

Herbert Freedman:

THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION

Two years ago, some of the Jewish villages, sparingly spread throughout Palestine, were like islands within an Arab sea. Today, when journeying through Israel, one has the impression of the countryside being empty. True, the towns are crowded and humming with activity, but as soon as one leaves the suburbs and the dense settlement areas of the coastal plain and the Emek, the face of land has changed. The picturesque scenes of Arab village life have gone, the familiar flocks of goats covering the mountain slopes have disappeared, one travels for hours without seeing man or beast.

The land appears empty and yet the ships with newcomers are arriving almost daily.

HISTORIC DAYS

WITH the election of Dr. Chaim Weizmann as President of the State of Israel and the opening in the eternal city of Jerusalem of the Constituent Assembly, the first Knesseth Israel of our time, the new State leaves the dawn of provisional authority and enters into the broad daylight of orderly democratic rule. In his opening speech, Dr. Weizmann proclaimed that on the fair and solid foundation of freedom and equality, collective responsibility and national self-discipline, an independent nation was dwelling in its own free country.

In his memorable address he spoke of this nation as being conceived as "the ingathering of the exiles." "In these short days, to our hearts' joy, thousands and tens of thousands of our brethren from countries near and far are entering the gates of Israel, that stand wide open to receive them. It is our prayer and hope that this ingathering of the exiles will continue on an increasing scale and will embrace very large multitudes of our people who will strike roots here and will work side by side with us in the upbuilding of our State and in making our desolate places fruitful again."

The latest statistics show that the stream of immigration into Israel from all corners of the earth has taken on dimensions which were not dreamed of even some months ago. 23,000 had arrived in October, 28,000 in November, 32,000 in December, 30,000 in January and 27,000 in February; they were coming from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Rumania, Hungary, from Shanghai and Aden and from the Moslem countries. The camps of Cyprus have been cleared, and 55,000 D.P.s from the camps of Europe are on their way. This influx of 300,000 in a year, puts, of course, a great strain on the economy of the new State, as most of the immigrants are destitute, and calls for the assistance of world Jewry in absorbing this mass entry of refugees.

Recognition of Israel by 41 nations has made this co-operation much easier and Britain's *de facto* recognition of the new State has normalised the relations between this country and Israel.

I have seen the "Bulgaria" in Haifa Harbour coming from Varna with 4,500 immigrants aboard, 600 of them inmates of old age homes. There was not a single suitcase in their possession, they came literally with bundles in their arms. The ambulances were waiting for the ailing; goods trains and buses for the others to take them to the overcrowded Batei Olim in the towns where they are to shelter for a few weeks, or to the transit camps in some of the larger villages. To live in a hut there means comfort, as many of them have to be camped in tents, and yet £10,000 per day has to be spent on the maintenance of these transit camps. After two or three months the immigrants are assigned their new homes.

For the young and trained ones, of course, agricultural settlement is the desired journey's end. The influx into the Communal Settlements is enormous, and *Kvutzoth* which so far had maintained a "closed shop policy," that is not extended their communities beyond a certain very limited number, have opened their gates and thrown overboard their selective principle. It seems that the *Kvutzah*, the backbone of the communal settlements, is fast disappearing and that soon there will be only large *Kibbutzim* where personal contact between the members is loose. Their steady growth into villages with well over 1,000 or more inhabitants might, in the end, lead to a weakening of the very principles on which they are based.

Who is absorbing Whom?

At the moment, they have to use all their strength to absorb the masses of newcomers and this applies, of course, to the whole country. In some places one is bound to ask "Who is going to absorb whom?" Will the established *Yishuv* with its fine traditions be strong enough to absorb an annual influx of 25% of its size? Or will, in the end, the newcomers mould social and communal life on a new and different pattern? Whatever the answer will be, the arrival of a non-chalutzic aliyah of such an extent is bound to have its impact on the social structure of the population.

It is the non-chalutzic middle-aged and middle-class immigration which creates the thorniest problem. Though with the army still on a war footing, there is no unemployment, the housing situation has taken on a form which, for the time being, is seriously delaying the integration of the newcomers. 60,000 of them have been housed in abandoned Arab villages and towns.

Ain Karem, near Jerusalem, the birthplace of John the Baptist, is a typical example. It

has been occupied by immigrants from Rumania, with a sprinkling of refugees from North Africa. Those who expected to find a village of the European pattern will be looking in vain for gardens and fields. Ain Karem, like many other Arab villages, is an accumulation of houses built on rocky slopes, and a grove of olive trees is all that reminds of agriculture. Occupational problems are tackled by outside work and auxiliary farming.

Orient Without Orientals

Walking from Tel Aviv into Jaffa, one has associations of blitzed Berlin. There is large scale destruction, whole areas are laid flat and many a solitary house standing among the ruins, is restored for human habitation. The transformation of the unscathed districts into a Jewish town is an easier process than its counterpart in the Arab countryside. It conveys something of the revolution which has taken place in Palestine to see in the Arab huts and houses Jews from Bulgaria and Rumania making their homes and opening their shops, changing the face of the streets from Oriental bazaars into European thoroughfares. Indeed, Israel is Orient without Orientals, although the influx of Jews from North Africa which is as much as 15 to 20% of the immigration, might again change the picture. To see an Arab nowadays in Israel, is like seeing a Negro in London unless you go to the Arab conclaves around Haifa, where some friendly Arab villages remained untouched. Nazareth, the only town where the Arabs have not fled, is a striking example of the freedom the Arab minority is enjoying under the administration of the Israeli army. The town is as full of life as it ever had been, the cafes are crowded, the shops are busy, the little lanes are humming with activity and the Arab guide who showed us the sights, exclaimed, "Now everybody is happy, Moslem, Jew and Christian, now everybody can go to the holy places."

Wounded Jerusalem

The new immigration had its most obvious impact on Jerusalem. As many as 20,000 of the former residents have left the new city, among them Jewish and British officialdom and the many students who have joined the army, and the newcomers are of a different social strata. A grim reminder of past trials is the road to Jerusalem which is littered with burnt-out cars and trucks. There is an air of neglect hovering over the city. One notices forcefully that she is no longer the country's capital. Jerusalem has lost her cosmopolitan appearance and sunk into the slumber of a provincial backwater. Typical of the change is Katamon, whose palatial villas are occupied by refugees from the old city; a new slum district is rising in one of the former exclusive areas. There are large-scale schemes ready to be put into operation in order to restore

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IN PARLIAMENT

ADMISSION OF GERMAN NATIONALS

On February 8, Mr. Leslie Hale asked the Minister of Labour why German women can obtain permission to enter this country to work in domestic service, but are unable to obtain permission to enter this country to work in export industries.

The Minister of Labour, Mr. Isaacs, replied: "After consultation with other Ministers concerned, I am prepared to consider applications from employers for permission to employ Germans, either men or women, generally, subject of course to the usual safeguards."

On a further question the Minister stated that there was no recruitment of German Nationals and the prospective employer must, therefore, apply for a particular person he wants to employ.

PALESTINIAN VISITORS

Asked by Squadron-Leader Fleming whether he will now consider relaxing the ban on visits to the United Kingdom by Palestinians, the Home Secretary, Mr. Ede, said: "I am prepared to consider applications for the grant of visas for visits to the United Kingdom made by persons resident in Israel who possess valid passports or other equivalent travel documents that will enable them to return. Instructions to this effect will be issued within the next few days."

Squadron-Leader Fleming referred to several British subjects of Jewish origin in the Manchester

Continued from front page

Jerusalem; it is still the seat of the Hebrew University and the headquarters of the Jewish Agency and the National Funds; commerce and light industry are to be encouraged by investment projects in the present year for which more than £5 millions of public money are to be provided. But Jerusalem will not prosper unless it becomes the seat of the Israeli Government: it is not given to Jerusalem to be a city second to any other in the country—it is as if her pride and glory were wounded by that degradation, and that her splendour would only revive by her being crowned as Israel's capital.

Integration of German Jews

Jews from Germany and Austria who, two years ago, still formed, to some extent, a "Landmannschaft" have been completely integrated in the general pattern of the population. With the new immigrants coming into the country, they form indeed a section of the "old" established Yishuv and play a notable part in public affairs. Not only have Dr. F. Rosenblueth, as Minister of Justice, and Dr. Herbert Foerder as Food Controller, performed sterling service to the community, there are many former German Jews in the upper ranks of the civil service, and their natural gift for administration is highly valued.

It also seems that, apart from a few "problem cases," they have been completely absorbed in the economic life of the country and are taking a leading part in commerce and industry.

The tension, the insecurity, the uncertainty, of the days of the mandatory regime have gone: in spite of the mounting problems of the mass immigration, the people are happy—and this sense of happiness pervades the whole population and melts town and country, "Sabra" and newcomer, and makes them partners in the breathtaking drama of building up the new State.

area, whose grandparents and parents were living in Palestine and cannot get visas even to come to the weddings of their daughters and grand-daughters.

Asked by Mr. Janner whether the Home Secretary would also grant facilities for students and merchants in order speedily to establish good relations between the two countries, Mr. Ede replied: "I am anxious to give all the help I can to establishing good relations."

On a question by Major Legge-Bourke, whether he could give an assurance that in no case ex-members of the Stern Gang would be admitted, the Home Secretary replied: "I should not think that they will be able to get visas, but the hon. and gallant Gentleman can rest assured that the immigration officers know exactly how to deal with such persons should they arrive."

ALIENS DOMESTICS

On February 8, Mr. Amery asked the Minister of Labour whether an alien permitted to enter this country to take up a particular post in domestic service is allowed to transfer at any time to other approved employment; and what arrangements exist in such a case for reimbursement to the original employer of the alien's fare to this country and for release from his responsibility for the return fare.

Mr. Isaacs replied: "An alien admitted to this country on a permit for domestic employment with a particular employer is not allowed to take other employment without the permission of my Department. Payment of fares to and from this country of an alien admitted on an individual permit is a matter for private arrangement between the employer and the alien. If the alien is permitted to take other employment, the original permit employer is, so far as my Department is concerned, relieved of any responsibility for defraying the cost of the alien's return to her own country, but I have not authority to reimburse the first employer for any expenses of the inward journey incurred by him."

POLITICAL TRENDS IN GERMANY

The political situation in Germany was the subject of several questions. Asked by Mr. Austin about organisations dealing with the revival of Nazi Youth and other activities, Mr. Mayhew stated on behalf of the Foreign Office that no Nazi organisations whatever were permitted to exist in the British zone of Germany. He also promised to examine any evidence submitted to him, according to which organisations in Germany were harbouring Nazi elements. The Minister's attention was also drawn to the revisionist propaganda of refugee organisations built up by Germans who had fled from formerly German territory in the East.

With reference to a League "for German Revival," Mr. Mayhew said that the aims of this League, which claims to be "above party" were clearly political and that its ultra-nationalistic foreign policy was designed to foster differences between the Occupying Powers. No licence as a political association would be granted to the League, and its supporters would not be allowed to hold public meetings as long as their declared objectives and ideals remain fundamentally undemocratic as they were at present. Asked by Mr. Molson whether it was not the case that the British Government did not regard as permanent the existing frontier of Eastern Germany, Mr. McNeil replied: "I do not see how that arises. It is true that the British Military Government have a policy, and it would obviously be stupid to permit propaganda tending to destroy that policy."

With regard to Otto Strasser's application for repatriation, Mr. McNeil said that the Government was fully aware that Otto Strasser's presence in Germany would be undesirable; they had, therefore, taken all the steps in their power to prevent his return.

RESTITUTION

In answer to a question of Mr. Vernon Bartlett, Mr. McNeil stated: "A draft Restitution Ordinance for the British zone has been prepared in Germany and has been considered in London. I hope that it will prove possible to promulgate this in the near future. In the British zone, claims have been investigated, property has been traced and we have completed administrative arrangements which will allow the law to operate as soon as it comes into effect."

ANTI-SEMITIC SPEECHES

At Question Time on February 3 Mr. Bramall referred to three anti-Jewish meetings. In one case, alleged references to the Talmud were made, at another meeting, the speaker of the Union Movement threatened that his Movement would start a bloody revolution, and in the third case the speaker praised the extermination by the Hitler regime of the Jews.

In his reply, the Home Secretary, Mr. Ede, said: "The Home Office is not a prosecuting authority and does not initiate criminal proceedings. I have, however, caused inquiry to be made and am informed that the police who attended these meetings heard nothing to justify the institution of proceedings."

In answer to a supplementary question by Mr. Lipson, the Home Secretary stated that he was in constant touch with the "Council of Christians and Jews" and with the "Jewish Board of Deputies" and that, from time to time, he also sent reports on the speeches to the Director of Public Prosecutions. "I can assure," he said, "that as far as I am concerned, I would welcome the opportunity of the Director bringing a prosecution if the facts warranted it."

Mr. Quintin Hogg said that the Home Secretary's willingness to prosecute in suitable cases and his desire to protect everybody against breaches of the peace, would be widely welcomed in all quarters of the House.

CEMETERIES AS PLAYGROUNDS

In answer to a question by Mr. Piratin, Mr. Mayhew said: "Eight cases of desecration of Jewish graves in the British zone of Germany are known. All were investigated by the German police and in six cases the culprits were detected; with one exception these were children using the cemeteries as recreation grounds. In the remaining case the culprit, a stonemason, was stealing gravestones. He was convicted and fined one hundred gravestones. There is no evidence that these desecrations are the work of an organised body."

CONTROL COMMISSION PERSONNEL

Mr. Mayhew stated on behalf of the Foreign Office that on January 1, 1949, the British Element employed 12,226 British staff in the control of Germany and a further 1,728 on other functions such as dealing with Displaced Persons and disposing of British stores. "This total of 13,954 compares with 18,593 a year previously and further reductions on the same scale are planned to take place during 1949. These should diminish the present figure by about a quarter by the end of the year."

EUROPEAN VOLUNTEER WORKERS

According to a statement by the Minister of Labour, the numbers recruited from the Polish Resettlement Corps and from European Volunteer Workers in 1948 were: coalmining 10,118, textiles 9,287, and agriculture 22,948. In addition, about 11,500 German ex-prisoners of war with civilian status are now employed in agriculture.

KOSHER MEAT

Mr. Stokes asked the Minister of Food what proportion of meat killed in this country is killed by the kosher system; and what steps he has taken to assure himself that no cruelty attaches to this method.

Mr. Strachey: "The number of animals slaughtered by the Jewish method is not separately recorded but is about 2 per cent. of the total. There is some difference of opinion among experts about the degree of suffering caused by this method as compared with that caused by the use of the humane killer."

RESTITUTION IN BERLIN

On February 16th, the Allied Kommandatura Berlin issued an order concerning the registration of identifiable property in the three Western sectors of Berlin "as a preliminary to restitution." The order provides for the compulsory registration of the property by the present possessor, within six months, with the "Treuhänder der Amerikanischen, Britischen und Französischen Militäerregierungen fuer zwangsuebertragene Vermoegen," Berlin W.30, Nuernberger Str. 53/55. The original owner "may" file his claim, but apparently not within a certain time limit. Readers are asked to wait for further announcements in the next issue, especially as the prescribed registration forms are not yet available in this country.

SAFEGUARDING JEWISH ASSETS

Nuernberg has played a fateful part in the history of Nazism. In the "Stadt der Reichsparteitage," the then rulers of Germany displayed all their splendour. From there they shouted their threats to the world. We Jews should never forget the dark night when, at the party rally in September, 1935,

NEWS FROM GERMANY

From our Special Correspondent

Berlin.—In spite of the prevailing difficult position, the work of the Jewish Community continues comparatively unchanged. The Welfare Department is making arrangements for sending to Holland about 100 Jewish children, aged 5 to 14, who are in need of convalescence. The budget of the Jewish Community for the new fiscal year amounts to more than 3 million Deutsche Mark. More than half of the amount will be needed for the Jewish hospital. Half a million Deutsche Mark have been allocated for religious services, religious education, funerals, etc. Since subventions by the municipal authorities are only granted for the hospital and the children's home, the Jewish Community, in order to raise the necessary funds, has to rely in the first place on contributions and donations by their members.—Cultural activities are being intensified, after the Board of the Jewish Community decided to arrange for a series of public lectures. The Cultural and Social Centre at Joachimsthaler Strasse, which is under the auspices of the Berlin team of the Jewish Relief Unit from Great Britain, enjoys a steady attendance. This applies in particular to the language classes.—A special commission to deal with restitution matters has been set up by the Jewish Community, especially in order to press for an early solution of the restitution problem in Berlin.—The Israel representative in Berlin, Dr. Karl Liebshtein, left for Israel and was replaced by Dr. Burstein.

Hamburg.—The ancient Sephardic cemetery at Altona, badly damaged by bombing, is, at the expense of the Hamburg municipal authorities, being re-fenced and repaired. It is hoped that later the inscriptions of the very old tombstones, at present scattered over the huge area, will be photographed.

Professor William Haber, Jewish Adviser to General Lucius D. Clay, Supreme Commander of the U.S. Occupation Forces in Germany, returned to his University post in the United States after more than one year's successful service. He was succeeded by Mr. Harry Greenstein, Executive Secretary of the Baltimore Jewish Welfare Fund, who, from 1943 to 1945, was in charge of UNRRA welfare operations in Greece, Yugoslavia and Albania.

Emigration to Israel.—More than 1,000 Jews are likely to leave the British Zone for Israel at the beginning of March.

Children.—The number of Jewish children in the British Zone (up to the age of 13) is in the neighbourhood of 5-600. This would be slightly more than 10 per cent. of the whole Jewish population in towns (see "AJR Information," December, 1948). It is significant that more than half of the children are below the age of 3. Less than 200 are of school-age.

Assistance to former Nazi victims.—The payment of pensions to Nazi victims who are resident in the British Zone is gradually making progress. Payment is due, under certain conditions, to the aged, to people who can prove that they have suffered bodily, and to the survivors of Nazi victims.—Loans up to 5,000 D.M. for their economic rehabilitation can be applied for by Nazi victims in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Books in German, both Jewish and general literature, are being distributed by the Jewish Relief Unit to a fairly large number of Jewish Communities in the various Zones including Berlin, thus enabling them to rebuild small communal libraries. In this way, more than 1,500 selected books, mainly gifts despatched by the AJR Relief Department in London, were distributed in 1948. Old-age homes and the unions of Jewish students in the British Zone and in Berlin also benefit from this scheme. The need for good, up-to-date, and, if possible, well-preserved books continues.

A bibliographical reference-book, comprising all literature in the German language, published in Germany and abroad during the period 1945-1948, is being compiled by the "Deutsche Bibliothek," Frankfurt-on-Main.

Hitler proclaimed his racial laws. After the war, the fate of the men whose triumph culminated in Nuernberg was sealed in the very same city. Certainly, it was not without purpose that the War Tribunal took its seat in the town from which so much devilry had taken its course.

Nuernberg is now a city of ruins. With the same pride with which the Germans once showed the visitors the beauty spots of their city, they show you now around the ruins, amongst them the entirely destroyed place, from which once the Jew-baiter Streicher ruled.

For us Jews, Nuernberg again obtained importance. In a suburb of the town, in an undamaged former Restaurant, the Headquarters of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation (IRSO) has been established.

What is IRSO?

According to the American Restitution Law No. 59, Jewish communal, heirless and unclaimed property in the American zone of Germany is to be taken over by a Successor Organisation. Therefore, under the leadership of the "American Joint Distribution Committee" and the "Jewish Agency" and with the participation of other great Jewish organisations, amongst them the "Council of Jews from Germany," the "Jewish Restitution Successor Organisation" was created in U.S.A. It was given official recognition by the Military authorities as the legal Successor Organisation for Jewish communal, heirless and unclaimed property. IRSO has thus an official standing and receives all the necessary facilities from the authorities. This means, *inter alia*, that all official quarters (German and allied) in the zone are bound to give IRSO any information it requires; it has access to all official files.

The problem which IRSO had to face in the initial stage of its work was how to safeguard the title for the Jewish property coming under its mandate, especially as all claims were due for registration with the Central Filing Agency at Bad Nauheim until December 31, 1948. Whilst it was comparatively easy to trace property which had formerly belonged to Jewish communities and organisations, it was very difficult to secure the registration of heirless and unclaimed individual Jewish property. IRSO could not know beforehand which former Jewish assets were heirless or would be left unclaimed. In some cases the owners or their heirs might have submitted their claims within the time limit, in other cases the property might not have been claimed or might be heirless. Therefore, to be on the safe side, IRSO undertook the task of registering the total Jewish property in the American zone, regardless whether the individual rightful owner might have registered it as well. If, later on, it should appear that the individual owner had submitted a claim, his right, of course, has priority, but if no other claim has been lodged, IRSO has saved the property for the Jewish people.

Very great endeavours had to be made to trace the entire individual property; and a thorough check was made of Land registers (Grundbuecher). Day and night, 200 people worked incessantly to file the claims before the end of the registration period. Now IRSO can state with a feeling of satisfaction to have claimed, with very few exceptions, all assets which were once Jewish property.

The work of IRSO required substantial means which were provided by Joint and Jewish Agency who also form the "Operating Body" of the organisation. The principal decisions rest with the Board of Directors in New York, on which all the participating organisations are represented. At its latest meeting on October 21, 1948, the Board of Directors elected an Executive representing eight organisations, including the "Council of Jews from Germany." The same meeting also appointed a "Budget Advisory Committee" consisting of representatives of Joint, Jewish Agency, Jewish communities in the zone and the "Council of Jews from Germany." The task of this Committee is to tackle a number of intricate questions on the spot and to advise the Board of Directors about administration and eventual distribution of the funds. One of the problems with which this Committee has to deal is the claim of the still existing Jewish Communities as far as they wish to use communal property for their present needs. The "Budget Advisory Committee" has already held two meetings in Nuernberg, the last one on January 31. All

ANGLO-JUDAICA

Hebrew Week

The week between February 12 and February 19 was proclaimed as "Hebrew Week" by the Education Department of the Zionist Federation and the Hebrew Council in conjunction with the Education Committee of the Board of Deputies. At the opening meeting addresses in Hebrew were given by Professor S. Brodetsky and the Rev. J. K. Goldbloom.

New Chief Rabbi in Eire

Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jacobovits was installed as Chief Rabbi of Eire in the presence of Chief Rabbi I. Brodie. At a dinner on the occasion of the installation, Mr. John Costello (Prime Minister) referred to the active participation of Jews in the fight for Irish freedom and said that he regarded Irish Jewry as an integral Part of the Irish nation.

Israeli Flag hoisted

The Blue and White Israeli Flag was hoisted for the first time over the Israeli Legation at Manchester Square, London, after the recognition of Israel by Great Britain. The ceremony took place in the presence of several Members of Parliament and was opened by one minute's silence in memory of the men and women "who have given their lives, so that the State of Israel may live." The flag was unfurled by the youngest staff member of the Delegation, Ruth Liebstadter, a Palestinian girl of German Jewish origin, at present in this country; together with her family, she had immigrated from Nuernberg to Palestine after the advent of the Nazis.

Britain and Israel

A reception in Professor Brodetsky's house was attended by leading Zionist Politicians and non-Jewish personalities such as Mr. Clement Davies, K.C., M.P.; Lord Chorley; Lord and Lady Strabolgi; Dr. James Parkes and Mr. H. N. Brailsford. Professor Brodetsky expressed the hope for a close co-operation and friendship between the State of Israel and Britain.—At a meeting under the auspices of the Anglo-Jewish Association, Mr. Maurice Edelman, M.P., dealt with the question of divided loyalty. A person, he said, could have many loyalties. Emotionally, Jews could feel sympathy and, indeed, affection for the State of Israel. Politically, the Jew had a single allegiance and that was to the country of which he was a citizen. With regard to Mr. Sidney Stanley's efforts to get admission to Israel, it is, in Mr. Edelman's view, important for the Jews to resist the fiction that Jews all over the world had, ipso facto, some claim for the citizenship of Israel.

problems were discussed in a very friendly and sympathetic way, and there is good hope that a compromise solution will be reached on this very complicated matter.

Mr. B. B. Ferencz, a former Prosecutor at the Nuernberg War Tribunal, is the efficient General Manager of IRSO; his closest collaborators are Mr. S. Kagan, Dr. Meinhard Nussbaum and Dr. Georg Weis (former Legal Adviser to the Jewish Relief Unit in the British Zone of Occupation). Very significant work has been done under the direction and supervision of this management. There are already close contacts between IRSO and URO (United Restitution Office).

It is much too early to forecast anything about the financial results which may be achieved by the work of IRSO. Nobody knows so far, which property is heirless or unclaimed. In a number of cases, the outcome depends on the decisions of the restitution tribunals. It is, therefore, also premature to foretell how the funds will be allocated once they have become available. It can only be said in general terms that it is envisaged to use them for the Jewish people as a whole and especially for those, for whom relief and rehabilitation is an urgent need.

This involves a special claim for the Jews from Germany who once helped to build up the property, and many of whom are now living without means in various countries of the world. Thus from Nuernberg, once the source of so much disaster for our people, some consolation may emanate one day.

K. A.

AUSTRIAN RESTITUTION LAW

The date for filing claims under the Third Austrian Restitution Law with the competent special tribunal in Austria has been extended to June 30, 1949.

Otto Zarek:

THE "GERMAN PLATO"

About two hundred years ago, on a frosty October morning in 1743, the sentry at the Rosenthaler Tor entered in his diary: "To-day, the following passed the Gate: six oxen, seven swine, one Jew-boy (named Moses)." Some forty years later, the Imperial Ambassador in Berlin, Prince Reuss, dispatched a Special Courier to Vienna to inform the Chancellor, Prince Kaunitz, that the same Jew Moses—who meanwhile had taken on the family name of Mendelssohn—had died. The newspapers carried leaders mourning the death of the "German Plato," and in Weimar, Goethe, "deeply moved" at the news of the philosopher's death, wrote his distich claiming him for immortality. But strange are the ways and whims of fame. The glory of Moses Mendelssohn, so richly bestowed upon him in his life-time, has faded, and one is inclined to ridicule the enthusiasts who, like Prince Kaunitz himself, suggested the history of the human mind be divided into periods from Moses to Moses, and from Moses again to Moses—for between Moses, the Law-giver, and Moses Mendelssohn lay Moses Maimonides. No longer is Mendelssohn considered one of the great creative philosophers, but if this readjustment of his place in the history of philosophy was right and necessary, the deliberate neglect, indeed, the contempt with which later German historians treated the great man—and long before anti-Semitism became dominant—was not less unjust and not less shocking than the uneducated sentry's naive remark. For Moses Mendelssohn played a decisive role in the history of the German Klassik. With him, and to a great extent through him, the greatest epoch in German spiritual history took a definite turn to Humanism, at least in its earlier stages, and no survey of the Age of Goethe is complete that does not render justice to Mendelssohn's personality and influence.

In 1754 when the young Jew Moses and young Gotthold Ephraim Lessing met, they both already held a firm conviction and strong belief in Humanism, and from different angles, they had both come to the same conclusions: Moses, brought up in the uncompromising exclusiveness of the orthodox Jewish tradition in his father's house at Dessau, had studied Christian theology and become convinced that all religions were based upon a common ideal, and were not meant to separate, but to unite men. Lessing, on the other hand, had entered the scene of German literature with a bold and challenging play, "The Jews," wherein he defended the astounding thesis that Jews were human beings worthy of being treated as equals. (His anti-Shylock comedy which he wrote at the age of twenty may well be considered as a juvenile forerunner to his mature master-piece, "Nathan der Weise.") It is, however, noteworthy

that Lessing, in his impetuous fight for toleration, followed the family tradition: It was his grandfather Theophilus Lessing who, when burgomaster of Kamenz in 1669 surprised his contemporaries by the publication of a thesis on "General toleration of all religions" which he defended before the Faculty of Philosophy of Leipzig University; and it was his father, Johann Gottfried Lessing, a minister at Kamenz, who followed his father's example by publishing a pamphlet against "new trends of prejudice." Thus, when the two young humanists met, both enlightened, well-read, endowed with youthful energy and conscious of their inner call for humanity's sake, they knew that they were predestined to become friends and comrades-at-arms in their fight for toleration, enlightenment, and the ideals of Humanism.

There are not many instances in history of so close and so harmonious a friendship as that between these two; it lasted until death parted them; it became, in fact, the nucleus of the great movement of the German Klassik leading to, and culminating in, Goethe and Kant. Together they set out to dethrone the "Peruques," the French Rococo intellectuals who surrounded Frederick the Great, and to free German literature, especially the drama, from the dominating influence of the 17th century poets (Corneille, Racine) whose epigrams had become decadent and shallow. Mendelssohn who only in Berlin started to learn German, had meanwhile learned to master French as well as English, and it was he who, for the first time, embarked on the task of translating Shakespeare into German, painstakingly following the original. It is to be regretted that he was only able to finish the "Hamlet" monologue, rendering it in beautiful poetic German; but even this specimen of Shakespeare's art was enough to convince his friend Lessing that from the English, and not from the French dramatists, the birth of a German dramatic poetry should derive its inspiration. While Lessing carried on his research in the field of aesthetics, always advised and helped by his friend, Mendelssohn now turned to philosophy proper. He had already made a name for himself when, in 1763, the Prussian Academy opened a free competition on a problem of metaphysics. Mendelssohn was awarded the First Prize while the Second Prize went to a hitherto unknown philosopher, five years his senior, who taught metaphysics at Königsberg—Immanuel Kant! Three years later, the publication of his "Phädon" brought Mendelssohn international fame.

His contemporaries praised him as "the German Plato," and kings and princes rushed to Berlin to get

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.

LANDLORD AND TENANT BILL

Last month the clauses of the Landlord and Tenant (Rent Control) Bill were discussed in so far as they refer to the rent of houses and flats let for the first time after the war and to premiums granted to Landlords in connection with such lettings.

When the second Reading of the Bill in the House of Commons took place, these clauses were strongly objected to by the opposition. One of the points of opposition speakers made was that the Bill did nothing against premiums being asked for by sitting tenants for assigning or sub-letting; this, in the view of the opposition, was a much greater evil than a demand for such premium made by the property owner. The Government took up this point and introduced two new clauses by which the outgoing tenant is forbidden to ask for a premium or to sell furniture at excessive prices.

The most important clauses of the Bill which have not yet been reviewed, are clauses 6 and 7 referring to cases where a tenant shares accommodation with other tenants or with the landlord. The object of these clauses is to alter the present state of law (on which a report was given in this column in August 1948) according to which no tenant of unfurnished accommodation is protected by the Rent Restrictions Act if he shares with another person a living

room—a kitchen considered a living room in this connection.

The Bill proposes that, if accommodation is shared by two or more tenants, the Rent Restrictions Act shall apply. If accommodation is shared with the landlord, the tenant shall have some smaller degree of protection, similar to that afforded to tenants of furnished accommodation under the Furnished Houses (Rent Control) Act, 1946; this means that, contrary to other cases of unfurnished flats, no "standard rent" can be determined, but that the Rent Tribunal may fix an adequate rent for the rooms shared with the landlord, whether furnished or unfurnished.

Lastly, Clause 9 of the Bill contains a most important strengthening of the right of the Rent Tribunal in the case of furnished lettings and, consequently, also in the case of sharing of accommodation with the landlord: at present the Tribunal can give "security of tenure" to the furnished tenant for three months only, and the landlord is always in a position to give notice in accordance with the contract after this comparatively short period of time. In future the Tribunal, on application, shall have the right to extend its protection for further repeated periods of three months each, according to its discretion.

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF

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a glimpse of the strange Jewish hunchback who had initiated a new spiritual movement in Germany. Even Frederick the Great was made to receive him at Sanssouci when his sister, the queen of Sweden, visited him for the purpose of meeting "the greatest man living." But it still took a long time before the King granted him the status of a Prussian subject.

Lessing had meanwhile written his two great works on aesthetics, the "Laocoon" and the "Hamburgian Dramaturgie," both based upon the early teachings of his Jewish friend. Fate was no kinder to him: while Lessing wasted much of his time in his minor employment as a librarian to the Duke of Brunswick at Wolfenbüttel, Mendelssohn was forced to continue in his badly paid job as a clerk in a silk-factory. Their correspondence overflows with wailings upon their hard luck. Still, Mendelssohn found time to deal with nearly all spiritual and scientific questions, and particularly with "the Jewish problem." One of his enthusiastic readers, a Prussian Junker, submitted to him in 1770 a project to re-settle the Jews in Palestine! Another, a Baron Monster, suggested that a large territory of Northern Germany should be given to the Jews of all countries where they should settle and live their own lives according to their faith. Baron Monster who styled himself "Privy Councillor to H.H. the Duchess of York," said that the grant of that territory was the least Germany could do to show her respect for Mendelssohn's genius. It is the tragic misunderstanding of this great sage that he was convinced of a fundamental change in the German outlook, following his and Lessing's enlightened teachings. No longer would Jewry be persecuted, no longer would his co-religionists be fenced in the narrow streets of a Ghetto, for Humanism had conquered the German mind. When "Nathan," the Song of Songs of toleration, appeared (1779), it seemed that Humanism had triumphed over the powers of darkness. And Mendelssohn declined both offers. One of the kindest and most humane plans that ever emerged from a German's mind, the idea of Zionism, was rendered nought by the Jewish prophet of Humanism.

It is no exaggeration to say that Mendelssohn's influence on the German Klassik was decisive: His Humanism inspired Goethe, his Deism influenced Kant (in his later work), his faithful belief in the One and Living God had its effect upon Schleiermacher, and his fight for human rights and freedom of thought was revived by Schiller. Thus, we may fully endorse Goethe's judgment given in his distich: "Yes, you see I am immortal!"—"That you have proved long ago
In your Phädon! Friend, be glad that immortal you are!"

NEW LIBERAL JEWISH CONGREGATION

On March 24, 1939, a Friday night, the first Service of the New Liberal Jewish Congregation took place. The initiative for this new venture had been taken by the Hon. Lily Montagu who still holds her leading position in the Congregation, and by some former leaders of the Jewish Communities in Germany. By its Services which follow the familiar pattern of German Jewish Synagogues, the Congregation gives a spiritual home to hundreds of immigrants. The activities also include religious tuition of the Youth, welfare work and weekly Bible lectures. A special feature, gratefully acknowledged by many members, are the Sunday afternoon functions with musical and other artistic performances. The Congregation which comprises about 1,300 members works under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Dr. G. Salzberger and the Rev. Magnus Davidsohn. The AJR conveys its congratulations to the Congregation and wishes the best of success for its further work.

C. C. Aronsfeld:

RETURN TO PERSECUTION?

That Jews are driven from cities and countries, has often been recorded; it would seem to be an event worthy in the sight of history. That Jews also, however, return to these same cities and countries, has not so often been recorded; it would seem to come as an anti-climax which can no longer claim an importance of its own. It was not always thus. The expulsion of all Jews from the England of Edward I. in 1290 was deemed in no way more memorable than their return to the Commonwealth of 1665. In one case only, it would appear no return was ever undertaken save by a handful who must needs escape the chronicler's attention: between 1492 and 1931, Jews would have no truck with Spain. Still that rather seems the exception, reinforcing the rule that Jews expelled did return to the lands of persecution—sometimes after centuries, often after but brief intervals.

It is perhaps not surprising that this rule has nowhere been exemplified more drastically than in Germany, for nowhere have the Jews passed through more baffling vicissitudes. Expulsions of Jews there were in the motley Empire at least as many as God-praising princes and, above all, money-grabbing princes. The chroniclers of the 14th, 15th, 16th centuries have recorded the facts without the prejudice of disapproval, and those who, engrossed in progress in our day, thought little of the things that happened long ago, have been taught a necessary lesson by the German re-enactment of the Middle Ages.

Expulsion and Recall

Expulsions of German Jews occur fairly frequently in the second half of the 15th century, but previously too, especially at the time of the Black Death, about 1350—so far as the murderous lust of plague-smitten madness would at all suffer the survival anywhere of infidel life, for as a historian says, "the great death in Germany killed not only countless human beings but often even humanity itself." Many prosperous Jewish communities were then destroyed, those of Erfurt, Speyer, Worms, Frankfurt, and they that escaped from the sword are now set adrift, wanderers without a home, without an aim, fleeing now from this city, now from that, within the Empire and without, as far away as Poland, Northern Italy and Turkey.

Meanwhile the expulsionists cannot but realise that with the Jews they have lost a good many things besides, things they deeply cherished and would have liked to keep. After all Jews were substantial props of trade and commerce, Jews were paying rich taxes, and the Serfs of the Imperial Chamber could always be prevailed upon to make yet especial contributions, voluntary and involuntary, legal and otherwise. This was, for example, the consideration which caused Frederick II, Elector

WESTERBORK COMMANDANT TRIED

The trial against the former Commandant of Westerbork, SS Obersturmfuehrer Albert Konrad Gemmecke of Duesseldorf, took place before a Dutch Court in Assen (12 miles from Westerbork). Gemmecke was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment; having been under arrest since 1945, he will be free in six years' time! When, after the war, he was captured by the Canadian troops, he repeatedly asked, not to make much fuss of him, but to give him a bullet straight away. During the trial, however, he took the view that he was not guilty, and he even claimed not to have known what was going to happen to the 100,000 Jews deported from the Camp to Poland. Amongst those whom he put on the gas chamber transports were well known artists, such as Max Ehrlich and Willi Rosen who, as Camp inmates, had to perform before him.

The prosecutor and the Court took the view that Gemmecke, being a German, had to be tried more leniently than a Dutch war criminal. This attitude explains the amazing outcome of the trial.

Gemmecke's attempts to whitewash himself are also revealed in a recently published interview between him and M. Frankenhuis, a Dutch Jew and former inmate of the Camp ("Westerbork," W. P. van Stockum en Zn., The Hague). The publication also contains a number of Camp photos. Amongst others, Gemmecke's villa is contrasted with the punishment barracks and sleeping bunks.

of Brandenburg, suddenly to reconcile the Jews whom he had but recently banished from his realm. Nay, there was many a feudal lord and more than one city only too willing to give all sorts of safeguards for the Jews, and solemn charters were bestowed upon the homeless crowd, though such promises had more than once been given—and broken.

How Did the Jews React?

Now, in the face of this insufficiency, how did the banished Jews behave? Did they shout scorn? did they swear vengeance? did they, sick of the infamy and filled with righteous anger, refuse ever to go back to where they had been made to suffer so much shame? Far from it. Whatever their feelings may have been, they returned as soon as a return was at all possible—not because they had reason to expect a restoration of the old prosperity. That was out of the question. Their chattels, looted and stolen, remained lost for good, and as far as a Jew's legal claims were concerned, well, either the Jew had ceased to exist or the claims had. Debts were cancelled on return, restoration or rehabilitation in so many words flatly denied, even in the most generous charters.

These stricken, battered, humiliated Jews went back for very different reasons. "Again and again it must be stressed that it was nothing but the strong attachment to their old homes that sent the unfortunate people back to the places where the bodies of their parents and children had been laid to rest." As he makes this remark, the famous German Jewish historian Adolph Kohut goes on to point out that the poor remnant that thus returned, forgot the lessons of the past, disregarded all warnings, because (so Kohut says) "in their hearts they clung to the hope that now they would at last find peace, and the prejudices and mad obsessions would give way to more enlightenment and gentler manners."

This hope was encouraged by the reception some cities prepared for the readmitted Jews. The Frankforters, e.g., had calculated that it would be worth their while to show a friendly face, and when some time later, after one of the periodical relapses into militant antisemitism, one of their early Nazis, Vincentz Fettmilch (1614), was duly hanged and quartered, the Jews of Frankfurt were fetched back in a stately procession, escorted by a glittering troupe of yeomanry and greeted with cornets and with cymbals.

Broken Promises

Yet hope and faith invariably came to grief. In Speyer, for example, city council and guilds had solemnly sworn four years after the expulsion that they would protect the Jews "in the same way as any other of our citizens." Their promise was not yet one year old, and those who had returned in faithful trust had again become involuntary wanderers. Much the same happened in Cologne. In Brandenburg the pathetic procedure was repeated at least three times, and of Erfurt Jewry a chronicler says they were like sponges which were filled only to be squeezed out again. "It is almost impossible to understand," writes Kohut, "and only to be explained by the Jews' deep-felt attachment to their homesteads, that in spite of the sad experiences and terrible catastrophes, they yet again returned to the old places."

It may indeed be difficult to understand. Yet these are facts from the record of history, and for that reason in danger of being repeated. Already the Jews who survived Nazi Europe have warned their brethren who managed to escape. "If they return because of their disappointments abroad" writes the Berlin Jewish weekly DER WEG "we can tell them that in Germany they will feel totally frustrated." "If they return" declares the head of the Vienna Jewish Community "their only wish would be to be gone again."

If there is in this sad condition anything that defies understanding, it is chiefly the thought that there should abide on God's wide good earth one people that has no home. There must be wonderment also at the survival, in spite of almost permanent discomfiture, of a body so grievously suffering. But, after the revolting experience of the centuries, there must now be above all determination, faithful and inflexible, that never again shall these people, our own people, be delivered up to the whims of wicked men.

Old Acquaintances

Listening to Ernst Deutsch:—Before Ernst Deutsch left for Holland he gave a recital of Austrian Poetry in London; the "Wigmore Hall" was sold out. People, who usually resent lectures in German were enthusiastic. Two or three generations of Deutsch's admirers came and were not disappointed although they were not any more used to the pathos of German recitations. It was an appointment with our past when Deutsch read Beer-Hofmann, Hofmannsthal, Polgar, Werfel, Karl Kraus and Peter Altenberg. "I once sat next to you in a coffee-house, can I have a complimentary ticket?" asked a man in Deutsch's dressing room. He didn't get one because not even all the paying guests could obtain a seat.

Before the Harlan Trial:—When you get this issue I am already off to Hamburg to attend the Veit Harlan trial. Public prosecutor Kramer accuses the director-actor of a "crime against humanity" for producing the ill-famed antisemitic picture "Jud Süss." A number of German Jews are admitted as "Nebenklaeger"; Werner Krauss, Marian's widow, and many more will be witnesses, and I will report on the proceedings in next month's column. As I am also invited by the "Juedische Gemeindeblatt" in Duesseldorf to lecture to the Jewish communities in the British zone of Germany I hope to get further interesting news for you.

People under Pressure:—During his stay in Berlin, Bert Brecht is living in what's left of the "Adlon Hotel."—To prevent his actors from voting, Wolfgang Langhoff, who was a refugee in Switzerland during the Hitler years, ordered the members of his theatre to do demolition work in front of the "Deutsches Theater" building on the Sunday morning when Berlin's inhabitants went to the ballot.—Wolfgang Harich, a communist critic, threatened revenge to the actors who played in the performance of Sartre's "Les Mains Salles" in the British sector if they ever returned to the Russian sector.—On the other hand, actors in the Russian sector of the town get their salaries only in Eastern Marks, and are unable to live in the Western districts where only D-Marks are accepted.

Home News:—Erich E. Stern, who did many stage decors in Berlin and London, left for the States; so did composer Bernard Gruen.—After a long time, Friedrich Zelnik's name as a producer appeared again on the screen in the new British picture "Glass Mountain"; perhaps you remember that in Germany he used to direct with his wife Lya Mara in the leading part.—Peter Illing, the only Turk I ever met, and who never saw his fatherland, scored a personal success in "Eureka Stockade," the picture Harry Watt produced in Australia; Illing's old colleague Sigurd Lhode from Breslau is also in the cast.—Frederick Valk will be in Tolstoi's "Power of Darkness" ("Und das Licht scheint in der Finsternis") in which Jean Simmons and Stewart Granger are starring.—Cameraman Otto Heller is shooting "Now Barrabas" with Lily Kann in the cast.—Sir George Franckenstein, the former Austrian ambassador in London will be technical adviser when Sir Alexander Korda produces Ernst Lothar's "Angel with the Trumpet" with Eileen Herlie in the part Paula Wessely played in the Austrian version.—Professor Friedman is going to Hamburg to attend the first meeting of the German section of the P.E.N. Club.—Karl Rankl survived the rude attack Sir Thomas Beecham made against his German name, and successfully conducted the new production of "Figaro" with decors by Rolf Gerard.

This and That:—Carola Toelle was in the cast when Hoffmann-Harnisch directed "Faust" in Sao Paulo.—In Stockholm, Max Hansen announced the birth of his third child.—Gabriel Levy produced a Dutch picture in Amsterdam, directed by old-timer Fapp Speyer.—Nora Gregor, whose first husband was Mitja Nikisch, committed suicide in Chile; she was married to Count Starhemberg.—Author Norbert Garai committed suicide in Palestine; he wrote several plays in Germany.—Erich Kaestner celebrated his 50th birthday.—Lucie Hoefflich left Schwerin to take over Stralsund's theatre.—Emil Jannings denied the report that he would play in an Italian picture about the resistance movement; he still lives in his castle in Austria.

PEM.

FROM MY DIARY

People who agree that hardly anything makes a more fascinating reading than Directories and Reference Books will greatly enjoy the recently published register of aliens who were naturalised in 1947 (H.M. Stationery Office, 11/-). The size of the volume, which with its 680 pages is considerably bigger than any of its predecessors, already indicates that in the year under review naturalisation had reached its peak. Altogether, 17,744 certificates were granted; this figure does not include wives and minor children of the naturalised persons. As far as the previous nationality of these new British subjects is concerned, 6,332 came from Germany, 3,216 from Austria and 1,733 from Czechoslovakia; thus, the immigrants from Central Europe have the main share in the total figure. Furthermore, 1,279 persons came from Poland and 60 are described as former Palestinian citizens.

The list itself contains, *inter alia*, the names of celebrities such as the late Alfred Kerr, Adolf Wohlbrueck ("known as Anton Walbrook"), Albert Lieven and Franz Osborn. Members of German noble families can easily be traced under "V," because the prefix "von" is considered as part of the surname. There, you find names like von Bethmann-Hollweg, von Etdorf, von Neurath and von Westarp. On the other hand, the list contains

amongst the "commoners" under "H," without any title, Hohenzollern, Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Christoph ("known as George Mansfield"), a grandson of the late German Emperor William II. Discredited names like Himmler and Strasser, not unknown amongst Austrian Jews, are also mentioned.

A change of name is only indicated if it took place before naturalisation, as it mainly happened in the case of Members of H.M. Forces who had to alter their names on the advice or instruction of the authorities. Whilst it might be controversial whether and to what extent civilian refugees should also replace their German (or Jewish) sounding names by English names, it is certainly common view that the choice of a new name requires tact. Without wishing to hurt anybody's sentiments, one feels tempted to ask, whether people do not overdo the expression of their gratitude to their new country if they adopt names like Eden or Kipling, and whether names starting with "Mac" should not rather be left to Members of the Scottish Clans. These instances are, however, solitary ones; on the whole, as far as there were changes at all, the only object was obviously to find a name which could be easily pronounced in this country.

One day this book may play an important part for historians. It vividly illustrates the legal absorption of thousands of individuals who, in times of their greatest peril, found refuge in this island.

NARRATOR

"ORT" TRAINING COURSES

The London O.R.T. School, 24/36 Roland Way, South Kensington, S.W.7 (near Gloucester Road Station) maintains full-day classes in the following subjects: (1) Gas and Electric Welding, Forging; (2) Centre Lathe Turning, Milling, Shaping, Grinding; (3) Fitting and Toolmaking; (4) Electrical Installation and Armature Rewinding; (5) Dress-making for Girls and Women. Recently it has also established evening courses in shirt-making. The first shirt-making course which will last until the end of March is fully booked. It is a three months' course, taking place on three evenings from 6.30 to 9.30 and is given free of charge for those who cannot afford to pay. There are some vacancies for the second course to be held under the same terms from May to June, although the time might be altered to suit the future participants.

Furthermore, "O.R.T." is planning training courses in the afternoon or evenings either for the six subjects mentioned before or, if required, for additional courses in: (1) Tailoring; (2) Machining; (3) Cutting; (4) Designing, or any other practical courses if there are ten applicants for any one course.

As "O.R.T." is going to move to a new building during this year, it would be desirable to find out who is interested in the future activities so that adequate arrangements with regard to situation and size of the new premises can be made.

Further particulars from the Headmaster of the London O.R.T. School Tel.: Fremantle 7689.

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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Youth Club which, meanwhile, adopted the name "The Hyphen," announces the following functions for March:

Sunday, March 6, 7.00 p.m. (not 7.30 p.m., as usual) at 30 Buckland Crescent: H. W. Freyhan on "The Music of Mendelssohn" (illustrated on the piano). 9.00 p.m.: Annual General Meeting & Election of new Committee.

Saturday, March 19, 7.30 p.m.: Social at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue. Games and dancing to radiogram.

Sunday, March 20, 7.30 p.m. at Buckland Crescent: Hugh J. Schonfield, Historian & Vice Chairman of the World Citizenship Movement: "World Citizenship in our Time?"

Sunday, April 3, 7.30 p.m. at 30 Buckland Crescent: Details to be announced later.

Further particulars may be obtained from the hon. Secretary, Miss Ilse Apt, 121 Broadhurst Gardens, N.W.6 (stamped addressed envelope to be enclosed).

CENTRAL BRITISH FUND BAZAAR

The Second Mammoth Bazaar of the Golders Green Joint Committee has realised nearly £3,000 for the Central British Fund. This Committee, representing all the Jewish congregations and societies in Golders Green, has in its eighteen months of existence raised a total of approximately £10,000 for the work of the C.B.F.

CLOTHING STILL NEEDED

There might be the mistaken impression that as a result of the happy events in Israel leading to the rapid clearing of the D.P. camps in Europe, it is no longer necessary to continue the collection of clothing for Europe. This is quite incorrect.

Clothing has still to be sent to the D.P.'s who are departing for Israel and who must be properly fitted out; they are also needed in Israel in order to clothe the huge number of daily arrivals. There are, furthermore, demands from Jewish communities all over Europe. In particular, the Jewish Relief Agencies in Paris have to face difficult problems, after this town has become the most important trans-migrant centre. Another urgent appeal, especially for underwear for children of school age and infants and for blankets, towels, etc., has reached this country from the Joint in Tripoli, North Africa.

In view of these widespread and manifold responsibilities, contributions to the clothing collection should be sent, whenever possible, to the AJR Relief Department, 33 Compayne Gardens, London, N.W.6, Tel.: Maida Vale 7997.

AJR HOME FOR ELDERLY REFUGEES

A few vacancies will soon occur in the Morris Feinmann House, Manchester. Applications should be addressed to the Chairman, 7 Amhurst Road, Manchester 14.

Parcel Service to Israel has been resumed.

PERSONALIA

Nelly Wolffheim (54 Salisbury Crescent, Oxford) will be 70 years old on March 28th. She was the founder and head of the Jewish Seminary for Kindergarten-Teachers, established in conjunction with the Jewish Community Berlin in 1933. In England, she compiled part of the index to the publication of Freud's complete works.

Dr. Herbert Lewin, who, after surviving the Litzmannstadt ghetto and the concentration camps of Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, etc., returned to Cologne, will be 50 on April 1. He is a lecturer at the University of Cologne and a member of the Board of the Cologne Jewish Community.

The death was announced of Sir Arthur Stiebel, former Chief Registrar in Bankruptcy and President of the London Jewish Board of Guardians.

It is announced with greatest regret that Dr. R. Schwarz, a member of the AJR Executive, recently died in London. Until his health broke down, he took an active interest in the work of the AJR, particularly as far as questions of Jews from Austria were involved. The AJR loses a very good friend in him and will always gratefully remember his services.

A Group of the Hospital Savings Association is run under the auspices of the AJR. The Office Hours are Mon. to Thurs. 10-1, Fri. and Sun 10-1, at 8 Fairfax Mansions, N.W. 3.

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