

ISSUED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH REFUGEES IN GREAT BRITAIN

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND TASKS

THIS year's General Meeting of the AJR was the last one to be addressed by Dr. K. Alexander who will emigrate to the United States this month.

Dr. H. Reichmann has been appointed General Secretary of the "Council of Jews from Germany" and Joint Secretary of the "United Restitution Office," and Dr. W. Rosenstock, General Secretary of the A.J.R.

The achievements of the AJR and its related organisations are unthinkable without the labour of Dr. Alexander and are linked with his personality. Work for the Jewish community has always taken a dominant place in his life, from the early beginnings in the Jewish Youth and Student movement until he rose to become a leading figure in German Jewry as an Executive Member of the "Reichsvertretung" and a Vice-Chairman of the "Central-Verein." He devoted more time and energy to the day by day work of Jewish organisations than the average "Honorary Officer," and being, at the same time, a much trusted practising lawyer in his home town, he was a particularly valuable collaborator to those whose experience was more exclusively based on Jewish organisational work.

In this country, he was amongst the first to conceive the idea of a self-representation of the Jewish refugees from Germany and Austria. He has been an Executive member of the AJR since its inception in 1941 and became its General Secretary in 1943. From the outset, he concentrated his efforts on the first central task for whose accomplishment the AJR had been founded: to secure the right of permanent residence in Great Britain for all those who wished to stay here after the war. By establishing and strengthening contacts with the authorities and with voluntary organisations, with Members of Parliament and other personalities of public life, he incessantly worked towards this goal and, at the same time, built up a goodwill from which the AJR has benefited ever since. After the war, he immediately got in touch with the surviving German Jews in France, Holland and Belgium, and with German Jewish organisations overseas, especially in Israel and U.S.A. The formation of the "Council of Jews from Germany" was the outcome, and Dr. Alexander became its General Secretary. When, for the AJR and the "Council," the restitution problem became increasingly urgent, he secured, after most complicated preparatory work, the sponsorship of the great international Jewish relief organisations for the establishment of the international "United Restitution Office."

Looking back, this development seems to be a logical sequence of events. Those, however, who have a deeper insight know that these achievements are mainly due to Dr. Alexander's untiring energy and imagination, his efficiency and diplomacy, and—last not least—his youthful optimism and flexibility.

To carry on with the work that he has initiated and to tackle the many tasks that are lying ahead, will be the best way of thanking Dr. Alexander for his loyal co-operation and devoted services. The organisations which worked under his guidance, and the German Jews in whose interest this work was carried out wish him happiness and success for his new career.

Walter M. Lippman (Melbourne):

JEWRY IN AUSTRALIA

"To Arthur Phillip, a naval officer of the best type, Australia owes her very existence as a British community." This man of Jewish descent, to whom the "Australian Encyclopaedia" paid such tribute was the deservedly beloved first Governor of an Australian settlement which he reached in 1788. Jews have been among the first free settlers of Australia and numerous Jewish names occupy honoured places among those who have helped to build the Australian nation of today. Australia is among the few nations which allowed Jews to occupy even the very highest offices of State. Sir Isaac Isaacs as Chief Judge and later Governor General, son of a Polish-Jewish immigrants tailor, and General Sir John Monash, Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Forces in the 1914-18 war, descendant of a Jewish family from Germany, are but the two most prominent Jews whose names are firmly inscribed in the annals of Australian history. Jacob Montefiore, one of the founders of South Australia, and numerous members of the various State Parliaments in the political fields; N. Levi, David Nathan, Sydney Myer, Harold Cohen, Sir Samuel Cohen, in the field of commerce and E. Phillips Fox, Linda Phillips, Herz Bergner, S. Herman, Myles Evergood, Dr. L. Nathan among the exponents of Australia's young art, testify to the contribution which Jews have made to the development of Australia in all walks of life.

Infusion of new blood

It was therefore not surprising that in the dark days of 1938, the Australian Government should have offered refuge to Jews seeking a new home away from Hitler's persecution. At the Evian Conference, Australia declared her willingness to give sanctuary to 15,000 Jews fleeing from Nazi persecution. Before the outbreak of the war, some 7,000 German and Austrian Jews reached Australia under this scheme, giving a welcome infusion of new blood to the Jewish community whose proportion in the Australian population has shown a decline despite the steady influx of Jewish immigrants, mainly from Poland and Russia, in the first three decades of this century. According to the Australian census of 1947, 32,000 Jews representing one-half per cent. of the total population, were living in Australia. (Approximately ten per cent. of the total Australian population did not state their religion and presumably a proportion of these would also be Jews.) The vast majority of these are living in the cities of Melbourne and Sydney, respective capitals of the States of Victoria and New South Wales. Smaller communities are in Brisbane (Queensland), Perth (Western Australia) and Adelaide (South Australia), while two of the oldest Congregations in Australia at Ballarat (Victoria) and Hobart (Tasmania) are struggling hard to avoid their total extinction.

The occupational distribution of Australian Jewry follows closely that of Jewish communities in other countries of the diaspora, although the proportion of manufacturers may be larger than elsewhere.

Link with Jewish world

The Jewish community in Australia is organised in each State around a Board of Deputies, except in South Australia and Tasmania where the respective Hebrew congregations take the place of the representative organisation. The Boards of Deputies consist of Delegates from the various prominent Jewish organisations in the respective State and deal with all communal problems such as education, immigration, co-ordination of appeals, inter-congregational matters, combating of anti-Semitism, public relations, etc. The work of the various State Boards is co-ordinated by the Executive

Council of Australian Jewry to which they are all affiliated and which is recognised by the Australian Federal Government as the official organisation of Australian Jewry. Through the Executive Council, Australian Jewry is also maintaining its close contact with Jewish communities in other parts of the world. The Zionist Federation of Australia and New Zealand is the link with the World Zionist Organisation and is the central organisation of the numerous Zionist organisations which play a vital and prominent part in the life of Australian Jewry.

Important contributions

Among the Jewish organisations in Australia, three deserve a special mention in this survey by virtue of the important contributions which they are making. The Australian Jewish Welfare Society with offices in all States is in charge of Jewish immigration into Australia and, working in close conjunction with the American Joint Distribution Committee and H.I.A.S., has helped thousands of Jewish immigrants during the past decade to settle in Australia and to ensure their smooth and harmonious absorption, by finding accommodation and employment for them and by assisting them financially or by advice. The settlement of 8,000 Jews in the 1938/39 period and 4,500 since the end of the last war, was by no means an easy task for a Jewish community which then numbered only approximately 25,000 souls.

The second organisation is the Jewish Council to combat Fascism and anti-Semitism which has come to be recognised as the main organ for the public relations of the Jewish community. Anti-Semitism is not unknown in Australia. Under the influence of Hitler, Mosley and Fascism and as a result of the strained social and political atmosphere throughout the world during the past decade, anti-Semitism has also greatly increased in Australia. No longer is it confined to small sections of the population; in public life and in Parliament, anti-Semitism has shown its ugly head during recent years, overshadowing in importance the social anti-Semitism which has been in existence for many years in certain circles of Australian society and which had resulted in the refusal of membership to certain clubs, even to men like General Monash and Sir Isaac Isaacs. The Jewish Council has developed efficient public relations machinery and its contacts with well-wishing leaders in the political parties. Trade Unions, professions and the press, have enabled it to play an important part in the life of the Australian Jewish community and beyond that, with its platform for the preservation of democratic rights of all citizens, in the general life of Australia.

The third organisation is the Jewish National Fund and with it, I would like to couple the other fund-raising organisations through which Australian Jewry was enabled to contribute relatively large sums to the upbuilding and establishment of the Jewish State. During 1948, approximately £450,000 was raised for these purposes in Australia and for a community which now numbers approximately 37,000 souls, this surely represents an impressive amount.

Anti-Semitism "not yet frightening"

Reference has already been made to the existence of anti-Semitic organisations and newspapers. Their influence could best be described as "disturbing, but not yet frightening." The Government has shown its goodwill to the Jewish community in many ways. The steadfast role which Australia's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr. H. V. Evatt has played in the United Nations deliberations on Palestine, has earned him a special place of gratitude

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

Berlin.—A census taken on January 27, 1949, shows that the Jewish population on that day totalled 7,225, i.e. 3,593 males and 3,632 females. The number of children up to age of 18 is 757. The smallest age-group is that of the children, aged 15 and 16, i.e. 59, the largest age-group covers those between the ages of 46 and 55, i.e. 1,616. (The official German population census of June 16, 1933, shows a total of more than 160,000 Jews in Berlin).

Munich.—"As a National Socialist I am also to-day of the opinion that the Jews must be eliminated from the economic life of the country. The collapse has not changed my confidence in the programme of the N.S.D.A.P. I only think that the elimination of the Jews should not be carried out with the same vehement methods as previously." These are, according to the "Juedische Gemeindeblatt Duesseldorf" of March 11, 1949, the words of the former Oberbuergermeister of Munich, Karl Fiehler, on the occasion of his trial before the Denazification Court. He was classified under Group II (Activist), and 20% of his estate was confiscated. In view of his "intellectual limits in political questions," he was also prohibited to work in his profession during the forthcoming 12 years.

Offenbach.—One of the few synagogues, which was not destroyed during the November pogroms, was the Offenbach synagogue. Some time after the pogroms it was "sold" to a Nazi at a "price" of 35,000 Mark (the cost for the erection of the building has been 600,000 Mark). The new owner used it as a Cinema. After the war it was decided that it should only be used for cultural purposes, notwithstanding the ultimate claims of the Jewish congregation. As, however, the building was also used for light entertainment, the community lodged a protest and claimed the restitution of the Synagogue. The American Military Government took the view that, pending final restitution, the building, like other assets under military control, should be administered on strictly businesslike principles, that means in a way, which secured the best possible profit. It is understood that therefore the building for the time being is again to be used as a Cinema.

Cologne.—A new synagogue was consecrated by Rabbi I. Broch and Kantor Kurt Messerschmitt. Addresses were given by Mr. Moritz Goldschmidt, Chairman of the Community, Praelat Meinertz (on behalf of Cardinal Frings), Superintendent Enke (in the name of the Protestant Church), Social Minister Dr. Amelunxen, Regierungspraesident Dr. Warsch, Mayor Goerlinger and Dr. Heimann of the Jewish Relief Unit.

Frankfurt/Main.—The new Synagogue, Baumweg, was consecrated recently.

Dortmund.—The former Gestapo Secretary, Otto Cassebaum, who was ill-famed for his sadistic cruelty, was sentenced to 15 years hard labour by the Dortmund Criminal Court.

Essen.—In the building of the former synagogue Steeler Strasse a new Betsaal was consecrated. Rabbi I. Broch and Kantor S. Loewenstein officiated.

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Very shortly after the war, the Immigration Minister, Mr. Calwell, braved political storms and attacks and refused to abandon the so-called close relative Immigration Scheme by which Jewish residents of Australia received permits for their close relatives who had survived the horrors of war and persecution in Europe. For eighteen months, from May 1946 to the end of 1947, many thousands of landing permits were granted to Jews under this scheme before it was abandoned and Jewish immigration was placed on the same basis as other immigration. Intending migrants then had to belong to certain occupational and age groups and to satisfy the authorities that accommodation was available for them which would not displace Australians. Early in 1947, political considerations led the Australian Government to impose restrictions upon the number of European Jews arriving in Australia by any one steamer. These objectionable quota restrictions, which slowed down the movements of Jewish migrants to Australia, have now, however, been removed and although Australian Jewry realises that the stream of Jewish migration will now flow into the State of Israel, it will continue to play its part in facilitating the settlement and re-establishment of those immigrants who do come to Australia.

(A "World Jewish Affairs" Feature ")

Leipzig.—A special Purim Service took place in the Keilstrasse Synagogue. It was conducted by the Rev. Riesenburger (Berlin), Oberkantor Nachhama and Organist Zepke and broadcast by the "Mitteldeutsche Rundfunk."

Wuerttemberg.—At the Annual Meeting of the "Israelitische Kultusvereinigung Wuerttemberg," the Chairman, Oberlandesgerichtsrat Alfred Marx, reported that 23,000 DM had been received as a loan pending the final settlement of the "Juden-Vermögensabgabe"; other payments on account of future restitution consisted of 28,000 DM for Jewish students and 29,000 DM for Jewish D.P.'s.

During the year under review, Dr. Heinrich Gutmann had been appointed "Landesrabbiner."

Bonn.—The new Board of the Community consists of Mr. Siegfried Leopold (Chairman), Mr. Friedrich Laender (Vice-Chairman) and the representatives Messrs. Bittner, Jansen, Gottheiner, Schuermann and Mrs. Israel.

Bonn.—A celebration in memory of Professor Felix Hausdorff who, together with his family, committed suicide on January 26, 1942, in order to escape Nazi persecution, took place in the presence of the Rector and the Senate of the University Bonn. Addresses were delivered by the Head of the Faculty of Mathematics, Professor Peschl, and by Professor Bernet.

Osnabrueck.—The Congregation hopes to receive soon from the Ministry of State the funds necessary for rebuilding the Community House.

Nearly all Jewish cemeteries in the Osnabrueck district are now properly looked after. Only two cemeteries have not been restored. In Grothe-Badbergen (Landkreis Bersenbrueck), the Buergermeister who already held his office under the Nazis, tries to explain the state of the cemetery as "Selbsterfall" (natural dilapidation). In Gildehaus material of the tombstones was used as pavement for the yard of the former member of the "Reichstag," Dr. Staender.

Landau.—36 members attended the General Meeting of the Congregation. The following hon. officers were elected. Chairman: Hugo Alexander (Landau), Vice Chairman: Fritz Sigel (Landau); Representatives: Leo Alsbacher (Ludwigshafen), Julius Altschueler (Speyer), Sigmund Herz (Pirmasens), Ludwig Brueck (Kaiserlauten), Dr. Walter Mayer (Bad Duerkeim) and Gustav Meyer (Edenkoeben).

Ten desecrations of Cemeteries took place during the first two months of the current year, according to the "Juedische Gemeindeblatt," Duesseldorf.

Nazi Racketeers sentenced.—The Auctioneers Hans and Karl Klemm who had earned a fortune by clearing Jewish premises at the request of the Gestapo and auctioning the furniture and household goods, were sentenced to two and a half, resp. two years imprisonment. Their assets were confiscated by the Land Sachsen and, as a special act of restitution, handed over to the Jewish Community, Leipzig.

The former editor of the "Stuermer," Vilmy, was classified by the Denazification Court as fellow-traveller ("Mitlaeufer"). The "Landesverband der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinde" in Bayern protested against this decision.

D.P. CAMPS IN AMERICAN ZONE

It is estimated that the number of D.P.'s still in the American zone is about 72,000. Until the end of March, eleven camps have been closed.

FECHENBACH MURDERER

A sentence of five years' imprisonment has been imposed by a German Court in Munich on Paul Wiese for murdering Felix Fechenbach who served as Secretary to the one time Bavarian Prime Minister Kurt Eisner. Wiese shot Fechenbach in 1933.

MAUTHAUSEN MONUMENT

It is planned by the Austrian Government to convert the former Nazi Concentration Camp of Mauthausen into a permanent monument to "honour the victims who died for a free, independent and democratic Austria." The gas chambers, crematoria, the special cells in which Jewish prisoners were tortured to death and five of the former 24 barracks will be preserved.

IN PARLIAMENT

DISTRESSED RELATIVES SCHEME

On April 7, the Home Secretary gave the following summary of schemes for the admission of persons to this country: Admission of aliens for permanent residence is at present restricted to distressed relatives as laid down in the scheme of November, 1945, and slightly extended to distressed relatives outside the existing categories, particularly if they live in isolation abroad. Furthermore, certain categories of Czechoslovakian refugees in Displaced Persons Camps in Germany will obtain sympathetic consideration.

European Volunteer Workers who are brought to this country will be permitted to remain, subject to compliance with the conditions on which they were recruited. No objection is raised to the admission of suitable foreigners to take employment, provided they are in possession of a permit issued to their prospective employer by the Ministry of Labour and are able and willing to return to their country of residence if their approved employment comes to an end.

WAR CRIME TRIALS

On March 28th, Mr. Mayhew gave the following figures on War Crime Trials in the British Zone of Germany:

Persons charged before military tribunals with crimes against the laws and usages of war: 937 (Acquitted 260; sentenced to death 230; sentenced to life imprisonment 24; sentenced to shorter terms of imprisonment 423).

Persons charged before Control Commission courts with crimes committed against Allied nationals: 148 (Acquitted 88; sentenced to death 10; sentenced to life imprisonment nil; sentenced to shorter terms of imprisonment 50).

Persons charged before German courts with crimes committed against German nationals or stateless persons: 2,180 (Acquitted 866; sentenced to death 4; sentenced to life imprisonment nil; sentenced to shorter terms of imprisonment 1,249; fined 61).

VISITS BY BRITISH BUSINESS MEN TO GERMANY

According to new regulations, published in the Board of Trade Journal of April 2, intending commercial visitors to the British, American and/or the French Zones of Germany must now, as their first step, apply direct to their own banks for their currency instruments, the issue of which will be recorded on their passports. Upon receipt of these currency instruments, they have to apply to the Military Permit Officer, 22 Princes Gardens, London, S.W.7, for their military permits, but visitors to the French Zone should apply to the French Commercial Counsellor at 22, Hans Place, London, S.W.1. It is advisable to apply well in advance, but it must not be assumed that the issue of currency facilities by a bank will automatically entitle an applicant to a military permit.

Journeys to Berlin will continue to be restricted to commercial visits of the highest importance. Therefore, commercial visitors wishing to travel to any of the Western Sectors of Berlin should not in the first instance apply to their banks for currency instruments, but direct to the Military Permit Officer at 22, Princes Gardens, London, S.W.7, who will advise as to whether the issue of a permit to visit Berlin is likely.

GIFT PARCELS

According to the "Board of Trade Journal" of March 26th, gift parcels from abroad can be imported without an Import Licence, provided that they are unsolicited gifts and not to be imported for sale, that they are clearly marked as gift parcels, and that the weight does not exceed 22 lbs. There will be no Customs Charge on them if they contain food or discarded apparel, medical supplies and soap.

Ban for Berlin Parcels

Owing to transport difficulties on the Continent the parcel post service to all Sectors of Berlin is temporarily suspended. The suspension does not apply to parcels for H.M. Force or for members of the Control Commission stationed in Berlin; such parcels should be addressed "B.A.O.R. 2" and the word "Berlin" should not be included.

DRAMA IN FIGURES

Sometimes, an individual may get comfort from statistics, because he sees that his own fate is shared by many fellow men. For a Jew who makes himself acquainted with the gigantic population changes in Europe during the last three decades, there can be no comfort of this kind. He only finds a confirmation of the fact that, with a death roll of 5.5 million (out of 17 to 19 million direct or indirect war victims), the losses of his own people are unsurpassed by any European nation. Having said this, it must be stated that Eugene M. Kulischer's new work "Europe on the Move—War and Population Changes 1917-1947" (Geoffrey Cumberlege, London, 27/6) which contains invaluable material, also helps us in seeing our own position in the right perspective.

FIRST YEAR OF INDEPENDENCE

Haifa, April, 1949.

After the signing of the armistice with Egypt, Lebanon and Transjordan, military events have receded to the background, and economic problems attract more attention. These problems mostly arise from the continuous influx of immigrants up to about 30,000 per month. There is a constant number of 40-50,000 people in transit camps, the places of those leaving being taken by new arrivals. There is not only the question of their finding adequate abodes, but also that of their absorption in agriculture, trade, industry, and the free professions.

The housing problem has so far been solved by making use of dwellings in deserted Arab towns and villages, but many thousands of new buildings must be constructed and pre-fabricated houses imported; means found to make the new immigrants self-supporting by enlarging existing enterprises, or erecting new ones. Israel, which is maintaining a relatively large army, cannot by her own resources, of course, solve these problems and requires the very active assistance of Jews all over the world.

Cost of living remains exceedingly high, with the inevitable consequence of rising wages which again lead to an increase in cost of living. The stabilisation of these factors is eagerly demanded and constitutes one of the most serious problems facing our authorities. There is also the question of the valuation of the Israel Pound and its adhering to one or the other monetary systems, the problem of the just rationing of imports of foodstuffs, raw materials, producers and consumers goods—to mention only some of the outstanding problems.

The season of one of the most important local industries, citrus growing, has come to an end. The result has this year been disappointing, partly owing to manpower difficulties, partly to unfavourable weather conditions. Export figures are far below those expected; besides, the end of the season means the release of thousands of workers, increasing the number of people looking for jobs. The gradual demobilisation aggravates this problem. The number of workless people has so far been insignificant, but careful planning will be necessary to avoid an increase. Doubtless the building industry will absorb many of them.

In spite of all these difficult problems, the economic outlook is considered favourable, provided a sound financial basis can be laid during this year of immigration, restoration, stabilisation, and, it is hoped, peace.

The economic situation of the different parts of the country varies greatly. Tel-Aviv and its suburbs has witnessed the opening of many, mostly small sized industries, undertakings, workshops, shops, etc., and the same may be stated of Haifa, where, besides, foundations for larger enterprises have been laid. The refineries are still out of work, although they are supposed to reopen soon; probably this will more or less depend on the Iraq pipeline resuming its function. In Jerusalem great efforts are being made to revive trade and industry, to have some of the government departments transferred there, and to revive its tourist trade. From the tourist trade will also benefit the numerous smaller places of historic or actual interest, and health resorts, such as Herzlia, with its new modern hotel, Tiberias, and Naharia. Many visitors from overseas have already arrived, and without further political or military incidents, Israel may expect to resume her role as one of the most attractive tourist centres in the world.

HANS MOSBACHER.

The first migration wave after the First World War was caused by the Russian revolution. It is estimated that about 1½ million persons left Russia, 200,000 amongst them being Jewish. Inside Russia, the pogroms, staged by the White Army, cost about 60,000 lives. The effects of the Soviet Union's economic policy had also strong bearings on the regional distribution of the remaining Jews. The author estimates that nearly half the Jewish population was dislocated after the Jews were permitted to live outside the Czarist "Pale of Settlement," and many took residence in industrial centres.

Further westwards, in Poland, under the impact of the economic crisis, the government insisted on the emigration of Jews. Between 1921 and 1933, about 400,000 Jews left the country, mainly for Palestine, and the proportion of Jewish emigration was five times higher than amongst the total population.

Migration from Germany

Turning to Germany, the author recalls that there was already an emigration wave in that country before the Nazis came to power. In 1923 alone, 115,000 persons left Germany; 90,000 of them went to the United States which, at that time, had a considerably higher German immigration quota than in subsequent years. Between 1924 to 1928, about 60,000 Germans emigrated per year.

As far as the Jewish section of the population is concerned, a gradual decrease, as predicted by Felix Theilhaber as early as 1910, had already taken place before emigration started under the Nazis; the main reasons were increasing urbanisation and a growing number of mixed marriages. For the Jewish exodus which began after Hitler had come to power, the author gives the following figures: Between 1933 and May, 1939, about 266,000 Jews left Germany proper; the total Jewish emigration from Greater Germany (including Austria and Czechoslovakia) amounts to 370,000 persons. Of these emigrants, 200,000 went overseas, including Palestine, and 50,000 to Great Britain, Switzerland and Sweden. Most of the remaining 120,000 went to various continental countries and many were caught again by the Nazis during the war.

In his chapter "The Second World War," the author describes the settlement of Germans in the occupied countries and their gradual withdrawal to Germany after the tide had turned. From the Jewish point of view, it is worth while mentioning that, after the German invasion, the Russians who, as a rule, did not evacuate the civilian population in endangered districts, tried to remove as many Jews as possible in order to save them from German atrocities. On the whole, according to Kulischer, 30 million individuals in Europe were transplanted, deported or dispersed between the outbreak of war and the beginning of 1943.

Post-war changes

The post-war population changes arise from the gradual liquidation of the Displaced Persons problem as well as from various other transfers and migrations. A new type of refugees was created by the new fixation of Germany's Eastern borders. The author estimates that until July 1, 1947, more than 9½ million German refugees were in the various zones of Germany, whose area was reduced by 25%; they had come from Czechoslovakia, old and new Poland, Hungary and the Russian part of former East Prussia.

The resettlement of the Slavs in former German territory is, historically seen, one of the most far-reaching results of the war. The author quotes the English historian J. B. Bury who wrote in 1912: "If in the year A.D. 800 a political prophet had possessed a map of Europe, such as we can now construct, he might have been tempted to predict that the whole eastern half of the continent . . . was destined to form a Slavonic empire. . . . A vertical line from Denmark to the Adriatic seemed to mark the limit of the Teutonic (and Slavonic) world." Such a conclusion, Kulischer says, did not materialise in the following eleven centuries. "Today," he goes on, "the prophecy which might have been drawn up before Charlemagne's conquests is not far from being fulfilled." Under this aspect the war was, from the German point of view, not only an "unnecessary war," but, perhaps, the most costly war ever waged.

WERNER ROSENSTOCK

ANGLO-JUDAICA

ORTHODOXY versus LIBERALISM

While the political controversies in Anglo-Jewry, involving Zionists and non- or anti-Zionists, have been subsiding, a religious issue has sprung up, reminiscent of the fierce disputations, almost exactly 100 years ago, between the traditionalists and the arising Reform. The issue briefly is whether the President of the Board of Deputies can authorise the certification of Marriage Secretaries only for orthodox synagogues, or whether (by way of an amendment to the Board's Constitution) the privilege should be extended to Liberal synagogues.

The Chief Rabbi has firmly set his face against the proposed changes as they would create "a wrongful and misleading impression that Liberal Congregations, in the performance of marriages, conform to authoritative Jewish Law"; he regards them as "a dangerous threat to the fabric of Judaism and Jewish life in this country."

Inside the Board protagonists of both sides intimated that they might secede in the event of an adverse decision, and the President had to rebuke a distinguished Orthodox deputy who denied that Liberal Judaism was Judaism at all. Prof. Brodetsky felt that the Board was essentially a meeting of all Jews.

Religious Progress

Orthodox life was conspicuously reinforced by the establishment of a fully-qualified Beth Din in Manchester, the first in the British Commonwealth, outside London, to become a full-time Ecclesiastical Court. The importance of the occasion was demonstrated by the attendance of Rabbi Brodie and the Chief Rabbi of Eire who said that Dublin, being without a Beth Din, looked for inspiration to Manchester, the largest of all provincial communities. The head of the new Court is Dr. A. Altmann, Communal Rabbi of Manchester.

The Association of Reform Synagogues in Great Britain, at its eighth Conference held at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, W., reported an increase of 700 in membership of the constituent synagogues.

Communal Finance

The position of communal finance is occasioning some concern. It is estimated that at the present rate of expenditure, the funds now available to the Board of Deputies will last for another twelve or eighteen months. A plan has been devised which provides for some sort of communal taxation in that every member of a constituency is to pay an annual fee to be agreed upon. It is hoped to levy in this way, with the co-operation of the United Synagogue, an annual amount of £25,000.

Defence

Large sums still have to be spent on defence work, though on the whole the position appears to be easier. While Fascist meetings continue, despite declining public attention, it is also necessary for the Defence Committee to hold counter-meetings. Police are realising their responsibility to a greater degree and more active in checking the flow of vile abuse which, as in Germany, is the stock-in-trade of the Fascists. In the recent L.C.C. elections, when seven Jews were returned, including Sir Percy Harris, the only Liberal, the two Fascist candidates, who stood for South Kensington, were heavily defeated. After disturbances of the peace had been created by a Fascist procession in North London, the Board of Deputies was constrained to issue a statement refuting dangerous insinuations in press reports that the Fascists were being opposed only by "one political party." While "in no way approving or condoning unconstitutional measures or any restrictions on true freedom of expression," the Board declared itself "at one with the vast majority of people who, irrespective of party, are opposed to Fascism and its exploitation of racial intolerance and who, therefore, demonstrated against the Fascist march."

DR. STEPHEN S. WISE

With the death of Rabbi Dr. Stephen S. Wise, one of the most distinguished personalities of World Jewry has gone.

He was one of the founders of the American Zionist Organisation, and soon became its President and a member of the World Zionist Executive. In 1936, Rabbi Wise founded the World Jewish Congress, whose President he had been until his death. Jews from Germany will remember his call in 1933 to the conscience of the world in face of the Nazi persecutions.

C. C. Aronsfeld:

“TRIAL AND ERROR”

When, out of the depths of the 19th Century, the persecuted Jews were crying unto heaven because of their affliction, two leaders arose who were to redeem their brethren and guide them, across 40 years, into the the freedom of a homeland. The first was Theodor Herzl, the leader of Promise; the second, the leader of Fulfilment, has been Chaim Weizmann, now the head of the resurrected Jewish State. Both differed from each other fundamentally. The one received the message through the shame of antisemitism, the other through the pride of an impenitent Judaism. The one saw the surest prospect in political action among the Powers, the other in practical work on the ancient soil. The one was of the West, the other of the East. And although Zionism is at issue with Europe's East as much as with its West, this particular contrast (even when later rendered “synthetic”) was enduring enough to govern not only the relations between two great men but the whole story of the providential consummation which their vision and their labour have now brought to pass. At least Dr. Weizmann so conceives of it in his fascinating autobiography which has just appeared (“Trial and Error,” Hamish Hamilton, 21s.), and few born and bred in the Western sphere will turn these pages without heartburning and unchastened in spirit.

“Slavery in Freedom”

It so happened that Weizmann first came face to face with the West in Germany, and a dismal encounter it was. At that time, 60 years ago, “the assimilated Jews of Germany were in the high summer of their illusory security, and mightily proud of it,” he writes and strings off the familiar record which unreflecting complacency has frequently employed as an insult to injury. It is of course perfectly true that German Jews were “evasively blind” to that “heavy, solid, bookish antisemitism” which was then eating deep into the German mind. They did not realise they were sitting on a volcano, and many of them certainly strove to be “more German than the Germans, obsequious, super-patriotic,” etc. All this is true and in great measure probably inevitable among the hazards of “assimilation”—anywhere. Ahad Haam's famous vision of “slavery in freedom” was not confined to any one country, and if Weizmann found “no contact whatsoever between the Jewish grandees in Germany and the Jewish people,” he for one was to feel the very reality of such an unhappy condition nowhere more drastically than in England.

But if these strictures on assimilated Jews undoubtedly contain the truth, they do not present the

whole truth, at least not as far as German Jews are concerned. In spite of the pre-occupation of many of them with *Chachmah Yavanith*, they did not entirely neglect their duty towards Zion. Indeed they won a distinction in the Jewish National Movement which is unsurpassed and will assuredly abide. It seems a pity that among the many references to his remarkably, and sometimes exasperatingly, accurate judgment, Dr. Weizmann has omitted to include these words spoken in Berlin in 1927: “Germany and the German-speaking countries gave us for nearly a whole generation the captains of the Zionist movement.”

German Zionists

In his life story now he also bears ungrudging witness to the oft-obscured fact. The German Keren Hayesod, he noted soon after the first war, was “a real prop” to colonisation in Palestine, and “from the outset it owed much to the devotion of Kurt Blumenfeld and to the keen and warm heart of Oskar Wasserman.” There were others too. There was Arthur Ruppin who had “the first vision of Tel Aviv” and than whom Weizmann “never had a better collaborator.” There was Martin Buber who, with Berthold Feivel, edited “Der Jude.” There was Albert Einstein who eagerly joined in the work for a Hebrew University, the project of which was first voiced by Prof. Herman Shapira, of Heidelberg, and there were a great many more whom Weizmann remembers with “pride and deep satisfaction,” for “the distinguished contribution which they have made to the orderliness, discipline, efficiency, and general quality of our work.”

It is perhaps natural that in considering the desperate fate of this once great community, Weizmann's mind strolls back to his student days when he saw Russian Jews being “kindly—and patronisingly—received” by German Jews, only to be passed on, via Hamburg and Lubeck, to America. History does seem to be indulging its notorious irony to excess—and how we all will be caught in its cruel meshes. For when German Jews are reproached for their misguided ambitions, it is well to be reminded in this book that time was—within this present generation—when Eastern Jews longed for the coming of German arms and hailed them as the bringers of freedom! Such formidable spirits as Menachem Ussishkin and Shmarya Levin in 1914 earnestly believed in a German victory—not from wishful thinking but because they were vastly impressed by the German achievement. They “did not look deeply enough,” says Weizmann, who himself was once tempted to exchange Manchester for Berlin.

But the errors, great and small, which some committed, are now redeemed through the trials which all endured. And when the reader lays down this weighty book, sensing as he must the wings of history beating in its pages, he cannot but be quietly grateful not only for a deeper insight into the incomparable Jewish story but above all for the assurance that after blood and tears, after errors so great and trials so grievous, Israel is at last arising out of bondage unto freedom—through the work and faith of Theodor Herzl, who saw the Promised Land from afar, and of this man Chaim Weizmann who went over to possess it.

JEWISH ART

“A Short History of Jewish Art” is the title of a new book by Helen Rosenau to which Edward Carter, Counsellor for Libraries and Museums, UNESCO, wrote a highly appreciative preface. (James Clarke & Co. Ltd., London, 15/-).

There is some need for a book of this kind. Karl Schwarz and Ernst Cohn-Wiener (1928) have not been brought up to date, Franz Landsberger's very attractive survey (1935) with its similar pictorial lay-out and its fine threefold division (Jewish Art, Jewish Artists, Jewish Style)—as the previous ones not translated into English—is apparently unobtainable now, and Rahel Wischnitzer-Bernstein dealt with a, however important, special field of studies only: Symbols and Figures (i.e. “Gestalten”) of Jewish Art. Helen Rosenau has both the enthusiasm and the scholarship for this task, and her fine sense for sociology and formal problems, above all in architecture, blend very well.

After an introductory historical survey she groups her subject in architectural history, painting and sculpture, and ritual objects, fittings and ornaments. A chapter, “The religious significance of Jewish art,” sums up her research, which is original to a high degree, and her conclusions, which are, on the whole, free from sweeping generalisations. For the fact remains that the question, “What is Jewish Art,” put twenty years ago by Cohn-Wiener, is still unanswerable, at least by definition. Even the most methodical approach and the most scholarly research must, in the end, fall back on sentiment.

Jewish Art has grown on its own soil for a comparatively short period only. At the end of this period it produced, under Greek influence, the frescoes in the Syrian Synagogue Dura-Europos, an interesting link with early Christian Art (Jewish—through the medium of Greek) and, particularly, its Eastern branch. But, perhaps, for this very reason, Jewish Art is, on the one hand, more than other “national” arts evading “definition,” on the other hand most fascinating because of the chequered Jewish history and the struggle for survival in the diaspora.

Helen Rosenau is conscious of the eternal dialogue between Jewish religious tradition and the inspiration drawn from a new experience in changing surroundings, of the balance, so often upset, between new gains and old substance.

She is a versatile guide and sixty well-chosen illustrations add to the attractiveness of her instructive and timely book.

DR. LUTZ WELTMANN.

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.

THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE

It is hoped that a number of our readers are in a position to afford hiring a taxi-cab occasionally, at least in an urgent case. There may be a difference with the driver now and then, apart from the problem how to tip fairly. If you wish to look up some legal source about this, where would you look for it? I bet, you would not look at the place where you can find the law, viz. under the description “Hackney Carriage.”

There are in fact still in force, at least partly, and apply to the London taxis the London Hackney Carriages Acts, 1831, 1843, 1850, 1853. In addition other acts like the Metropolitan Police Act, 1839 and 1867, the London Cab Act, 1906, the London Cab and Stage Carriage Act, 1907, contain relevant passages. Obviously, taxi-drivers have to be much of a lawyer and must be able to argue their case. And are they not?

There are the most diversified provisions and only a few can be given by way of examples, leaving aside all the more technical regulations:

- (1) Hackney carriages standing in any street shall be deemed to be plying for hire and the drivers refusing to go with any person shall pay a fine. (1835.)
- (2) Compensation is to be made to drivers improperly summoned for refusing to carry any person

(1835)—and there are penalties for the attempt to defend cabmen. (1896.)

- (3) Agreement to pay more than the legal fare is not binding; sums paid beyond the proper fare may be recovered. (1835.)

The principle mentioned under (1) has been more elaborated by a clause of one of the 1853 Acts which says that there is liable to a penalty

“every driver of a Hackney Carriage who shall refuse to drive such carriage to any place within the limits of this Act not exceeding six miles (a distance which is often exceeded in Greater London) to which he shall be required to drive any person hiring or intending to hire such carriage, or who shall refuse to drive any such carriage for any time not exceeding one hour, if so required by any person hiring or intending to hire such carriage, or who shall not drive the same at a reasonable and proper speed, not less than six miles an hour (not much for a taxi!)—except in cases of unavoidable delay, or when required by the hirer thereof to drive at any slower pace (1).”

This clause, 95 years after enactment, gave most recently cause to litigation and the High Court, presided over by the Lord Chief Justice, decided on December 1st 1948 that the driver of a taxi-cab which is travelling along the road is not “plying for hire at any place” and commits no offence if he refuses to accept a passenger.

THE END OF BERLIN

“Finale Berlin” by Heinz Rein (Verlag JHW Dietz Nachf., Berlin) describes the last fortnight before the occupation of the German capital in 1945. It is written in the form of a novel, but the plot is somehow artificial and the author's means of expression reach not always a literary standard. Nevertheless, the book contains many revelations of documentary value. It shows how Nazi terror and denunciation poisoned the relationship between family members and neighbours. It also puts on record that, with the advancing Allied forces, the position of anti-Nazis became rather more than less endangered. Readers who are familiar with the districts, and streets of Berlin from bygone—and better—days, will agree that the author has succeeded in bringing home the atmosphere of this unique town, now in ruins.

W. R.

ON GERMAN GUILT

“Whoever attacks a Jew, attacks us,” said Propst Heinrich Grueber in the pamphlet “Schuld und Verantwortung,” issued by the Niedersachsen District of the Organisation of Nazi Persecutees (VVN). The incidents revealed there indicate that the German people as a whole is far from sharing this attitude.

Felix M. Rosenthal (Johannesburg): JEWISH SCENE IN SOUTH AFRICA

The election results in South Africa caused a great shock amongst the Jews. Some Jews became panicky, and there was much talk about selling businesses and leaving the country. Jewish refugees were particularly disconcerted; the memory of their previous experiences was too fresh in their minds. This shock did, however, not last longer than a couple of weeks, and the temporary feeling of frustration gave room to sober consideration. Some time after Dr. Malan had, in a broadcast, solemnly promised equal treatment to the two white sections of the population, English and Afrikaans, he told a delegation of the South African Jewish "Board of Deputies": "There will be no discrimination whatsoever against the Jews. I wish the Jewish question to disappear from public discussion." He gave this assurance not only on his own behalf, but in the name of the Cabinet.

FROM ALL CORNERS

SWEDEN

The number of aliens in Sweden is expected to rise to 175,000 during 1949. According to "Svenska Dagbladet," the number of refugees, who crossed the frontiers without visas or entry permits, trebled during the last three years and in the view of the Aliens Board, Sweden must now be regarded as an immigration country. At the end of 1948, 18,000 aliens held working permits—a record figure for Sweden—but refugees are finding it increasingly difficult to obtain employment.

The Swedish Ministry of Justice announced that in future eight years' residence in Sweden, instead of nine, would be demanded for the naturalisation of persons "not regarded closely akin to Sweden." The Ministry has also set up a committee to study the revision of the Alien's Act and the act on extradition of criminals with a view "to establishing positive guarantees for the exercise of the right of asylum."

DENMARK

Mr. Kieler who published a number of anti-Danish and anti-Jewish articles in the "Nord-schleswigsche Zeitung" during the German occupation, was sentenced to two years' imprisonment and five years' loss of civic rights by a Danish court at Aabenraa.

ITALY

A farewell dinner was given in Rome to Dr. Leo Bernstein, Chairman of the Organisation of Jewish refugees in Italy prior to his departure to Israel.

The dinner was attended by Mr. Arieh Oron, Israeli Consul in Italy, Adm. George Mentz, Chief of IRO in Italy, Mr. Raffaele Cantoni, President of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, and many other personalities. Dr. Bernstein's departure for Israel brings to an end the operation of the Organisation of Jewish Refugees in Italy which had been in existence since 1945. A skeleton organisation will remain in operation for some time.

A cable was sent to Premier Alcide De Gasperi in which the Jewish DPs express their thanks for the hospitality accorded them while staying in Italy by the Italian government and people.

CHILE

The newly elected Board of the Sociedad Cultural Israelita "B'ne Jisroel" is composed of as follows: José Hirschberg, President; Siegfried Landau, Vice-President; Fernando O. Friedmann, Hon. Secretary; Leon Rosenthal, Hon. Deputy Secretary; Alfred Feldmann, Treasurer; Boris Levy, Deputy Treasurer; Heiman Abramczyk, Director. The Chairman of the "Repraesentanten-Kollegium" is German Lehmann.

ARGENTINE

According to a statement by the Organisation Israelita Argentina, a pro-Peronist Jewish organisation, President Peron has promised that the new Argentine constitution will include a clause stating that "Argentina does not recognise any racial differences." President Peron is also said to have authorised the organisation to check applications from Jews for visas to enter the Argentine, and promised that those Jews who would be useful to the welfare of the country would be admitted.

HUNGARY

According to the Hungarian official Gazette, 50 pre-war Jewish Communities have ceased to exist. Their inhabitants perished as a result of Nazi pogroms and deportations.

Though Dr. Malan is no philosemite, he is no Hitler in the German sense either. He is a very religious man and actually began his career as a Minister of Religion.

There were some incidents in respect of membership of Jews in the NATS Party; three districts of the party admit Jews, whereas one group (Transvaal) insists on being "judenrein."

The attitude of the Government to the Jewish problem was revealed in an interview given in Paris by the Head of the South African U.N. Delegation, Dr. Erich Louw. He said that his Government did not intend to discriminate against the Jews who were already resident in the country but that, to avoid the rise of anti-Semitism, the admission of further Jewish immigrants would be restricted.

In the Jewish camp, two personalities with nationalistic leanings are trying to establish closer contact between the Jewish community and the NATS party. One of them is Councillor Frank, the other one a Mr. Nossel. Mr. Frank, a gentleman of the Old School who has held civic offices in Cape Town for many decades, is on very good terms with the Afrikaans and never spared any efforts to foster good relations between the Jews and the population of the "Platteland." When I saw him recently, he told me he would only join the NATS Party, if the initiative came from the NATS. There is, however, he said, a difference between joining the NATS and being on good terms with the Africans. Mr. Frank then told me of the good old days when Jews and Africans were sincere friends. This friendship, according to his account, still exists to-day at some places.

Mr. J. Nossel has a different background and considers things from a different angle. He came to South Africa from Lithuania 25 years ago, owns two shoe shops in a suburb of Cape Town and, recently, bought a small farm. When I spoke to him, he pointed out that in his Farmers' Association he was the only Jew amongst 30 members and was treated as an equal. After the elections he joined the NATS party in the Cape and congratulated Dr. Malan on his victory. In his address he predicted that the Transvaal district of the Party would abolish the "Jewish clause." For this assertion he got a rebuff from the Party Secretary. Mr. Nossel criticised the policy of the "Jewish Board of Deputies" towards the Nationalists. In the end, however, his behaviour was disliked not only by the Jews but also by the English and the Afrikaans.

Summarising the situation I think that there is no danger for the security of the Jews in South Africa. But this cannot be sufficient. The Jews do not want to be there on sufferance, they want to remain part and parcel of the South African nation. There was always a splendid Give and Take between Jews and other sections of the population, and it is hoped that this position will be left unchanged.

S.A. BOARD PROTEST

The Minister of Justice, Mr. Swart, said in Parliament that people connected with disturbances at a public meeting included "certain Communists and members of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies."

The Chairman of the Board's Executive Committee stated that Party Politics was entirely beyond the province of the Board. "The Board is concerned only to protect the Jewish community against discrimination, and any interference with their rights as citizens. The position of individual Jews is entirely different. As a citizen, it is both the right and the duty of any Jew to play a part in the political life of the country in terms of his own viewpoint and Party affiliation. I sincerely trust that all Jewish citizens are taking their political responsibilities seriously in order to make a full contribution to the progress of South Africa. . . We pride ourselves that the Board, as the representative body of South African Jewry, comprises members supporting every shade of political opinion. We would strongly resent the suggestion that the actions of individual members should be interpreted as the official policy of the Board." He added that the person who was alleged to have participated in the disturbances was in fact not a member of the Board of Deputies.

Old Acquaintances

Rudolf Forster in London:—He has not changed at all, although he himself confessed to be 65. Forster, who used to be Elisabeth Bergner's partner in "Ariane" and "The Dreaming Lips" arrived from Vienna to give a recital of Austrian poetry in "Wigmore Hall," and to speak Jerome's "Der Fremde" directed by F. Wendhausen for the B.B.C. I remember having seen him last as "Leicester" in Max Reinhardt's "Maria Stuart," the last production the "great magician" directed on the German stage; Helene Thimig and Eleonore von Mendelssohn played the two Queens, and gifted Herbert Berghof was "Mortimer." Forster started in the early twenties when Jessner produced "Richard the Third" in Berlin, and looks even today by far more British than many naturalised Britishers.

Eternal Actors:—The verdict on Veit Harlan will have been announced when this column is published, but I suppose everybody will already be happy if the accused is not declared a "victim of Fascism." His wife Kristina Soederbaum appeared as a witness and denied that she leaped into one of the Venetian channels on the order of Dr. Goebbels—in the nude. She stated it that she was fully clothed. The Court went even from Hamburg to Berlin to listen to director Erich Engel who testified that it wasn't risky at all to refuse orders like producing "Jud Suess." Gustav Froehlich spoke out what everyone felt: "It's unpopular already again to say: I never was a Nazi. After all, one day Harlan will be a big boss again, and it will be dangerous to be his enemy." Film star Froehlich believes that Harlan denounced him to Dr. Goebbels because he was too outspoken against the regime.

What's on in London?:—Sybille Binder left for Vienna where she will act again in autumn.—Anton Walbrook scored a personal success when his latest picture "Queen of Spades" was shown; credit goes also to the cameraman Otto Heller who used to work for Carl Lamac in the old days.—Richard Duschinsky, the Austrian playwright, left the Austrian section of the B.B.C. because he wants to write for the stage again.—Charles Goldner directed Eric Maschwitz' "Belinda Fair," and Paul Ludwig Stein is producing Hans May's new operetta "Waltz Time" which starts touring at Blackpool in a few days.—Thomas Mann will be guest of honour when the English P.E.N. Club celebrates Goethe on May 17.—Lucie Mannheim and her husband Marius Goring will give a recital in English and German on May 22 in Wigmore Hall.—Professor Ernst Stern who did the decors for many of Max Reinhardt's productions is writing his memoirs for early publication here.—Victor Skutezky, whose production of "For them that trespass" was successfully shown in the Westend, prepares Neville Shute's "Landfall" for A.B.C. in London.—When they screen Korda's picture "The Third Man" directed by Carol Reed, you will see nearly all London refugee actors, for instance, Nelly Arno, Erich Pohlmann, Martin Miller, Lilly Kann, Lotte Berk, Leo Bieber, Paul Hardmuth, Fritz Schrecker, and also Ernst Deutsch.

Obituaries:—In Buenos Aires died Carl Meinhard who survived Theresienstadt. He was Rudolf Bernauer's associate in Berlin and used to run several theatres. Meinhard started once with the famous "Boese Buben" cabaret, and later on scored many successes with Maria Orska in the lead.—Felix Bressart, the well-known comedian, died in Hollywood, aged 56. He had first emigrated to London but, in the course of six years never got a chance here on stage or screen. As soon as he came to Hollywood the late Ernst Lubitsch gave him the opportunity to make people laugh. To make his life more secure Bressart studied medicine, and became a masseur in California.—Berlin's young and gifted theatre critic, Rolf Nuernberg died, aged 45, of heart failure in New York. Nuernberg started very early and was successful as a critic and a sport reporter; he published two books—one about Max Schmeling, the other one about the affair Lindtberg and Hauptmann.—In Berlin died art critic Lothar Brieger who returned from China only one year ago. He was seventy years old, and used to be with Ullsteins before 1933.

Around Broadway:—In New York, Viktor Barnowsky directed a German performance of "Iphigenie" with Elisabeth Bergner.—Alfred Polgar will return to Vienna this summer.—Tilly Losch will also go back to Austria to dance there again.

PEM.

FROM MY DIARY

The changing of names in Israel has assumed unique dimensions. People who, in the evening, were still bearing their Polish or German sounding names, wake up in the morning totally Hebraised. That applies no less to the anonymous mass of the people than to the leading men in public life. The Foreign Minister, for instance, who rose to his position under the name of Shertok, wishes to be known as Sharet, and the late distinguished leader of the Mizrahi, Rabbi Meir Berlin changed his name into Meir Bir-Ion.

A correspondent in Zionist Review suggests "we shall soon need not so much a 'Who's Who' but a 'Who Was Who,' but adds a more serious note when he says "An Israeli Minister in a Western country bearing a Russian sounding name or in the Eastern countries an English or American sounding name might easily be misunderstood. In such circumstances it is perhaps just as well to mark the independence of Israeli names as that of the country."

The discussion on Oliver Twist has not yet died down. Only recently the "News Chronicle" commented that "The fate of 'Oliver Twist' in the hands of some Jews in New York and Berlin was a sad story of the lessons of a thousand years unlearned," leaving it open who had learned or unlearned the lessons—Jew or Gentile.

It may be interesting, in the context of the controversy on Dickens, to quote a passage from his novel, "Our Mutual Friend," which appeared after he had created the Fagin character. There he lets an old Jew say, "I reflected—clearly reflected for the first time, that in bending my neck to the yoke I was willing to wear, I bent the unwilling necks of the whole Jewish people. For it is not, in Christian countries, with the Jews as with other peoples. Men say, 'This is a bad Greek, but there are good Greeks. This is a bad Turk, but there are good Turks.' Not so with the Jews. Men find the bad among us easily enough—among what peoples are the bad not easily found?—but they take the worst of us as samples of the best; they take the lowest of

us as presentations of the highest; and they say, 'All Jews are alike.' If doing what I was content to do here, because I was grateful for the past and have small need of money now, I had been Christian, I could have done it, compromising no one but my individual self. But doing it as a Jew, I could not choose but compromise the Jews of all conditions and all countries. It is a little hard upon us, but it is the truth. I would that all our people remembered it!"

Count Bernadotte's autobiographical notes, "Instead of Arms" (Hodder and Stoughton, London) are not as moving and dramatic as his first book, "The Curtain Falls," where he described his peace negotiations with Himmler in 1945 and his dramatic rescue of prisoners-of-war and internees, among them many Jews, during the war years. His last book merely fills the gaps left by his first account of his humanitarian and courageous work. With his mission to negotiate in the Palestine conflict which had come to so tragic an end, he could deal only in a postscript, written in an aeroplane en route from Rhodes to Rome in July 1948 where he seemed full of optimism to come to a settlement between the two parties.

It is gratifying that the history of the Jewish community of Wiesbaden between 1918 and 1942 has been written by Rabbi Dr. Paul Lazarus who, until his emigration to Israel was the Rabbi of this community. It is also an appropriate token of loyalty that Jews from Wiesbaden honoured their former religious leader on the occasion of his 60th birthday by having the manuscript printed (Publishers: I. Kauffmann, New York).

The achievements in the field of religious life, cultural activities and social work, and the sound structure of this centrally administered "Einheits-gemeinde" are typical for many middle-sized German Jewish communities which, in the course of generations, developed into healthy and well-balanced organisms. It may not be possible in the case of all the other communities to publish or even

to write their full history. It should, however, be the moral duty of individual German Jews to put on record the main events they can remember. There is the great danger that these facts might be forgotten once and for all and that material, which might be indispensable for a full history of German Jewry, especially during the last three decades, thus get irrevocably lost.

NARRATOR

PERSONALIA

Mr. Julius Erlanger celebrated his 75th birthday on April 17th. Before he came to this country he took an active part in the work of the Jewish Community, Frankfurt/Main. The AJR with which he has always closely co-operated as a Board Member, extends to him its very best wishes.

Dr. E. G. Lowenthal, Executive Member of the AJR, resigned from his office as Senior Area Representative of the Jewish Relief Unit. The gratitude for his more than two years' services in the interest of the Jews in Germany was expressed at a Farewell Party of the Duesseldorf Jewish Community. Dr. Lowenthal has taken up an appointment with the Jewish Cultural Reconstruction Inc. and will be in charge of the collection of books and other cultural assets, at present stored at Offenbach for redistribution.

Mr. E. Gould, a Board Member of the AJR, has been nominated as a liberal candidate for the forthcoming Hampstead Borough Council elections.

Rabbi Dr. Georg Wilde died in London recently. For several decades he was the religious leader of the Magdeburg community and the trusted friend of many of its members. His active participation in the Jewish liberal movement in Germany was of greatest value to German Jewry at large. He left Germany after having been in a Concentration Camp. The work for German Jews remained near to his heart and he has always taken a very great interest in the work of the AJR in London as well as in Cambridge, where he lived for several years.

CLASSIFIED

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AJR EMPLOYMENT AGENCY (annually licensed by the L.C.C.) has on its register men and women (skilled and unskilled), also homeworkers of any kind, sitters-in. Report vacancies esp. for book- and storekeepers. Tel. MAI 9096.

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BRASSIERES, etc. (FRENCH & ENGL.). Represent. wanted for all Provincial Areas. Good connections with Stores, etc., essential. Commission Basis. Box 735.

Accommodation

ACCOMMODATION of any kind wanted. AJR Social Service Dept. BOARD AND LODGING wanted by single elderly lady. Offers with terms under Box 731.

LONELY YOUNG MAN seeks room in refugee house in London Area. Box 733.

BUSINESS COUPLE requires 2 room flat, possibly unfurn. Prepared to buy part furniture. Box 730.

TO LET, nicely furn. dble bed-sitting-room and kitchen. MAI 4335.

BEAUTIFUL ROOM with breakfast, full board offered to business man, retired. Reasonable. MIL 4909 after 7 p.m.

Miscellaneous

HOSPITALITY for half-Jewish girl in Berlin who wants to visit England, urgently required. Particulars from AJR.

UTILITY WARDROBE, light oak, almost new, to sell because of emigration. Box 734.

ALTERATIONS, Remodels. Dress-maker, Mrs. Cohn, 158 Adelaide Road, PRI 7428.

Personal

BUSINESS LADY, middle-aged, own flat, wishes acquaintance refined gentleman re marriage. Box 727.

WIENERIN, intelligent, smart, domesticated, with business experience, some savings, seeks serious minded gentleman, abt. 45-55 years, in secure position, view marriage. Replies, possibly with photo, under Box 736.

MISSING PERSONS

Inquiries from AJR

Ehrlich, Hans-Arnold, and Margarete, née Borman, from Breslau, for AJR.

Wenglinski or Weglinski, Moritz, born 20.1.03, for Franziska Duda, Berlin.

Orgler, Helmuth, son of Prof. Arnold Orgler, Berlin, last known address: 6 Carlton Hill, N.W.8, for Hans-Juergen Bredereck, Berlin.

MAKING A

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NEW TASKS AHEAD

The Annual General Meeting of the AJR took place on 25th April, at 1, Broadhurst Gardens, London, N.W.6. Dr. K. Alexander who, for the last time, addressed an AJR Meeting went beyond giving an ordinary report on recent activities and, in a vivid account, dealt with the basic principles involved in the work of the AJR. He described how, by continuous endeavours, the AJR gradually established its position inside and outside the community. Questions which previously stood in the foreground, such as the naturalisation of refugees, were brought to a satisfactory solution and other tasks, which originally were considered as being outside the scope of AJR activities, e.g. intense social work, had to be taken up. During the year under review, the outstanding achievements were the establishment of the AJR Employment Agency, annually licensed by the L.C.C., and of the "United Restitution Office," recognised by the Foreign Office.

Mr. M. Pottlitzer, Hon. Treasurer, gave the financial report, and pointed out that, in view of the vital tasks to be fulfilled by the AJR and of new schemes to be taken up in the interest of the Community, the helpful collaboration of every member was urgently needed.

The Executive and Board of the AJR were elected as proposed in the list attached to last month's issue of this paper. Changes of the Executive arose from the emigration and resignation of some previous Executive Members. Mr. S. Adler-Rudel, former Vice-Chairman, has left for Israel, and Dr. K. Alexander, General-Secretary, will emigrate to the United States. Dr. H. Reichmann who, after Dr. Alexander's departure, will become General-Secretary of the "Council of Jews from Germany" and Joint Secretary of the "United Restitution Office," became Vice-Chairman, and Dr. W. Rosenstock General-Secretary of the AJR. New Executive Members—in place of Dr. R. Schwarz who, unfor-

tunately, died some months ago, and of Dr. Eva Reichmann, Mr. J. Sachs and Mr. M. Zimmer who resigned—are: Dr. H. Capell, Mr. A. Wechsler and Mr. L. Ullmann. The other Executive Members were re-elected, namely Mr. A. Schoyer (Chairman), Mr. W. M. Behr, Dr. R. Bienenfeld, Dr. W. Breslauer, Mr. A. Horowitz, Mr. P. Goldschmidt, Dr. E. G. Lowenthal and Mr. M. Pottlitzer (Hon. Treasurer). New Board Members are, in addition to the former Executive Members Dr. Eva Reichmann and Mr. J. Sachs: Dr. F. E. Falk, Rabbi C. E. Cassell (formerly Glasgow) and Mr. A. Reimann (formerly Leeds).

"THE HYPHEN"

Saturday, May 7: 7.30 p.m. at 30 Buckland Crescent: A Psychology Lecture by Dr. May RAVDEN: "Family, Child and Adult."

Sunday, May 8: An OUTING to Canterbury, arranged in conjunction with the Hampstead branch of the I.F.L.

9.15 p.m. A Visit to the "NEWS CHRONICLE."

Saturday, May 14, evening, at Zion House, 57 Eton Avenue: A SOCIAL—games, and dancing to radiogram. Refreshments.

Sunday, May 22: 7.30 p.m., at 30 Buckland Crescent: A Lecture, in German, by Dr. Freyhan: "Goethe und sein 'Tasso.'"

Sunday, May 29: A Ramble in Kent. Details in "Hyphen" Circular.

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

The Study Circle will start an "Inquest on German Jewry" in May. Meetings about twice monthly. Those interested should contact Mr. Kenneth Ambrose, 43 Manville Road, Tooting, S.W.17. Tel.: BAL 1891.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

HOSPITALITY

Dear Sir,

I should be glad to know if any of your readers would care to offer hospitality for a fortnight or a month to Jewish deportee children from Homes in France and Belgium. 150 of these young people, aged between 14 and 18, will be here from July 20 to August 18, and from July 27 to August 25.

For further details, please get in touch with me at my office address.

Yours truly,
Ursula Torday,
Organising Secretary,
Children's MARRIAGE Scheme,

7 Endsleigh Place,
London, W.C.1.

AJR STEPS IN

In a speech at the Annual Meeting of the "British Jews' Society" (apparently a Missionary Society), recently reported in the "Bath & Wilts Chronicle & Herald," the speaker attributed the sufferings of German Jews to "the materialistic spirit of the Jewish people in Germany." The AJR refuted this statement in a "Letter to the Editor" and pointed out that the revival of Jewish religious feeling originated to a very high extent from Germany, and that not only the German Jews but also the Christian Churches had to suffer severe persecution under the Nazis.—Members and friends of the AJR in the Bristol-Bath district highly appreciated that the AJR had challenged a statement which was apt to do harm to the reputation of Jews from Germany.

HEIRS WANTED

Anybody who knows heirs of Moses Kahlberg, who owned a house at Bodenfelde, Kreis Northeim, should get in touch with the "United Restitution Office."

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Sunday, May 22, 6.00 p.m. Dr. S. LAZARUS: "Jewish Contribution to Medicine."

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