions of sources and manuscript evidence. Learned Benedictines, who had completed their university course, came to him for guidance in post-graduate studies. But he never forgot his origin, nor did he lose interest in the history of his race and of his family, and he served on the Research Committee of the Academy for Jewish Learning. When he was forced out of his Rhenish homeland, he found a kind reception at Durham University. There he wrote his last book, dealing with Anglo-Saxon influence on the Continent, which showed that the scholar in him did not feel as an exile in Northumbria. The book will shortly be published in Germany.

JONAS COHN, the well-known former Professor of Philosophy, Psychology and Pedagogics, died at the age of 77 years in Birmingham. He wrote amongst others "Sinn der gegenwärtigen Kultur" (1914), "Theorie der Dialektik" (1923), "Der Geist der Erziehung" (1929) and "Wertwissenschaft" (1933) and was just working on a religious philosophy "Glaube an den Geist."

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.

WHERE THE TENANT'S PROTECTION BREAKS DOWN. . . .

Last month, it was pointed out in this column that a tenant of an unfurnished House, Flat or Room not exceeding a certain "rateable value" is protected both against eviction and an increase in rent beyond the "standard rent" (which, as a rule, is equal to the pre-war rent with certain small additions). There are, however, cases where the law and the Courts, for good and equitable reasons, refuse to protect the tenant against eviction.

There is *one* case in which the decision does not even rest with the discretion of the County Court Judge, and the law orders him *unconditionally* to give judgment for the landlord who demands recovery of possession after the expiration of the contractual term of a lease—namely when the Court is satisfied that "suitable alternative accommodation is available or will be available after the judgment has taken effect." Not a very likely case in present circumstances; still, it may happen, and it has also to be noted that the Judge is bound, according to the statute, to accept a certificate of the Housing Authority for the area in question, stating that they will provide such suitable alternative accommodation as full proof that they will keep their promise.

Furthermore, the Act contains a catalogue, a "schedule," of cases in which the Court, according

to its discretion, *may* refuse to protect the tenant "where it considers it reasonable to do so." The schedule enumerates at present seven such cases, the most important of which are the following:

- that rent lawfully due has not been paid or any other obligation of the tenant has been broken or not performed,
- that the tenant or his lodgers, etc., have been guilty of a nuisance or annoyance to neighbours, have caused deterioration of the dwelling or have used it for immoral or illegal purposes,
- that the tenant has assigned or sublet the *whole* place without consent (the particulars of which case have been given last month),
- certain instances of dwellings used for employees, certain instances of a house, flat, etc., being needed for the own use of the landlord or his near relatives, "if the Court is satisfied that having regard to all circumstances of the case greater hardship would be caused by protecting the tenant than by evicting him." This rule does not apply if the landlord has purchased the house after 1937. Where it applies, the judge has been called upon, by express provision of the Act, to consider the question whether other accommodation is available for the landlord or the tenant.

M. J. Landa : AMONG OTHER THINGS—HOPE

Mr. Landa is the late Chairman of the Parliamentary Press Committee and a writer of repute and distinction.

Emerging after several weeks in hospital, where I was unable to keep close touch with events, I was naturally horrified at the deterioration of the Jewish situation. It is impossible to talk of Palestine where what is happening is something which the vast majority of us believed never could take place. Even if the miracle were now to occur and 100,000 of our refugees were to be admitted within a reasonable time, what of the greater mass of the rest who are regarded as an Erev Rav in Europe?

When I was completing my book, "The Man without a Country" a year ago, I was constrained to express a fear rather than a hope for their future. It occurred to me that the horrible lessons of the first world war and its dreary aftermath at Geneva had not been learned. The game of grab, in which the human factor is deliberately disregarded, is again being played, and more wantonly and viciously.

Poland appears to me to be the gravest offender. Which is excusable for two reasons. England went to war on behalf of Poland and is now being flouted as if she were an enemy with a most wicked record. Poland is in the sphere of influence of

Russia, but is treating the Jews more as the Nazis did. The Russian attitude to the Jews is exceptionally interesting. It is not Marxian. Marx, although of Jewish birth, never understood Jews and was an anti-Semite. He believed that Judaism was merely trading and that with the disappearance of individual trading in State Socialism, Judaism would die. Lenin had virtually the same opinion based on the equality which Bolshevism gave to the Jews, which he regarded as removing the need of a separate existence.

Stalin has modified those views because of the failure of the Yevseksia, the persecuting Jewish Communists, to kill Judaism, and because of the necessity of modifying theoretic ideology to the experience of other nations, his Allies and friends.

Having gained a new lease of life in hospital, I am disposed to more optimism than I have always held—a bit difficult, I admit—and I see in the tendency, especially in this country, to admit aliens to make up our shortage in manpower, a great ray of light. It is an old and life-long thesis of mine that England has gained and not lost by its admission of refugees and its grant of naturalisation and freedom of conscience.

Is it too much to hope that the countries of the British Commonwealth of Nations and also America will follow the same course, and without undue delay? It is not a wild flight of imagination that prompts this remark. Imagination, after all, is not fantasy, but a realisation of what is and what should be actuality. Stern necessity will bring the great nations, which have become great not by accident, but by experience, bitter in trial and error, to see where safety lies. And in their safety lies our salvation.

POLISH RESTITUTION LAW

The Polish Decree of March 8th, 1946, on Abandoned and Unclaimed Previous German Property has now become known. Its contents are more far-reaching than can be taken from its title. It is of interest for many Jewish refugees, especially as it is understood that the Decree is applicable in all places under Polish jurisdiction, including those parts which belonged to Germany before the war.

Under Art. 2 of the Decree there shall come into possession of the Treasury, amongst other items, "all property of citizens of German Reich and Free Town of Gdanzk, except the people of Polish origin/extract/or any other origin prosecuted by Germans." The principle that Jews, like Poles, have to be treated as victims of Nazi oppression, independently of their nationality, has thus been recognised.

Accordingly, Chapter III of the Decrees which deals with the "Restitution of the Possession of Abandoned Property" has to be construed as giving such right of restitution to all the dispossessed whose property is not liable to be taken over by the Polish Treasury, including therefore Jews of, former or present, German nationality. The chapter deals, however, with property only which was lost owing to the war; this would appear to include Jewish property seized in war-time, whether on the strength of the German expropriation Ordinance of November, 1941, or otherwise. But it does not include property "aryanized" before the war. The claim for restitution has to be brought before the Local Court of Justice before the end of December, 1947, and detailed rules on procedure are given. There is no restitution if the property belongs to "fundamental branches of national economy" taken over by the State by separate decree.

It remains to be seen how the Decree will be administered in practice and whether there will be separate rules concerning property "aryanized" before the war; alternatively, the acts of "Aryanization" will possibly be considered void under general law. We shall report on this if and when reliable information comes to hand.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GERMANY

Cologne.—On the invitation of the Jewish Community, the Town Major, Lt.-Col. White, and the Oberbürgermeister, Dr. Hermann Pünder, accompanied by their expert advisers, inspected the badly damaged building of the Jewish Hospital (well known as the "Israelitische Asyl für Kranke und Altersschwache") in Cologne-Ehrenfeld. It is contemplated to have the hospital rebuilt and the Cologne Stadtverwaltung will do their best to get the old-established and well-reputed institution again going. At a small reception, following the inspection, short addresses were given by Mr. M. Goldschmidt, the new chairman of the Cologne Community, the Town Major, the Oberbürgermeister, and Dr. H. Lewin, the Director of the Hospital. The Jewish Relief Unit from Great Britain was also represented.

Mr. Moritz Goldschmidt was elected Chairman and Mr. Jakob Birnbaum Vice-Chairman of the Community. Members of the "Repraesentanz" are: Mr. Alfred Markus (Chairman), Mr. Siegmund Bachenheimer, Mr. Leopold Faber, Mr. Julius Jakobs, Mr. Heinrich Kohn, Mr. Moritz Manasse, Mr. Leo Sachs, Mr. Arno Tobar and Mrs. Erna Duennwald. The former Chairman, Dr. Herbert Lewin, resigned, in order to devote himself entirely to his work as the Director of the Jewish Hospital.

Krefeld.—The two Jewish cemeteries which had been devastated by the Nazis have been restored. The main difficulty to be overcome was the identification of a number of graves, after many tablets had been removed during the war. Most of the material has now been recovered and the cemeteries are under the regular care of a gardener. The community consists of about 100 members; about 1,000 former members have perished. Religious services are regularly held in a "Beetsaal."

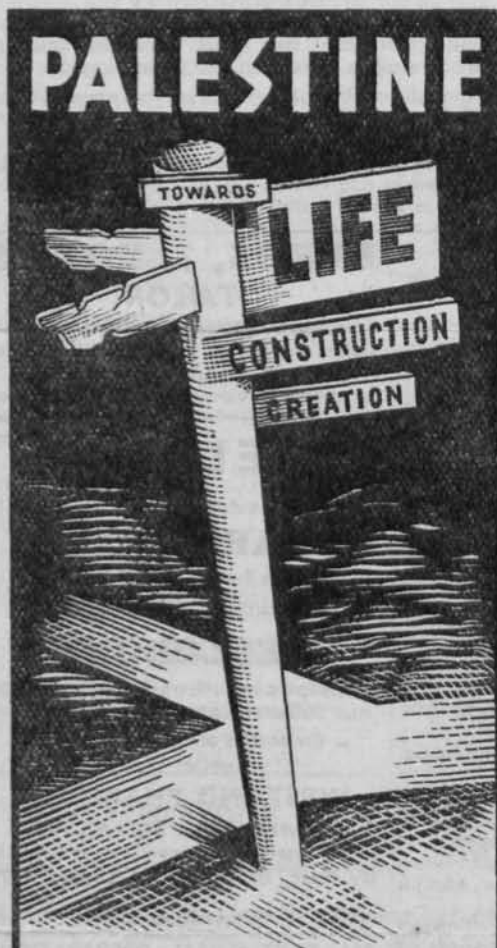
Bielefeld.—Mr. Max Hirschfeld became Chairman, and Messrs. Artur Sachs and Robert Eichen-gruen Deputies of the Community. Religious services are taking place in the "Guttempler-Lodge," Gr. Kurfuerstenstr.

Essen.—The Jewish Community in Essen informs us that on request of Military Government they have compiled a list of those enterprises in Essen which have been "aryanized" since 1933. People interested in that matter may obtain information from: Buero der Juedischen Gemeinde, Waldsaum 147, Essen-StadtwaId.

Hildesheim.—In September, 1945, under pressure of the then Military Government Commander, the Mayor of Hildesheim promised that the City of Hildesheim would look after the Jewish cemetery at the Zentralfriedhof and would also renovate the Jewish school Am Lappenberg which was in a bad condition at that time. In August, 1946, after many reminders, the cemetery at last has been cleaned and the Jewish school was fitted with a new roof. In a letter dated September, 1946, the School Board of Hildesheim mentioned that the Town Council had passed a resolution to repair the Jewish school properly and that these repairs were already under way. Two of the few surviving Jewish citizens of Hildesheim were offered office as "Mitglied des Bezirkslandtags" but both rejected the offer.

Stettin.—As a result of emigration in recent months, the Jewish population of Stettin, which is now part of Poland, has shrunk from 25,000 to about 4,000. In order to consolidate Jewish activities, the local Jewish Committee has been liquidated and all activities concentrated in the District Committee.

Jewish Communal Property in Germany.—A list of Jewish welfare institutions, operating in the territory of the British Zone of Germany and in Berlin in April, 1928, has just been published as Vol. 4 of the Series "Legal Aspects of Jewish Rehabilitation in Germany, Studies and Documents," edited by the Legal Adviser, 81 H.Q., Jewish Relief Unit, B.A.O.R. This list gives details regarding Jewish hospitals, old-age homes, homes for orphans, children, for the blind and other welfare institutions. A survey of Jewish welfare societies was already published some time ago (see "AJR Information," January, 1947, p. 3), and a list of Jewish communities and endowments which had existed in 1933 within the territory as described above, will be published shortly.



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FROM MY DIARY

Dr. James G. McDonald, who has come to this country on behalf of the Joint Palestine Appeal, is one of the most arresting personalities in the United States.

The forthright and courageous manner in which he has stood up for the cause of minorities and the persecuted, not least of that of Jewry, has won him many friends and admirers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Since the Autumn of 1933, when he began his service as League of Nations High Commissioner for German Refugees, he has been intimately associated with official and unofficial efforts to rescue and re-establish in new homes those who have survived the horrors of the concentration camps. He speaks, therefore, with exceptional authority and sympathy on the problems of the Jewish people in Europe and in Palestine.

Disappointed by the failure of governments to co-operate more effectively in the rescue of refugees from Germany and realising that the heart of the problem lay in the anti-Jewish policies of the Nazi Government, Mr. McDonald resigned at the end of 1935 with a forthright call for international co-operative action to end the Hitler terror. In his Letter of Resignation to the Council of the League, he gave this fateful warning:

"When domestic policies threaten the demoralisation and exile of hundreds of thousands of human beings, considerations of diplomatic correctness must yield to those of common humanity. I should be recreant if I did not call attention to the actual situation and plead that world opinion, acting through the League and its member states and other countries, move to avert the existing and impending tragedies."

Last year, Dr. McDonald was elected a member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine. In this capacity he renewed his studies on the position of Jews in all parts of the world,

especially on the Continent and in Palestine where he received first hand information on the development and prospects of the Jewish National Home. His voice in the deliberations of the Committee carried great weight and he has advocated the justice of our cause both inside and outside the conference room. There were noteworthy occasions when Dr. McDonald explained the meaning of passages of Jewish history not only to his colleagues on the committee but also to some witnesses.

NARRATOR.

REDUCTION OF AIR MAIL POSTAGE

The air postage rates for air mail letters and postcards for countries outside Europe have in all cases been appreciably reduced, except Australia, New Zealand and the Western Pacific Islands.

Particulars of the new rates for the most important destinations are as follows:—

6d. per ½ oz. (postcards 3d.): Palestine, Egypt, Iraq.

1/- per ½ oz. (postcards 3d.): Argentine, Brazil, Canada, Chile, East Africa, India, Newfoundland, Paraguay, South Africa, U.S.A., Uruguay, West Africa.

1s. 3d. per ½ oz. (postcards 7d.): Central America, West Indies, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, The Guianas.

The **6d. air letter service**, which will remain available to the countries already served, has amongst others been extended to the **United States of America**.

The **sea-cum air service** to Canada, United States of America and Central and South America, has been discontinued.

PRINTED MATTER TO GERMANY

Newspapers, magazines, periodicals and books, up to a maximum weight of 4 lb. per packet, may now be sent at printed paper rate to the British and American Zones of Germany and the British Sector of Berlin. Packets must be made up in such a way as to be easily examined. No message may be enclosed.

PRIZE ESSAY COMPETITION

Dr. L. Kirsch is offering a prize of 50 guineas for the best essay of not more than 10,000 words on "The Contribution of Jewish Immigrants to Great Britain since 1933, in Learning, Science and Industry."

Manuscripts must be typewritten and should be sent in not later than May 1, 1947, to the Press Officer, Board of Deputies of British Jews, Woburn House, Upper Woburn Place, London, W.C.1, from whom further particulars can be obtained.

RELIEF PARCELS

On February 5, Mr. John Hynd stated that by January 15 "Save Europe Now" had received about 40,000 food parcels for forwarding to Germany, of these 1,400 had left the country by the end of January, a further 12,500 were due to leave within the next week or so and "Save Europe Now" hoped to ship the balance by the end of the month. It is unlikely, he went on, that any parcels had yet arrived at their destinations. Since January 15, 1947, over 6,000 7-lb. relief parcels were sent to Germany in the first two dispatches by parcel post. Difficulties for distributing the parcels in Germany were caused by the fact that the Distributing Organisation in Hamburg was overburdened, but, Mr. Hynd promised, anything to speed up the matter would be done.

EMIGRATION OF D.P.'s

Under the auspices of the American Joint Distribution Committee, two ships with 896 and 310 Jewish refugees arrived in U.S.A. in January.

A small number of certificates—between 350 and 360 monthly—for Palestine, are to be allocated to certain categories of D.P.'s in the British Zone. It is to be hoped that the number of certificates will be increased in due course. A selection board is now sitting in Belsen Camp.

FAMILY EVENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Manfred Fraenkel, 6 Beechwood Hall, London, N.3, are happy to announce the arrival of their grandson Danny George Wetzler, New York.

MISCELLANEOUS

ACCOMMODATION urgently wanted. —The Social Service Department of the AJR, 8 Fairfax Mansions, London, N.W.3. Tel. MAIDA VALE 9096, would be very grateful for any information on vacant rooms and flats, furnished and unfurnished.

LEICA OR CONTAX wanted. Eric O. Sonntag, 159 Bickenhall Mansions, Baker Street, W.1. WELBECK 6802.

MANUF. AGENT free for Agencies. Prefer. Yorks & North. Best connections with Wholesalers. References. Box 414.

WORKING HOUSEKEEPER wanted, elderly lady with small flat in London. Box 415.

CABIN or Wardrobe trunk wanted, in good condition. Box 422.

COOK-HOUSEKEEPER required by Jewish couple. Small modern house, Broughton Park, Manchester. Comfortable home, no washing, liberal outings and excellent wages to suitable person. Box 421.

TO LET, furn. room, Maida Vale district, suitable for gentleman out all day, inquire by phone any evening. CUN 5884.

RE-UPHOLSTERING, also Carpet Repair work done on customers' premises.—A. Fahn, 6 Lithos Rd., N.W.3.

WHICH NICE FAMILY would take old lady (German refugee) as paying guest? Bayswater district preferred. Please write 1 Bryanston Ave., Whitton, Middx.

BOOKKEEPER-MANAGERESS, British, long and first-class experience in London (incl. taxes, trial balance, costing, foreign languages) wants change. Best references. Box 416.

LADY requires bed-sitting room, partial board, with homely orthodox family. Near Hampstead or Golders Green. Phone SPEEDWELL 6132 before 10.30 or after 7 p.m.

EXPERIENCED COOK-GENERAL required for one lady. Lovely flat, central heating, Hampstead. Excellent home and wages. Generous outings. References essential. Apply Mrs. Stiebel, 22 Decoy Avenue, N.W.11.

NURSE-NANNY, refined with first-class references wishes post in London to lady or one child. Living out. Please write Lodene Greys, Cookham, nr. Maidenhead, Berks.

WHOLESALE OR EXPORT. Young man, 17, office experience, quick at figures, seeks progressive situation. No Saturdays. Box 417.

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MISSING PERSONS

Inquiries from HIAS

37 Museum Street, London, W.C.1

Israel, Felicitas, born 19.12.1917 at Ilmenau, for Elsa Baltowski, c/o HIAS Shanghai, P.O.B. 1425.

Prinz, Dr. Dietrich, born 29.3.1903 in Berlin, for Ernst Robinson, 45 Vesaliusstr., Berlin-Pankow.

Teiller, Mr. and Mrs. Iuliu, from Vienna, for Mrs. Ghizela Iosipovici, Strada Coroanei 29, Braila, Roumania.

Inquiries from Relatives

Prinz Erika and Flanter, Susi, for Dr. Emma Silberstein (formerly Stargard, Pomerania), 772-7 Ward Road, Shanghai.

Inquiries from AJR

Deutsch, Friedel, wife of Deutsch, Bernhard, from Berlin-Charl., Bayernallee 44, for Conrad Beckmann, Duesseldorf.

Hirsch, Lilli, born on 16.3.20 at Berlin, joined her parents, Lazarsfeld, in 1937 in England, teacher, for Gisela Lange, Berlin.

Lehmann, Herbert, from Berlin, last known address, 38, Belsize Park, London, N.W.3, for Herta Meyer-Laurin, Berlin.

Littauer, Dodo, wife of Hans Littauer, from Berlin-Charl., Meerscheidstr. 15-18, for Conrad Beckmann, Duesseldorf.

Riesel, Senta (orphan), from Leipzig, for aunt Mirjam Bachmayer.

Ullmann, Dr. Manfred, formerly solicitor in Stuttgart, came to England from France, married daughter of General Sir Page-Croft, for Sali Straus.

Wilk, Edith, née Karger, for Adolph and Lise Gogarten, Berlin.

Members of "Breslauer Touren Ruder Club" and other friends of Breslau. Write to and think of Herbert Herrnstädter, now Bielefeld (21a) Arndtstr. 53, British Zone.

Inquiries from

United Kingdom Search Bureau, Bloomsbury House, Bloomsbury St., London, W.C.1

Fleischer, Nora, London, for Erna Steinova, Prague.

Fraenkel, Dr. Josef, born 21.5.1902, at Statuany, for Mrs. Meislova, Ex-Internee from Bergen-Belsen.

Gnuge, Mary and Ernst, London, for Marie Wawrzyniak née Gnuge, Dortmund-Ewing.

Hahn, Carl and Clara, Bournemouth, for niece Alma Koelker, Detmold-Lippe.

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THE ASSOCIATION AT WORK

DR. LEO BAECK: "JUDAISM AND CHRISTIANITY"

The Franz Rosenzweig Series of Lectures under the auspices of the AJR was opened on February 20 at Stern Hall by Dr. Leo Baeck's lecture on "Judaism and Christianity." Mrs. Eva Reichmann, who was in the chair, said that it was the object of the series, which bears the name of one of the greatest Jewish religious thinkers in Germany after the first world war, to spread Jewish knowledge amongst members and friends of the AJR. She welcomed Dr. Baeck, the leader and teacher of German Jewry for many decades. The subject of his lecture, "Judaism and Christianity," she said, might be more topical for us in this country than it would have been for the generation of our fathers in Germany, because in Britain, Christianity was a strong force in public life.

Dr. Baeck said that when dealing with the problem of Judaism and Christianity we must not only consider their different religious aspects, but also realise their close inter-relation. He distinguished between three stages in the development of Christianity. First, it was a movement within the Jewish people, and it was no accident that Jesus of Nazareth was described by the Romans as King of the Jews.

The second phase, introduced by Paulus, created Christianity as a religion on its own, separated from Judaism and propagated beyond the Jewish people

amongst other nations of that time. In the third stage, after the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, Judaism and Christianity stood against each other. Revelation was the essence of Judaism. In the Jewish Bible, postulates were not imposed as laws created by man, but as commandments revealed by God. Such a "theocentric" conception was as revolutionary in the field of religion as Kopernicus' "heliocentric" conception (according to which the sun and not the earth was the centre of the Universe) was to become revolutionary in the field of natural science. Judaism and Christianity had in common the belief in God as the creator, but, whilst, in the Jewish view, man was free to do good, he was, according to Paulus, sinful and could only be redeemed by faith in Jesus. In spite of the differences Christianity was not thinkable without Judaism, the Jewish Bible being its fundament. But, on the other hand, Judaism was not thinkable without Christianity either. Revival movements within Christianity such as the Unitarians or Puritans were essentially Jewish in their outlook. If, in our days, the founder of the Christian religion were on this earth he might in his teachings feel an even greater spiritual kinship with the Jews than with some of those who professed his name.

Dr. Baeck's lecture in its masterly analysis and its unique formulation left a deep impression on all those who had the privilege of listening to him.

SOUTH-WEST (BRISTOL) AREA BRANCH

Recent activities included a lantern lecture by Professor A. Closs, M.A., D.Phil., on "The Characteristic Features in German and Austrian Art and Literature." It was given in the lecture theatre of the University of Bristol on November 30 and attracted a large audience of members and guests. Mrs. Margarete Elkan-Laquer (Jerusalem) on January 26 spoke on Youth Aliyah in Palestine. This meeting took place in the Committee Room of Bristol Synagogue and, apart from members of the group, many members of the Bristol Hebrew Congregation attended. A lively discussion followed and questions were answered by the speaker. Miss K. Liepman, Ph.D., who works in the Department of Reconstruction, Bristol University, will address the group meeting on "Housing and Town Planning."

RICHMOND

The Local Richmond Branch of the AJR meets regularly on the last Sunday of each month at 4.30 at Terrace House, 128 Richmond Hill. At the January meeting, under the Chairmanship of Dr. E. Kramer, Rabbi Dr. P. Holzer gave a detailed report on his visit to Hamburg, especially on the endeavours of the community to rebuild their institutions and on the problems they have to face. The meeting concluded with a brief summary of recent AJR activities given by Mr. W. Rosenstock.

AJR MEETINGS IN MARCH
Thursday, March 13, 1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6. 7.45 p.m. Rabbi Dr. IGNAZ MAYBAUM: "Continental Jewry in the New Diaspora."
Thursday, March 27, 1 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6, 7.45 p.m. Dr. LUDWIG FEUCHTWANGER: "Jewish Past in England and Germany."
Sunday, March 30, Richmond. Terrace House, 128 Richmond Hill. 4.30 p.m. CONCERT: Alice Schaeffer, Dr. F. Berend.

AJR, LEEDS

Sunday, March 30. Lower Room of the Jubilee Hall, Savile Mount. 3.30 p.m. Dr. K. ALEXANDER: "Is there no longer a Refugee Problem?"

AJR, GLASGOW

(11 Abbotsford Place, Glasgow, C.5)
Sunday, March 9, 5.30 p.m. Purim Party.
Sunday, March 23, 5.30 p.m. Film Show.

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