

A QUESTION OF TACT

AS a result of the gradual relaxation of travelling restrictions, an increasing number of formerly German Jews are paying business visits to Germany. Sometimes, such visitors have also the opportunity of calling on members of their former communities, with whom they wish to discuss personal affairs, such as the fate of their nearest ones, or the care of the graves or the state of their previous property. Reports reaching the AJR from the Continent give evidence that the local Jewish representatives are only too glad to assist by giving any possible information and help.

Travellers should, however, always keep in mind that the few surviving German Jews who went through such terrible trials, are now often suffering from a strong feeling of isolation. They look upon a visitor from abroad as an emissary, with whom they want to discuss their grievances and their hopes. Such exchange of views may be for them still more important than material help, though this, too, is badly needed. Jewish visitors to Germany, who get in touch with the Communities should, therefore, make a special point of not concerning themselves solely with their own affairs, but of showing, at the same time, understanding for the manifold problems of their hosts.

THE YOUNG GENERATION

IN this issue readers will find announcements about Youth activities. It has always been the policy of the AJR to refrain from forming own Youth groups. On the other hand, being the trustee of the refugees, the AJR has to keep an open mind for any question which might come up within the community. It is an established fact that many young people from the Continent, notwithstanding their links with their new surroundings, wish to remain in touch with people of their own background and past. By doing so, they do not want to segregate themselves from their new fellow-citizens, Jews and non-Jews alike, or to perpetuate their refugeeism. But the moulding force of Continental Jewish tradition should not be underestimated either.

That, in spite of the existence of several groups, many young people still feel isolated, has been expressed in various letters to the Editor, published in previous issues. For manifold reasons, such as age, ideology, scope of activities, not all of them fit into the existing groups. The fact that the discussions with the AJR on the formation of a new group were initiated by the interested people themselves is another proof of the confidence enjoyed by the AJR. It also shows again that naturalisation, important as it may be, leaves a great number of problems unsolved and makes the existence of an organisation, which may serve as a Clearing Centre, an urgent demand. The new group, which is to work autonomously, is not to compete with any established Youth organisation, but has to fill an undisputed gap.

AJR Employment Agency

APPEALS TO EMPLOYERS
 IN LONDON
 AND IN THE PROVINCES
 to report all vacancies.

Meinhold Nussbaum :

RESTITUTION AND CURRENCY

Munich, August 1948

By the recent laws on Monetary Reform in Germany, old currency credit balances are being converted in such a way that the owner is credited with one Deutsche Mark for every ten Reichsmarks. Reichmark claims are, in principle, so converted into Deutsche Mark claims that the debtor has to pay to the creditor one Deutsche Mark for every ten Reichsmarks due. Military Government may decide, after hearing the competent German legislative bodies, to allow the owner of old currency credit balances or of Reichsmark claims a further claim of a maximum of one Deutsche Mark for every ten Reichsmarks of the total debt.

Special Provisions

Special provisions have been made for certain Reichsmark liabilities, especially wages and salaries, payments under leases and tenancies, annuities, pensions and other recurrent obligations becoming due after June 20th, 1948; they are being so converted into Deutsche Marks that the debtor has to pay to the creditor one Deutsche Mark for every Reichsmark due. This does not apply to recurrent payments which had become due before June 1, 1948; they are converted at the ordinary rate of one Deutsche Mark for every ten Reichsmarks.

Special provisions apply also to liabilities to United Nations Nationals *who had this status already on May 8th, 1945*. Such United Nations creditors can refuse payments made or tendered in accordance with the provisions of the currency law, or they can object against the conversion of the debt into Deutsche Marks by a declaration made to the debtor on or before October 20th, 1948. No such privilege exists, however, for credit balances with banks or other financial institutions. United Nations creditors making use of the special privilege cannot claim the discharge of obligations until definite arrangements have been made for Reichsmark liabilities due to United Nations Nationals. So far it is not possible to foretell anything about the character of these arrangements and the time at which they may be expected. It should be kept in mind that the special privilege only refers to those liabilities which already existed before the 21st June, 1948; it, therefore, does not apply to claims for indemnification on the strength of future legislation.

The Monetary Reform is—as is generally recognised—the first important step towards German economic rehabilitation. It will stimulate German agriculture and industry

to make full use of their productive capacity and to bring their produce on to the open market. Up to now there had not been much point in exchanging goods for a currency whose value in the free market had dropped to a minimum. Now, with the introduction of a stable currency and, at the same time, the inclusion of Western Germany into the scope of the Marshall Plan, German Production will probably increase considerably, a condition without which Germany would not have been able to honour her obligations. It is, therefore, evident from the aspect of restitution and indemnification that the Monetary Reform must, in principle, be considered a step forward. Within a shattered economy the value of any claims against the State, other public corporations and private debtors would have been of doubtful value. Furthermore, the Monetary Reform will provide the basis for an increase of German export, without which there would be no hope for an eventual transfer.

Effects on Claims*

Apart from these general aspects the special effects of the Monetary Reform on the restitution claims are also favourable, though, on the other hand, the risk of some drawbacks must not be overlooked either.

The general reduction of obligations at the rate of eighty or ninety per cent. will affect persons entitled to restitution who have claims for the payment of moneys within the restitution legislation, e.g. in cases where mortgages are involved, or where profits may be claimed, or where the claimant relinquishes his claim to restitution in kind and demands instead payment of the difference between the price received and the fair purchase price.

The main title as such to restitution of identifiable property lost under the Nazi regime—as apart from any title to profits, etc.—will not be adversely affected by the Monetary Reform as so far enacted; on the contrary, the prescribed refund of the sales-price will amount to no more than 10% of the Reichsmarks received by the seller.

On the other hand, Article 29 of the Third Law on Monetary Reform entitles the German Laender to promulgate legislation on Equalization of Burdens (Lasten-Ausgleich) by December 31st, 1948. As long

Cont. on page 2

*The views expressed in the following paragraphs are those of the author. It seems advisable to state that there exist considerable doubts whether claims for the payment, or the refund, of monies arising from restitution legislation come under the reduction of obligations dealt with by the Monetary Reform laws or whether they will be dealt with separately at a later date.—The Editor.

Letter from Haifa:

WAR AND PEACE

History generally does not repeat itself, but in this unique country history has always taken a quite special turn, different to that in other countries, and this fact also characterises the present events. First the war itself: a small nation of a half to three-quarters of a million people, and these of various origin and differing in culture, not more numerous than the population of one of the larger English cities, has so far been victorious against nations numbering some 20, or, if Saudi Arabia is added, of some 30 million people. The war, after a duration of a few months, interrupted by a short truce, had been resumed for ten days, to be eventually stopped again by a cease-fire of unlimited duration, which may end any time. The first, as well as the second truce, have been and are continually violated by Egyptians in the south, by Iraqians in the east, and by the Arab Legion in Jerusalem.

The Jewish State would have had a very large Arabian minority; owing to its largely unnecessary flight, this minority has been greatly reduced, and even populous Arab cities and districts, now occupied by Jewish troops, are mostly deserted. The fugitives who had not quite welcomed their becoming citizens of Israel, are now claiming their right to return into the Jewish State whose existence they cannot deny.

There is also the unique problem of the capital of the new State. Jerusalem, the centre of Jewish thought during centuries, had been excluded from the State by the U.N.O. decision, and the Jews had acquiesced to this. Now the question has been revived, not least by the unfortunate proposal by Count Bernadotte to cede the Holy City to the Arabs, and an increasing part of the Yishuv now claims Jerusalem as Israel's capital, although the Old City, its nucleus, is still occupied by the Arabs.

This is the very complicated state of things at present, to which people have adapted themselves, whilst Government is successfully trying to regulate public life. Many administrative problems, of course, remain to be tackled. The question of the Arab population in the State, of the remaining one

RESTITUTION AND CURRENCY

cont. from front page—

as this legislation has not been promulgated, it is difficult to say, whether by the stipulation of enforced mortgages (Zwangshypotheken) or other liabilities, property regained by restitution will also be affected. Article 29 also provides that the legislation by the Laender shall prescribe the extent to which compensation is to be granted for losses resulting from the Monetary Reform. Only after this legislation has been enacted can the situation of persons entitled to restitution be fully judged. In principle, persons claiming the return of real estate, business enterprises and other identifiable property have to consider the possibility that their property might be levied at an as yet uncertain rate of its value as a contribution for the proposed equalization of burdens.

There is, however, hope that the forthcoming Law on the Equalization of Burdens (Lastenausgleichs-Gesetz) will give special consideration to cases of hardship. In any case, it would be desirable that legal provisions should be made enabling restitution claimants to discharge their liabilities in German currency by obtaining German currency from others who have a title to restitution or indemnification in Germany. There appear to be no compelling reasons against such procedure which would not involve a removal of capital from Germany.

as well as the fugitives, is gradually emerging in more and more serious dimensions. They lost, to a large proportion, their immovable and movable property, with the consequent loss of their producing (mainly agricultural) and consuming capacity.

Cost of living is still increasing, owing to higher cost of production and transport, and reduced import, thus placing many of the soldiers' families in a difficult position, aggravated by restricted credits and lack of ready money. Favourable items are the resumption of shipping from U.K. ports, and the prospects of marketing next season's citrus crop to a large extent in England, thus probably unfreezing Palestine's Sterling balance in part.

Notwithstanding economic difficulties, the cultural life continues unabated, theatres even producing "premieres," and concerts being very well patronised. That under present circumstances a whole series of new settlements have been inaugurated lately, is another proof of the strength of Israel in her struggle for life.

HANS MOSBACHER.

RIGHT OF ASYLUM

In his capacity as the representative of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. F. R. Bienenfeld, who is also an Executive Member of the AJR, made a statement before the Human Rights Commission of the United Nations, in which he pleaded that the granting of an asylum to persecutees should be based on right and not on mercy. In its original wording, the Bill of Human Rights left it to the discretion of the governments whether or not they would grant asylum. In the ensuing debate of the full Commission, before which Dr. Bienenfeld made his statement, the following text was adopted: "Everyone has the right to seek and be granted in other countries asylum from persecution. Prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations do not constitute persecution."

In the course of his statement, Dr. Bienenfeld said that the right of asylum should not be confused with the right to immigration. It referred to those cases which occurred so frequently during and even before the last war when people, persecuted for reasons of race, religion or for their progressive democratic ideas were refused passports by their persecutors or could not get visas in time. "All that means," Dr. Bienenfeld went on, "that people who cannot abide by all the legal formalities when entering countries of refuge, should be given a place where they can exercise their right to life, a right solemnly recognised by the Commission."

Share of Governments

Dr. Bienenfeld paid tribute to the British Government which had admitted 75,000 victims of Nazi oppression, and to the United States whose late president, Franklin Roosevelt, had allowed refugees to shelter in Fort Ontario. He also referred to the hospitality given by France and to the assistance rendered by the U.S.S.R. who, after the German attack in 1940, moved hundreds of thousands of Jewish civilians to Russia from Poland to prevent their being slaughtered by the Nazis.

Dr. Bienenfeld said he could not agree with the objections against the proposed working raised by the French delegate, Professor Cassin, in whose submission asylum for persecuted people was a collective obligation of the United Nations and could not be borne by neighbouring States alone. He said that people fleeing for their lives could not wait for an agreement between the United Nations and single State members and that they must, at least, have the right for a temporary asylum in neighbouring States.

Concluding his statement, Dr. Bienenfeld said: "A Bill of Human Rights which did not solemnly grant the right of asylum to those most unhappy human beings who had lost their homeland, their nationality, their rights, their property and frequently their health and their relations, would not be worthy of its name. Not only millions of Jews but millions of other nationals as well were persecuted during the last war by Nazi and Fascist governments."

IN PARLIAMENT

DISTRESSED RELATIVES SCHEME

On 22nd July, Mr. Edward Evans asked the Home Secretary on what grounds permission has been refused for Freda Erna Klara Helsenrath and Klara Anna Maria Nuchling, the mother and grandmother, respectively, of Mrs. M. E. Cunningham-Craig, to come to this country.

Mr. Ede answered: "In the present circumstances the admission of foreigners to this country for settlement has to be limited to certain categories. The case of these ladies does not, in my view, come within any accepted category."

Mr. Evans: "Has not the Minister himself stated that the mothers and grandmothers of persons resident in this country, who are widowed and in need of filial attention, come into that category? Is he not aware that there is a grave anxiety on the part of relatives of these people, that the old lady is extremely ill and desires filial attention and, as this matter has been in his hands for a couple of years could he not expedite it?"

Mr. Ede: "No, Sir. The elder of these two ladies has a son, a daughter and a son-in-law in Germany. It is not her only relative who is in this country, and on enquiries I have made there is no evidence that she is in a distressed position in Germany."

CZECH REFUGEE FUND

Mr. Bartlett asked the Home Secretary whether he will take steps to make part of the Czech Refugee Fund available for the rehabilitation of Czechoslovaks in this country who have found it impossible to continue in the service of their Government after the recent political changes.

Mr. Ede: "Whether help can be given from this Fund to Czechs in this country whose need arises from such circumstances as those mentioned in the Question, is a matter on which I am in consultation with the Trustees. I am informed that the balance remaining in the Fund at the present time is approximately £1,670,000."

PARCELS TO GERMANY

Asked by Mr. Niall Macpherson whether the Ministry of Food would now relax the rules as to the nature of foodstuffs that may be contained in parcels to Germany, Dr. Summerskill replied: "I regret that the present food supply position will not allow of the relaxation which the Hon. Member suggests."

REGISTRATION OF CLAIMS

The time for the submission on form MGAF/C of claims for the restitution of identifiable property in the British Zone of Germany has been extended until December 31, 1949 (from December 31, 1948).

HOUSEHOLD GOODS IN FRENCH ZONE

Facilities for the removal of furniture and personal effects from Germany to this country which so far only existed for the British and U.S. Zone have now been extended to property in the French Zone. Particulars may be obtained from the Foreign Office (German Section), Norfolk House, St. James's Square, London, S.W.1. There are at present no facilities for the removal of property from the Russian Zone and the four sectors of Berlin.

BRITISH TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

According to the Board of Trade Journal of 31st July, an office of the United Kingdom Commercial Representative in Germany has been opened at 47 Zeppelin Allee, Frankfurt-am-Main (Tel. No. Frankfurt 77403). All enquiries which would normally be addressed to the Commercial Department of an Embassy abroad should now be addressed to this office, and United Kingdom business visitors to Frankfurt are recommended to call on the Representative during the course of their visit.

BRITISH NATIONALITY ACT

The new British Nationality Act (see April issue of "AJR Information") has been passed and will come into effect on January 1st, 1949. Amongst others, it states that British women do not lose their British nationality by marrying aliens. A more detailed survey on the changes arising from the promulgation of the new law will be given in one of the forthcoming issues of "AJR Information."

Herbert Freedman:

JEWRY IN HOLLAND

Dutch Jewry, though it had been reduced during Nazi occupation from a community of 140,000 to 20,000, has made a big leap towards recovery. The small remnants who have survived have mostly emerged, after the liberation, from their hiding places and underground lives; only 6,000 have returned out of the 120,000 who had been deported.

The social strata of Dutch Jewry has fundamentally changed. Before the war a not insignificant section were industrial workers, especially in the Diamond and Textile industries, and in Amsterdam there was even a substantial number of Jewish dockers.

As Dutch families who, at the risk of their own lives, gave hospitality to Jews under the occupation, had to some extent to be paid for their sometimes heavy expenses, survival was a matter which the working classes could not afford, and it is mostly for this reason that Dutch Jewry to-day is, on the whole, a trading population with some sprinkling of the free professions. As the whole economy of the country is geared up for export and textiles and diamonds are the main export goods, the Jews who have some standing in just these two trades, naturally benefit from the favourable market.

There was no anti-Semitism in Holland before the war. The Dutch people are, like the Scottish, living on the word of the bible, and the political

parties are mainly religious groupings, namely Catholic or Calvinist. But the very special social structure of Dutch Jewry at that time has no doubt contributed to the absence of racial prejudices. It remains to be seen if the social transformation of the Jewish community will lead to some change in this respect. At the moment there is no discrimination and especially in a field such as restitution where prejudices can easily flare up, Jews and non-Jews are treated with impartiality and equality.

Unity Impaired

The recovery of the community is no less greatly felt in the sphere of cultural activities. There are in Amsterdam, where half of Dutch Jewry live, three congregations, the Sephardic, the Ashkenazi and a Liberal. The Sephardic Synagogue, a most beautiful pearl of architecture, built in the 17th Century, has, as the only Jewish landmark in Amsterdam, escaped destruction and even damage. The library, *Etz Hayim*, known for its unique manuscripts, had been stolen by the Nazis and sent to Germany but miraculously all the boxes with their precious contents, were found untouched in Frankfurt and have now been restored to Amsterdam.

The unity of the community has unfortunately suffered through a conflict which flared up around the former members of the "Judenrat," which under the Nazi occupation was the central Jewish link between the authorities and the individual Jews. Certain circles reproached the two former Chairmen, Professor Cohen and Mr. A. Ascher that they had gone too far in their co-operation with the Germans. The conflict was, since the liberation, somehow latent, but a short time ago had come into the open when a Jewish Committee instigated an investigation against some members of the former "Judenrat" which concluded with a charge of collaboration. In the meantime the Public Prosecutor had arrested Professor Cohen and Mr. Ascher on charges of collaboration and the Jewish Committee came to a verdict while the public inquiries were pending. This has led to indignant protests in wide Jewish circles. The two Chairmen have now been set free and it is doubtful if, after all, a public charge will be made. This case has only aggravated the lack of leadership from which the community is suffering.

Immigrants from Germany

Before the war there were in Holland 25,000 Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. The majority were deported and have perished at the hands of the Nazis. A small section succeeded in emigrating. Only just over 3,000 have survived. Although their economic position is, like that of their fellow Jews, stable, their legal position is still unsettled. Naturalisation, proceeding very slowly, is in Holland not an administrative act, but each case calls for special legislation. Many of the newcomers want to leave the country but this they have in common not only with the Dutch Jews, but with a large section of the Dutch population.

Holland needs "Lebensraum." With births exceeding deaths by at least 100,000 per year, with a population that has increased from 6,000,000 in 1910 to just over 10,000,000 in 1947, Holland strives to tackle the problem in two ways: either by sending some of her people overseas—only recently transports of farmers have left for Canada and Australia—or by gaining new soil from the sea, through remarkable works of reclamation. The Government is working on a number of projects which in 50 years will have increased the area of the country by 16 per cent.

Dutch Jewry lacks, of course, youth. There are still a few agricultural training centres in the country but only in the course of the past few months, a few hundred trainees have left for Palestine, and very few young people are left to make up a Jewish Youth Movement. The Children & Youth Aliyah have their own Children's Village at Apeldoorn with 500 youngsters from D.P. camps who are waiting for their turn to go to Palestine.

If one takes into consideration the tendency for emigration as well as the lack of youth, one has to be sceptical as to the future of Dutch Jewry.

EVENTS IN ANGLO JEWRY

Before adjourning for the summer recess, the Board of Deputies reiterated the support of British Jews for the Jewish State. In a debate on Defence, the Chairman of the Defence Committee, Mr. L. J. Hydeleman, said that there had been an increase in the tempo of Fascist meetings in the direction of rowdyism and disorder.

The London Board for Jewish Religious Education, faced with a deficit of £12,000 and realising that no increase is likely in the amount of communal taxation, has begun to cut down expenditure by dismissing a number of part-time Hebrew teachers. A strong protest was lodged by the National Union of Hebrew Teachers, and the *Jewish Chronicle* has called upon the community to prepare themselves for heavier sacrifices.

It was reported at the final course of University Extension lectures held at Jews' College, that the total expenditure incurred by three courses of lectures held during the session 1947-48 and attended by an average of 20 students, was £266, of which £74 were covered by fees, with a balance to be met by the guarantors. The new Principal of Jews' College will be Rabbi Dr. Isidore Epstein.

Opinions on the Leeds Jewish Community (the third largest in Britain) were voiced by Leeds Jews themselves at a meeting of the Leeds Lodge of B'nai Brith. It was thought that a distinct iron curtain existed between the Jews of Moortown and Alwoodley and their co-religionists in the less affluent Chapeltown, with the result that the leaders were out of touch with the rank and file. If cultural pursuits and achievements were taken as a yardstick to measure a community, then, it was felt, the Leeds Jewish Community did not reach even a mediocre level.

At a luncheon given by the Union of Maccabi Associations to 36 Jewish Olympic contestants from 15 different countries, the British heavyweight wrestling champion, Fred Oberlander, who, like most British champions, was defeated, said that no Jewish sportsman could be successful without having one thing in his mind and heart—that he was a Jew.

CLAIMS AGENCY

It is hoped that it will be possible to announce in the next issue of "AJR Information" the coming into operation of the international Claims Agency. This new institution will fulfil an important task in the field of restitution. In continuation of the work of the "United Restitution Office" and of the other Restitution Offices established by the "Council of Jews from Germany," it will in the first instance represent the cases of the individual claimants before the appropriate Courts in Germany or supervise their prosecution. Other tasks will follow.

The Claims Agency will have its agencies in London (for Great Britain and the British Commonwealth), in Palestine, in the U.S.A., and in France (for the Western European countries). It will have representatives in those parts of Germany which are covered by the restitution laws.

Besides the "Council of Jews from Germany," a number of leading Jewish organisations have taken part in the establishment of this institution.

The headquarters of the Claims Agency will be in London; its President will be Professor Norman Bentwich. Mr. K. Alexander has been appointed General Secretary.

As soon as the pending negotiations with the appropriate authorities have been completed, all necessary details will be published.

NEWS FROM GERMANY

The Currency Reform has badly affected Jewish communities throughout Germany. Though all communities will have to call upon their members for regular voluntary contributions—there is no possibility of imposing taxes, since the Communities have not yet regained a status of Corporations of the Public Law—this will, in view of the unfortunate social and economic structure of their membership, be insufficient for balancing their budgets. Negotiations for the allotment of grants and, if necessary, of well-termed loans are being carried on with the various appropriate German authorities. The problem of a "Lastenausgleich" will also have to be tackled, and a reduction in expenditure will have to be considered.

Berlin.—The 4-5000 Jewish D.P.s, who for a considerable time have been housed in the camps at Berlin-Schlachtensee and Berlin-Mariendorf, both situated in the U.S. Sector, were, at the request of the American Military authorities, recently transferred from blockaded Berlin into the American Zone of Occupation. This move, well prepared and guided by the U.S. Army, the International Refugee Organisation, the respective Camp Committees and the Jewish Relief Societies, was carried out with great efficiency and remarkable discipline. Four-engined U.S. Army planes, after unloading essential supplies for Berlin, took groups of approximately 30 people each to Frankfurt-on-Main, whence they were dispersed to over 15 existing Jewish D.P. camps in Greater Hesse and Bavaria. Professor Dr. Haber, the Jewish Adviser to General Lucius D. Clay, the U.S. Supreme Commander, rushed to Berlin, when this large-scale and swift move began. There is now in Berlin only the Wittenau Jewish D.P. Camp (in the French Sector), comprising less than 200 people.

Bochum.—The Jewish Community, which also includes Hattigen and Wattenscheid, now numbers 34—as compared with approximately 1,200 in 1933 and approximately 300 at the outbreak of war. A Betsaal, offering seating-space for 50 people, was consecrated last year. The three Jewish cemeteries are in order.

Recklinghausen.—Of 5-600 members in 1933 and approximately 200 members in 1942 (who all were deported to Riga) only 17 are now left. The Jewish cemetery is well cared for. Religious services are held at the High Festivals in the house of one of the members.

Herne.—There are now only 29 people in the Jewish Community (1933: 500; 1939: approximately 200). Religious services are attended jointly with the Jews in Bochum. The Jewish cemetery is kept in good order.

Wilhelm Unger: KARL WOLFSKEHL

Karl Wolfskehl who died at Auckland, New Zealand, on the 30th June will still be remembered, both as a man and a poet, when most of our present problems have passed into oblivion. He was a solitary figure, standing outside the code of values accepted in his day, but in the fullness of time he will be recognised as a universalist and as a man who had found and fulfilled himself.

Germany has lost in him a thinker who even in his exile kept loving her and believing in her as long as he had breath.

The Jews have lost in him one of their greatest sons who, in spite of the influence of Greek and Catholic thought, yet maintained a life-long loyalty to his Jewish heritage and who, by disposition as well as by development, has a place in the unbroken line of Jewish prophets.

Europe, too, mourns the loss of a citizen of the world who never wavered at any time or at any place in his belief in Western civilisation.

Karl Wolfskehl was born in Darmstadt on September 17th, 1869. His family had lived on the Rhine since the days of Karl der Grosse. His father, the banker Otto Wolfskehl, was one-time Vice-President of the Parliament of Hesse. Karl studied philology at the University of Giessen, where he obtained his doctorate with a thesis on "Germanische Werbungssagen."

The turning point of his life was, when in 1893, he met Stefan George. Life then assumed a new

meaning for Wolfskehl, for already a year before he had found in George's poetic style and images a pattern corresponding to his own creativeness. Wolfskehl soon became one of the most prominent figures in the "George-Kreis" which had its influence not only on German literature but also on the intellectual and even political life of the German nation.

The fact that men like Karl Wolfskehl and Friedrich Gundolf—another outstanding figure in the George-Kreis—were both Jews later gave the Nazis reason to call the George-Kreis "verjudet" and to deny that it had ever had any culturally constructive significance; but this was only after they had tried in vain to claim Stefan George as one of their forerunners and to declare his thoughts to be akin to their own ideas. George, however, had no intention of betraying either his own ideas or his Jewish friends, and so he emigrated to Switzerland where he died in December, 1933.

Karl Wolfskehl was one of the original contributors to George's *Blaetter fuer die Kunst* and both published jointly three volumes *Deutsche Dichtung* (Goethe, Jean Paul, Das Jahrhundert Goethes). Wolfskehl also contributed to the *Jahrbuch fuer die geistige Bewegung* edited by Friedrich Gundolf.

Milestones in Wolfskehl's poetical development are *Ulais* (1897), *Mysterien* (1909), *Die Stimme spricht* (1934) and the lyrical drama *Saul* (1905). Although George's influence on Wolfskehl's work is

unmistakable, the originality and creative force of Wolfskehl's own personality stand out clearly. He has given us poems of unsurpassed beauty, in which he expresses his yearning for a complete and meaningful life. Wolfskehl also made a name for himself as a translator (De Coster's *Till Ulen-spiegel*). In *Bild und Gesetz*, a collection of essays published in 1930, he proved himself to be a literary critic and a philosopher.

He made Munich his home, where, on the famous "Wolfskehl'sche Dienstage," many poets and artists met each other for the first time. They all regarded Wolfskehl as the focal point of their circle. It was he who assembled the different elements and fused them into a whole. None could resist the magic power of his personality. It can well be understood that many of his friends regarded his personality and his ability to inspire and to lead as his greatest achievements.

There can be little doubt that in his new home in exile Wolfskehl again found a sphere of activity congenial to his personality, but one can well imagine that nothing caused him greater suffering than the abrupt end to his activities in Munich.

The real significance of the loss that we have suffered through the death of Karl Wolfskehl will only be measured when we know more fully everything that he wrote in exile. (Recently a new work *An die Deutschen* appeared in the Origo-Verlag, Zurich.)

That the poet had of late become tired of life and had waited anxiously for his deliverance (for a long time he had been suffering from failing health and sight) is but small consolation to those who mourn his loss. But death left unfulfilled the last great wish—to see once more his native land.

If the intention of one of his Swiss friends—to bury him on Swiss soil—should become reality, then Karl Wolfskehl will find his last resting place in Minusio at the side of his great friend Stefan George.

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.

FRENCH INDEMNIFICATION LAW

It is difficult for the layman, and possibly even for lawyers who do not regularly deal with claims of Nazi victims, to distinguish properly between *restitution* and *indemnification*. Restitution refers only to such items which are available and therefore still identifiable, indemnification to all other claims for loss and damage suffered, these claims in their nature being money claims. It has been mentioned repeatedly that the Allied Powers decided to deal with these two types separately, viz. first with Restitution and later on with Indemnification. Reports on the development of Restitution legislation have periodically been given in this paper. As to "Indemnification", detailed information is in hand about the preparations for a Law in the American Zone. It was, however, a surprise for all interested parties that, on July 13th, 1948, there appeared in the Journal Officiel of the French Military Government the text of an Indemnification Law ("Ordonnance No. 164") enacted for the French Zone.

One cannot help feeling that the secrecy veiling the preparation of this Ordonnance and its sudden publication were intentional and meant to forestall the American legislation. It has been mentioned before, when the French Restitution Ordonnance was published, likewise unexpectedly, that the French Military Government have so far shown peculiar ideas of their own which are hardly compatible with a really thorough and just settlement. The salient points of the new French Indemnification Ordonnance which attempts to deal with the complex problem very briefly, are the following ones:—

1. A Right of Indemnification is granted to the victims of Nazi Oppression for personal injuries and damage and loss of property inflicted through discriminating acts and measures.

It is, however, to be feared that many types of damage will not be covered by that rather narrow definition; conspicuous examples for such unsettled claims are the *Reichsfluchtsteuer* and the disadvantages suffered and fines imposed under currency laws. Furthermore, all damage suffered by way of loss of business and professional earnings, as well as war damage and damage of an immaterial kind, are expressly excluded from indemnification.

If the victims have died, only certain near relatives are entitled in their place—a provision which is especially objectionable in so far as it excludes any but their near relatives also if appointed by *Last Will*.

2. As far as damage and losses are covered by the Ordonnance, they will by no means be indemnified in full. Article 9 of the Ordonnance provides that the proportion to which indemnification will be granted shall be fixed by Statutes enacted by each of the "Laender" concerned.

The problem of indemnification is already sufficiently obscured by the new currency laws for Germany. Article 9 of the French Indemnification Ordonnance is apt to make it still more doubtful whether any fair and adequate indemnity will be given in the end.

3. Another Article provides that the bodies which shall deal with indemnification shall pay it "in the first place" ("insbesondere") out of the unclaimed and heirless properties of victims and of the profits made on such of the victims' properties as will be restituted in kind, and furthermore out of certain confiscated Nazi properties.

One can assume that the last mentioned source is a small one, and that, as a result, victims will practically be indemnified out of other victims' property. This is no indemnification at all, it is a naked act of opportunism destined to protect the German public finances against any serious "losses" on account of indemnification—after Nazism managed to gather the greatest part of the properties in the hands of the State or other public funds.

The best that can be said about the French Ordonnance with all its shortcomings is that it does not absolutely bar the way to improvement. There may still be possibilities to implement the Ordonnance in a reasonable way, e.g. to see to it that the "proportion" of indemnity is fixed at an appropriate level and that "in the second instance" the funds out of which indemnity shall be granted, will be supplemented by the Treasuries of the Laender.

Applications for Indemnification will go to the *Landesaemter fuer Kontrollierte Vermoegen*, and there is a possibility of appeal against their decisions. *No time limit has been given*, and it can safely be assumed that there will not be any actual dealing with such cases before the implementing legislation referred to above has been enacted.

THE MIDDLE EAST

The Middle East, for many centuries an economic and political backwater, has moved again into the centre of world interest. Since the opening of the Suez Canal the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean have attracted the attention of the great world powers.

The first World War with its final breakdown of the Ottoman Empire released new forces, gave an uplift to Arab nationalism, created a host of new states and brought to the fore new social, political and economic tendencies. Whilst in the Western world the march towards the secular state took many hundreds of years in the Middle East a definite renaissance of the state idea as a modern, secular conception came about only at the beginning of the present century. Agriculture is only slowly freeing itself from the fetters of a feudal system of land tenure with its privileged position of the property of religious Foundations and the recognition of tribal collective property. This process of economic liberation opens up vistas of the Middle East as an agricultural producer in modern world economy.

Alfred Bonne in his latest book "State and Economics in the Middle East" (The International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction—Publisher: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd. Price 30s.) analyses the problems arising out of the Middle-Eastern society in a state of transformation. He interprets the impact of western civilisation on the social, economic and political fabric of the Middle East. Against a historical background he illuminates a stage on which to-day part of the World Drama is played.

In a previous book "The Economic Development of the Middle East," first published in 1933, Alfred Bonne outlined in detail a programme for the future. His latest book is, as he himself mentions, retrospective in character. It deals with the human material, the political and economic structure and tries to give a reasoned explanation of the problems and changes of the Middle-Eastern scene. Historians and economists have often wondered why the Middle East has not until now participated in the social and economic development of Europe in spite of its geographical proximity. Because the answer to this riddle is not obvious it has often been doubted whether the Middle East is capable of "catching up" with Western development. The static features of Middle Eastern society, particularly of the Arab countries seem to emphasize this doubt.

HANS CAPELL.

C. C. Aronsfeld: GERMAN JEWS IN ENGLAND (III)

An even greater contribution to England's national life was made by Hugo Hirst (Hirsch), from Southern Germany (since 1934 Lord Hirst of Whittington), who in 1889 founded, and till his death in 1943 remained in charge of, the General Electric Company, now one of the most formidable electrical undertakings in the world. It is a measure of the man's achievement that Mr. J. H. Thomas, the once famous Labour chief, commended him, the towering industrialist, for having "worked like a Trojan to bring Capital and Labour together"; indeed, Thomas said, Hirst could "feel justly proud that there is no employer of labour so esteemed and respected."

But the services of German Jews in England lie by no means only in the economic field. Sometimes the same family would produce distinction in more than one branch of human activity. One of Sir Felix Schuster's brothers, for example, Ernest, K.C., an authority on International Law, Political Science and Economics, was among the Government's legal advisers in the negotiations leading to the Dawes Plan of 1924, and Sir Arthur Schuster, F.R.S., during the first World War, performed, according to the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, "invaluable work as a scientific adviser for the organisation of research in various departments."¹

Outstanding Scholars

An ornament to learning as well as to piety were the Gollanczes, Sir Hermann and Sir Israel, whose father, the Rev. Samuel Marcus Gollancz, came to London about 1855 from his native Witkovo, Provinz Posen. Israel who for 25 years (until his death in 1930) occupied the chair for English Language and Literature at King's College, London, is still considered one of the foremost Shakespearean scholars, whereas his elder brother, for 30 years first Minister at the Bayswater Synagogue, achieved distinction as an orientalist and Professor of Hebrew at London University College.²

It so happened that when this particular chair for Hebrew was created, its first incumbent, in 1828, also was a Jew from Posen, Hyman Hurwitz, who came to England in 1795 at the age of 25. His Hebrew tales and Hebrew grammars, as well as other learned writings of mainly educational Jewish interest, attracted the attention of Samuel T. Coleridge, the author and poet, who, upon conscientious study of the subject, found that "beyond all doubt and comparison, Mr. Hurwitz, whom it would be no flattery to name the English Mendelssohn, is the first Hebrew and Rabbinical scholar in the Kingdom."

By a jesting contrast, about the same time, England was treated to the appearance of a most odd, romantic as much as eccentric, meshumad from Germany. Dr. Joseph Wolff was born at Weilersbach, near Bamberg, in 1795, turned Roman Catholic in 1812, lived in Rome till he was excommunicated six years later for uttering heretic opinions, and then made for England where he promptly joined the Established Church (though he later set up a denomination of his own, the Catholic Apostolic Church). Having studied

oriental languages at Cambridge, Wolff soon, on behalf of the London Society for the Jews, launched himself on extensive and adventurous travels into the remotest regions of the East. The success vouchsafed to these devoted labours was negligible, although, presenting himself as "drunk with the love of God," Wolff certainly was a fierce hot-gospeller, made memorable by the antics of an indomitable knight-errant. Some measures of earthly recompense came when one of his social ambitions was granted and Lady Georgiana Walpole, daughter of the second Earl of Orford, consented to marry him.

Primrose League

An offspring of this marriage was Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff, the noted parliamentarian and diplomat who in 1883, after the unveiling of Lord Beaconsfield's statue in Parliament Square, conceived the idea of the Primrose League, an abiding symbol of the Disraelian tradition in the conservative British way of life. In a kindred sphere of public affairs, fame was won by Philip Goldschmidt, of Oldenburg, who in 1843, at the age of 31, came to Bradford, afterwards settled in Manchester, and in 1883 (and again in 1885) was elected Lord Mayor of that great city. Equally brilliant was the career of Sir Otto Jaffe, of Hamburg, who was twice (1899 and 1904) Lord Mayor of Belfast.

Naturally German Jews have left their mark also in that profession in which Jews of all nationalities and in all ages have excelled above all others—medicine. In England one of their finest craftsmen was Dr. Felix Semon, of Danzig, who settled in London, at the age of 25, in 1874. As an assistant of the famous Morell Mackenzie, with whom he strongly disagreed over the illness of Kaiser Frederick III, he soon rose to become the foremost specialist for throat and nose diseases. After he had successfully treated Mr. Gladstone in 1885, he was consulted by the Queen, who knighted him, and introduced to the future Edward VII who greatly cherished his professional as well as social accomplishments and promptly appointed him Physician Extraordinary to the King. Sir Felix faithfully attended to his royal patient, until in 1908, owing to those intrigues which will never forgive the stain of foreign birth, he was forced to tender his resignation which, however, the king graciously declined to accept. Semon died, a disappointed man, in 1921.

On a smaller scale, a similar fate had befallen, a generation earlier, another Jewish physician, Dr. F. Freund, of Prague. He worked chiefly among the German colony in London whom he untiringly urged to make better provision for their poor—then a large number—by building a hospital of their own. His industry, devotion and humanitarian zeal at last secured the opening in 1845 of the German Hospital at Dalston, but Dr. Freund, whom a German chronicler describes as "an Israelite filled with a truly Christian spirit," was not long suffered to enjoy the fruits of his labours. He was jockeyed out of the Hospital Committee, and others, less conspicuous for a Christian spirit but also less non-Aryan, basked in the abundant appreciation, moral and material, which this grand monument of charity drew then, and has received ever since, from very many Londoners, German and native, Jew and Gentile, high and low.

At this point the writer wishes to end his notes on German Jews in 19th Century England. He is severely conscious that he has by no means dealt adequately with the absorbing subject. Many names are still unmentioned, many achievements unappreciated, and nearly all continue to await the carefully sifting student who one day will do them justice. In the meantime, grateful acknowledgment is due to Mr. Paul H. Emden's "Series of Biographies," entitled "Jews of Britain" (London 1943), from which many important data were obtained.

1. The present knighted generation of the Schuster family—Victor, a son of Felix, Claud and George, a son of Ernest—are no longer connected with Judaism.
2. A third brother, a wholesale jeweller, was the father of Mr. Victor Gollancz, the publisher.

Old Acquaintances

The Mann Family.—No one knows why Klaus Mann tried to commit suicide a few weeks ago in California. The gifted son of a famous father returned from Europe to see his new Tchaikowsky novel *Pathetic Symphony* published. By now, Klaus is recovering. His father refused to accept a telephone call from his home-town Luebeck because Germans cannot pay for it, and he didn't want to pay for it either. Later on he got to know why they rang him—Luebeck wanted some help for the rebuilding of its famous St. Mary's Church, and he gave all his royalties in Germany for that cause. By the way, Sir Alexander Korda wants to make a picture out of Thomas Mann's *Magic Mountain* soon, and tried to get Klaus for the script.

What they earn.—America's income tax collector is not discreet, he publishes every year what our friends, the stars earn. Hedy Lamarr tops the list with 279,000 dollars a year, and she will star next in Cecil de Mille's "Samson and Delilah" picture. Otto Preminger who directed "Forever Amber" earned 206,000 dollars, William Dieterle 204,000, and Fritz Lang 178,000 dollars. The young director Billy Wilder who started once in Berlin with "Menschen am Sonntag" could make 166,000; I am sure he will earn much more this year because his two new pictures, "The Emperor Waltz" with Bing Crosby and "A Foreign Affair" with Marlene Dietrich are making terrific business in New York just now. Marlene herself earned 100,000 dollars.

From the Ringstrasse.—Maria Jeritza arrived in Austria from the States, gave a recital in Salzburg and told reporters she bought a new opus by Richard Strauss. At the same time, Franz Lehár returned to his beloved Bad Ischl after spending the first post-war years in Switzerland. Willy Forst who now edits his own monthly *Film* in Vienna greets the old composer, and calls him not only "our new Johann Strauss," but also a "voluntary non-refugee" whatever that may mean. Forst will direct the first English picture "Elisabeth of Austria" next year in Vienna with Margaret Lockwood and Paul Henreid for J. Arthur Rank, and Richard Duschinsky, who once wrote many excellent plays in Berlin and Vienna, writes the script for this film.

Home News.—Lore Leni, widow of the famous German director Paul Leni and wife of the British journalist Maurice Cowan formed her own film company in London, and will produce first a picture "Renate," the life story of Renate Mueller, who committed suicide during the Hitler years, and was well-known in this country through "Sunshine Susy" ("Die Privatsekretarin").—Dolly Haas, whodidn't make a picture since she played in "Broken Blossoms" here in 1936, is coming to London in the Autumn to star in "Lute Song." She is married to the American cartoonist Hirschfeld who does every week a drawing for the Sunday edition of the *New York Times*.—Ludwig Biro, who during the first world war wrote the famous novel *Hotel Stadt Lemberg* showed, his new play "The Blue Room Mystery" in the little New Lindsay Theatre. The leading lady of his new work was Lucielle Gray who is Vicky's wife—and Vicky, the famous cartoonist of the *New Chronicle* started his career in Berlin where he drew for the "12 Uhr-Blatt." Lotte Jessner, the late Leopold's only daughter emigrated from England to the States.—Alfred Kerr, who discloses that he once wrote poems for Richard Strauss (but they were never heard in public) intends to go on a visit to Germany soon. He is over eighty.

People.—Emil Rameau celebrated his 70th birthday together with his 50th stage anniversary in Hollywood where he lives with his son, author Hans Rameau. He used to play and direct with Reinhardt and Jessner in the old days, and just now finished work in Republic's "Main Street Kids."—Ellen Schwanncke, who is an American citizen, but lives on German rations in Berlin, is going to make a picture there; it's called "Morgen ist Alles besser" after Annemarie Selinko's novel, and Hans Deppe will direct it.—Peter Lorre is probably coming to Europe to act in Paris in "The Man on the Eiffel Tower."

PEM

Letter to the Editor

"JUDE' AS OFFICIAL TERM"

Dear Sir,
I noticed a short item in your August issue under the heading "'Jude' as Official Term." This terminology is not, I can assure everybody, used only rarely, but it is the accepted wording in the German Civil Service even to-day. I can claim to have been in close touch with the "Beamtens-Kreis" for some time after the last war and I found the term used again and again. In particular C.I.D. personnel's statements would run something like this: "Ich ging in das Haus des Juden . . ." Although I did what I could to stop it, I must say that it had little effect, for what had been done for years and years I was not going to erase in a matter of weeks.

I.M.S.

Name and address supplied.

FROM MY DIARY

The Olympic Games in Wembley kept reminding me of the 13th Olympiad which took place in 1936 in Berlin. What a grandiose spectacle was offered to the world by the Nazis. A whole Olympic village was built near the Stadium; the streets were transformed into festive avenues; day and night the official propaganda machine shouted into the world the gigantic preparations for this international rally. For the first time in Nazi Germany, however, the Jews benefited from such an event. The year 1936 was a kind of vacation from persecution. The Olympic Games took place in Berlin under the condition that athletes of all nations, creeds and colours should be able to participate freely in the competitions. It was, therefore, that all Jewish sport organisations in Germany, long before the Olympiad started, were allowed to function unhindered.

The anti-Jewish laws were temporarily put into cold storage. Pogroms and even minor incidents were, for the time being, ruled out. Berlin offered her gayest and most alluring face to the world's visitors. The opening was a monumental political demonstration. Hitler, followed by Goering, Goebbels and the highest dignitaries of the party and military machine, drove slowly in open cars from the centre of the town out to the Stadium in Charlottenburg, through streets flanked by millions, and the Olympic torch, which in Wembley modestly came through the "back door" of London the North-Western suburbs—preceded in Berlin the triumphal entry of the Fuehrer.

The opening of the 14th Olympiad in Wembley, though impressive enough with 58 nations parading their colours before the King and an audience of 85,000, was no political event. If any political significance should be attached to it, then it is that it was still possible in the summer of 1948 to gather the nations on both sides of the "Iron Curtain" in a friendly contest. Of the Arab States, Egypt presented the largest team, with over 60; Iraq and Lebanon led approximately a dozen athletes

into the field and Syria two. There were States like Pakistan which, for the first time, competed under their own flag. It was to be expected that Israel was not represented—the young State is not yet a member of the Olympic Committee and did not exist when the entries for the Games were made. Unfortunately, however, also the former Mandatory territory of Palestine was not invited. The participation of Palestine had first been accepted by the Olympic Committee and then withdrawn because the "State" of Palestine did not exist any more (although it had never existed).

Again it was left to the Jews to fight as anonymous members of their national teams. The largest number of Jewish athletes were in the U.S.A. team where 14 Jews participated (with two formerly German Jews, J. H. Slade, from Frankfurt and Claus Gerson, Hamburg) but there were also a Jewish sprinkling in the British, Canadian, French, Hungarian, Danish and in some of the South American teams. Freddy Oberlaender, formerly Hakoia, Vienna, represented the British Heavy-Wrestlers.

A German Jewess, Inge Mello de Preiss, was amongst the Argentine representatives at the Olympic Games. Mrs. Preiss received her training in the "Juedische Sportgemeinschaft 33," Berlin. Generally, Jews from Germany in the Argentine are deemed to be "enemy aliens" and cannot acquire the Argentine nationality. As the authorities were, however, anxious to make use of Mrs. Preiss's qualifications, they made an exception in her case and naturalised her, so that she might represent her new homeland at the Olympic Games.

On 8th August, a party of prominent members of the Jewish Community from Great Britain and Ireland set out on a Goodwill Flight to visit children's homes run by Children and Youth Aliyah in Florence and Rome. The tour, which lasted three days, has produced an enormous impression and everyone has returned determined to do the utmost to increase their fund-raising activities for Children and Youth Aliyah.

NARRATOR

PERSONALIA

Dr. Joachim Prinz, Newark, N.J., U.S.A., the former Berlin rabbi, on his return from the Montreux Conference of the World Jewish Congress toured the U.S. and British Zone, spent some time in Bavaria and Frankfurt-on-Main and addressed meetings in Dusseldorf, Belsen, Hamburg and Cologne. He took a particular interest in the affairs and activities of Jewish Communities.

Dr. Rudolf Geiger, one of the last Vice-Presidents of the Jewish "Centralverein," celebrated his 75th birthday in New York on July 25th.

Dr. G. Schatzky, chairman of the A.J.R. Cambridge Branch, celebrated his 70th birthday recently. The A.J.R. wishes to convey to him its most cordial congratulations and to thank him for his untiring efforts in the interest of the Local Group.

The Rev. B. Wreschner, who has been an A.J.R. Board Member for many years, has left this country to take up an appointment as a Minister of a Melbourne Congregation. The A.J.R. extends to him its best wishes for his future activities.

It is announced with greatest regret that **Moritz Rosenthal**, whose merits for the Jewish community were recently recalled on the occasion of his 70th birthday, suddenly passed away in New York.

Mr. George Stadthagen, a well-known and most active member of the National Savings Committee in Hampstead, died recently.

POSTAL SERVICE TO PALESTINE

The Postmaster-General announces that un-registered letters, printed and commercial papers, samples, and small packets up to the normal limits of weight, and postcards, may now be sent by surface route to certain places in Palestine, of which the following are the more important: Benei Brak, Hadera, Haifa, Jaffa, Jerusalem, Kfar Vitkin, Nahariya, Nathanya, Petach-Tikva, Raanana, Ramat Gan, Rishon-le-Zion, Rosh Pina, Tel-Aviv, and Tiberias.

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MISSING PERSONS

Inquiries from AJR

Dresdener, Siegfried, from Hamburg, Moenckebergstr. 11, for Alfred Eduard Ladwig, Hamburg.

Fraenkel, Mr., from Berlin, Reichsstrasse, former manager of the Berlin branch of the Hamburger Regemantelfabrik, for Hildegard Grunewald, Berlin.

Ander (formerly Aron), Guenther, abt. 40, General Practitioner, from Koeslin, for Flygtningeadministrationen, Kopenhagen.

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YOUTH WORK

In the course of the recent months, discussions on some special problems of the younger generation from the Continent took place between the A.J.R. and a number of organised and non-organised younger friends. It was felt, amongst others, that "AJR Information" should give some publicity to existing Youth groups, whose membership mainly consists of young Jews from the Continent. By publishing below particulars of some groups in London, it is not intended to give a complete survey of the great number of organisations. The survey is confined to clubs and does not enumerate those organisations which work on the line of the Youth movements in the stricter sense of the word. Furthermore, it does not contain the great number of Anglo-Jewish Youth organisations, which are pleased to enlist Continental Youths amongst their members.

Bar Kochba, 57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3. Main activities: Sports (open-air training, Gym, Swimming, Keep Fit, Boxing, Tennis, etc.); Cultural and Social Activities; Hebrew Classes.

B'nei B'rith Youth Organisation, Otto Hirsch Chapter, 33 Seymour Place, W.1. Main activities:

Lectures and Discussions on religious, cultural, political, Jewish and general subjects; Socials; Rambles; Swimming. Approximate age-limit 16 to 25 years.

Claude Montefiore Circle (Youth Club of the New Liberal Congregation), 30 Buckland Crescent, N.W.3. Main activities: Lectures and Discussions on Jewish and general topical subjects; Socials. Age-limit 18 to 30 years.

Primrose Jewish Youth Club and Settlement, 26/27 Belsize Park, N.W.3. Activities of various kinds each night between Sunday and Thursday in Club Premises.

ARE YOU OVER 21?

A meeting and social evening of young people (21 to 35) is being arranged with a view of founding a group for cultural and social activities. Would all interested please send a postcard noting their name and address, as soon as possible, to: Mr. B. Heyman, 27 Lancaster Grove, N.W.3, so that they can be informed of the first function.

INTERNATIONAL REFUGEE ORGANISATION

Receipt of 20,000,000 Swiss francs by the International Refugee Organisation has been announced by the Executive Secretary of I.R.O., Mr. William H. Tuck. The funds were made available by the Government of Switzerland, at the request of the Allied Governments (the United States, the United Kingdom and France) and of I.R.O., to be devoted to the rehabilitation and resettlement of non-repatriable victims of German persecution.

In accordance with the decisions of the Paris Reparations Conference and the Five Power Treaty of June, 1946, 90 per cent. of the sum received will be allocated for the assistance of eligible Jewish persecutees.

The sum of 7,200,000 Swiss francs has been paid to the American Joint Distribution Committee, one of the voluntary agencies assigned by the Allied Reparations Treaties to receive funds for assistance to Jewish persecutees, and 25,000 francs to two bodies caring for non-Jewish persecutees. Under the reparation programme, I.R.O. has to receive 25,000,000 dollars from German external assets. A balance of 7,500,000 dollars has still to be made available before I.R.O. can fully implement the programme.

THEODOR HERZL SOCIETY

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57 Eton Avenue, N.W.3

September 7th, Dr. Leo BAECK:
"Jewish Life in U.S.A. and Israel"

September 14th, Mr. H. I. LEE (Immigration Department, Jewish Agency): "Survey of the Political Situation."

September 21st, Dr. Joseph FISCH (Director of the Economic Bureau of Palestine): "Economic Policy of Israel."

September 28th, Living Newspaper. (1) Dr. H. CAPELL: Editorial. (2) Dr. W. ROSENSTOCK (AJR): "Restitution for Jews from Germany." (3) Mr. N. D. GROSS: "British Synagogues and Zionism." (4) Miss ZIMMERMAN (The Jewish Chronicle): "A Jewish Reporter at Work." (5) Mr. C. C. ARONSFELD: "Jews in Australia."

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